

S U M M E R / F A L L 2 0 2 1

## ESSEX COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.



### Essex County Gardeners' Contest

It feels like too long since we have been together at the Essex County Environmental Center family fest. This year we hosted a small-scale project showcase for our youth and adult garden community and had a wonderful turn out! Thank you to all who showcased your garden work. It is a pleasure to see the beautiful efforts of our Essex and Hudson County gardeners. The Essex County Leaders Association Awarded over \$200 in cash prizes to our gardeners. A special thank you to our 4-Hers and volunteers who hosted community activity stations! We had a great day!



# Summer Highlights

For more information, please contact us at [essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu) or visit our website at <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>



## Farm Camp

This summer we partnered with Montclair History Center, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Montclair Community Farms to host a fun, nature-and-history-filled camp for youth to learn about our past and where our food comes from. Farm Camp supports youth development by promoting a positive interest in nature, historical living, and agriculture.

**“In the summer, the days were long, stretching into each other. Out of school, everything was on pause and yet happening at the same time, this collection of weeks when anything was possible.” —Sarah Dessen**

## Farmpreneuers

A new initiative funded by the Aibtikar Foundation, New Jersey Health Community Network, and USDA. This pilot project will empower high school youth to address food security and lack of youth employment opportunities while exploring urban agriculture, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship through the development and sale of value added food products from seed to sale. Youth participants have been accepted to present their work at Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) this fall.

<https://www.montclaircommunityfarms.org/>



## 4-H STEM Ambassadors Program

This summer, 68 youth from across the state participated in virtual STEM programs hosted over 6 weeks in the summer. Youth will be working with their 4-H county staff to plan and implement STEM programs for younger youth. Each ambassador is challenged to volunteer 50hrs teaching to give back for their time this summer.

The Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassador Program is a great opportunity for teens to learn about STEM, develop as a leader in their community, and prepare for college!

**To learn more about the program and apply, visit our recruitment page.**

**<http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/join-stem-ambassadors/>**



# Fall Opportunities

*For more information, please contact us at [essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu) or visit our website at <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>*

## **Rutgers Youth Futures: Peer Mentorship Program**

The Rutgers Youth Futures Program focuses on building relationships between local youth and college student mentors with a focus on workforce preparedness. Youth participants are matched with trained mentors who guide the exploration of a myriad of college preparation and readiness activities. This **fall we are recruiting a new cohort of youth and adult mentors!** This program is funded through a National 4-H Council grant in Collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



## **Polar Science Research Club**

This past summer, 4-H partnered with Succeed Together and climate scientists to explore topics of polar science. This Polar Literacy Initiative hosted youth and educators virtually, and provided opportunities for youth to “see the Arctic and Antarctica through the eyes of real polar scientists.” This program was supported by NSF Grant #1906929 and will continue to be offered to out-of-school-time groups in Essex County. **Any partners who would be interested in hosting a polar science workshop for middle school-age youth can find out more information here! <https://polar-ice.org/polar-literacy-initiative/>**

## **TD 4-H Smart Cents Program**

In addition to providing high-quality youth development programming, 4-H also provides opportunities for educators. The 4-H Smart Cents program trains formal and informal educators on financial literacy and behavior and skills development for youth ages 8-13. The program was designed to be in person, but later pivoted to online due to the pandemic. 4-H worked with educators in multiple school districts through online training. An estimated 1,800 youth were reached through this “train-the-trainer” program.

**Additional FREE workshops will be offered to educators this summer. Interested districts can contact us if interested!**



## **Clovers Code**

What happens when you combine kids, iPads, and 4-H? The result is Clovers CODE, a statewide program from 4-H that introduces problem-solving, computer literacy and coding through hands-on activities. This fall we are recruiting Community Partners and families were interested in partnering to host Apple education programs!

\*This program is funded through a partnership with Apple Community Education Initiative





#### **4-H From Home**

4-H From Home continues to offer free virtual programs for youth and families! Programs include short-term workshops, virtual clubs, and summer camps. One program to mention is the Animal Science Camp. Each day participants will learn a little about animals who have jobs, horses, marine life, amphibians, and reptiles. At the end of the week, youth will also get to participate in an animal share activity where they will teach and learn from each other!

**Check out all opportunities here! <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/4h-from-home/>**

#### **Adult Webinars**

##### **Earth Day Everyday webinar series returns September 13th for Fall 2021**

The free webinars will feature topic experts and will focus on steps everyone can take to protect the environment. The sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm over Zoom.

A link to register is below, and you can visit the Earth Day Every Day page for descriptions of each session. <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html>

##### **Rutgers 'Homesteading Academy' hosts lunch & learn webinars**

From October through December, we invite you to join us on the second Tuesday of each month for live sessions with our invited speakers. The webinars will take place from noon to 1 PM, so bring your lunch! This first set of three sessions will feature speakers on backyard poultry, mushroom production, and beekeeping. The series will be ongoing with potential future topics of sheep/beef/goats, seed saving and heirloom varieties, engine conversion to waste vegetable oil, troubleshooting for two-cycle engines, cut flowers, food preservation, small-scale grain milling, and more. Space is limited and pre-registration at <https://go.rutgers.edu/homesteading> is required to receive the Zoom link to attend,

## ----- Highlight -----

#### **Young Gardener's Club Highlight**

The 4-H Young Gardener's Club has been running for over a decade, with the caring leadership of long-time volunteer Sue Mazur. After a short Covid break, the club started again strong, with a group of dedicated youth. Club members helped grow a small garden at the Essex County Environmental Center and learned about food and growing techniques. On October 30th Sue hosted a small end of year ceremony for her club, "Our award ceremony went wonderfully today. We had some raw veggies, and the kids brought in some of the things that had made for the fair. The parents came for the last half-hour for the actual awards. Everybody was having such a nice time. The certificates and folders were lovely, it was very special!" -Sue Mazur, 4-H Club Leader



For more information about 4-H programs in Essex County contact [essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu)



**4-H connects  
kids with RUTGERS**

**[www.RUinto4H.org](http://www.RUinto4H.org)**