

Extension Connections

October 2023... Volume IV Issue 10

~ Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County News ~



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HELLO OCTOBER!

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Lewis County

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www.ccelewis.org

The listing of any organization in this publication is strictly for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by Cornell Cooperative Extension of any of the products or services that may be offered by the organization.

The material is sent for your information as part of the program for 4-H, Family Development and Agriculture by Cooperative Extension.

For further program details, contact or visit our office, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please feel free to contact us at any time. Our telephone number is 315-376-5270.

Sincerely,

Michele E. Ledoux

Michele Ledoux

Executive Director

Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County office if you have any special needs or are unable to pay.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individual with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County

Annual Meeting at Tug Hill Estates

Please join us for the Annual Meeting on

Thursday November 2, 2023

- 5:30-6:30 pm Annual Meeting
- 6:30-7:30 pm Dinner
- 7:30-8:15 pm Speaker and Dessert
- 8:15-8:30 CCE 4-H Basket Fundraiser (Silent Auction)

CCE Board Members, 4-H, and Ag Program Committee members are our invited guests for your volunteer time over the past year, your spouse/companion cost is \$20 for the dinner. The public is welcome to attend at \$40 per person.

We will be joined by our agriculture partners Lewis County Farm Bureau, and the Lewis County Soil and Water for this fall Annual Meeting.

Please call the office by 10/5 to register at 315-376-5270



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Lewis County

Small Fruit Workshop

Saturday October 14, 2023: 9am-12:30pm

CCE Lewis County, 7395 East Rd, Lowville, NY 13367

Image Credit: Alabama Cooperative Extension

Workshop Schedule:

- Site requirements for small fruit plantings (Anya Osatuke, CCE Harvest NY)
- How we grow juneberries and strawberries at Cedar Knoll Farm (Andrew Kramer, Cedar Knoll Farm)
- Strawberry production systems and overwintering techniques (Elisabeth Hodgdon, CCE ENYCHP)
- Spotted wing drosophila management (Elisabeth Hodgdon, CCE ENYCHP)
- Harvest and postharvest handling considerations (Elisabeth Hodgdon, CCE ENYCHP)
- Travel to Tug Hill Estate (4051 Yancey Rd, Lowville): Introduction, hands-on disease identification and management, pruning demonstration (Tarren Beller, Tug Hill Estate, and Anya Osatuke, CCE Harvest NY)

Register here: https://req.cce.cornell.edu/_223

Cost: \$10

Rain or shine

DEC Credits Available:

2.00 Credits in 1A, 10, 22

Scan me with
your phone's
camera or QR
reader app to
register!



For more information contact Mellissa Spence at mms427@cornell.edu

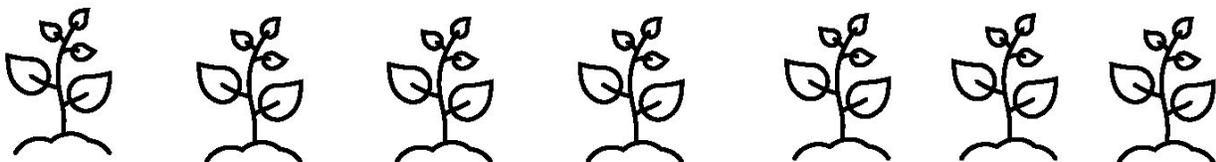
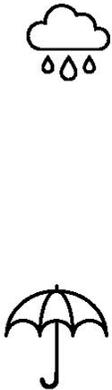
Ag Staff Retirement

Robin Wendell Zabelowicz, Farm Business Management Educator for the last five years here in Lewis County has decided to take early retirement from the Cornell Cooperative Extension system. Robin worked on Annie's Project, which covered women farm participants from Lewis and Jefferson County, DAP (Dairy Advancement Program) grants, Lewis County's Ag Sustainability most notably the Dairy Project to advance the Dairy Industry in Lewis County, along with her Farm Business Management responsibilities. We wish her and her family well as she moves on to the next stage in her life. Her last day in the office is October 2, 2023.



Average Rainfall for August 2023

Town	2021	2022	2023	3 Year Avg.
Croghan	0	4.33	7.22	5.78
Denmark	8.53	3.8	6.55	6.29
Greig	7.9	3.9	13.3	8.37
Harrisburg	7.3	4.17	8.29	6.59
Lewis	10.28	5.41	13.11	9.6
Lowville	6.25	4.22	6.85	5.34
Martinsburg	6.65	3.8	5.98	5.48
Montague	9.1	5.71	0	7.41
New Bremen	7.42	4.78	10.66	7.62
Talcottville	12.56	6.56	10.57	9.89
Turin	8.91	4.88	12.50	8.76
Watson	10.74	5.43	10.41	8.86
West Turin	9.31	6.09	10.37	8.59
Total Average	8.75	4.85	9.46	7.58





5 Ways to Ready Your Grain Bins For Harvest

Your annual harvest goal: Get grain out of the field in good condition. But what about how well that grain holds up in storage? (Darrell Smith, Farm Journal)

By [RHONDA BROOKS](#) September 29, 2022

Your annual harvest goal: Get grain out of the field in good condition. But what about how well that grain holds up in storage?

That's where an on-farm storage assessment can play a valuable role. It can help ensure your grain bin system is in good working order, says Dave Ahern, AGI sales professional for GSI North America.

"Your bins have a story to tell," he says. "We start with understanding what your bin can and can't do and then define a plan to meet your needs."

If you haven't participated in a formal bin assessment before or recently, you can still schedule one for this fall. Ahern says most take about an hour to complete.

If you can't work an official one into your schedule, consider the following five practices Ahern and other grain experts recommend taking now.

1. Perform routine maintenance and inspections.

Evaluate the integrity of bins, inside and out and from top to bottom. Look for cracks, holes and any other structural issues that have occurred this year.

To reduce pest infestations, limit accessibility by sealing any gaps and cracks, removing all potential food sources, and in some cases applying insecticides, advises Kristina TeBockhorst, Iowa State University agricultural engineering Extension specialist.

Also check electrical systems, control boxes and sensors to ensure all mechanical aspects of the bin system operate and function properly.

"Inspect belts for correct tension, check chains and drives for tension and lubricate well," Ahern says. "Ensure safety cages, shields and dump points are secure and in good condition. If any components show damage or excessive wear, replace them."

Don't forget to clean out harvesting and handling equipment, such as combines, trucks, wagons, and augers, to remove all dust and debris that can harbor mold and insects, TeBockhorst adds.

2. Develop an intentional fan use plan.

Running a fan too often or too little is costly for grain quality or electricity. Instead, have a plan in place to run fans if your system isn't set up to run on a set of parameters automatically, Ahern advises.

"In regard to conditioning, each bin falls into three buckets according to their airflow — cubic feet per minute (cfm) per bushel; drying 1 cfm to 2 cfm per bu., dry-aeration 0.5 cfm per bu., and aeration," he says.

For successful "aeration" of grain, Iowa State experts recommend an airflow rate of at least 0.1 cfm per bushel is required. An aeration fan with 0.1 cfm per bushel will take around 150 hours to fully cool the grain, while a larger drying fan with 1 cfm per bushel will take around 15 hours. Access the [University of Minnesota's fan selection program](#) to estimate the airflow rate per bushel based on your fan, grain bin size and grain depth.

3. Be prepared to monitor and condition stored grain.

"Moisture levels warn you before you have a problem in the bin, while temperature can tell you if you have a problem," Ahern says.

When grain deteriorates, it heats up and can create hot spots or contribute to mold, rot and insect feeding.

"Often the problem is a pocket of fines or some wetter grain that sat in the bin longer than it should have," Ahern says.

For each point wetter stored, the shelf life goes down. Your goal is to find any wet pockets in the storage season.

You can check grain condition by looking for hot spots with temperature cable sensing systems or with a portable temperature probe.

Be proactive and schedule inspections throughout the grain storage period, adds Joe Harner, agricultural engineer emeritus at Kansas State University.

Once grain temperature and outdoor air temperatures are below 45°F, monthly monitoring should be adequate, Harner says. But, if either temperature is above 45°F, inspect at least every two weeks.

4. Develop your marketing plan.

What does marketing have to do with grain bins? Plenty. Ahern says a marketing plan can help you develop a strategy for maintaining the quality of stored grain until you're ready to market it on your terms, when commodity prices are in your favor.

5. Keep safety your priority.

Post warning signs on bins and at all entry points so everyone is aware of hazards. Also, restrict access to bins and piles. AGI recommends checking lock-out and tag-out procedures to ensure no one turns on an auger when a person is inside the bin.

"A rule of thumb is to adopt a two-person protocol," Ahern says. "In an emergency, you can't get cell service from inside a grain bin."

Energy Efficiency Program Helps Farms

Eamonn LaDue, Energy Advisor

Did you know that of the 34 million acres of land across New York State, farms account for 7 million acres, or about 20 percent of total land in the state? In Upstate New York, we see the fruits of this labor all around us. The abundance produces about \$2 billion in dairy and milk revenue annually. New York State is also known for producing apples, corn, cattle, and poultry, generating around \$300 million, \$250 million, \$330 million, and \$150 million, respectively. The grand operations require expensive equipment and round-the-clock attention, which often leads to large utility bills.

By improving the energy efficiency on farms, reliability can be increased while cutting down operational costs. Efficiency upgrades can be costly, but thankfully, there are local programs available to help! Ag Energy NY is a program that was created to support farmers to better understand energy usage, evaluate efficient technologies and alternate modes of operation to maximize efficiency, and help make smart investments based on results that are farm specific. These include fact sheets with potential energy savings and simple payback time on specific topics, such as ventilation, refrigeration, livestock waterers and more!

One way Ag Energy NY implements support is by connecting farm owners with service providers who can provide advice and identify the appropriate energy efficiency grants, loans, and rebates the owners may qualify for. The easiest way to start the process is to contact your local Energy Advisor, who can connect you with the proper resources based on individual needs. They are not farm experts but can connect you with the right experts for your farm. They can also help connect to residential programs to make your home more energy efficient.

No-cost energy assessments are available to any customer paying a Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) on their electrical bill. This can be found in your energy bill, broken down with the delivery services. Residents who use National Grid or NYSEG most likely pay this charge, but if you are not sure, you can either contact your service provider or your Energy Advisor. Energy assessments are conducted based on individual needs to help farmers understand their energy usage and provide options to make the most out of the equipment they use.

Ag Energy NY was also designed to fill the gaps of farm energy efficiency that utility companies do not cover. The information is farm type specific and covers a wide range of farm products. They have information available specifically for, but not limited to, crops and vegetables, livestock (beef and swine), orchards and vineyards, poultry and eggs, and maple.

EnSave is another program that supports farms in the dairy and greenhouse sectors as well as other producers. They can help with funding and implementation of energy efficiency projects.

Contact the Energy Advisor in your county to get started with Ag Energy NY!

Jefferson & Lewis Counties

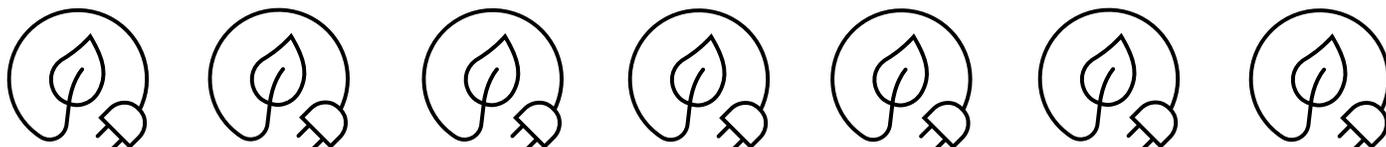
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Find Profitable Opportunities on Your Dairy:

The Importance of Financial Analysis

By Daniela Gonzalez Carranza; Regional Dairy Specialist

With milk prices, most farms have tight margins; business management is key to the dairy's success. Cornell University's PRO-DAIRY and Cornell Cooperative Extension have collaborated in the Dairy Farm Business Summary (DFBS) program for almost 60 years. This program aims to provide dairies with a powerful financial analysis and benchmarking tool. The Dairy Business Summary is a detailed financial report allowing farms to compare to the average performance of other dairies, helping them identify strengths and opportunities. It also helps individual farm businesses set financial and production goals and track the changes over the years. It provides a framework to make more informed financial decisions. The DFBS team gathers information, including financial statements, dairy enterprises, crop programs, labor and capital efficiency, and profitability. For example, due to NY labor regulations, having more control over labor costs and efficiency is essential. The DFBS report allows the producer to analyze key labor measurements like Cows per worker equivalent, Milk sold per worker equivalent, Labor cost per hired worker equivalent, and Hired labor cost per CWT. On August 15, the progress of the final 2022 DFBS report, in which more than 130 dairies participated, was published by PRO-DAIRY, with the main findings being:

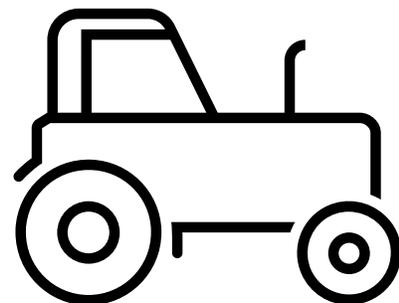
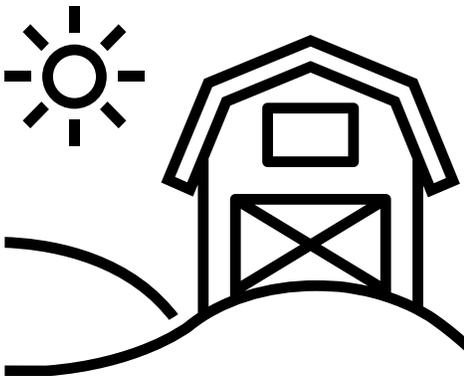
- Herd size and total milk production increased by 3%.
- Hired labor costs per worker equivalent increased by 6.4%.
- Milk sold per worker increased by 0.6%. • Total farm operating costs increased 18%.
- Total cost of producing milk increased 19%. • Gross milk price increased by 37%.
- Rate of return on all capital without appreciation equals 11.6%.

The DFBS is an excellent tool for a dairy's success and essential to the New York dairy industry, providing data for publications or articles.

If you are interested in participating, don't hesitate to contact our Regional Dairy Specialists. You can find the original report, "2022 Progress of the Dairy Farm Report," on the following link:

<https://cals.cornell.edu/news/2023/08/2022-progress-dairy-farm-report>

More information on the DFBS: <https://cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/our-expertise/business/dfbs>



Free Pressure Canner Testing

Testing your pressure canner should be done yearly for your equipment to stay in shape and for food safety.

A pressure canner is a very important piece of equipment when it comes to home food preservation. Making sure it is working properly is a precaution that should be taken seriously. If the dial gauge on your pressure canner does not register correctly, you could be jeopardizing the safety of the food you just canned. So, to avoid any issues with the proper function of your pressure canner, you need to have it checked.



Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension

At Lewis County Education Center

7395 East Road, Lowville

Time: Monday – Friday 8:30-4:30



Get Your Soil Sampled Cornell Cooperative Extension Of Lewis County



Types of soil samples:

- Home Garden, Lawn & Landscapes
- Field Crops (Commercial)
- Fruit, Hops & Christmas Trees
- Turf (Commercial)
- Vegetable (Commercial)

Prices very depending on the type of test you want. Call or stop in to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County with any questions you may have. We are happy to help you with all your soil needs.

Phone: 315-376-5270

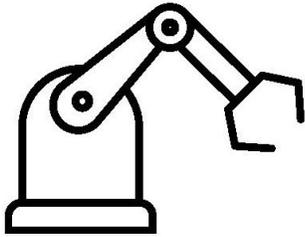
Email: lewis@cornell.edu



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Lewis County



4-H ROBOTICS CLUB



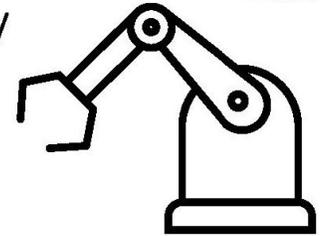
Meeting: Every Other Wednesday

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Youth Aged 10 + Welcome.

Location: CCE Lewis County

7395 East Road, Lowville



For more information, email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu phone: 315-376-5280



4-H Sparks Club



First Monday of the Month

Time 5:30-7:00 pm

October - May at CCE Lewis

Youth and their families are welcome to attend and learn about different topics, complete a hands-on activity while making friends!

Come and find your spark with Lewis County 4-H!

For more information, email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu phone: 315-376-5280

Lewis County 4-H at the New York State Fair

The New York State Fair is a unique opportunity for youth to showcase their best work, while learning and growing among their peers from all over New York State. 4-H Youth from Lewis County presented their best in a wide variety of areas, featured below. We are proud of our youth, and the growth that they have shown in the last year. Congratulations!



4-H Horse:

Caden Tanner:
1st Pleasure Driving
4th Reinsmanship
Dacoda Clance, Gymkhana
2nd, 5th (3) and 6th



4-H Dairy Goats- Alexa Brouty:
Milk Production: 2nd Place
Goat Bowl 4th place team
Showmanship: 5th Place
Goat Judging: 6th place
Breed Classes: 2 Blue
Jr Champion
Senior Champion
Grand Champion
Res. Grand Champion
Obstacle Course: 5th place



4-H Poultry:
Showmanship:
Tristyn Gutierrez-Blue
Autumn Tebo-Blue
Breed Class:
Tristyn Gutierrez-Blue
Autumn Tebo-Blue





4-H Youth Building Results

- Cloverbuds: Sawyer Cathey, Tucker Cathey, Emma Goad, Abigail Kurta, Caroline Lawrence, Eleanor Rotondi
- STEM: Bennett Graves-Blue, Ben Lawrence-Red
- Horticulture: Caleb Bush-Red
- Photography: Elizabeth Teeter-Red, Aurora Dietrich-Red
- Textiles: Colin Sullivan-Blue
- Hobby Crafts/Home Environment: Cooper Lisk-Blue, Denali Dietrich-Blue, Rory Lisk-Blue, Jordyn Kurta-Red, Gus Scoville-Red, Caroline Murdie-Red
- Communications: Colin Sullivan-Blue, Caleb Bush-Blue
- Food and Nutrition: Cooper Lisk-Blue, Collin Lawrence-Blue, Gracie Lisk-Blue
- Special Recognition for Outstanding Project: Gracie Lisk, Molasses Cookies
- 4-H Leadership and Workforce Development Experiences in the 4-H building: Sea Cadets Club, Storrey Cathey, Delylah Evans



4-H Rabbit Show and Decathlon

6 youth from Lewis County participated in the NY State Fair two-day 4-H Rabbit event over Labor Day Weekend. On Saturday the youth did individual showing of their rabbits based on breed class and were judged for their breed characteristics. Rabbit scores are based on the rabbits' physical conformance to the written standard. The 6 youth from Lewis County each earned a Blue Ribbon. Additionally, the youth participated in the 4-H Rabbit Science Decathlon. There are 10 stations, Participants are given approximately 4 minutes at each station to answer verbal questions. Mikaedyn Graves and her team placed 1st in the Senior Team Division. Novice team consisting of Maddyson Graves, Mayliana Graves, Tristyn Gutierrez, and Caroline Murdie placed 3rd in the team division. Storrey Cathey and her team placed 1st in the Novice Team Division.





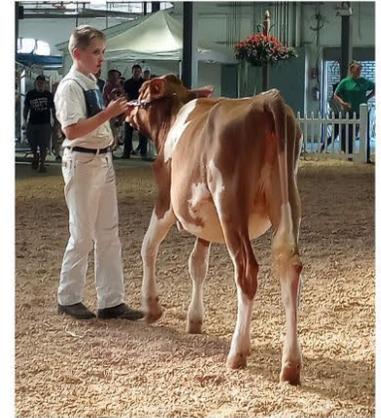
4-H Dairy Cattle:

·Dairy Cattle Judging:
Landon Peters, Caleb Bush, Gus Scoville



·Dairy Cattle Showmanship:

Landon Peters-Blue,
Elizabeth Teeter-Red,
Caleb Bush-White,
Megan Klossner-Red



·Breed Classes:

Holstein:

Jackson Peters-Red,
Landon Peters-Blue,
Faith Diddle-Blue



Ayrshire:

Megan Klossner- 3 Blue,
·Reserve Junior Champion

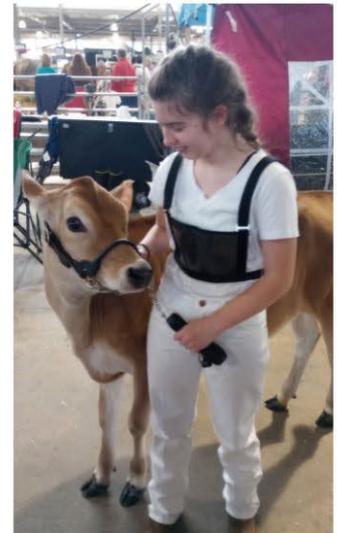


Guernsey:

Caleb Bush- 1 blue, 1 red, 1 white

Jersey:

Elizabeth Teeter: white,
Peyton Taylor: 1 blue, 1 red,
·Reserve Senior Champion and Reserve Grand
Champion





4-H Achievement Night



October 17, 2023, 6:00 pm at CCE Lewis

4-H YOUTH ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FROM THE 2022-2023 YEAR!



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED



PLEASE PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND AT

EMAIL: LEWIS-4H@CORNELL.EDU OR PHONE: 315-376-5270



EDUCATORS

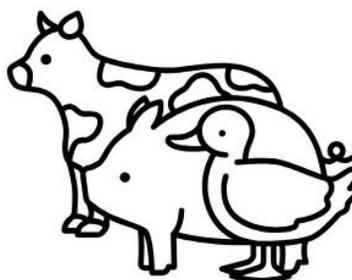


Are you interested in receiving research based, hands-on agriculture lessons for your students? Lessons arrive once/month, November-May with a lesson, supporting materials and activities that are educational and fun! Lessons link to subject matter, food systems and careers!

Link To register: <https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/> 223

or scan the QR Code below.

Questions? contact Melissa Watkins at (315)376-5270 or mew235@cornell.edu





It's Time to Enroll and Re-Enroll in 4-H!
2023-2024 Enrollment and Re-Enrollment



Is available for youth! Get yours now!



Find forms and information at:

<https://ccelewis.org/resources/lewis-county-4-h-welcomes-you>

or at ccelewis.org

For more information email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu or phone: 315-376-5270

Chicken and Broccoli Bake

Ingredients

- 1 cup rice, uncooked
- 1 package (10 oz) broccoli, frozen
- 3 cups chicken, cooked
- 2 tablespoons margarine (or butter)
- ¼ cup flour
- 2 cups chicken broth, low-sodium
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese (optional)

Directions

- Cook rice in 2 cups of water
- Let broccoli thaw
- Chicken should be cooked and off the bone
- Melt margarine in large sauce pan. Add flour to melted margarine and stir. This will be lumpy
- Slowly add the margarine/flour to chicken broth over med heat. Whisk to remove lumps and thicken
- Add cheese and stir
- Add rice, broccoli, and chicken. Then stir it all together
- Put in casserole pan.

Bake: At 350 for 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated.

Cooperative Extension of Lewis County
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 Lowville, NY 13367
 315-376-5270

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2	4-H Sparks Club CCE Lewis County / Time: 5:30 – 7:30pm	Phone: 315-376-5270 Email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu
October 4 & 18	4-H Robotics Club CCE Lewis County / Time: 6:00 – 7:30pm	Melissa Watkins 315-376-5270/mew235@cornell.edu
October 11 and 18	4-H Homeschool Club CCE Lewis / Time: 1:00 – 3:00pm	Phone: 315-376-5270 Email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu
October 14	Small Fruit Workshop CCE Lewis County 9:00 – 12:30	Melissa Spence 315-376-5270/mms427@cornell.edu
October 17	4-H Achievement Night CCE Lewis / Time: 6:00pm	Phone: 315-376-5270 Email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu
October 17	Bee Meeting CCE Lewis / Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm	Melissa Watkins 315-376-5270/mew235@cornell.edu
October 19-20, 2023	4-H Agribusiness Careers Conference SUNY Cobleskill	Melissa Watkins 315-376-5270/mew235@cornell.edu
October – April	4-H Sparks Club First Monday of the Month CCE Lewis Time: 5:30-7:00 pm	Phone: 315-376-5270 Email: lewis-4h@cornell.edu
November 2	CCE Annual Meeting Location: Tug Hill Estates Time: 5:30 – 9:00 pm	Phone: 315-376-5270 Email: lewis@cornell.edu
January 5-6	NY Mid-Winter Maple Classic Syracuse Oncenter Convention Center	https://nysmaple.com/mapleclassic



Sign up to receive our emails at...

<https://mailchi.mp/74ec9472b999/ccelewis>

A link is also on our website at www.ccelewis.org

