



# SUMMER 2022

A partnership between Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Youth Services

# HUDSON COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

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

## RECAP OF SPRING 2022: JUNIOR MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM



Photo of our visit to Earth Matter in Governor's Island to learn about compost.

In March, Hudson County 4-H and Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) piloted the first cohort of the Junior Master Composter Program. Throughout the course of the program, youth have learned about reducing food waste, making compost, climate change solutions, and spearheading change in their own communities. Youth have attended seminars and field trips to compost sites, and supported the maintenance of two worm compost systems. During the summer, they will be volunteering at local community gardens to apply their knowledge on composting. In the fall, they will be working on their final projects centered on educating their peers and the community. Funding for this program is provided by HCIA. We look forward to continuing this program in 2023!

### 4-H/FBCJC Youth Birding Club

This spring season, we launched the Youth Birding Club, a partnership between Hudson County 4-H and the Feminist Bird Club, Jersey City Chapter (FBCJC). Experienced birders from FBCJC engaged youth to learn about birds and their habitats, bird identification, and data collection for citizen science projects. Youth ages 10-14 have visited public parks and green spaces, including Lincoln Park West and Harsimus Cemetery. Through the program, youth had binoculars in hand and a pocket NJ birding guide. We will be back in the fall for more Birding Club outings! Interested families should register below!

Funding for this program is possible through Partners In Prevention and the Feminist Bird Club National.

**REGISTER [HERE](#)**



Photo of youth birding at Lincoln Park West with adult birders. Photo credit: Harri Bailey

## SUMMER 2022 FAMILY PROGRAMMING

### 4-H FAMILY LEARNING GARDEN AT LINCOLN PARK

After months of planning, we built and opened our 4-H Family Learning Garden at Lincoln Park. This Learning Garden initiative is a partnership between Hudson County 4-H and the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Youth Services, with support from Hudson County Department of Parks. We are grateful for the support of many community volunteers who helped with the garden build and first planting! The Learning Garden serves as an outdoor classroom, creating educational opportunities for youth and families to learn gardening skills that they may implement at home and in their communities, with a focus on food security. Through the Learning Garden, we have begun partnering with local community-based groups to provide education on environmental stewardship and nutrition education.

This summer, we have so much in store at the Learning Garden, including Youth Urban Farm Club, a family nutrition education program led by our Extension colleagues at [EFNEP](#), two youth clubs led by the [Rutgers Environmental Stewards](#)/volunteers of [Native Plant Society Hudson County Chapter](#), and we have launched volunteer hours.

**Garden open hours** are Mondays (4-6 pm), Tuesdays (4 - 7 pm), and Saturdays (10 am - 1 pm). We are also planning a garden and nutrition garden series this summer and a possible second garden build at West Hudson Park in Kearny/Harrison!



*Photo of youth from the 4-H Youth Native Plant and Pollinator Club led by the folks of 4-H volunteers and the Native Plant Society Hudson County Chapter. Photo credit: Roxana Marroquin*

**For more information or to sign up for volunteering, please contact our Urban Gardener/Education Coordinator Roxana at [rm1679@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:rm1679@njaes.rutgers.edu)**



### GUTTENGREEN FESTIVAL

[Guttenberg Arts](#), Hudson County 4-H and [NB Earth Talks](#) present the GuttenGreen Festival, a free block party open to the public, and fundraiser, celebrating creativity, urban gardening, public artwork, environmentalism and community. Join us for Sustainability, Art and Gardening Demonstrations, Food Trucks, Artist Vendors and Live Music! GuttenGreen Festival takes place on Sunday, June 26th from 11am to 4pm, on Jackson Street between 68th and 70th streets in Guttenberg NJ. This event will feature live demos, live music and readings, an exhibition by the Rimay Raiz collective, local eco-friendly vendors and businesses for our curated Green Market, and more. All funds raised on June 26th will benefit 4-H youth scholarships and the Youth Urban Farm Club, grabbers for clean ups in Hudson County, and the creation of new mobile planters. For more information or to sponsor the event or volunteer, please visit: [www.guttenbergarts.org/green](http://www.guttenbergarts.org/green).

Visit our website: <https://hudson.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>

 Find us on Instagram: @hudsoncounty4h

For questions or more information on 4-H programs, please contact:

Claudia Urdanivia at [hudson4h@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:hudson4h@njaes.rutgers.edu) or 201-395-4789, ext. 4229

## EL HUERTO URBANO WEBINAR SERIES IN SPANISH

Passaic County Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Hudson County 4-H are teaming up to bring you the second round of an urban gardening webinar series in Spanish, titled "El Huerto Urbano." This free monthly webinar series for Spanish-language beginner gardeners will cover a different gardening topic each month. While this series is geared for adults, we will also be cover gardening activities for the whole family!

**REGISTER [HERE](#)**

### EL HUERTO URBANO SERIE VIRTUAL

#### PLANIFICANDO EL HUERTO CASERO EN ESPACIOS URBANOS

Aprenda técnicas y consejos sobre un tema de jardinería diferente cada mes. El Huerto Urbano Serie Virtual está dirigida a personas interesadas en aprender a cultivar hortalizas en espacios urbanos.

**30 DE MARZO DE 2022**  
A LAS 6 P.M.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN Y PARA REGISTRARTE VISITA:  
<https://go.rutgers.edu/j51nrb3l>



## PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

### **YOUTH URBAN FARM CLUB**

One of our flagship programs, Youth Urban Farm Club, is returning this summer! This program connects Hudson County youth ages 12-18 with community garden and small urban farm sites led by adult volunteers from the community. Youth learn skills in horticulture, urban agriculture, and animal husbandry. Youth gain hands-on experience while also learning about food systems, the local environment, art, and more. We are thrilled to be partnering with eight amazing community gardens and urban farms, including: [Urban Quack](#), [Brunswick Community Garden](#), [Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery](#), [Sgt. Anthony Park & Garden](#), [Guttenberg Arts](#), James J. Braddock Community Garden, Xchange Community Garden, and the 4-H Family Learning Garden. For more information or to complete an application for the wait list, please visit: our [IC](#) or our website [HERE](#)



*Photo of youth with their harvest taken at Harsimus Cemetery.*

### 4-H STEM AMBASSADORS

After two years of virtual programming, we are excited to bring our 14th cohort of Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassadors back to the New Brunswick campus. We will be welcoming about 60 current 7-9th graders from various counties in NJ with an interest in STEM who will explore various tracks in STEM, develop as a leader in their community, and prepare for college! We are looking forward to a great summer orientation and kickoff for our new recruits! Applications will open again in the 2023. For more information on this program, please visit <https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/join-stem-ambassadors/>



*Photo of youth STEM Ambassadors.*

Visit our website: <https://hudson.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>



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## COMING FALL 2022



*Photo of youth from 4-H Teen Council with their certificates.*

### 4-H TEEN COUNCIL

Our 4-H Teen Council wrapped up its final meeting with a closing ceremony in May at the Rutgers Newark Paul Robeson Center. This past school year, our teens volunteered in parks and gardens, organized supply drives, and raised funds for animal shelters. We look forward to welcoming youth for the next cohort in September 2022.

### REGISTER FOR FALL 2022

[HERE](#)

## THANK YOU

Hudson County 4-H is thrilled to welcome 4 new team members, including our new 4-H Urban Gardener and Education Coordinator, Roxana Marroquin. Also joining our team is 4-H Project Coordinator Yawa Endara, and interns Rebecca Galada and Trinity Joyce.

We would not exist without the dedication of many community volunteers, volunteer Advisory Board, and community partners. Thank you so much to all our wonderful volunteers and partners for everything!




*Photo of 4-H Staff and volunteers from various Youth Urban Farm Clubs.*



*Photo of some of our 4-H Advisory Board members and youth.*

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