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**FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY**

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### **New York State 4-H Animal Science Teams Share Successes**

ITHACA, N.Y. — Eleven 4-H teams from across New York State exhibited their knowledge and skills at national competitions this year from the Pennsylvania All-American, the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin to the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) November 5 – 18 in Louisville, Kentucky. Over **(43)** teens and **(13)** adult representatives from **25** different NY counties were selected to participate in this year's national competitive 4-H events.

All year long, young people, ranging in age from 14 to 19, who are involved in the 4-H Youth Development program, have been researching, practicing and participating in county, district, regional and state level activities aiming for the opportunity to attend a national competition. State representatives for national contests are selected based on their level of skill and performance at state level events, many of which are held annually at Cornell University in Ithaca or at the New York State Fair in Syracuse.

Youth who participate in these state and national 4-H opportunities, learn to make and defend decisions. In addition, the subject matter content prepares them for a variety of careers in the animal industry. 4-H'ers are excited to learn and demonstrate expertise in animal biology and other life sciences. The unique value of national competitive team events gives youth a chance to practice communication and critical thinking skills, applying technology and lessons learned in new environments, all necessary life skills in college and professional settings.

New York teens were represented on knowledge teams that included: Dairy Management, Dairy Bowl, Dairy Judging, Hippology (the study of horses), Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, Public Speaking, Livestock Skillathon, Poultry Production, an Egg Preparation, a Chicken BBQ and Turkey BBQ Contest. They represent the highest caliber of youth problem solvers, presenters and livestock management experts from across the state.

Teens representing the New York state 4-H animal science program at national contests are listed below. The events are listed chronologically by contest date, with notable results listed first:

**Dairy Management – The Junior Dairy Management Contest** is held at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, PA. The event is an educational activity for both 4-H and FFA members. Participation provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate top quality animals, receive experience in evaluation and decision-making, and demonstrate knowledge and skills in dairy management through the following exercises: dairy cattle selection, linear trait analysis, diseases and bio-security, meats identification and quality assurance of dairy beef, feed management, identification of grains, forages and by-products, biology of lactation and mastitis, and farm business management. This well rounded approach benefits our dairy producers of the future. **The team placed 1<sup>st</sup> out of 11 teams.** Team members were **Erik Shelmidine**, of Jefferson County also **3<sup>rd</sup> high individual**, **Hunter Calyer**, of Orange County **7<sup>th</sup> high individual**, **Peter Gartung**, of Otsego County **10<sup>th</sup> high individual**, and **Heidi VanLieshout** of Oneida County. **Cathy Galley**, of Otsego County, NY served as their coach in Harrisburg, PA.

**Dairy Bowl** – 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl consists of teams of knowledgeable young people who work for top honors by testing their knowledge on many levels of dairy business and current industry issues. **New York ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation** this year with 17 states competing in Louisville, KY. In the history of the North American Invitational 4-H Quiz Bowl Contest, New York and Maryland are the two states that have competed annually since the beginning of this contest, over 30 years ago.

TEAM MEMBERS

**Jesse Bonin** (Columbia) - **3<sup>rd</sup> high individual written test**

**Katie Oster** (Madison) – **5<sup>th</sup> high individual written test**

**Casey Porter** (Jefferson) - **2<sup>nd</sup> high individual written test**

**Justine Bishop** (Delaware) – **4<sup>th</sup> high individual written test**

NYS COACHES

**Matt Young** (Ontario) Clifton Springs, NY

**Debbie Grusenmeyer**, Extension Associate/Pro-Dairy Youth Specialist, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

**Dairy Judging** – Dairy Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of dairy cow conformation and provide sets of oral reasons for choosing one cow over another. Making a decision and then defending your decision is a life skill learned through dairy judging. New York sent three different teams of youth to national and regional contests. One team **placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall among 28 other states at the National Contest, in Madison, Wisconsin held in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo. Another team placed 6<sup>th</sup> at a Harrisburg, PA competition and a third team took 4<sup>th</sup> place honors among 21 other states at the North American International Livestock Exposition Invitational 4-H Judging Contest. Team members are listed below.**

MADISON, WI TEAM MEMBERS – Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in reasons

**Andrew Reynolds** (Orleans) - 3<sup>rd</sup> high individual overall

**Cassandra Stap** (Orange) - 2<sup>nd</sup> high individual reasons

**Emma Andrew** (Wayne) – 6<sup>th</sup> high individual, 4<sup>th</sup> individual reasons

**Meghan Vaill** (Oneida)

NYS COACH

**Dr. Doug Waterman** (Madison)

KENTUCKY TEAM MEMBERS – Team placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall

**Devon Simpson** (Orange) – 8<sup>th</sup> individual overall

**Danielle Bartlett** (Fulton)

**Adam Buckenmeyer** (Wyoming) – 10<sup>th</sup> individual overall

**Logan Martin** (Cattaraugus)

NYS COACH

**Jamie Flint**, (Wyoming) Warsaw, NY

HARRISBURG, PA TEAM MEMBERS – Team placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall

**Miquela Hanselman** (Delaware) - 3<sup>rd</sup> place individual overall

**Andy Chlus** (Herkimer)

**Heidi VanLieshout** (Oneida)

**Margaret McKernan** (Franklin)

NYS COACH

**Dr. Doug Waterman**, (Madison)

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**Hippology** – Hippology is an equine knowledge contest that evaluates the overall knowledge of the participants in equine science, vet science and farm management. Contest components include a judging phase, a 100 question written exam, team problems and a hands-on oral exam about equine diseases. – New York’s team placed **8th overall and 6th in the written phase at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in KY.**

TEAM MEMBERS

**Marissa Rice** (Livingston) Avon, NY – **3rd place individual written phase**

**Christina Burley** (Wayne) Clyde, NY

**Colleen Bailey** (Cattaraugus) Allegany, NY

**Olivia Logue** (Rensselaer) Johnsonville, NY

NYS COACH

**Vicki Bolton** (Steuben) Cohocton, NY

**Horse Bowl** – Horse Bowl is a horse knowledge contest in a quiz bowl format. **The team ranked 3rd in the nation.**

TEAM MEMBERS

**Catherine Meyer** (Erie) Lancaster, NY

**Elizabeth Romano** (Dutchess)

**Forrest Johnson** (Columbia) Millerton, NY

**Natalie Zeitz** (Erie) West Seneca, NY – **10th place individual**

**Kaitlynn Pfeiffer** (Madison) Fayetteville, NY

NYS COACH

**Ann Janson** (Madison) Chittenango, NY

**Horse Judging** – Horse Judging requires participants to make decisions, understand the concepts of horse conformation and provide sets of oral reasons to defend decisions. New York’s team placed **11th** overall.

TEAM MEMBERS

**Alice Beardsley** (Broome) Whitney Point, NY

**Lindsey Buffum** (Cattaraugus) Ellicottville, NY

**Hayley Klein** (Madison) Eaton, NY

**Laura D’Amico** (Ontario) Clifton Springs, NY

NYS COACH

**April Winslow** (Madison) Morrisville, NY

**Horse Public Speaking/Communications –**

PUBLIC SPEAKING

**Jessica Gulvin** (Yates) Stanley, NY – **4th place individual**

**TEAM DEMONSTRATION –**

**Katie Smallidge** (Oneida) Boonville, NY

**Jamie Cooley** (Oneida) Booneville, NY

NYS COACH

**Rich Miller** (Steuben) Wayland, NY

336 Youth from 31 different states participated in the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

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**Livestock Skillathon** - the 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest provides an opportunity for youth to develop their livestock production and life skills by demonstrating the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and sustainable livestock management practices. Events include: retail meat cut and forage evaluation, livestock equipment identification, livestock breed identification and livestock feeding, breeding and performance evaluation. Team quality assurance and marketing exercises demonstrate math and science problem solving skills as well as ethical decision making. 64 students were represented at the contest from 16 states. New York has participated in this national competition since 2002.

TEAM MEMBERS

**Brendan Knoll** (Erie)

**Ray James** (Delaware)

**Nick Kron** (Genesee)

**Heidi VanLieshout** (Oneida)

NYS COACH

**Tammi Kron** (Erie)

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**National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference** - held November 16-17th in Louisville, Kentucky involved the following teams and individuals.

**Turkey BBQ Contest** - **Adrielle Watkins** of Livingston County **placed 1st in the nation**, and received a \$500 award.

**Egg Preparation Contest** – **Kristen Nerone** of Ulster County **placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation**, winning a \$400 award.

**Avian Bowl** – Participants are expected to understand bird biology, physiology, meat and egg production qualities as well as production management practices.

TEAM MEMBERS – placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation winning \$100 each

**Mary Cope** (Cortland)

**Elissa Mardiney** (Ulster)

**Hunter McCarthy** (Cortland)

**Ian Lewis** (Orange)

COACH

**Mary Ann Whipple** (Ontario) Canandaigua, NY

The 4-H program is often credited by 4-H alumni as a supportive environment where youth become better prepared for academics and professional careers. Essential elements of quality youth development programs include opportunities for belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. New York State 4-H animal science team members participating in the last decade are now enrolled in graduate and professional study education programs across the country. Experiences like these allow youth to practice skills and achieve goals, with caring adults mentoring them along the way. Delegates also learn to lead, build their communities, connect with Cornell University, and connect with each other. The Cornell Department of Animal Science partners with the NYS 4-H Youth Development program to facilitate and accomplish this mission.

**Related World Wide Web sites:**

- <http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu> The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.
- [www.ansci.cornell.edu](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu), The Cornell Department of Animal Science partners with the NYS 4-H Youth Development program on animal-related projects and events.
- <http://www.wdexpo.org/2011/10/05/new-york-tops-4-h-judging-contest/> World Dairy Exposition.
- [www.4hroundup.com](http://www.4hroundup.com) Eastern National 4-H Roundup web site.
- [www.livestockexpo.org/](http://www.livestockexpo.org/) North American International Livestock Expo web site.
- <http://national4hpoultryandegg.psu.edu/> National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference site.