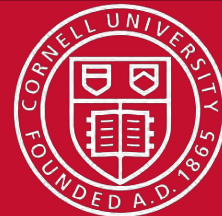


# Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County



## 2018 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to bring you our 2018 Annual Report. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE Cayuga) continues to work diligently to meet the needs of the community through our programs and services. Our staff was able to provide another great year of programming with the help of volunteers and participants. These programs are highlighted throughout this report.

CCE Cayuga plays a vital role in the improvement of the lives of our diverse county population. With the help of community support the association can continue to expand the programs and services that bring the resources of Cornell University and national Land grant university system to the local grass roots level in Cayuga County.

We rely on a variety of funding sources for our educational programming from County, State, and Federal sources, as well as grants and fundraising. Become a Friend of Extension and your local donation to CCE Cayuga is money well invested. Your donation will help us continue to deliver high-quality innovative programs and continue our mission of *Putting Research, Experience & Knowledge to work for all of Cayuga County.*

We look forward to another great year in 2019.

Sincerely,

Emily Robertson  
Board President

### MEET OUR 2018 BOARD

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Emily Robertson

**First Vice-President**

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**Second Vice-President**

Donna Adams

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Joseph DeForest

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**Cornell University**

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Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

**USDA/NIFA**

Dr. Thomas Shanower, Acting Director  
National Institute of Food & Agriculture

### MEET THE STAFF

**Executive Director**

Douglas Ververs

**Agriculture Senior Resource Educator  
& Educator Team Leader**

Judy Wright

**Agriculture Program Educator**

Keith Severson

**4-H Youth Development Program Educator**

Dorothy Slegle

**4-H Youth STEM Program Educator**

Emma Foster

**Nutrition Program Educator**

Becky Crawford

**Office Coordinator**

Peggy Lillie

**Association Finance Coordinator**

Cathy Heller

**Communications Coordinator**

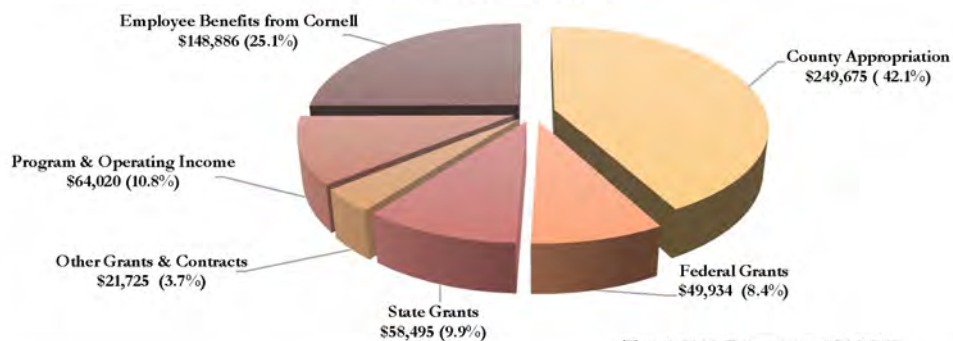
Jill Williamson

**Maintenance**

Dennis Rex

## BUILDING STRONG & VIBRANT NEW YORK COMMUNITIES

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County  
Financial Support for 2018



Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

## 4-H Youth Development

### Advisory Committee

Susan Shaw, *Chair*  
Lauren Langtry

Donna Adams  
Heather Whitten

Cooperative Extension's national youth development program serves youth 5-19 years old. It reaches boys and girls who are members of organized 4-H clubs, participants in special interest groups and students in after-school and school enrichment programs. 4-H helps youth to learn by doing, develop leadership skills, gain new knowledge, skills and attitudes, and explore career opportunities, model positive citizenship and share experiences with youth and adult leaders.

- ◆ 4-H received funding from the New York Agriculture Horse Breeder Development Fund to offer a Standardbred horse clinic. Thirteen youth, 5 adults and 2 staff toured SUNY Morrisville and learned about the horse breeding program, racing industry and possible college/career opportunities. We saw live demonstrations and had a behind-the-scenes tour of their Equine Rehabilitation Center.
- ◆ Funds secured from the John Ben Snow Foundation to replace CCE Cayuga's aging buzzer system for quiz bowl (knowledge) events plus purchase additional educational resources to support the 4-H animal science program.
- ◆ Our First Annual 4-H Horse Game Day/Fundraiser was offered in June 2018. A total of 19 youth and 9 adults participated in this event. While the event was fun for participants, additional funds were obtained for the 4-H horse program.
- ◆ A total of nine youth successfully completed and received certification in the 2018 Youth Tractor Safety Course, offered every year. The course is offered to youth ages 14 thru 16 who wish to work on or off the family farm.
- ◆ 4-H partnered with Auburn Schools and Auburn Education Foundation to offer sustainability lessons to 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in the Auburn city school districts. Two hundred and ninety three students learned about recycling. The school district recently implemented paper recycling. In addition to recycling, students learned about composting and paper making.

### 4-H at the Fair

The 4-H Youth Fair was held in combination with the Cayuga County Fair & Big Six Events. Over 100 4-H youth participated and displayed their projects and animals. The annual event hosted 3 days of continuous entertainment, food, crafts, 4-H exhibits, judging & animal shows, children's activities, agri-business display opportunities and more.



## Environment

### Advisory Committee

Marian Brown, *Chair*  
Bruce Natale

John Edelstein  
Mike Talbot

Support is provided to residents and local communities as a resource for questions related to the environment. Partnering with Cayuga Recycles to organize and conduct recycling events.

- ◆ More than 2,700 tires were collected on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the annual Tire Collection event.
- ◆ Spring/Fall Electronics collection events continued throughout 2018 removing hazardous material from the waste stream.
- ◆ The Household Hazardous Waste Event held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> saw 265 households.
- ◆ EcoTalk, a weekly column in The Citizen newspaper reaching over 30,000 readers, continued through 2018 designed to increase awareness on timely environmental issues including Cayuga Recycles events, invasive species and water quality.
- ◆ Water quality efforts continue to be divided between working with the County's Water Quality Management Agency's (WQMA) Nutrient Workgroup and the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC) in addition to advisory committee work on the Nine Element Plan for Owasco Lake and efforts to support the update of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. Attendance at these meetings and work sessions offers opportunities to clarify water quality questions and take concerns to Cornell researchers.
- ◆ Over 200 hours or 27 days of Dairy Educator's time has been devoted to water quality during 2018.
- ◆ The community outreach that CCE Cayuga has implemented for Owasco Lake and water quality concerns was again presented as a case study at Cornell University with 16 summer animal science undergraduate interns from across the country.
- ◆ This year CCE Cayuga had three staff instructing at the Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation Field Days. Topics included "Do You Eat Like a Cow?" presented by 4-H Youth Educator Dorothy Slegle; "Pollination Parade" by Resource Educator Judy Wright and "Conservation Versus Preservation" by Agriculture Educator Keith Severson.

### MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Trained volunteers staff a seasonal help line for county residents to answer gardening questions and encourage environmentally sound gardening practices. Help line is staffed by CCE Cayuga volunteers May 1<sup>st</sup> thru mid-October Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:00 am -12:00 noon.

Master Gardeners logged a total of 279 hours during the busy spring and summer seasons fielding 333 phone calls and visits from concerned residents regarding:

- ◆ Stink bugs, boxelder beetles & lady bugs
- ◆ 2018 Recommended Vegetable Varieties with focus on Late Blight Resistant Tomato varieties.
- ◆ Weed & plant identification
- ◆ Honeybee swarms
- ◆ Iron deficiency in trees
- ◆ Helping Monarch Butterflies to succeed
- ◆ Fall lawn care and soil pH tests

Partnering with Finger Lakes Eat Smart New York (FLESNY) Eat Smart New York (a SNAP-ED program) is a statewide initiative that supports families eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to: eat more fruits and vegetables, drink fewer sweetened beverages and practice healthy lifestyles.

The Community Nutrition Educator position is partially funded by the eleven county regional Fingerlakes Eat Smart New York (FLESNY) grant. Education delivered through several methods – one time workshops, static displays, educational series, food demonstrations at local farmers markets and social media. In January – July of 2018, 1659 youth and 1185 adults participated in direct and indirect nutrition education throughout Cayuga County.

- ◆ This year, CCE partnered with Seymour Library to be one of 25 projects across the state selected by the Cornell Garden Based Learning team, to participate in the *Seedfolks* Project. We received 2 copies of the book, which the library has added to their circulation, and two heirloom varieties of beans to grow. We held several planting and tasting workshops and increased local family's interest in growing and trying new veggies.
- ◆ The gardens at the Booker T Washington Center (BTW) yielded over 50 heads of garlic, as well as lots of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, collards, green beans, and many herbs. We worked with staff from the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge to deliver gardening and environmental education to approximately 75 youth in the summer program. All of the vegetables were either used by participants or taken home. During the summer, we added nine new raised beds that were donated by a local church.
- ◆ In 2018, CCE Cayuga assisted the Port Byron library in being accepted by the Food Bank of CNY as a summer feeding site. We helped promote the program and offered nutrition education weekly to around 20 children each session. This was the first time in over 20 years that summer feeding has been available in the Port Byron area.
- ◆ This year Cayuga Community Health Network (CCHN) provided funding to deliver three food demonstrations at the Aurora Farmers Market, in July, August, and September. All focused on easy, healthy recipes that the students could make in their dorm rooms.
- ◆ CCE Cayuga, CCHN, WIC and the Auburn Farmers Market worked together again this year to offer a WIC farmers market tour in July. We met families at the market, introduced them to the local farmers, and explained what programs are offered by the market. Many moms explained that they had been hesitant to come to the market because they thought it was too complicated to use the coupons.



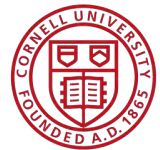
Provides educational programs to support the viability and profitability of agriculture and related businesses, including Field Crops & Plant Sciences (corn, hay, small grains, soybeans, cover crops), soil testing, nutrient management, pest management, pesticide applicator certification and manure management. Animal Sciences include production practices for dairy, farm safety, business management and marketing crop insurance and risk management and maintaining water quality.

- ◆ Thirty three pesticide applicators participated in a CCE Cayuga program focused on preventing herbicide resistance to fulfill the continuing education requirements. This program provided continuing education credits to both certified pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisers.
- ◆ Pesticide applicator training is offered to prepare individuals to safely apply pesticides and pass the DEC pesticide certification test. Two training courses were offered during the 2018 season with over twenty-eight participating and a 100% pass rate.
- ◆ Ag producers from Cayuga and neighboring counties attended a one-day pesticide certification program for a variety of crops.
- ◆ 38 pesticide applicators attended a program focused on preventing herbicide resistance in corn. This program also provided hard to find continuing education credits for both certified pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisers.
- ◆ 98,000 acres were represented by both farmers and industry representatives where Cornell University research specialist Dan Wixed discussed pollinator health as farms transitioned from genetically modified corn varieties to non-genetically modified corn varieties.
- ◆ Research on Soybean Cyst Nematode, a pest with potential to reduce soybean yields, was confirmed as present in 2017 on one farm in Cayuga County by Keith Severson. The farm it was confirmed on has been the focus of Cornell research in 2018 for statewide recommendations.
- ◆ Over 60 beginning farmers learned about the importance of crop insurance through several meetings and a national webinar which Ag educator Keith Severson was part of the presentation team. New York state has been deemed underinsured.
- ◆ Facilitated by CCE Cayuga, an expanding advisory group of local animal fiber producers and fiber artists are developing a fiber trail and workshop to bring the public a better understanding of the benefits of animal fibers and to connect fiber artists with local producers.
- ◆ Academy for Dairy Executives was hosted in Central New York. Of the 17 attending, six were from farms on Cayuga County's Ag Alert mailing list.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
**Cayuga County**  
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### **Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities**

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.*

#### **THANK YOU TO OUR NEW FRIENDS OF EXTENSION...**

Lois Belosi	Bob Ingham
Bocad Farms	Mark Perry
Min Creasy	Ververs Family
Beverly Frost	Judy Wright

Dennison Farms, Andy, Barb & Chelsea

Robert Horsford, Horsford Farms

Oakwood Dairy

Osterhoudt Farms LLC

Brandon & Elizabeth White

#### ***IN MEMORY OF***

Walt Wasserman

Marjorie White, former Extension Agent

Their donations have helped us continue to deliver high-quality innovative programs that are vital to our local agriculture producers, families and community. Their support will help us to continue our mission of **Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities**.

For more information on becoming a

***Friend of Extension,***

go to our website and

***Show Your Support!***

<http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccceayuga>

#### **THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS**

Agriculture and Food Policy Council

Auburn Enlarged School District

Auburn Housing Authority

Cayuga Community Health Network

Cayuga County Dept. of Planning & Economic Development

Cayuga County Farm Bureau

Cayuga County Parks Department

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program

Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES

Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.

Finger Lakes Eat Smart New York

New York State Dept. of Ag & Markets

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

New York State Sea Grant

NUCOR Steel

Partnership for Results

Cayuga County Fair & Big 6

Tractor Supply Co. Auburn & Seneca Falls

Ward W. O' Hara Agriculture & Country Living Museum &

Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center

Water Quality Management Agency

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