



# Newsletter

March 2026

Issue #02

## A Note from the Team

Happy March! Just as the flowers, grass, and leaves are starting to bloom, so are we! There is some exciting events and programs upcoming this spring. Take a quick read and see all that we have to offer. We hope you stay in touch!

## Contact Us!

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of  
Hudson County 4-H Youth Development

**Address (By Appointment Only):**

830 Bergen Ave. Suite 3A  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**Phone:** 201-369-5280 Ext. 4288

**Email:** Hudson4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

**Hudson County 4-H Website:**

<http://www.hudson.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>

**Follow Our Instagram:**

@HudsonCounty4H



## Staff Spotlight

**Emily Karasick**

**4-H Community Assistant**

We are so excited to have Emily joining the Hudson County 4-H team! Emily brings a wealth of informal education experience, and is a joy to be around. We hope you'll meet her soon, and reach out about any STEM programming interests!



**"I am so excited to join the 4-H team and provide resources for New Jersey youth to develop their passions!!" ~ Emily**



## Inside This Issue



**4-H  
Happenings**



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**Upcoming  
Events**



# School Partnerships

This season, we have partnered with students at Joseph H. Brensinger School (PS17) to relaunch the school's greenhouse and hydroponics systems from the ground up, with support from our colleagues from ANR!

## Joseph H. Brensinger School (PS17) Hydroponic System and Greenhouse Education

10 dedicated 8th graders have been meeting with 4-H weekly to plan their growing season, start seedlings, and successfully transplant cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and lettuce. Along the way, they've gained hands-on experience with pH and nutrient testing, learned how to manage hydroponic systems, explored companion planting, and discovered the importance of proper lighting and other essentials for indoor growing. The group will continue meeting each week as they care for their crops and track their progress. We're especially excited for harvest time and of course, celebrating with a well-earned pickle party!



# STEM Ambassadors



The Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassadors Program has been running continuously for 17 years, connecting New Jersey youth with their state university and its impact. Our Hudson County STEM Ambassadors have been busy, busy, busy the last few months! This dedicated group of teens have been volunteering at clubs, bettering their own STEM skills, attending professional development workshops, and more!

## World Food Prize Event

Congratulations to these youth from around the state who participated in the World Food Prize New Jersey Youth Institute through our Global Food Security Coalition Club! We are so proud of all who took part in this amazing program, and we have already heard that at least 3 of our youth are accepted to the Global Youth Institute!



## Paul Robeson Gallery Trip

Thank you to the Rutgers Newark Paul Robeson Gallery for inviting us to view their "CONSUMED" Exhibition! Our youth were given a tour of the gallery to learn about the history and inspiration of each piece on display, and then were taken through a creative workshop where they recycled and reused what may have been considered trash into fashion!



# Our Clubs & Programs



## Updates:

### Cavy Club

This club is on a break for a few months. Stay tuned for a new meeting place!

## Join a Club!

### Teen Council Club for youth 8th-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Join us for fun meetings focused on community service craft projects in many areas! Youth gain 1 hour of volunteer hours at each meeting.

**When:** 4th Wednesday of each month from 5pm-6pm

**Location:** JCFPL Priscilla Gardener Main Branch - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in the Grundy Room

**REGISTER:** [go.rutgers.edu/teencouncilgroupme](https://go.rutgers.edu/teencouncilgroupme)



## Coming Soon...

### Youth Birding Club

Spring 2026 Sessions are being scheduled for April, May & June! Registration will be released Early April!

### Youth Urban Farm Club

Applications are scheduled to release in Late April/Early May!



### CS Club for youth 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades

Explore the exciting world of tech through coding challenges, and collaborative learning with iPads! Come build, create, and innovate with us! No experience necessary!

**When:** Thursdays 5:00-6:30PM for 10 Weeks (4/9-6/4)

**Location:** Hudson County 4-H Office ((830 Bergen Ave. Suite 3A. Jersey City, NJ 07306)

**REGISTER:** [https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ewUkgWi3PYsHmWa?Q\\_CHL=qr](https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ewUkgWi3PYsHmWa?Q_CHL=qr)



# Other Clubs to Join!



## Dog Club for youth K-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Learn about animal science, dog ownership, and more!  
*Pet ownership is NOT required!*

**When:** Upcoming Meetings on Sat 4/18, 5/16  
from 12pm-1pm

**Location:** Hoboken Free Public Library Main Branch -  
Small Program Room

**REGISTER:** [go.rutgers.edu/mff4w86i](https://go.rutgers.edu/mff4w86i)



## Cloverbud Garden Club for youth K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades

This club is for youth in grades K-3rd and meets bi-weekly. During the warmer months youth members will learn to plant and grow plants, and during the cold months, they'll make nature crafts and learn about the environment!

**When:** Bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 3:30PM-4:30PM

**Location:** Hamilton Park Montessori School

**REGISTER:** [go.rutgers.edu/3w2j4nvp](https://go.rutgers.edu/3w2j4nvp)



## Upcoming Events

# Upcoming Hudson RCE Events



## RCE Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 11AM-2PM

RCE Learning Garden in Lincoln Park, Jersey City

**R** HUDSON COUNTY RCE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
EARTH DAY & GARDEN OPENING CELEBRATION

**ANR**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

**4-H**

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL!**

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE GROWING SEASON BY OPENING UP THE GARDEN, AND CELEBRATING WITH THE COMMUNITY!

**Saturday, May 2nd, 2026**  
**11:00AM-2:00PM**

**@ RCE Learning Garden in Lincoln Park**  
Near the entrance of Communipaw Ave. and Rte. 440, inside Lincoln Park in Jersey City  
Location searchable on Google Maps "RCE Learning Garden Lincoln Park"

**Gardeners Contest**  
WIN CASH PRIZES!  
Submit your homegrown items, art projects, and more!  
LINK: [GO.RUTGERS.EDU/EARTHDAYCONTEST](https://go.rutgers.edu/earthdaycontest)

## Public Presentations Night

Friday, April 10th 6PM-8PM

Hudson County 4-H Office

830 Bergen Ave. Suite 3A. Jersey City, NJ 07306

NORTH EASTERN COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS...

**4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

IMPROVE YOUR PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS!

★ WAYNE  
FRI. APRIL 3RD 6:30PM

★ NEWARK  
SAT. APRIL 4TH 1:00PM

★ JERSEY CITY  
FRI. APRIL 10TH 6:00PM

★ RANDOLPH  
FRI. MAY 1ST. 6:00PM

★ HACKENSACK  
FRI. MAY 8TH 6:00PM

REGISTER:  
[GO.RUTGERS.EDU/NORTHEASTPUBLICPRES26](https://go.rutgers.edu/northeastpublicpres26)

YOUTH ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND WHICHEVER DATE IS CONVENIENT FOR THEM  
HIGH-RATED 8<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRESENTATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PRESENT AT THE 4-H STATE PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS!

EMAIL YOUR COUNTY STAFF FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers-New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

REGISTER: [go.rutgers.edu/northeastpublicpres26](https://go.rutgers.edu/northeastpublicpres26)



LEARN MORE HERE: <https://hudson.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/fairs/>

# Upcoming Events

## Adult Volunteer Corner

**Check out this podcast for 4-H VOLUNTEERS:**

**4-H BETTER VOLUNTEER VENTURES**

This podcast explores the fun, but sometimes confusing role of the 4-H volunteer. Each episode examines a specific aspect or challenge volunteers face and offers best practices to improve the experience. New episodes are released every other Wednesday.

Previous Episode Topics Include:

- 4-H Thriving Model
- Healthy Competition
- 4-H Club Business Meetings
- 4-H Thriving Model
- Healthy Competition
- The Power of Saying "Yes"
- Balancing the Volunteer Life
- Community Service vs. Service Learning
- Surviving Fair Season
- Supporting Youth with Special Needs
- Working with Teen Leaders
- Measuring a Successful 4-H Club
- All About 4-H Camp
- Age and Stages of 4-H Youth

**LISTEN NOW:** [Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Google Play, YouTube Music icons]

SHOW LINK: <https://go.rutgers.edu/awotzzkr>  
 FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://fb.rutgers.edu/v1azgsk>

## Take a listen to the 4-H Volunteer Ventures podcast!

Join your hosts, Kelly and Laura, as they discuss current trends, share resources, and offer tips and tricks learned from their own volunteer experiences.

**Listen Here: [go.rutgers.edu/awotzzkr](https://go.rutgers.edu/awotzzkr)**

# Other State-wide Opportunities

**CREATE ACADEMY**  
STEM Enrichment Summer Program  
July 6th - Aug 14th

- ✓ Earn 3 college credits
- ✓ Intro to iOS & App development
- ✓ Gain hands-on experience with coding and app creation
- ✓ Explore tech careers and boost your college application
- ✓ Must be a rising Junior or Senior
- ✓ Minimum 3.0 GPA required

**REGISTER HERE!** [QR Code]

Contact us at: 973-353-1717  
[cppprecollegeacademy@rutgers.edu](mailto:cppprecollegeacademy@rutgers.edu)

**2026 Rutgers Junior Animal Science Symposium**

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:

- Equine
- Small Ruminant
- Large Ruminant
  - Sheep and Goat
  - Dairy and Beef
- Canine
- Poultry
- Beekeeping
- Rabbit & Cavy (Guinea Pig)
- Marine Life
- Animal Science Careers
- Barn and Farm Safety
- and the Animal Science Video Contest!

**Register Here!** [QR Code]

Check out the Session List Here: [QR Code]

WEBSITE: <https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/smallanimals/junior-symposium/>

ORGANIZED BY:  
 The New Jersey Department of Agriculture Junior Breeder Program, in cooperation with Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty and staff!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026**

LOCATION: ROUND BARN @ GEORGE H. COOK CAMPUS – RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
 TIME: 8:30AM – 3:00 PM; YOUTH AND ADULTS; RAIN OR SHINE  
 COST: \$15 EACH YOUTH AND ADULT PARTICIPANT; CASH OR CHECK ACCEPTED  
 REGISTER BY: MARCH 14 2026

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: AMELIA.MINERVINI@RUTGERS.EDU OR M2173@NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU

**2026 NJ State 4-H Avian Bowl**

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Senior Center in Flemington  
 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ, 08822

**Registration/Check-in 10:00 am**  
**Introductions 10:30 am**  
**Competition Begins 10:45 am**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 25, 2026**

**PRECOLLEGE ACADEMY**  
2026 SUMMER PROGRAM  
JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>

STEM INNOVATION GRADES 6<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup>

**REGISTER HERE!** [QR Code]

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at [cppprecollegeacademy@rutgers.edu](mailto:cppprecollegeacademy@rutgers.edu) or call us at 973-353-1717

**COLLEGE AND CAREER INSTITUTE**  
& PRECOLLEGE ACADEMY INITIATIVE

**WHAT WE OFFER:**

- ✓ College preparation
- ✓ Career Exploration
- ✓ Skill Building
- ✓ Professional Development

**PROGRAM DATES:** July 6<sup>th</sup> - July 30<sup>th</sup>

**SIGN UP NOW!** [QR Code]

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade ONLY

For More Information Contact:  
 Program Coordinator - Ms. Henderson  
[jacobson@nj4h.rutgers.edu](mailto:jacobson@nj4h.rutgers.edu)

Bergen County 4-H and Bergen County Community College (BCCC) Present:

**Food Systems Alliance**

CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>

**ABOUT THE CLUB:**  
 Explore urban agriculture, food pathways, technology, sustainability, and future professions in food!

**FUN MEETINGS**

- Activities like garden work, seed plantings, building a model greenhouse, and more!
- Tons of opportunities to complete community service hours, partnered with local eco-initiatives and nonprofits!
- Ongoing service-learning = work as a cohort to complete a final group project!
- Be assigned a college student mentor to learn from and work with!
- Snacks included!

**JOIN TODAY!** [QR Code]

MEETINGS AT BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 Contact us with questions at: [bergen4h@nj4h.rutgers.edu](mailto:bergen4h@nj4h.rutgers.edu)