

Passaic County 4-H Happenings



A note from your 4-H Agent

Hello, Passaic County 4-H!

What a busy summer it has been! We kicked things off with a Passaic County teen attending the NJ 4-H State Teen Conference and welcomed a record-breaking 12 teens to Summer Science Kick-Off Week as part of the Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassadors program. Throughout the summer, we partnered with the Clifton Public Library and Memorial Day Summer Camp to deliver programs across a wide variety of topics. We also launched our new gardening club, Sprout Scouts, hosted another successful cohort of the Advancing Careers in Agriculture & STEM internship program, and enjoyed an incredible turnout at the Passaic County Fair. This is just a snapshot of our summer. Read on for more highlights and a look at what's coming up this fall in Passaic County 4-H! As we begin a new 4-H year, we're excited to welcome new and returning members and continue creating opportunities for youth to learn, lead, and grow. Thank you to our members, families, volunteers, and community partners for your continued support.

Making the Best Better, Kirsten Cowan - 4-H Agent

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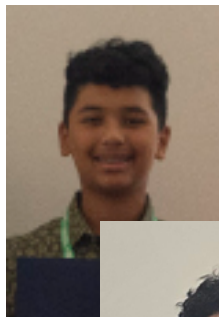
Oh the Places You'll Go

As we head into the fall, we want to wish the best of luck to our Class of 2026. Each of you made a lasting impact on Passaic County 4-H. We are so proud of all that you have already accomplished and we are so excited to see the amazing places you'll go. Just remember, no matter how far you go, you'll always have a home in Passaic County 4-H.

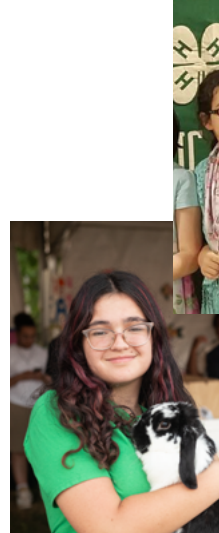


Casey J.
N.J.I.T

Biomedical Engineering



Christian R.
Rutgers University
Psychology



Megan R.
Vassar University
History



Erin R.
Vassar University
Computer Science

Passaic County 4-H Happenings

PASSAIC COUNTY FAIR

It's always fun at the fair with Passaic County 4-H! This year Rutgers Cooperative Extension and 4-H went *Out of This World* for the Passaic County Fair at Garret Mountain Reservation in Woodland Park. The fair ran Thursday, August 13 to Saturday, August 15. Sunday was cancelled due to inclement weather forecast.

With the assistance of some amazing volunteers, RCE/4-H decorated the tent in space-themed decor. Our tent had the usual fun activities like meeting the baby chicks or playing with Oobleck. We also included a few new additions like Alka-Seltzer rockets, Mars trivia, and building a hydraulic claw to harvest lettuce in space.

A huge shout out to all the STEM Ambassadors that came out to volunteer!







PASSAIC COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

2026-2027



Email Passaic County 4-H passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu to sign up for any of our 4-H clubs

CLOVERBUD ART CLUB

Art club for youth to explore all different types of art and make new friends along the way!

Ages: K-3rd grade

Meeting Time: 5-6:15 pm

Location: 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Fri, Oct. 9 Fri Nov. 13 Fri, Dec 11



PREAKNESS AGGIES

General 4-H club for youth to explore all different topics like science, agriculture, leadership and make new friends along the way!

Ages: K-3rd grade

Meeting Time: 10-11:30 am

Location: 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Sat, Sept. 19 Sat, Oct. 17 Sat, Nov. 21

ART CLUB

Art club for youth to explore all different types of art and make new friends along the way!

Ages: 4th to 13th grade

Meeting Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Fri, Oct. 9 Fri, Nov. 13 Fri, Dec 11



ALL PAWS ON DECK

4-H dog club for youth to learn all about dogs. We focus on responsible dog ownership, knowledge about dogs, and care for dogs. All dogs are welcome!

Ages: K-13th grade

Meeting Time: 6-7:30 pm

Location: Garibaldi Hall in Roseland, NJ

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Tues, Sept. 15 Tues, Oct. 20 Tues, Nov. 17



PASSAIC COUNTY 4-H CLUBS 2026-2027



Email Passaic County 4-H passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu to sign up for any of our 4-H clubs

EMERALD ARCHERS

Shooting sports clubs that focuses on archery. Club members learn about leadership, sound decision making, and archery.

Ages: Must be 10 years or older

Meeting Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Lyndhurst Rec Center

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Sat, Oct. 3 Sat, Nov. 7 Sat, Dec. 5



JUNIOR/TEEN COUNCIL

General 4-H club for youth to explore all different topics like science, agriculture, leadership and make new friends along the way!

Ages: 4th to 13th grade

Meeting Time: 10-11:30 am

Location: 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Sat, Sept. 19 Sat, Oct. 17 Sat, Nov. 21

STEM AMBASSADORS

Club members learn different STEM activities and teach them back to younger youth in their community

Ages: 7th to 13th grade

Meeting Time: 6:30-8 pm

Location: Clifton Public Library

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Wed, Oct. 14 Wed, Nov. 11 Wed, Dec. 9



WEST MILFORD 4-H CLUB

General 4-H club for youth to explore all different topics like science, agriculture, leadership and make new friends along the way!

Ages: 4th to 13th grade

Meeting Time: 6-7:30 pm

Location: Camp Hope in West Milford

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Fri, Sept. 25 Fri, Oct. 16 Fri, Nov. 20

NEW PASSAIC COUNTY 4-H CLUBS 2026-2027

SPROUT SCOUTS

This is a garden club for youth to learn to plant, grow, and harvest all different types of flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Ages: 4th to 13th grade

Meeting Time: 1-2:30 pm

Location: RCE High Tunnel at Preakness Valley Golf Course

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Mon, Oct. 12 Mon, Nov. 9 Mon, Dec. 14



TEEN WELLNESS CLUB

This new club will meet in Clifton. We are still working to find club meeting date, time and location. Please complete the interest form if you would like more information.

[Teen Wellness Club Interest Form](#)



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
4-H Youth Development
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

see more of 4-H at
[@rcepassaiccounty](#) on
Instagram!

introducing:

Teen Wellness Club

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN...

- making new friends?
- learning about mental resilience & wellbeing?
- how to reduce stress?
- understanding what to do after high school?
- having a good time?

FILL OUT THIS INTEREST FORM TO KNOW MORE!

scan me to see more!

Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Enroll / Re Enroll in 4-H on [ZSuite](#)

The new 4-H year is here. Don't forget to enroll (or re-enroll) in ZSuite to stay connected with all the exciting programs, events, and opportunities coming your way. Enrollment only takes a few minutes, secure your spot and get ready for another amazing year of 4-H adventures!

ZSuite Enrollment Site: 4h.zsuite.org

For New 4-H Families: [ZSuite Enrollment Help Guide](#)

For Returning 4-H Families [ZSuite Re-Enrollment Help Guide](#)

SUMMER SCIENCE KICK-OFF WEEK

13 youth from Passaic County attended Summer Science Kick Off Week at Rutgers University New Brunswick this summer from July 6 to July 11. They met with STEM professionals from across all the departments at the university.

"My experience at Summer Science Kick-Off week was amazing and adventurous, and I will always look back on it. Staying at Rutgers University New Brunswick was a surreal, exciting college-life learning experience. I was able to meet new people from all around New Jersey who share the same interests in STEM as I do. The activities were extraordinary and fun, as they were hands-on. I was able to gain even more interest in STEM as I was exposed to the different aspects of the area. Additionally, we were introduced to college professors, and being able to interact with them was marvelous. Though we were learning and completing a lot of activities, we also had tons of fun getting to know each other and participating in playing sports, which was memorable. All in all, I'm so grateful I was given the opportunity to be able to join Kick-Off week. I came home with countless memories, experiences, and many new friendships that I will cherish for a lifetime. That week has changed my perspective and has me excited to pursue an interest in STEM."

"Written by Chelsea T."





ADVANCING CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE & S.T.E.M

NJ ACAS returned for its second cohort this summer, bringing together ten teens from across northern New Jersey for a week of exploration, skill-building, and career discovery. Along the way, participants learned about hydroponics at Union College of Union County NJ (UCNJ), explored science and innovation at Liberty Science Center, visited Montclair Community Garden to learn about local food systems, met wildlife professionals at The Raptor Trust, and traveled to Rutgers Snyder Farm to see agrivoltaics research and agricultural drone technology in action.

Between site visits, interns sharpened their professional skills through hands-on workshops focused on resume and cover letter writing, interview practice, time management, and financial literacy. Each experience helped participants connect what they were learning in school to real careers and real-world challenges.

The week wrapped up with a showcase for family and friends, where interns shared their favorite experiences and what they learned. More than anything, ACAS helped teens explore new possibilities, make connections, and gain confidence as they think about their futures. By the end of the week, participants left with a greater understanding of the important role agriculture plays in our everyday lives and the many people, technologies, and systems involved in feeding our communities.

"Before [this week], I mostly thought agriculture was just about farming. After [this week], I learned it's connected to technology, engineering, environmental sustainability, and business." - Intern from 2026



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

Year 4 of Outdoor Adventure Camp with Essex and Passaic County 4-H is in the books! We had a total of 14 campers join us for this year's amazing week of adventure and outdoor exploration. We went on daily adventures to learn all about the place we call home and to explore the beautiful natural spaces in Passaic and Essex County

Each day campers were given challenges and activities to test and strengthen their decision making skills. The goals of the camp are to allow youth to explore their own unique leadership style and to learn what it takes to be a part of a team.

When asked to list one or two things they learned from this program campers said:

"Leadership"

"I learned how to be kind"

"We have to pay attention to one another"

"Responsibility"

"Social skills"



IN THE COMMUNITY

Beneficial Bugs in Paterson

Throughout the summer, Passaic County 4-H partnered with Memorial Day Summer Camp in Paterson to bring hands-on learning to campers. Younger campers explored the world of beneficial bugs, learning about pollinators, insect lifecycles, and the important roles insects play in our environment. A lot of fun was had, and hopefully some learning along the way!



STEM at Summer Camp



Throughout the summer, Passaic County 4-H partnered with Memorial Day Summer Camp in Paterson to bring hands-on learning to campers. Older campers participated in various STEM activities focused on design challenges that helped to build creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Passaic County 4-H staff integrated technology from the Apple Community Education Initiative to provide an enriching experience. Using iPads and Makey Makey Boards, students were challenged to create the best possible game controller for different types of games. In another lesson, students used iPads to control spherical robots to go in a specific shape.

Curious Critters in Clifton

Returning to the Clifton Public Library this summer, Passaic County 4-H's Curious Critters series introduced youth to the exciting world of animal science. Throughout the program, participants met Seeing Eye puppies, hermit crabs, rabbits, reptiles, and chickens. They also learned about dairy cows and even made their own butter. From discovering how guide dogs are trained to overcoming fears of snakes, every session featured hands-on learning, animal encounters, and plenty of questions. By the end of the summer, youth had explored a wide range of animal science topics and met some unforgettable animal ambassadors.

Thank you to Mr. Dan, Ms. Marissa, *I See For You* Puppy Club of Passaic County, and Ms. Jennie for providing the animal ambassadors for this series



IN THE COMMUNITY

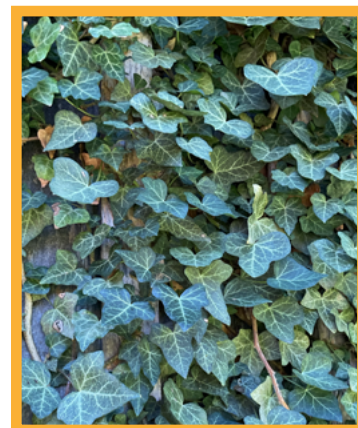
Photo 101 at Payne Tech

Through a collaboration with the Apple Community Education Initiative, students at Payne Tech Summer Internship were given the opportunity to learn all about photography. They learned about the history of photography and portraiture. Students were then split into groups and challenged to capture a portrait of their partner. Many of them opted instead for group self-portraits!



Fun on the Farm

Passaic County 4-H was invited to present at Montclair Community Farms (MCF) Farm Camp this summer! Ms. Kirsten presented all about dairy cows. Campers learned about the different breeds of dairy cows and the amount of dairy produced on average by cows. They were also given the opportunity to make their own butter. They learned all about the hardwork it takes to make butter. Ms. Jennie presented all about photography. Campers were shown how to use the camera on an iPad. They were then challenged to take the very best picture they could. At the end, campers all showed off their favorite photos to one another.



Photos taken by MCF Farm Campers

Garden Club Launches

This summer, Passaic County 4-H launched a Short-Term Exploratory Program (STEP) garden club at the RCE High Tunnel. Youth in 4th grade and up were invited weekly to the RCE High Tunnel located within the Preakness Valley Golf Course. Each week, club members learned new gardening skills. These skills included starting plants from seed, transplanting, harvesting vegetables, identifying insects, and much more. Each week was action packed, and many friends were found along the way. The success of this STEP club, has led to the creation of the new 4-H garden club the Sprout Scouts! Thanks to Ms. Gabby and Mr. Matt for all their help with this club!



Passaic County 4-H Happenings

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Passaic County 4-H at Paws in the Park!

Volunteer with Passaic County 4-H at Paws in the Park on Sat, Oct. 10 at Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne, NJ. We will have several fun activities including upcycling old shirt into dog toys! We will also have a few hands-on STEM activities and information about 4-H

Please be mindful that this is an outdoor event with a lot of dogs in attendance.



Sat, Oct 10, 2026



10:00 am (set-up) to 5:00 pm



Goffle Brook Park

788 Lafayette Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Sign Up here: <https://go.rutgers.edu/pcpaws>



BERGEN NEW JERSEY
County

BERGEN COUNTY
FALL HARVEST Festival
SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2026
OVERPECK COUNTY PARK
199 Challenger Rd, Ridgefield Park, NJ

4-H & MASTER GARDENER EXHIBITS, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, CRAFT FAIR, CARNIVAL RIDES, FARMERS MARKET, PETTING ZOO, MUSIC, FACE PAINTING, ENTERTAINMENT, & FOOD TRUCKS

FRIDAY, 9/18 6PM-9PM:	SATURDAY, 9/19 10AM-5PM:	SUNDAY, 9/20 10AM-5PM:
MIDWAY, RIDES, AND FOOD	EXHIBITS, CRAFT FAIR, ENTERTAINMENT: Featuring Live Music	EXHIBITS, CRAFT FAIR, ENTERTAINMENT: Featuring Live Music
	12PM-9PM: MIDWAY, RIDES, AND FOOD	12PM-8PM: MIDWAY, RIDES, AND FOOD

Fun Family Event!
FREE PARKING & ADMISSION!

BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS!
ALL DONATIONS GO TO
Bergen County OFFICE OF FOOD SECURITY

MORE INFO
CONTACT THE 4-H OFFICE
201-336-6780
bergen4h@njaes.rutgers.edu
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
facebook.com/bergen4h

Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III and the Board of Commissioners

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 11AM | PIER 13 HOBOKEN

HUDSON COUNTY 4-H ADVISORY BOARD

CLOVER RUN

\$10 DONATION SUGGESTED

POST-RUN HANGOUT AT PIER 13!

WALK 1 MILE OR RUN 2 MILES

SIGN UP TODAY ON SWEATPALS:

EVERY STEP MAKES A DIFFERENCE! PROCEEDS HELP PROVIDE YOUTH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS, TRANSFORMATIVE CAMP EXPERIENCES, AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL 4-H MEMBERS!

National 4-H Week

Sunday, Oct. 4 – Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026

DAY 1

GO GREEN

Monday, Oct. 5

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H State spirit! A simple, cohesive way for youth, professionals, volunteers, alumni & supporters across the country to celebrate their 4-H programs being Beyond Ready. Let's paint the nation GREEN, on Monday, October 5!



How to Go Green

Show your 4 H spirit and help paint the nation GREEN by:

- Wear green clothing or decorate your office, classroom, or event in green.
- Light up your home or office with green light bulbs.
- Visit a landmark in your state that's set to shine green – find locations on the Go Green Map at 4-H.org/4-HWeek.
- Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag National 4-H, your State 4-H program, and use: [#4HBeyondReady](https://twitter.com/4HBeyondReady) [#National4HWeek](https://twitter.com/National4HWeek)

DAY 2

THANKFUL THURSDAY

Thursday, Oct. 8

On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the mentors, educators, and volunteers who are making positive impact on you people's lives in 4-H. Share who you're thankful for and celebrate how they are making a difference on Thursday, October 8!



Share your 'Thankful' story on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H and use: [#4HBeyondReady](https://twitter.com/4HBeyondReady) [#National4HWeek](https://twitter.com/National4HWeek)

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HE  LTH



Returning for its second year...

HUNTERDON & PASSAIC 4-H PRESENTS... 4-H RESEARCH READY

Explore real-world issues in environmental health, animal health, and human health. Develop a research project based on your interests and present your work at Rutgers.

Real Science. Real Skills. Real Impact.



Over 60% of accepted med students have research experience, and vet schools accept fewer than 10% of applicants. Set yourself up for success today



PROGRAM OUTLINE



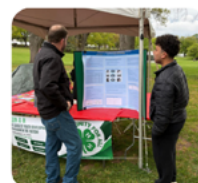
EXPLORE YOUR OWN INTERESTS
THROUGH RESEARCH



NETWORK WITH PROFESSIONALS



PRESENT RESEARCH AT RUTGERS



Studies show that early research experience leads to higher college GPAs, stronger critical thinking, and advanced lab skills

LOGISTICS

- Open to all youth 4th grade and up
 - Younger youth create educational videos
 - Middle school & high school youth create academic research posters
- Monthly meetings (in-person & virtual)
- November 2026 - April 2027
- Applications Due November 1st
- Spots limited! Apply today!

MORE INFORMATION &
REGISTRATION

go.rutgers.edu/ResearchReady



Hunterdon 4-H Contact: Sharon Toth
(908) 788-1346 or sat156@njaes.rutgers.edu

Passaic 4-H Contact: Kirsten Cowan
(973) 684-4786 or Kirsten.Cowan@Rutgers.edu

SEPTEMBER

		1	2	3	4	5 Emerald Archers
6	7 Labor Day 4-H Office Closed	8	9 STEM Ambassadors	10	11 Cloverbud Art Club Art Club	12 Intro to Babysitting
13 Intro to Babysitting	14 Sprout Scouts	15 All Paws on Deck	16 Board of Ag	17 Leaders' Association	18	19 Jr/Teen Council Preakness Aggies
20 Essex County Fall Fest	21	22	23	24	25 West Milford Club	26
27 CLOVER RUN @ Pier 13 in Jersey City	28	29	30			

CALENDAR KEY

Passaic County 4-H Programs
Passaic County 4-H Clubs
Passaic County Programs
Rutgers 4-H Programs

OCTOBER

				1 West Milford Club	2	3 Emerald Archers Science Saturday @ Clifton Public Library
4	5 	6 App Design @ Clifton Public Library	7	8 Leaders' Association	9 Cloverbud Art Club Art Club	10 Paws in the Park @ Goffle Brook Park
11	12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day Sprout Scouts 4-H Office Closed	13 App Design @ Clifton Public Library	14 STEM Ambassadors	15	16 West Milford Club	17 Jr/Teen Council Preakness Aggies 4-H Volunteer Training
18	19	20 App Design @ Clifton Public Library All Paws on Deck	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 App Design @ Clifton Public Library	28	29	30	31 

CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NOVEMBER

1	2	3 Election Day App Design @ Clifton Public Library 4-H Office Closed	4	5	6	7 Emerald Archers
8	9 Sprout Scouts Research Ready	10 App Design @ Clifton Public Library	11 Veterans' Day STEM Ambassadors 4-H Office Closed	12	13 Cloverbud Art Club Art Club	14
15	16	17 App Design @ Clifton Public Library All Paws on Deck	18	19	20 West Milford Club	21 Jr/Teen Council Preakness Aggies Teens As Teachers
22 Teens As Teachers	23 Research Ready	24 App Design @ Clifton Public Library	25	26  4-H Office Closed	27 4-H Office Closed	28
29	30					

CALENDAR KEY

Passaic County 4-H Programs
Passaic County 4-H Clubs
Passaic County Programs
Rutgers 4-H Programs

DECEMBER

		1 App Design Showcase @ Clifton Public Library	2	3	4  Awards Night	5 Emerald Archers
6	7 Research Ready	8	9 STEM Ambassadors	10 Leaders' Association	11 Cloverbud Art Club Art Club	12 
13	14 Sprout Scouts	15 All Paws on Deck	16	17	18 West Milford Club	19 Jr/Teen Council Preakness Aggies
20	21	22	23	24	25  4-H Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30	31  4-H Office Closed		

CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

INTERESTED IN STARTING YOUR OWN 4-H CLUB?

What do you need?

- 5 youth (from at least 3 different families)
- 2 trusted adults over the age of 21+
- A meeting space

How do you start?

Contact Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Adult club leaders will need to complete a short training with Passaic County 4-H

Does the club need a topic area / focus?

No, you can have a general 4-H club for youth to meet up and try new things, but if you do have a specific topic for a club, we love that too!



A Fond Farewell

Last summer, we welcomed a little yellow puppy named Scotty into the office. He slept all the time, chewed on everything in sight, and made friends where ever he went. That little yellow labrador then started to grow, and grow, and *grow*. As he grew, he got to meet all different types of people and he learned a whole lot. As his volunteer raiser, I would like to thank you all for being a part of Scotty's journey. Each of you helped him to grow and learn. Scotty returned to the Seeing Eye in Morristown at the end of June.

So this summer we say good luck to that big yellow lab as he continues on his journey to become a Seeing Eye dog!

Hearts and clovers,
Jennie



Kirsten Cowan
Passaic County
4-H County Agent III

Jennie Thomas
Passaic County 4-H
Program Associate I

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4-H Youth Development Program
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Passaic County 4-H Website: <http://www.passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu>
New Jersey 4-H: www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
National 4-H Website: www.4-h.org
RCE of Passaic County Instagram: [@rcepassaiccounty](https://www.instagram.com/rcepassaiccounty)

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For additional information, contact: 973-684-4786 or nj4h.rutgers.edu. Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583