



# Newsletter

April 2026

Issue #03

## A Note from the Team

What a wonderful April it has been so far! We are beyond exciting for everything coming up this summer. If you are looking for some summer activities, info on awesome programs like Youth Urban Farm Club, it is in here!

## 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

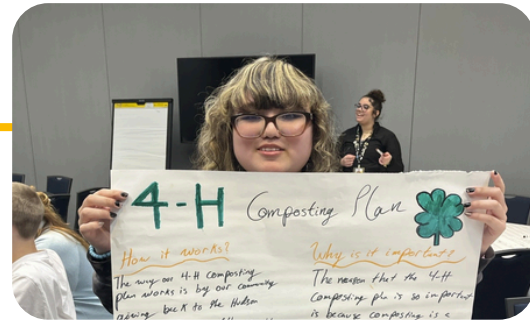
**Email:** Hudson4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

**Hudson County 4-H Website:**

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

**Follow Our Instagram:**

@HudsonCounty4H



## Youth Spotlight

### Suzi's Ignite by 4-H Trip!

Suzi was awarded a scholarship from the Healthy Habits Food Loss and Waste Grant (FLW), which enabled her to go on this trip! She presented at the summit about her experience in the Changemakers program, 4-H, and her passion for food sustainability. During her time there, she developed a plan for a compost project that she will be implementing at the RCE Learning Garden at West Hudson this year. Congrats to our wonderful delegate! We are always inspired by her dedication and passion!



The **Ignite by 4-H** Trip is a 4-day National 4-H trip, where states bring a small group of youth to Washington D.C. to connect, make memories, and find their spark by exploring the best 4-H has to offer in STEM, Agriscience, Healthy Living, Career Readiness and Emotional Well-being.



## Inside This Issue



4-H  
Happenings



Our Clubs  
& Programs



Upcoming  
Events

# School Partnerships:



## Empowerment Academy

Hudson County 4-H hosted a pollinator social emotional learning activity day for 125 kindergarteners at Empowerment Academy Charter School's Empower Day. Youth buzzed around the classroom pretending to be bees and butterflies, made pollinators, and worked as a class community to pollinate plants and help each other!



## Dr. Michael Conti PS5 - School Garden

4-H is BACK at the PS5 Garden to deliver spring workshops. After a beautiful fall 2025 wrap up to the growing season with garlic planting day, we were excited to come back in April 2026 to re-open the garden with a new seed library that the Hudson County 4-H Changemakers donated to the school, full of over 25 seed varieties! In April, the PS5 garden team met to install the seed library, check on our garlic plants, and prep our growing plan for this growing season! We saved seeds and plants to add to our class scrapbook!



# Seed Library Launch



**Ester F. and Zulema V., launched the culmination of their 2025 Changemakers project at the Kearny Public Library!** They installed a seed library and honored the installation by hosting a Seed Library Launch Celebration with 54 community members joining! They led the participants through a germination activity, shared their project story, and helped community members check out seeds.

This was a beautiful way to culminate what was a very long summer of planning on their part. They spent last summer collecting food stories ([View Project Here](#)) and seed requests from the community, working with the library, friends of the library, and planning with 4-H to put together this installation and celebration. We are so proud of what these 2 have achieved, and welcome members in the community to check out the seed library and help themselves to some seeds!

*Special shoutout to Teen Council for contributing handmade grow guides to the seed library!*

## Public Presentations

Congratulations to these 5 amazingly talented youth for practicing their public speaking skills and completing their Public Presentation! Our judges got to hear a variety of presentations such as Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks, and Formal Speeches! All youth who received a 90 and above score are eligible to attend the NJ 4-H State Public Presentations event!

## The COVE STEM Workshops

We are beyond ecstatic to be working with the wonderful folks over at Hudson Partnership CMO at The COVE to deliver engaging, hands-on STEM workshops to their youth! If you don't yet know about The COVE, see all the work they do on their Instagram: [www.instagram.com/hudsoncmo.cove/](http://www.instagram.com/hudsoncmo.cove/)



# 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!

## YOUTH URBAN FARM CLUB 2026 for youth ages 12-18

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 27TH

YUFC is coming back this summer for its 6th year in action here at Hudson County! In partnership with the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) department of RCE of Hudson County and our dedicated community gardeners, urban farmers, and community composters, we look forward to bringing YUFC to you better than ever. Sites will be filled on a rolling basis. For the best chance at a spot, register by May 20th!



Learn More: <https://hudson.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/urban-agriculture-opportunities/>

## Coming Soon...

### Sustainability Ambassadors

While this program will not begin until October 2026, those interested are encouraged to fill out this interest form:

[go.rutgers.edu/vrtzlnx2](https://go.rutgers.edu/vrtzlnx2)



## CHANGEMAKERS PROGRAM 2026 for youth in 9th-12<sup>th</sup> grade

APPLICATION OPENS APRIL 27TH

Changemakers is BACK! NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY! This program aims to empower youth of diverse backgrounds to learn about food systems, urban agriculture, and food justice, and empower them to make an impact in their food system and communities. We welcome all interested youth in grades 9-12 to apply by May 17th.

Register Here: <https://go.rutgers.edu/q87eggs1>



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, NJ Department of Agriculture, and Board of County Commissioners, Bergen County, New Jersey. Hudson County Department of Health and Environmental Services, and Board of Health, Hudson County, New Jersey. Rutgers University, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Department of Extension and Outreach.

# Other Clubs to Join!

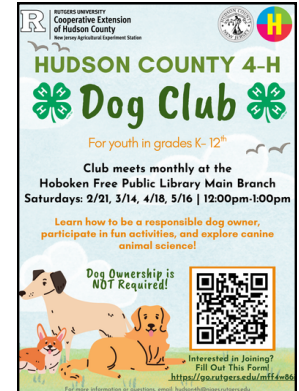


## Youth Birding Club for youth 4th-8th grades

In collaboration with [FBC.JC](#) and [Jersey City Birds](#): Youth will gain skills to identify birds in their neighborhood and learn about their importance of biodiversity while enjoying the outdoors!

**When:** 12-2PM on 4/25, 5/30 & 6/TBD  
**Location:** Various Green Spaces around Hudson County

**REGISTER:** <https://go.rutgers.edu/youthbirdingclubsp26>



## 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 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)



## 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)



## 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)

# Upcoming Hudson RCE Events



Coming up  
so soon!!!

## RCE Earth Day Celebration

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

RCE Learning Garden in Lincoln Park, Jersey City

**HUDSON COUNTY RCE 4TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY & GARDEN OPENING CELEBRATION**

# EARTH Day CELEBRATION

FREE & OPEN TO ALL!

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)

## Buzz & Bloom Fest

Saturday, April 25th 12PM-1:30PM

East Newark Riverfront Park

1 Central Ave East Newark, NJ 07029

EAST NEWARK RIVERFRONT PARK AND HUDSON COUNTY 4-H

# BUZZ & BLOOM FEST

EARTH DAY EVENT FOR YOUTH, TEENS, AND FAMILIES

FREE ENTRY

LIVE ART

NATURE CRAFTS

PLANTING

**SATURDAY  
April 25th  
12 PM - 1:30 PM**

**EAST NEWARK RIVERFRONT PARK**  
1 Central Ave  
East Newark, NJ 07029

CONTACT HUDSON COUNTY 4-H AT [HUDSON4H@NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU](mailto:HUDSON4H@NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU) WITH QUESTIONS



# Upcoming Events



## Calling All Seniors!

### Senior College Scholarships

Each year our 4-H Advisory Board accepts scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors to support their college journey. Applications to apply will be released here in May!

### Honor Cord Requests

We have a limited amount of graduation honor cords to give to our graduating high school seniors! If you are interested in getting a cord, please reach out to us at [HUDSON4H@NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU](mailto:HUDSON4H@NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU)

# Other State-wide Opportunities

## 4-H AGRICULTURE CAREER NIGHT



Get ready to hear from dynamic guest speakers who are shaping the future of agriculture!

Speakers:



Sarah Wahltinez  
Quatic Animal Welfare Veterinarian  
New South Wales, Australia



Katelyn A. Katzer  
Farmland Preservation Manager  
- SCADB Administrator  
Somerset County Department  
of Engineering and Planning



Matthew D'Alessandro  
District Manager  
Somerset Union SCD

May 13th,  
6:00-7:30pm EST

Somerset County  
4-H Center  
310 Milltown Rd  
Bridgewater, NJ

Zoom option  
available!



Open to grades 7-13<sup>th</sup>

FREE

Register by May 11th

908-526-6644  
[mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu)

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

## Food Systems Alliance

CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 9TH-12TH

**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!**  
Scan the QR Code or go to:  
[go.rutgers.edu/gfuh1416](http://go.rutgers.edu/gfuh1416)

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