

# impact magazine



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ECC EASTERN COMMUNITY CENTER

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT  
BLUE IRIS FARM RESCUE & RETREAT

WHERE YOUR LOVE FOR  
*nature*  
MEETS OUR LOVE FOR  
*nurture*



# Table of Contents

**02**

THE ANIMALS & BEING ON THE FARM  
BRINGING JOY TO STUDENTS

**03**

EXPLORING TOPICS OF RESEARCH

**04**

STUDENTS CREATE

**05**

CONNECTION

**06**

ANIMAL CARE

**07**

PROGRAMS ON THE FARM

**08**

AREAS TO EXPLORE

**09**

STUDENT FUN ON THE FARM

**10**

STUDENTS CONNECTING

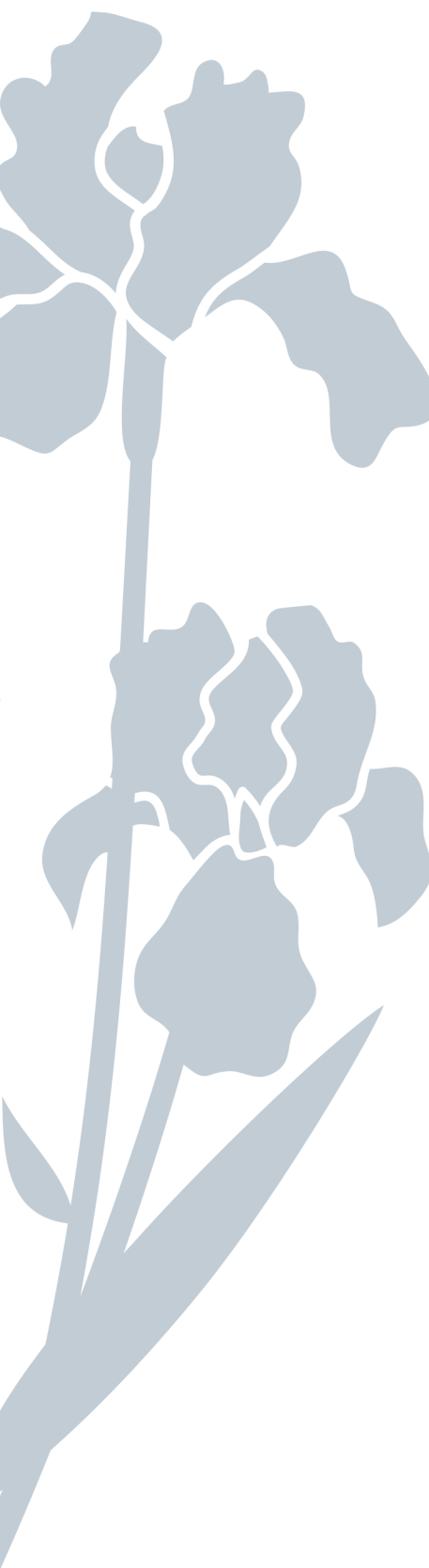




# Eastern CT students

Kind words about time on the farm

## testimonials from the student volunteers



Being at blue iris farm has been an experience that is more incredible than I can describe! Especially balancing a large workload with school, a job, and other commitments, blue iris is like a sweet escape from the stresses and worries of everything! Having a where I can recharge and relax is incredible, and the animals have really helped improve my mental health, especially through stressful times!

Being with the animals every week really reminds me of my animals at home. Although I miss my pets, helping at Blue Iris Farm makes me feel less homesick. As a first year, the welcoming atmosphere and comforting presence of the animals has made my transition to college so much easier

Hi Jamie! I'd like to express my gratitude for all that you've taught us at the farm so far. Being there never fails to be one of the great highlights of the week.

# writings

## student research



### **floating horses teeth**

Why in the world do you float horses teeth, and what does that even mean?



### **interview**

Green valley vet works with Blue Iris and made a visit to the college for an interview.



### **nutrition : pumpkins**

an article to educate on why pumpkins are good for the animals, and their benefits.



WHERE YOUR LOVE FOR  
**nature**  
MEETS OUR LOVE FOR  
**nurture**



## Floating horses teeth



Why do we need to float the horses' teeth?  
Amber Craney



Floating a horse's teeth is done in order to manage a dental issue. Signs that a horse is having an issue regarding their teeth include quidding, an action in which the horse will chew and ball up feed instead of grinding it like normal. Additionally, the horse could exhibit symptoms such as dropping feed while eating, nasal discharge, bad-smelling breath, weight loss, and facial swellings. In this situation, the horse should be given an oral examination to determine the cause of the dental problem which can include loose or missing teeth, or very sharp edges present on the teeth. If the problem regards sharp teeth, the horse's teeth should be floated by a veterinarian. This is the action of filing down the horse's teeth with dental floats in order to reduce sharpness, and produce a more smoother tooth surface. This will additionally allow the horse to eat more efficiently and aids in digestion. Floating a horse's teeth can correct misalignment or sharp edges that can develop over time naturally. It is conducted to prohibit the horse's teeth from cutting or poking the inside of the horse's mouth. Prior to this being done, it is common for the horse to be slightly sedated, that way, the horse will be able to stand still patiently, and will avoid aggressive behavior towards the veterinarian. Horse's teeth should be examined at least every six months starting the first year of a horse's life. However, the frequency of floating depends on the horse, and its age. Some horses may not need floating every year, but some may. Older horses may require more frequent dental care considering the teeth are more aged. Teeth floating costs approximately \$80-\$200, with sedation fees being \$10-\$30 depending on the location and veterinarian. If extractions are needed, additional fees can apply up to \$80.

## student research



Page.03  
continued



# interview

## report



Michelle Johnson, DVM, is a large animal veterinarian at Green Valley Veterinary Services, based out of Mansfield, CT. She and her team travel mostly in the Eastern Connecticut region as well as southwestern Rhode Island. We had the privilege of getting to learn about her veterinary experience as well as her admission in vet school through her visit to Eastern Connecticut State University for biology club. A few CCE volunteers also got to work with her various times at Blue Iris Farm, where we gave vaccines and routine injections to horses, goats, and pigs, as well as completed physical examinations.

Dr. Johnson had equine experience from high school and college, always knowing she wanted to become a large animal vet. When it came to applying to vet school, Dr. Johnson did not get in anywhere in the first round. She moved to Colorado and established residency as well as gained veterinary experience to improve her application. She then got into University of Colorado vet school the following year, where she ended up graduating from. She had a very positive experience. Dr. Johnson thought the resources were amazing and the staff were very supportive. She was able to have a lot of hands-on experience, especially in the latter half of vet school, which prepared her well to become a doctor. This experience was with all types of animals, even though she always knew she wanted to go into large-animal. She loves being outside, and this is one of the huge differences of being a large versus small animal vet. Dr. Johnson's typical day as a large-animal veterinarian consists of meeting in the morning with the staff. The vet that was on-call will go over cases, and then she will leave around 9am with an assistant to see calls for the day. If there is a more critical case, she sometimes will have to switch around the schedule. They try to wrap up

around 5pm, but sometimes that also can fluctuate depending on emergencies. Some of her most common visits consist of vaccines, management with farm animals, treating injuries, sick visits, and looking at nutrition. Her favorite thing to do as a large animal veterinarian is dentistry on horses and treating lacerations. The hardest case she has worked with was a cow with a laceration, or any case requiring sedation, anesthesia, and/or a halter or shoot.

As far as anyone interested in applying for veterinary school, Dr. Johnson gave some helpful tips. Taking two semesters of anatomy is critical, as it not only is required for many schools but will set you up well in your learning and experiences. Experience, both small and large animals, is necessary to get into vet school, as well as keeping track of your hours for both. Additionally, having hobbies outside of vet med are so important to rest and recharge your battery and perform your best for patients and as a student. Money often is a concern, unfortunately, for many vet school students, so setting up a plan for loans ahead of time is so helpful to avoid unnecessary stress.



written by  
student leader

Meghan Georgescu

# nutritiin : pumpkins



Catherine Welch

Pumpkin: Nature’s Natural Dewormer?

If you’ve ever wondered what to do with the guts of your freshly carved jack o’lantern

after your fall festivities, you can always bring them to your local farm, where they’ll be given to the livestock. Pumpkins are known to be highly beneficial to humans, but this is also the case for our furry friends at home and those roaming around the acres and acres of farmland you may pass by. Pumpkins are known to be high in fiber which allows for a healthier gastrointestinal tract of animals like goats and pigs, and less stomach upset. Pumpkins are also highly nutritious as they contain Vitamins A, B1, B6, C, copper, folate, and manganese where such factors would support the eyes, skin and coat. It also contains an antioxidant called beta-carotene which is a large component of how we maintain the health of our major organs such as the heart, lungs, and kidneys.

It is also known amongst some of the agrarian communities that pumpkins are natural dewormers for domestic livestock. This is due to a compound called cucurbitacin found in pumpkins, which has proven to reduce fecal egg counts in goats through previous studies conducted. If left untreated, worms could cause a multitude of problems for farm animals such as diarrhea, less food intake, weight loss, and overall decline in immunity.

All that being said, pumpkins should still be given to these animals in moderation. Anything more could cause stomach upset and it should probably not be their main source of food. It is also more favorable to make sure that the seeds and the guts of your jack o’lanterns were preserved before feeding time and that pumpkins are not rotten and moldy. Although it is not unlike some to feed their livestock pumpkins with a little mold, ingesting this may have even subtle effects of gastrointestinal irritation, so it is important to monitor our four legged friends closely.

<https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/resource/pumpkin-safe-dogs-and-cats#:~:text=The%20benefits%20of%20pumpkin%20for%20cats%20and%20dogs&text=Its%20high%20fiber%20content%20is,from%20pumpkin%20in%20their%20diet.>

<https://www.webmd.com/diet/health-benefits-pumpkin>  
[https://cast.desu.edu/sites/cars/files/document/16/pumpkin\\_seeds-worms\\_djo.pdf](https://cast.desu.edu/sites/cars/files/document/16/pumpkin_seeds-worms_djo.pdf)



## student research



Page.03 continued





Students using their crafts



- Creating marketing content



# Students create

- Making fairy houses



- Crocheting farm animals



On the following pages the students created worksheets for children visiting the farm



Page.04



Students made a blue Iris word search and a mad lib



# Blue Iris word Search

H X Q A M T F O E T Y D T I E  
O A N G S I Z A X B D L C V U  
N C Y O K W T H R X A U P M Q  
Z U T B R P S D C M Q R L G D  
X H Y G M O B S I O E Y S S O  
L T M B A V O N M P F K H U M  
C O O P E P A S T U R E A F F  
H C O B U Y X Q T I D W T R E  
I U S W L A E F Y E T K N L N  
C A B S B R C S T L R F J U C  
K R Q L T U B Z R A G E E S E  
E N T K I G N A J O U M H I O  
N L C U O E B N V S H L Z R V  
B K O A J O A R Y X I K N I G  
A H W P K A U A C K T S R K J

blue  
hay  
moo  
fence  
coop  
chicken  
quack  
pasture  
rooster  
bunny  
geese  
iris  
horse  
shed  
farm  
animal





# Blue Iris MAD LIB

It was a \_\_\_\_\_ day at Blue Iris Farm  
adjective  
Rescue, when suddenly, a \_\_\_\_\_ appeared  
noun  
from out of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ . The  
adjective noun  
goats \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ away  
adverb verb  
with \_\_\_\_\_ following behind. Even the  
noun  
geese \_\_\_\_\_!  
verb  
While all of this was happening, Iris the pig  
was \_\_\_\_\_ the other pigs. She was hoping  
verb  
to find \_\_\_\_\_, and  
noun  
eventually \_\_\_\_\_ . Once all the animals  
verb ending in (ly)  
reached the tipi, \_\_\_\_\_ was right in the  
noun  
, \_\_\_\_\_ as if waiting to \_\_\_\_\_  
noun verb  
them! What a \_\_\_\_\_ day  
adjective  
at the farm!



# Connecting in nature

## Finding inner peace



# animal care

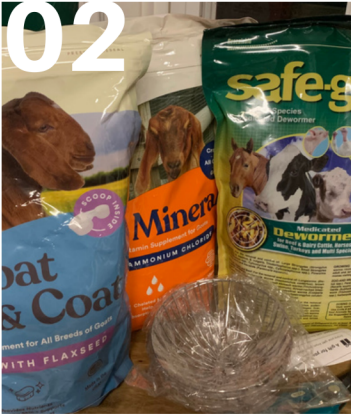


Students helping the herd



## vet care

assisting the vet, giving vaccines, filing teeth, trimming hooves, and more.



## nutrition

Caring for the animals, learning how to add in vitamins as needed and special care



## grooming

Grooming the animals not only feels good to them, but allows us to Be close to check for any wounds



# Programs on the farm

students help set up and run programs on the farm



Golden hour

Senior center groups and individual seniors come and enjoy the animals.



connections

Working with young adults on the autistic spectrum has been truly special here at blue Iris.



Time with the herd

students help assist with the hour visit time for time with the herd. Guests feed and take a tour.



# areas to explore



take a walking farm tour

## 01 The barnyard

The place where the herd resides. Where visitors greet the herd, feed, pet and learn about them.



## 02 The fairy house

a magical space to step into the beauty of play



## 03 The tipi

An area that one feels at peace and able to over look the animals grazing while relaxing and feeling at peace

## The Pond 04

A tranquil place to sit and reflect



01



## Crafting

crocheting, building fairy houses  
houses  
painting stones

# Fun on the farm

volunteering brings joy & laughter

02



## Feeding the herd

The animals love time with the students and visitors, especially getting fed treats.

03



## Going for walks w the herd

Students enjoy their time exploring the farm on strolls with the goats







# students connecting



## having a wonderful experience

Students bonding and connecting, to the animals, one another, and to themselves.



# Eastern students making an impact at Blue Iris make the front page



**SPORTS**  
Windham must refocus, plays tonight on the road at Montville | Page 7

**NATION**  
US Defense Secretary Austin meets with Zelenskyy in Kyiv to show steadfast support for Ukraine | Page 6

## The CHRONICLE

Serving the Communities of Eastern Connecticut Since 1877

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AP File  
This undated photo provided by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, shows U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

### Appeals court weighs reinstating gag order on Trump in landmark DC election case

ERIC TUCKER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A lawyer for Donald Trump urged a federal appeals court Monday to revoke a gag order against the former president in a landmark criminal case, while a prosecutor argued that courts are necessary

## Volunteers help at rescue farm

**ECSU WILLIMANTIC** — Helping other people in the community is the focus of most of the programs at Eastern Connecticut State University's Center for Community Engagement (CCE). But a new program this fall has Eastern students volunteering to help (among others) a 550-pound spotted pig, a miniature Zebu cow, eight hens known as "The Ladies" and three draft horses.

The students volunteer at

Blue Iris Farm Rescue and Retreat in Lebanon, a 114-acre farm where abused or unwanted farm animals find shelter and care. The 60+ animals at the farm, in turn, make human visitors to the farm "so happy," said Jamie Collins, who started the farm in 2021 with her husband Bob Doyle, who passed away from COVID after they bought the land.

After taking a year off to grieve, Collins has opened the farm to visits from senior citizen groups, peo-

ple with autism and anyone who wants to re-connect with nature and animals.

"I know it helped me with my grief - I think it helps them," she said.

The Eastern students who work there, helping to feed, clean and care for the livestock and assist Collins with marketing efforts, are often animal lovers themselves.

Meghan Wrobel, a junior, is a student CCE leader who brings a group of nine student volunteers to

See ECSU ON PAGE 4



ECSU  
Students bring hay to feed the draft horses at Blue Iris Farm Rescue and Retreat in Lebanon.

## Santa's coming



# Impact magazine

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**“Where  
your love  
for nature  
meets our  
love for  
nurture.”**

## Contact Us :

At Blue Iris farm rescue and  
retreat we love having students,  
join us for a wonderful  
volunteering time



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