



RUTGERS

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Dear Fairgoers,

I am so happy to help welcome you to the Salem County Fair! Rutgers is proud to be associated with this wonderful New Jersey summer tradition, and it is incredibly exciting to know that we are able to hold events like this again.

Over the past year, our 4-H staff, members, volunteers, and families have been doing a remarkable job of keeping the spirit of 4-H strong. From skillathons to 4-H From Home to virtual summer camp 2020, the 4-H community found a way to keep moving forward despite the challenges of a virtual setting. We take special pride in the young people who have persevered through the difficulties the pandemic has presented, and now we are eager to return to the in-person traditions that have defined so many New Jersey summers, most certainly including county fairs.

I recognize that not every fair in 2020 will look and feel identical to pre-pandemic days, and we must follow all appropriate public health guidelines. At the same time, I am optimistic that by creating opportunities for the 4-H community to reconnect, reenergize, and rejoice in our youth's accomplishments, this summer's county fairs and related events are moving us in a very exciting and positive direction.

I wish you and all fairgoers a rewarding experience and want to thank all those who work so hard to make our county fairs such great annual events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Holloway'.

Jonathan Holloway
President

Message from the Interim Executive Dean

On behalf of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), I am delighted to welcome you to the Salem County Fair.

This welcome is even more enthusiastic because of the pent-up excitement to return to this important showcase of our youth and their hard work after last year's closures due to the pandemic. I thank you for your patience during the uncertainties we faced this winter and spring, not knowing whether our planning would result in an in-person event this year. While not every county will host a fair this year, we are truly grateful that many 4-Hers in multiple counties will be able to participate this summer in safe and supportive ways.

Annual county fairs are likely your greatest connection to and familiarity with Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and our 4-H youth development program. You may not know, though, the many ways in which New Jersey 4-H programs touch your life and your community every day. In striving to fulfill our mission "to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to become competent, caring, and contributing citizens of the world," we are helping New Jersey youth across the state to reach their full potential.

Through 4-H, youth "learn by doing" and are exposed to all of the focus areas of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and NJAES: agriculture and food systems; environment and natural resource systems; food, nutrition, and health; and human and community development. Each year, New Jersey youth enroll in a range of 4-H activities, from interactive projects promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) literacy to an array of statewide enrichment and leadership programs.

I'd like to thank the thousands of adults and youth who donate their time to New Jersey 4-H. They serve as dedicated community volunteers who provide stimulating programs and outstanding mentoring to 4-H youth participants.

As you visit the fair today, I hope that you enjoy learning more about the impactful programs and activities that New Jersey 4-H offers to our youth in the Garden State. As our bumper sticker says, "4-H Connects Kids with Rutgers." The connection starts with 4-H and is lifelong, connecting not just youth but also their families and communities to Rutgers, *your* university.

Take the time to visit nj4h.rutgers.edu and follow New Jersey 4-H on Facebook.

Sincerely,



Laura J. Lawson
Interim Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Interim Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Interim Executive Dean of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Greetings from the Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Welcome to the 2021 Salem County Fair!

New Jersey 4-H and the broader Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) community recognize the extraordinary challenges we've all had to overcome this past year. We share your elation that some of our 4-H fairs are able to resume this summer. It is heartwarming to again have families across the state enjoy the rich traditions embodied in our 4-H programs.

RCE 4-H faculty and staff showed resilience and an unwavering sense of dedication to providing creative, virtual programs to 4-Hers as the pandemic prevented us from gathering together. Now, we embrace the opportunity to restart our programs, in-person and with a commitment to the safety of all participants.

We are particularly delighted that our 4-H fairs will afford 4-Hers the chance to reconnect with friends, share their projects, and demonstrate the leadership, citizenship, and life skills they've learned. These opportunities form a vital part of the 4-H youth development experience. I look forward to celebrating their achievements.

I applaud the thousands of 4-H volunteers who make our programs possible. Saying "thank you" does not adequately convey the gratitude I have for the invaluable contributions of time, knowledge, and caring given by these remarkable individuals. They are central to the success of all 4-H programs.

This annual fair is part of what makes your county a unique part of our Garden State. A wide range of hands-on activities, demonstrations, educational opportunities, and good old fashioned "family fun" await you. I hope you enjoy your stay at the fair and will make this an annual destination for you and your family!

Please contact us at 848-932-5000 and visit us online at <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/>.

Best wishes,



Brian J. Schilling, Ph.D.
Director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Senior Associate Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Welcome to the 2021 Salem County Fair!

I am not sure if there has ever been a more highly anticipated fair! The past year was tremendously challenging for families, businesses and our communities at large. So many important traditions, like county fairs, could not take place last summer. Today, thanks to improved public health metrics across New Jersey, we have the opportunity to gather again and to celebrate the achievements of 4-H youth together!

What you see at the Fair today is just a small slice of what happens in 4-H year-round. In 4-H, youth in grades K-13 can learn about Science, Healthy Living, and Civic Engagement. Through these different subjects, 4-H youth learn by doing through age-appropriate activities and gain leadership and life skills while having fun!

The NJ 4-H program reaches tens of thousands of youth each year largely through efforts of our dedicated 4-H volunteers. Volunteers are truly the heart of 4-H. Over 2,300 adult volunteers donate their time and talent to the New Jersey 4-H program annually. On behalf of the NJ 4-H Program, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to every 4-H volunteer!

The past year has been tremendously challenging, but the resilience of 4-H youth and adult leaders has been completely inspiring. Even when we could not meet in person, 4-H youth across New Jersey met virtually, participated in 4-H From Home activities and virtual 4-H Camp, and even competed in the NJ 4-H Virtual Fair. I am proud of the resilience and the determination of our 4-H youth and adult leaders.

Thanks for taking the time to learn more about the 4-H program and for celebrating the achievements of 4-H youth during your visit to the Salem County Fair. If you are not already involved, consider joining 4-H – as a youth member or as a volunteer. There is a place for all ages and interests in 4-H. I invite you to learn more about getting involved by reaching out to your county's Rutgers Cooperative Extension office!

I hope you thoroughly enjoy your time at the Fair!



Rachel Lyons
Chair, Department of 4-H Youth Development