

Wyoming County 4-H 2026 Dog Project



**A guide to participating in our
annual obedience,
rally obedience and
agility programs!**

2026 DOG OBEDIENCE PROJECT

Begins the week of April 1st

Any enrolled Wyoming County 4-H youth ages 8+ are eligible to participate in the dog obedience project, beginning the week of April 1st, 2026, continuing for 9 consecutive weeks (weather dependent). The 4-H Dog Obedience Project offers several levels of instruction both for you as a 4-H member and your dog at multiple locations throughout the county. Please read over the enclosed brochure to understand all the components of what the Dog Project entails, including eligibility, important dates, enrollment forms, vaccination forms and fair classes.

The first step to take if you're interested in participating in this program is to contact one of our 5 instructors. Their phone numbers are listed in the included brochure. They can talk you through the basics of starting the program, requirements, and any questions you may have!

For their training sessions, 4-H'ers should bring a training collar, flat buckle, or martingale collar for their dog and a 6-foot training leather, cotton or nylon leash. The training collar should be at least 2 inches longer than what is required to go around the dog's neck. Paperwork required for participation includes an animal registration form, a copy of rabies vaccination and signature on the liability agreement. If you are not an enrolled member in the 4-H program yet, the member enrollment form must also be filled out, with accompanying payment; \$15 for in county youth, \$20 for out of county youth. These forms must be filled out in completion and brought to the first class.

Listed in the brochure are the fair classes on the second to last page. Most 4-H'ers will begin the project the first year as a beginner. If you or your dog have never participated before, you will be in the Beginner A class. If the youth or the dog have participated in this program before, you will be in the Beginner B class. After completing your first year, you may choose to move up to the next level if you're ready, or stay at the completed level if you are not comfortable moving on (unless you receive 1st place at the county fair, then you must move up!). If you have participated in the dog program before and are receiving this letter, please call your obedience instructor to notify them that you will be participating again this year!

Information about agility and rally obedience can be found in this brochure. Be sure to call the leader if you are interested. Dogs must have completed the beginner level of obedience to compete in agility. Youth must attend at least one rally focused class to participate in Rally Obedience; we plan to host a county wide event in July. However, instructors will work on rally obedience with individuals and dogs currently enrolled in beginner classes. If youth are interested in grooming and handling, please also let your instructor know at time of registration.

Please call the 4-H office at 585-786-2251 if you have any remaining questions or concerns.



FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Information on participating in the Dog Obedience Program

- 1** Obedience classes are for 9 weeks, one night per week. Participants must attend at least 6 sessions to complete the dog project. Individual 4-H members must complete the project, siblings cannot switch out during practice. Call the leader in your area to verify time and place. Pick the class most convenient.
- 2** Graduation - Everyone is invited to be evaluated. The exercises will be covered in classes. If you are unable to attend graduation, you may graduate your dog at one of the summer trials. You must graduate and attend a trial to participate at county fair.
- 3** County Trials are held to give 4-H'ers a chance to practice and be ready for the County and State Fairs. Members must attend at least one of the two trials to be eligible to participate at the Wyoming County Fair. Ribbons are awarded for the top exhibitors in each division.
- 4** County Fair is fun for everyone! If you graduate and attend a trial, you are welcome to participate at County Fair. Entries are due July 15th.
- 5** To qualify for State Fair you must: 1) graduate, 2) attend a trial to receive a score, and 3) participate at the County Fair.

SITES & LEADERS

*Call leaders directly
to enroll!*



BATAVIA

Fridays - 7:00pm
Kaitie Ellsworth
(585-943-9574)
9207 Alexander Rd., Batavia



FREEDOM

Tuesdays - 6:30pm
Mindy Holland
(716-353-6584)
1583 Green Rd., Freedom



PERRY

Thursdays - 6:30PM
Joan Sage, Bonnie Bowman,
Emelyn Fagan, Claire Smith
(585-237-2998)
Perry Park, Perry



FILLMORE

Wednesdays - 6:30PM
Alicia Oyer
(585-610-6685)
9865 Council House Rd., Fillmore



WARSAW

Tuesdays - 6:30PM
Liz Meacham
(585-380-2610)
Ag & Business Center, Warsaw

GOOD NEIGHBOR & SPORTSMANSHIP POLICIES

It is very important that every dog owner respect other people's property. Keep your dog only in the designated areas. Carry dog disposal bags in your pocket for that purpose. Don't let your dog urinate on shrubs, cars, etc.

It is expected that all youth and parents abide by the 4-H code of conduct. This agreement is stated in the yearly enrollment form. If youth display any manner of unsportsman like, or disrespectful behavior, they may be excused from the program.

AGILITY AND RALLY OBEDIENCE CLASSES

Agility - Dogs must have completed the beginner level of obedience to compete in competitions; however, they will work with 4-H'ers that have dogs enrolled in the beginner obedience program if the 4-H'er is interested. Call Mindy Holland (Arcade) at 716-353-6584 after 5:00 p.m. by the end of April if you're interested.

To participate in Rally Obedience at the fair, 4-H members *must* receive instruction on the rally classes before entering the rally division at the fair. This can be done by individual instructors. We hope to hold a rally session this summer, which would also qualify youth to show at the fair!

LOCAL GROOMING AND HANDLING MEETINGS

Dog grooming refers to both the hygienic care and cleaning of a dog, as well as a process by which a dog's physical appearance is enhanced for showing or other types of competition. If you are interested in participating in grooming and handling classes, please notify your obedience instructor. We will hold a class this summer if there is enough interest!

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!

Donated by J&S Castile Ag Services, free t-shirts will be given out at the obedience fair show, to all youth who successfully graduate their dog this spring! Additional shirts can be purchased for \$14. All participating youth are welcome to submit their shirt design, to wyoingcounty4h@cornell.edu by June 15th. Voting will occur at graduation!

WYOMING COUNTY FAIR CLASSES

Obedience Classes

- D-1 Grooming and Handling -Beginners
- D-2 Grooming and Handling -Experienced Exhibitors
- D-3 Beginner A (first year dog project members, all on lead)
- D-4 Beginner B (returning student or dog, on lead)
- D-5 Beginner C (AKC rules, some off lead)
- D-6 Graduate Beginner A
- D-7 Graduate Beginner B
- D-8 Novice A
- D-9 Novice B
- D-10 Advanced Novice
- D-11 Graduate Novice
(w/dumbbell)
- D-12 Open
- D-13 Brace Class
- D-14 Four Man Team

Agility Classes

- D-15 Pre Novice I Agility (w/o treat)
- D-16 Pre Novice II Agility (2nd year, w/o treat)
- D-17 Novice Agility
- D-18 Open Agility
- D-19 Excellent Agility

Rally Classes

- D-20 Rally Obedience Novice A
- D-21 Rally Obedience Novice B
- D-22 Rally Obedience Intermediate Advanced
- D-23 Rally Obedience Advanced
- D-24 Rally Obedience Excellent
- D-25 Rally Obedience Master

STATE FAIR SELECTION

To qualify for State Fair in Obedience you must: 1) graduate with your dog, 2) attend a trial, and 3) participate in County Fair. If you are interested in going to the State Fair level, you must submit your entry to the 4-H office before August 1st.

To qualify for State Fair in Rally Obedience you **must**: 1) participate in rally obedience training w/ obedience instructor 2) participate in the County Fair.

To qualify for State Fair in Agility you must have 1) graduated from Obedience, 2) participated in Agility training on the county level. 2) Completed 2 years of agility at the county fair.

WYOMING COUNTY FAIR

Section 9 - Dog Care & Obedience

Section Superintendent: Sarah Clark

Class D-1 awards: First (blue): \$2.50, Second (red): \$2.00, Third (white): \$1.50

For all other classes, awards will be: blue – 5 points; red – 4 points; white – 3 points. Each point will be worth premium money, depending on available funds.

A 4-H member in the dog care and obedience project will be eligible to compete if he or she has a dog approximately 6 months of age or older. All dogs must have been vaccinated for rabies within the last 3 years. Dogs vaccinated for rabies under one year of age must be revaccinated the second year. It is also recommended that dogs be immunized against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus. Any of these diseases could be fatal to your dog. A copy of the rabies certificate & 4-H animal registration form must be on file in the 4-H office for any dog to be shown at the Wyoming County Fair. Dogs must also be licensed in the town in which they reside.

A member may not enter more than two obedience classes in Classes D-2 through D-7. A dog may be entered in only one obedience class within Classes D-2 through D-7. Dogs that have earned a Companion Dog (CD) title may compete in Advanced Novice, Graduate Novice, or Open A. Class D-8 is for dogs that have registered their CD title. Severe physical correction or aggression by a dog (in or out of the ring) is not allowed and will result in complete dismissal from the show if it occurs. Dogs showing discomfort or pain will be excused. Unsportsmanlike conduct from any youth will result in a warning and, depending on severity, dismissal from the ring.

A dog may be entered even if it is not family-owned, provided the dog is registered with the 4-H educator before May 1 and approved. Female dogs in heat may be shown, but they must remain confined until asked to come to the ring. Class D-1 may be entered by any enrolled 4-H member who has received some training in grooming and handling (no formal obedience class required).

To compete in obedience and at the fair, a dog and 4-H member must have completed and graduated from a 9-week 4-H Dog Obedience program in that given year and must participate in one of the two trials offered the same year. (Dogs may be graduated at graduation or at the trials, but not at the fair.) To qualify for Rally Obedience at the County Fair, youth must have worked with their obedience instructor and be pre-approved to participate. To qualify for Agility, youth must have completed a beginner obedience program and participated in agility practice for a season. A 6-foot lead and a training collar—flat buckle or martingale—are required for obedience classes.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wyoming County Fair Shows

Tuesday, June 23rd at 5:30PM

Graduation

Wyo. Co. Fairgrounds

Inside Ag Expo Center or
Outside Weather Permitting

Wednesday, July 1st at 5:30PM

Obedience Trial

Wyo. Co. Fairgrounds

Inside Ag Expo Center or
Outside Weather Permitting

Monday, July 13th at 5:30PM

Obedience Trial

at Wyo. Co. Fairgrounds

Inside Ag Expo Center or
Outside Weather Permitting

Sunday, August 16th at

2:00PM

Obedience Program

Water Street Ball Field,
Wyoming County Fairgrounds
Pike

Thursday, August 20th at

11:30PM

Rally Obedience, Agility Immediately After

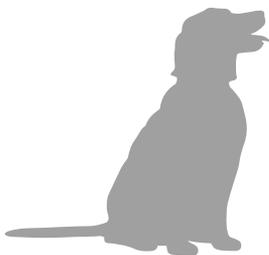
Ag Expo Center,
Wyoming County Fairgrounds
Pike

New York State Fair

4-H Dog Show,

Monday, August 31st

New York State Fairgrounds
Syracuse, NY





NEW YORK STATE 4-H DOG PROGRAM



Animal Registration Form

Wyoming County

For the 4-H Year of 2026

Member's Name: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Age of Dog: _____

Male/Female: _____

Breed/Mix: _____ Color: _____

Is this dog from a shelter? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, list the rescue organization and shelter: _____

Do you know this dog's history? Yes ____ No ____

Has this dog ever bitten a person? Yes ____ No ____

Do you or the owner/family have insurance coverage?

(Homeowner, Renter, or Farm Owner Insurance): Yes ____ No ____

CCE Reserves the right to see proof of insurance and dog licensure.

Owner's Address:

Owner's Telephone Number & Email :

Please attach a copy of the dog's current rabies vaccination (REQUIRED).

The NYS 4-H Dog Program recommends that all dogs involved in NYS 4-H programs be immunized (as appropriate to their age) against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus yearly. Bordetella and parainfluenza virus vaccines are also recommended annual for show dogs or dogs that come into contact with other dogs on a regular basis. Exhibitors should consult their own veterinarian for further information about these vaccines as well as internal & external parasite control programs.





NEW YORK STATE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

New York State 4-H Dog Policy

nys4-h.org

This policy applies to all youth and adults who participate in any CCE 4-H program with a dog, bring their dog with them to any 4-H/CCE program or activity, or participate in a 4-H sponsored dog obedience class.

1. All dogs are the responsibility of the owner, and the owner is fully and completely responsible for their own actions and the actions of the dog.
2. All dogs must be registered through the 4H/CCE Registration process.
3. Participants must have proof of an updated rabies vaccination for any dog that will be present at a 4-H program.
4. CCE is prohibited from sponsoring rabies clinics or any other type of animal immunization clinic.
5. Dogs should only be permitted on CCE premises or allowed access to CCE activities in the following circumstances:
 - a. The dog is a seeing eye guide dog supporting a visually impaired employee, volunteer, or program participant
 - b. The dog is under the care of an enrolled 4-H club member participating in a 4-H dog club or activity
 - c. The dog is under the supervision of a person who is participating in a 4-H dog obedience program taught by an approved instructor
6. Dogs with impairments such as blindness or deafness are allowed to participate in CCE 4-H programs. Dogs that are lame or have other health challenges may participate if the handler brings a statement from a veterinarian stating that use as a 4-H project dog will not be harmful to the animal.
7. 4-H leaders, superintendents and instructors have the authority to dismiss or place restrictions on dogs from any activity when they exhibit aggressive, dangerous, or other problematic behaviors, and/or are not being properly controlled by the owner or handler of the dog. When this occurs, the leaders and superintendents must inform the 4-H staff leadership of their decision and work with CCE to develop an appropriate remediation plan. The safety of youth and adult participants, and other dogs, takes precedence in these situations. Every effort should be made to see that the 4-H participant is not excluded from the activity.
8. Dogs that are being utilized in an educational exhibit or demonstration, such as a fire prevention or safety display, must not be accessible to the public, unless they are under the control of the 4-H member who owns the dog.
9. CCE Prohibits the use of Wolves, Wolf Hybrids, or Animals with a bite history, or Animals found to be dangerous under the provisions of the Agriculture and Markets Law Section 123. [Agriculture and Markets Law Section 123](#).



Cornell Cooperative Extension



CCE Dog/Animal Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement

I acknowledge that I or my child have voluntarily brought a dog or other animal (collectively, "animal(s)") to a Cornell Cooperative Extension ("CCE") event and/or activity and/or property.

I agree to pick up after my animal(s) and dispose of all waste in appropriate containers.

I or my child agree to maintain control of the animal(s) by an adequate leash at all times while present. The length of the leash must be no longer than that which is reasonably necessary to prevent the animal from chasing, attacking, or coming into uninvited contact with any person, animal or vehicle.

I understand that being physically present with my animal(s) necessarily involves risks of injury to me, my child, to other people, to my animal(s), and to other animals, as well as risks of harm to the personal property of others. I understand all of these risks are entirely my responsibility. I expressly and voluntarily assume all such risks, loss, damages, or injury that may be sustained to persons, animals, or property in connection with or relating in any way to me or my child's presence on CCE property with my animal(s).

By signing this release of liability, I hereby fully and forever release and discharge CCE, its affiliates, agents, volunteers, officers, directors, employees, successors and assigns from any claims, demands, damages, rights of action or causes of action present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated, or unanticipated, resulting from arising out of my presence on CCE property with my animal(s). I fully and forever release and discharge CCE, its affiliates, agents, volunteers, officers, directors, employees, successors and assigns from any and all negligent acts and omissions in connection with or in any way relating to my presence on CCE property with my animal(s).

By signing this agreement, I also agree to indemnify and hold harmless CCE, its affiliates, agents, volunteers, officers, directors, employees, successors and assigns (the "Indemnified Parties") from any claims, demands, damages, costs including attorney's fees, rights of action or causes of action present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, whether grounded in tort, contract, strict liability or otherwise, brought against any or all of the Indemnified Parties as a result of my presence on CCE property with my animal(s).

This is a release of liability. Do not sign if you do not understand or do not agree with its terms.

Any owner/handler participating in CCE programs and/or entering the property must sign this form.

I have carefully read this release of liability, as well as the NYS 4-H Dog Policy, and understand and fully agree with its contents.

Owner's/Handler's Name (printed): _____

Owner's/Handler's Signature: _____

Date: _____



Cornell Cooperative Extension



DOG DISEASES

Vaccinate your dog to protect it from these diseases



RABIES - A fatal viral infection of the Central Nervous System that affects mammals, including humans. It is spread through the saliva of a rabid animal.



DISTEMPER - A highly contagious, often fatal - virus that affects a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems. The distemper virus generally spreads as an air-borne infection, so vaccination is the only effective control.



HEPATITIS - A very serious viral disease that affects the liver and cells lining the blood vessels. Symptoms of the disease are high fever, edema and hemorrhage.



LEPTOSPIROSIS - Can cause permanent kidney damage in your dog. It's a very contagious disease that is spread from infected animals to healthy ones by contact with nasal secretions, urine or saliva. Symptoms of lepto are inflamed kidneys, fever, vomiting and diarrhea.



LYME DISEASE - Caused by bacteria and is carried by ticks. Characterized by swelling of joints and pain in standing and moving, typically with a low-grade fever. Antibiotics are used to treat the disease. A vaccine is available that has not been widely tested. It is unclear whether it is safe to vaccinate dogs for Lyme disease.



PARVOVIRUS - Is a highly contagious viral infection that strikes quickly and often causes immediate death. It is particularly severe in puppies and young dogs. A bloody diarrhea is a symptom of parvovirus.

The NYS 4-H Dog Program recommends that all dogs involved in NYS 4-H Programs be immunized (as appropriate to their age) against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis & parvovirus yearly. Bordetella & parainfluenza virus vaccines are also recommended annually for show dogs or dogs that come in contact with other dogs on a regular basis. Exhibitors should consult their own veterinarian for further information about these vaccines as well as internal & external parasite control programs.