



# CLOVER CHRONICLE

News and features written by Pennsylvania 4-H Members.

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## 15 4-H Members Receive Diamond Clover Award

### 4-H Communications Committee

At the recent Pennsylvania 4-H State Leadership Conference, 15 4-Hers received Diamond Clover Awards, the highest achievement possible in the program.

The Clover Award Program encourages 4-H members to explore new projects and activities throughout their 4-H experience that will help them acquire the seven leadership life skills: communicating, decision-making and problem-solving, getting along with others, learning to learn, managing, understanding self, and working in groups.

Engagement with the program is generally a multiyear process that guides 4-H members through several levels of achievement, culminating with the Diamond Clover Award, for which participants plan and implement a service-learning project in the community.

Following are 4-H Diamond Clover Award winners by county, with descriptions of their projects:

#### Bedford County

Garrett Hubbard: "Equipment 4 Young Athletes." Collecting nearly 100 pieces of used, quality sports equipment, Hubbard worked to support youth in his community, also hosting a booth at the local family sporting safety fair.

#### Crawford County

Kylie Shuffstall: "Free, Fair, Family Fun and 4-H." Shuffstall provided families with free educational activities during her community fair. Despite ending early due to severe weather, she repurposed supplies for a nursing home visit.

#### Huntingdon County

Samson McGargle: "Huntingdon County Fair Medical Emergency Preparation." McGargle partnered with his 4-H club, schoolteachers, and the Huntingdon County Agricultural Association to equip the fairgrounds with an automated external defibrillator, first aid kits and medical training programs for emergency preparedness.

#### Indiana County

Alaina Fabin: "Just Keep Calm." Inspired by her own childhood experience, Fabin created kits to comfort children waiting in emergency rooms while also educating younger 4-H members on what to do in an emergency-related situation with tactics to keep calm.

John Bruner led a two-day shoot-



State Council member Lily Carvell cuddles a piglet.

ing sports camp for youth, integrating STEM, nutrition education, and a service-learning project that collected 518 cereal boxes to support food insecurity initiatives.

#### Juniata County

Chaz Auker organized a model rocketry field day for 20 youth, featuring educational demonstrations of rocket launches and workshops to inspire interest in rocketry and 4-H.

#### Lehigh County

Allison Emanuel developed an agricultural curriculum toolkit for K-5 students, including an "Ag Box" resource for teachers, which was piloted and adopted into the school curriculum.

Payge Haydt helped establish the Pennsylvania branch of Hearts for Music — a special needs orchestra with a long-term goal of performing at the Vatican's 2025 Jubilee celebration.

#### Lycoming County

Mackenzie Heyler organized donation drives and sewing workshops to create drawstring bags filled with toys and activities for children staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

#### Montour County

Alyssa Bergenstock launched "Little Agvocates" to teach second graders about agriculture, reaching 150 youth and fostering awareness of farming and agricultural careers.

#### Schuylkill County

Samantha Strouse's reforestation project planted 150-200 trees in her community while educating local members on the importance of reforestation.

#### Somerset County

Aubrey Green's "Operation Kibble Cookie" project educated her community about dog nutrition while baking more than 1,000 nutritious dog treats and donating them to the Humane Society.



Submitted photos

State Council member Alivia Giles with two prize-winning goats.

Katy Kovacs' "Fleece for Furry Friends" project provided more than 60 handmade blankets, beds, and toys to the Somerset County Humane Society to improve the comfort and enrichment of shelter animals.

Patricia Kovacs designed and built raccoon-proof feeders to support feral cat populations, sharing her project at a 4-H club meeting and animal management trainings.

#### Union County

Austin Hanselman partnered with his local township and FFA chapter to build and maintain community flowerbeds, teaching 4-H members about proper planting and care.

#### More on "Connecting Our Communities"

As the newly inducted 2025 Pennsylvania 4-H State Council, we would like to introduce you to this year's theme "Connecting Our Communities."

The projects listed above are a

prime example of hands-on service-learning activities executed by 4-Hers in communities across the commonwealth.

These projects are supposed to help the members' communities in some way, so they are applicable to the 4-H theme for the year as well because they typically bring people together for a specific cause.

Read on for a little more about what "Connecting Our Communities" means to general 4-H members.

When Lily Carvell, a 4-Her from Juniata County, heard the announcement of this year's Pennsylvania 4-H theme during the 2025 Pennsylvania 4-H State Leadership Conference (commonly referred to as SLC) in February, it made her think of "connecting the projects within 4-H, connecting non-livestock kids and farm kids together to make the world a better place, and 4-Hers working to educate our communities about what we do in 4-H."

Alivia Giles, a 4-Her from Northampton County liked the theme when she heard it at SLC, and she said, "It makes me feel that we are connecting 4-H to the people of the countryside, as well as to the city."

These two perspectives show how the 4-H theme for the year is one that can be interpreted in many different ways.

One of the PA 4-H State Council team's goals for the year is to take part in at least one officially requested event in 50-plus of the 67 counties in the state so the team can connect with as many 4-Hers as possible across the whole commonwealth.

Any 4-Her can get involved with the theme by getting to know other members in their project areas and in other project areas, as well as talking to non-4-H members about their experiences in the program.

## Lebanon County Clubs Celebrate 4-H Week

Communities across the state, including Lebanon County, celebrated Pennsylvania 4-H Week March 16-22, marking more than 100 years of programs that aid and educate youth.

The Lebanon County Commissioners passed a proclamation recognizing 4-H Week in the county and praising 4-H for its continuing service to the citizens of the commonwealth.

The term "4-H" often calls to mind youngsters showing calves and sheep at a county fair. But animal science is only part of what makes up 4-H.

With a focus on hands-on learning, 4-H members can explore technology, civic engagement, healthy living, fashion design, cooking, environmental stewardship, forestry and wildlife, entomology, community service and other subjects. 4-H is the state's largest youth development organization.

A nationwide total of nearly 6 million children and teens, ages 5 to 18, take part in 4-H. In Pennsylvania, 4-H reaches more than 77,000 members in all 67 counties and includes a network of more than 6,000 adult volunteers.



From left, 4-H educator Martha Gregory, commissioner Robert Phillips, commissioner Jo Ellen Litz, 4-H volunteer Dan Seaman, 4-H members Clayton Heisey, Graydon Sanders, Everett Sanders, Stella Klynoot, 4-H volunteer Linda Siegel, commissioner Michael Kuhn, 4-H program assistant Debbie Tice, and customer relations manager Amy Bradford.

Administered in Pennsylvania by Penn State Extension, 4-H is a community of more than 6 million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Penn State Extension 4-H youth development educators in all 67 counties throughout the commonwealth administer local 4-H programs through non-formal education and outreach. To find your local program, visit the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h>.



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