



## 4-H Green Mountain Clovergram

Vermont 4-H....Your First Class at the University of Vermont



### Welcome to 2026!

A new year is here, and January is a great time to take a breath, look ahead, and ease back into projects, goals, and all the things that make 4-H special. Read on to see what's coming up as we kick off the year together.

## Heads Up! 4-H Happenings

(All things 4-H & Youth, from your VT backyard to the big stage)



Discover Engineering Day!  
February 21, 2026  
Discovery & Innovation Halls, UVM Campus



#### 2026 Workshops:

- Learn to Code: Python
- Designing Bridges
- Build a Car with UVM's AERO!
- Constructing Cartilage
- Bright Ideas: Hands-On Circuit Building
- Discover the Power in Wind!
- Step into a New Dimension! 2D and 3D Fabrication.

REGISTRATION  
IS OPEN!



Extension  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



### Discover Engineering Day!

[Register HERE!](#)

Discover Engineering is a day of hands-on learning and exploration for youth in 5th-12th grades to learn about engineering, build skills, and network with college students, professors, and professionals in the field. Organized by UVM's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS) and UVM Extension 4-H, the day includes an Engineering Scavenger Hunt (interactive exhibits showcasing various types of engineering and career pathways), and an afternoon of learning through hands-on

workshops. Lunch provided.

**Sponsored by the Lola and George Aiken Fund**

### Scholarship Opportunities

**DeShazer 4-H Scholarship:** This award is for current UVM students who demonstrate financial need, are active in community service, have a 4-H background, and are Vermont residents.

**Leroy Ingalls 4-H Scholarship:** This is an award for current UVM students that showcase outstanding merit in character, 4-H club record, and scholastic attainment in college. The 4-H experience may come from Vermont or another state.

Applications are due by March 10, 2026

**SAVE THE DATES**

**2026 4-H COMMUNICATION EVENTS**

The diagram illustrates the progression of 4-H communication events. It starts with a vertical list of regional events on the left, each enclosed in a green box with a black border. An arrow points from this list to a central green oval labeled "State Communications Day May 9th". Another arrow points from this central oval to a second green oval labeled "The Big E September". Each oval is surrounded by radiating lines.

March 21	Southwest Regional 4-H Day (Bennington & Rutland Counties)
March 28	Northwest Regional 4-H Day (Addison, Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Isle Counties)
April 4	Northeast Regional Spring Showcase (Caledonia, Essex, Lamoille & Orleans Counties)
April 4	Southeast Regional 4-H Day (Windham & Windsor Counties)
April 4	Central Region 4-H Spring Showcase (Washington & Orange Counties)

Strong communication skills make a big difference in life and work. Through 4-H communication events youth build confidence and skills in public speaking and presenting.

 **Beyond Ready**

### State Communications Day (new location!)

Saturday, May 9, 2026  
UVM Campus, Davis Center  
Theme: Celebrating and Honoring USA's 250th Anniversary

New Categories being added this year:

**Poetry Slam:** will be offered as a new category under communications. There will be a theme: KINDNESS. Watch for more details. This category will be eligible to move on to the Big E.

**"Interview a 4-H Alumni"** will be offered as a new category under technology. The rubric for judging will include the choice in questions asked, positioning of the interviewer/interviewee, interactions/connection, editing and final production. This is a recorded presentation involving media skills with recording and editing incorporated. This category will be eligible to move on to the Big E.

**A Pathway to the Big E will be available soon!**



SAVE THE DATE:  
January 19-23, 2026

A Vermont Shooting Sports Quiz Bowl is in the works! Additional details will be shared soon.



**SLINGSHOT CHALLENGE**  
How are you taking aim at a better tomorrow?  
Share your one-minute video.  
Photo by Suzi Altman

**SLINGSHOT CHALLENGE STEP-BY-STEP** [www.SlingshotChallenge.org](http://www.SlingshotChallenge.org)

## Join the National Geographic Slingshot Challenge!

There's still time to submit your video and become a changemaker for the planet! Participants (ages 13–18) will create a one-minute video sharing their solution to an environmental problem in their community.

Videos are due February 6, making this a perfect winter project for your club or program. Vermont Afterschool will provide \$750 stipends for participating sites and \$100 stipends for each participant, plus coaching, resources, and toolkits from National Geographic to guide the process. Any program can join libraries, 4-H Clubs, afterschool programs, teen centers, community centers, or anywhere you're engaging youth! Teams can include one to six teens, with younger youth welcome to join the fun too. [More Information!](#)



## 4-H Day at the Vermont State Capitol SAVE THE DATE

4-H Day at the Vermont State Capitol will take place on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, in Montpelier and offers middle and high school 4-H members a hands-on opportunity to explore state government and civic engagement. Youth will tour the historic State House, observe the legislative process, visit the Vermont Supreme Court for an interactive mock trial experience, and meet with elected officials. Participants will also have the chance to share their 4-H experiences and see how youth voices

connect to real-world leadership and decision-making.

For more information reach out to [Molly.McFaun@uvm.edu](mailto:Molly.McFaun@uvm.edu)

## 2026 UConn 4-H Sheep Day Saturday, February 7, 2026

Ratcliffe Hicks Arena - UConn Storrs, CT

Designed for youth ages 7-18, parents/guardians and leaders



### Schedule of Events:

- 9:00 am - 9:30 am: Event Check in (Arena Floor)
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm: Arena Floor Activities (Close-toed shoes are required. Dress appropriately for cool weather)
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Bring Your Own Peanut-Free Lunch
- 1:00 pm-2:30 pm: Classroom Activities

## F.E.A.S.T (Food Education and Sustainable Thinking)

FEAST is a youth-led summit for teens (14–18) interested in food systems, sustainability, and climate justice. Past events at Shelburne Farms have included youth and expert-led workshops,

keynote speakers from organizations like NOFA-VT and Migrant Justice, and a farm-to-table lunch. Check out this [video](#) to hear from past participants!

Are you 14–18 and excited about these issues? Consider joining the FEAST planning team. As a youth planner, you'll participate in an in-person retreat Jan 24–25, 2026 in Shelburne; bi-weekly Zoom meetings Jan–Mar; weekly Zoom meetings Apr–May; and help run the full-day summit on May 21, 2026 in Woodstock. Youth planners receive a \$200 stipend for their time and contributions. [Apply Here](#)



## Upcoming Events

**Northeast Regional Horse Quiz Bowl & Hippology**  
February 8, 2026  
Lyndon Town School

**State Horse Quiz Bowl & Hippology Workshop**  
February 14, 2026

**Northeast Regional Dairy Quiz Bowl**  
February 14, 2026  
Waterford Elementary School

**Discover Engineering**  
February 21, 2026  
Innovation Hall, UVM Campus

**4-H Day at the Capitol**  
February 24, 2026  
State Capitol, Montpelier

**State Horse Quiz Bowl & Hippology Contest**  
April 11, 2026  
Chittenden County

**State Communications Day**  
May 9, 2026  
Davis Center, UVM Campus

**See all upcoming events here**

## Volunteer Vibes

**(Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay inspired.)**

### Final Financial Reports for 2024-2025 program year - past due

If you have not submitted your annual financial report for the last program year, it is due ASAP. The non-profit entity that provides your tax exemption must submit financials to the University and to the IRS. We cannot do that without your information. Failure to submit your financial data may result in your account being frozen. Questions can be directed to your county educator or to Corinne Cooper, Corinne.Cooper@uvm.edu.

### 4-H Volunteer Connections

Here is a great opportunity to connect with other 4-H volunteers across the Northeast: 4-H Volunteer Connections meet monthly on Zoom from 6:30-8:00pm. They dive into engaging topics led by experts and volunteers, and wrap up with breakout sessions to share ideas and learn from one another.

Volunteer Excellence: Recognizing Achievement, Inspiring Growth  
January 21, 2026

AI for 4-H: What to Know and How to Use it  
February 18, 2026

Moving into a New Era of Leadership with Teens  
March 18, 2026

[Learn More or Register](#)



**Beyond Ready**

## 4-H Highlights & Stories

## 4-H Winter Horse Camp!

Winter Horse Camp was a big hit this year, welcoming 25 campers with the help of eight teen leaders. Campers stayed busy with hands-on activities, including decorating T-shirts and creating cork horses. A favorite tradition, the horseless horse show, once again stole the spotlight, with campers competing in Gambler's Choice jumping, barrel racing, and pole-bending.

Learning was woven throughout the fun as campers explored the horse's digestive system, marveling at its size when fully stretched out. They also rotated through engaging activities focused on braiding, public speaking, and identifying parts of the horse. Winter Horse Camp wrapped up with an energetic True/False game, sending everyone home smiling after a memorable week of learning, teamwork, and fun.



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