



4-H Green Mountain Clovergram

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

July 2026

This newsletter is your go-to source for updates, opportunities, and highlights from across our 4-H community. Each issue is designed to keep families, volunteers, and youth informed, celebrate the great things happening in our programs, and help everyone stay connected throughout the year.

Clovergram newsletters are now **archived** for easy reference so you can revisit past announcements or share with your friends.

If you have 4-H news, achievements, photos, or upcoming events you'd like featured in a future Clovergram, please reach out. We love sharing the good work happening across our 4-H community!



Heads Up! 4-H Happenings

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

Welcome to our new 4-H County Educators!



Julie Matraga
Grand Isle, Franklin and Chittenden Counties

Julie will be based out of the St. Alban's office. She is a sheep, beef, and vegetable farmer who also produces kimchi and sauerkraut sold throughout Vermont.

Julie brings a diverse professional background, having worked with the Fairfield Community Center and High Mowing Organic Seeds Company. She has experience overseeing farm production, collaborating with boards, and leading outdoor education programs, including facilitating farm tours and educational experiences for youth. Her educational background is in adult education and Extension.

Reach out and say hello: julie.matraga@uvm.edu

Kellie Jenkins
Essex and Orleans Counties

Kellie will be based out of the Newport office. She is an active 4-H volunteer who has worked closely with Lindy Birch on the club dairy project, including helping to lead dairy shows in her role as the Orleans County Fair dairy superintendent. In addition to her 4-H involvement, Kellie is also a dairy farmer.

Kellie brings a strong background in early childhood education, having held a variety of roles throughout her career. Most recently, she served as the director of a childcare center. She also has extensive experience with Head Start, where she has worked as a director, teacher, and home visitor. Her educational background includes studies in human services and early childhood.



Reach out and say hello: kellie.jenkins@uvm.edu



Rabbit & Poultry 4-H at The Big E!

New for 2026 The Big E (Eastern States Exposition) has added Rabbit and Poultry to the 4-H programming!

If you had your approval forms sent in by the deadlines, then you have completed the first step to participate in at The Big E.

[Project Guide](#)

[ESE Requirements](#)



NASA TechRise Student Challenge!

The NASA TechRise Student Challenge empowers teams of 6th-12th-grade students to design, build, and launch experiments on flights aboard commercial suborbital vehicles.

Guided by an educator, student teams affiliated with U.S. public, private, and charter schools can submit experiment ideas for flight testing. Sixty winning teams will be selected to receive \$1500 to build their experiment, technical support from Future Engineers, and an assigned spot for their experiment on a NASA-sponsored flight with an industry provider.

The challenge is expected to open in September 2026. [Learn more!](#)

Save the Date!
Vermont 4-H Animal Science Day
Saturday, October 24, 2026
9:30AM-1:00PM
Hildene | Manchester, VT

Calling all Vermont 4-H members involved in poultry, goat, sheep, dog, and rabbit projects! Join us for a special state-level Animal Science Day featuring hands-on learning, connection with fellow 4-H members, and time to explore the beautiful **Hildene grounds**.



Participants will enjoy a day pass to explore the farm, museum, Pullman Car, boardwalk, and more! More details and registration information coming soon.

Sponsored by the Vermont 4-H Foundation

Save the Date!
2027 State Communications Day
Saturday, May 15, 2027
UVM Davis Center

Sponsored by the Vermont 4-H Foundation

Upcoming Events

State 4-H Horse Show
July 10-12, 2026
Essex Junction, VT

**State Working Steer
Show/Qualifier 2/3**
July 12, 2026
Randolph Center, VT

Youth Farm Safety Day
July 15, 2026
UVM Morgan Horse Farm

**4-H Shooting Sports
Jamboree**
July 17, 2026
St. Johnsbury, VT

4-H Youth Dairy Show
July 18, 2026
Lamoille County Field Days

**4-H Rifle
Instructor Training**
July 25, 2026
St. Johnsbury, VT

**Central & Southeastern
4-H Dairy Clinic & Show**
July 25, 2026
Tunbridge, VT

**State Working Steer
Show/Qualifier 3/3**

Volunteer Vibes

(Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay inspired.)

ATTENTION: Fingerprinting Reimbursement Reminder
If you've been fingerprinted and submitted your reimbursement paperwork but haven't received your check yet, please let us know. Reach out to Amanda.Royce@uvm.edu and we'll be happy to follow up on the status.



August 15, 2026
New Haven, VT

Outdoor Family Weekend
September 11-13, 2026
Stillwater State Park

**See all upcoming events
here**

- ✿ Lamoille County Field Days: July 17-19 in Johnson, VT
- ✿ Addison County Fair & Field Days: August 4-8 in New Haven, VT
- ✿ Vermont State Fair: August 18-22 in Rutland, VT
- ✿ Caledonia County Fair: August 26-30 in Lyndonville, VT
- ✿ Champlain Valley Expo: August 28-Sept 6 in Essex Junction, VT
- ✿ Lancaster Fair: Sept. 2-7 in Lancaster, NH
 - (This is Essex County's Fair)
- ✿ Orleans County Fair: Sept. 10-13 in Barton, VT
- ✿ The Tunbridge World's Fair: Sept. 17-20 in Tunbridge, VT
- ✿ The Big E: Sept 18-Oct. 4 in West Springfield, MA
 - Sept. 19 4-H & FFA Day
 - Sept. 26 Vermont Day

Please consider supporting our 4-H staff and youth participating in Farm & Field Days and County Fairs!

Volunteers are always needed in a variety of roles, including scooping ice cream, judging fair exhibits, staffing information tables, assisting with activities, and providing general event support. Whether you can help for a few hours or an entire day, your time makes these events possible and helps showcase the incredible work of 4-H members across Vermont.

[Reach out to your County Educator to learn about volunteering opportunities.](#)

4-H Highlights & Stories

(Head. Heart. Hands. Health.)

Congratulations to the 2026 Vermont 4-H ESE Scholarship Recipients



Kelsey Paradee is a scholarship recipient from Swanton, VT and will be graduating from Missisquoi Valley Union in June 2026. Kelsey plans to attend Husson University in Fall, majoring in exercise science/physical therapy. Since 2016, Kelsey was in the Whispering Pines 4-H Club. She was a delegate representing Vermont in the 4-H horse show at the Eastern States Exposition, showing her horse in 2023-2025. She competed in knowledge and horse competitions while making memories and friendships with fellow 4-Hers. Her experiences at Eastern States expanded her leadership and problem-solving skills. Kelsey learned new things and met people from across New England.

Megan Carson is a scholarship recipient from Manchester Center, VT. She is a 2024 graduate of Burr and Burton Academy and is currently a student at Vermont State University – Castleton majoring in business administration. She attended Eastern States in 2022 and 2024 in the horse project. She loved staying in the Moses dorm. Competing with youth from other states and riding in the coliseum were Megan's most memorable experiences. She is currently a member of the college's equestrian riding club. Megan is taking on leadership roles including being an RA (Residential Advisor) this fall. Her career goals include combining her business education with



her personal interests to possibly work in an industry related to sports, hospitality, or in the field of equestrian.



Annabel Carson is a scholarship recipient from Manchester Center, VT where she was a member of the River Riders II 4-H Club. She will be graduating from Burr and Burton Academy in 2026 and plans to attend Messiah University pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. She represented Vermont during 2017-2019 in the New England Center's stage playing violin. She also participated in the giant pumpkin contest, exhibiting her gourds and pumpkins and was part of Vermont's 4-H horse project. She has a history of participating in numerous community service activities including garden clean-up, sending cards to those in nursing homes and gathering gifts for those in need.



Zachary Johnson is a scholarship recipient from Tunbridge, VT. He is a 2024 graduate from Hartford High School and is currently attending Ohio State University majoring in Animal Science, Dairy Science and minoring in Agribusiness. Zachary represented VT at Eastern States in 2023 and 2024, competing in Guernsey showmanship and judging, earning success both individually and as part of the team. In 2025 he was part of Vermont's 4-H Judging Team at the World Dairy Expo with continued success. Zachary is a leader on campus with participation in the Buckeye Dairy Club and Chair of Buckeye Classic Sale. He is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho, the agriculture fraternity at Ohio State, whose livestock shows raise funds to support a local children's hospital.



Natalie Michaud is a scholarship recipient from Greensboro, VT. She graduated from Hazen Union High School in 2025 and is now a student at SUNY Cobleskill, majoring in agricultural business. Natalie was in the Vermont 4-H dairy project for 14 years. She participated in dairy shows at Eastern States in 2022 and 2023 including showmanship, confirmation and judging. She is currently a member of the SUNY Cobleskill Dairy Cattle Club and the SUNY Cobleskill Agricultural Business Club, where she also competed in the college's dairy judging team. Natalie hopes to pursue a career in the dairy industry, with a focus on dairy processing and marketing, combining dairy production technical knowledge with business and communication skills.

Congratulations to the 12 State Communications Day photography winners!

Their outstanding photographs will advance to The Big E and will also be featured in the first annual Vermont 4-H Calendar.

1. Summer Petrin – Silly Kitty
2. Torrey Hanna- Summer Slap Shot
3. Anna Campopiano – Backyard Sunset
4. Tea Ferris – Parting Ways
5. Willa Niles – Hartland the Owl
6. Charlotte Niles – Anna's Hummingbird in Arizona
7. Elizabeth Stinson – View from Above
8. Cecelia Pearson – Beauty in Blue
9. Annabel Carson - Split Reflections
10. Brodie Nicholson – One Fall Day
11. Carlie Rondeau – Bear Ridge Speedway
12. Anna Freitag – Fresh Milk



New this year, the [Vermont 4-H Foundation](#) is creating a calendar that not only showcases the incredible talent of our 4-H photographers but also serves as a fundraiser to support opportunities for young people across Vermont.

The Vermont 4-H Foundation works to raise funds that make many state-level 4-H programs and experiences possible. Their support helps provide opportunities such as State Communications Day, the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships, Outdoor Family Weekend, and state and national livestock events.

All proceeds from calendar sales benefit the Vermont 4-H Foundation, helping ensure more youth have access to meaningful learning experiences, leadership development, and life-changing 4-H opportunities across Vermont.

Stay tuned for ordering information coming this fall!

University of Vermont | 140 Kennedy Drive, Suite 201 | South Burlington, VT 05403 US

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