



Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County Annual Report 2022

CCE Cayuga is Growing

During the past year Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County made additional investments in programming and staff capacity to ensure we can deliver high quality extension programs to the community. In the 4-H Youth Development program, CCE Cayuga hired a part-time Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educator. CCE Cayuga also joined the South-Central New York Dairy and Field Crops regional agriculture extension team, providing additional support through education and applied research for farms in Cayuga County. Finally, CCE Cayuga hired a new resource educator to focus on environmental sustainability in agriculture. These investments would not have been possible without the support of the Cayuga County Legislature.

A regional approach to agricultural extension is not new to CCE Cayuga. For over thirty years, extension agents and educators worked across Cayuga, Onondaga, and Oswego counties to deliver programs to farms of all types in Central New York. This model was effective from the late 1960s to the early 2000s, but reductions in local extension funding and structure made it increasingly difficult to sustain the three-county partnership. With the South-Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team, CCE Cayuga is partnering with five other extension associations and the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to give farmers in the county additional support in dairy cattle management and production, farm business management, and field crop production. A specialist in each of these areas will be assessing the needs of our farmers and developing educational program to meet those needs. Having an educator solely focused on agricultural sustainability, will help our farmers address changing expectations around nutrient management and adapt production practices to a changing climate.

By hiring an educator for 4-H STEM Youth Development, CCE Cayuga will reach out to youth, families, and communities that may not have thought they had a place in 4-H before. While our roots are rural and agricultural, and these will always be important to CCE Cayuga, it is imperative that we share the resources of the extension system with as many as citizens of Cayuga County as we have the capacity to.

Jessica Soule

President, Board of Directors

Dan Welch

Executive Director



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CCE Cayuga

Meet our 2022 CCE Cayuga Board

President: Jessica Soule

Treasurer: Lois “Mickey” Belosi

Directors at Large:

Jim D’Angelo, Don Hatfield, Michael Pacelli, Cindy Stephenson,
Steve Cuddeback, Michael Sheppard, Ben Vitale

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being

Meet the CCE Cayuga Staff

Executive Director: Dan Welch

Agriculture Program Educator: Ron Kuck

Agriculture Environment and Sustainability Educator: Frank Clarke

4-H Youth Development Program Educator: Erin Humphrey

4-H STEM Educator: Sara Wagner:

Nutrition Program Educator: Becky McCormick

Office Coordinator: Peggy Lillie

Marketing and Development Coordinator: Kristin Parry

Association Finance Coordinator: Jean Zilnik

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

Cornell State Specialist

Paul O'Connor

County Legislative Representatives

Trish Kerr

Public Funding Partners

County of Cayuga

Honorable Aileen McNabb-Coleman Chair, Cayuga County Legislature

Cornell University

Dr. Christopher B. Watkins

Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

USDA

Dr. Carrie Castille,

Director, National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Thank You to Our Partners

Auburn Enlarged School District

Cayuga Community College

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.

SNAP-Ed NY– Northern Finger Lakes

New York State Dept. of Ag & Markets

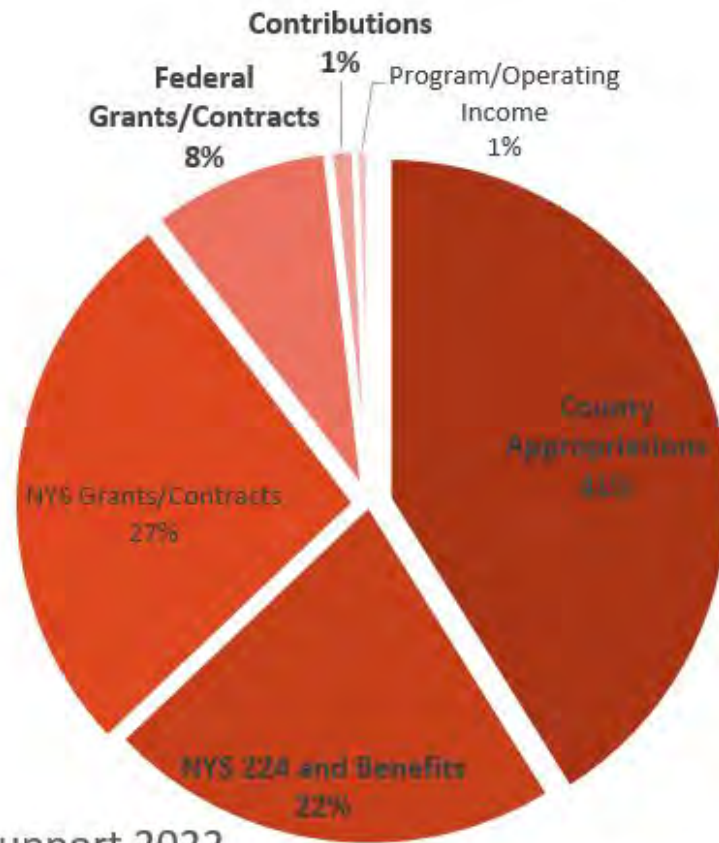
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation New York State Sea Grant NUCOR

Steel

Partnership for Results

Tractor Supply Co. Auburn

Ward W. O' Hara Agriculture & Country Living Museum



CCE Cayuga Financial Support 2022

Total: \$821,648

- County Appropriations
- NYS 224 and Benefits
- NYS Grants/Contracts
- Federal Grants/Contracts
- Contributions
- Program/Operating Income





SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator – Rebecca McCormick

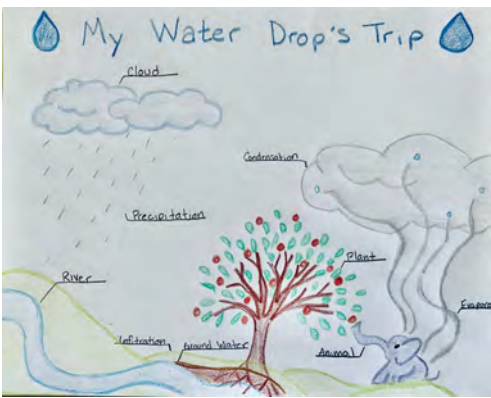
- After School Programing
- New Garden Based Nutrition Curriculum
- Fruit and Veggie Prescription Program
- Outreach Programing in Cayuga Community College

Highlights of 2022



A series of activities were developed to help youths in Cayuga County understand the water cycle, erosion and erosion control, and pollution remediation. These events were free for youths to participate in and were promoted on the Cayuga County's Facebook page and in the 4-H email newsletter. Three hour-long programs were held during the 4-H Youth Fair. Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) volunteers participated in one of these programs and led the youths in a service project planting seedlings in a rain garden. An hour long program on the water cycle was taken to public libraries free of charge. Taking the activities to public libraries increased the presence of youths from outside the Auburn area who were able to attend.

Youths who attended the activities gained accurate knowledge of the water cycle, erosion, and pollution remediation through presentation of information in an age appropriate manner and through hands-on demonstrations. Youths demonstrated this knowledge by summarizing their experience at the end of end of each activity. Two participants, returning to a 4-H event several months after attending the activity on pollution remediation gave a brief overview of their experience to their classmates showing that the experience had stayed with them.



Highlights of 2022



- Watershed programming at county youth fair
Students planted native grasses in a rain garden at the lakeshore
Learned about non-point pollution and erosion
- Water cycle programming at local libraries hand in hand with summer reading program
- Circuits, Coding, and Robotics Club at the Auburn High School meets weekly
- Coding and Lego Robotics programming at local libraries throughout fall



4-H STEM Education
– Sara Wagner

In early November 2022, Payton Youngers and Katie Dristle from the Rising Stars 4-H Club, traveled to Louisville, Kentucky as part of the delegation representing New York State at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, the largest 4-H horse program contest in the country. “Nationals” provides an opportunity for youth to compete against 4-H members from across the United States while encouraging teamwork, decision making and critical thinking.

Payton and Katie set this trip as a goal 8 years ago when they began studying with Payton’s mom, Heather Whitten, former 4-Her herself and current Rising Stars 4-H Club Leader. The path has not been easy for them over the past few years. Nationals were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and New York State 4-H elected to not take a delegation to Kentucky in 2021. Despite these stumbling blocks, the teens found a way to compete nationally by representing the Empire State Quarter Horse Youth Association at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio last October and their team placed first! This year, Payton Youngers and Katie Dristle finally realized their goal of competing at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup. Payton competed in Horse Bowl as Chair one and placed 1st individually. Katie competed as part of the Hippology team and overall place 1st individually with top 10 placings in each phase.

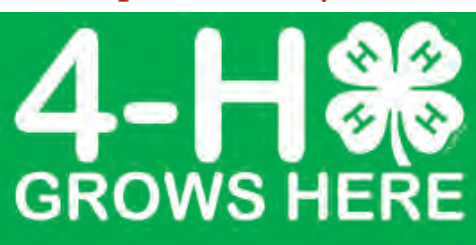
Payton was also selected as the NYS 4-H Horse Program Perpetual “Good Samaritan” Award recipient in honor and memory of Laura Beth Janson. This award was created by Jeannie Griffiths, the NYS Horse Specialist, and is given on the bus as the state teams return home.



Highlights of 2022



- **Agricultural Literacy in March:** Visited 35 classrooms, reached almost 600 students
- **Incubation & Embryology:** 5 classrooms participated, 70% hatch rate, lots of roosters
- **Tractor Safety:** 11 youth (4 female), 100% pass rate
- **4-H Youth Fair:** 38 total participants, 17 moved on to participate in NYS Fair, 2 as Teen Leaders
- **3 girls qualified this year to represent New York State at the National 4-H Horse Round-up in Kentucky.**



**4-H Education
– Erin Humphrey**

Cayuga Milk Ingredients and Cayuga County Dairy farms have contracted to sell milk to a processor manufacturing dairy products from cows fed non-GMO ingredients. Prices received for this milk at the farm is higher than the "mailbox price" received by dairy producers for milk sold through normal marketing channels

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Corn Silage is an important component of dairy cow diets contributing up to 2/3 of their forage intake. Throughout the corn-growing regions of the U.S. and Canada, increased Corn Rootworm (CRW) damage, yield losses, and increased levels of CRW resistance have been reported to all commercial corn varieties containing all of the different BT toxins effective on CRW. CRW is a serious economic pest and needs to be controlled. Research by Cornell University entomologist Dr. Elson Shields shows that Entomopathogenic nematodes (EPNs) have been proven to control CRW larvae.

EPNs were originally developed to control Alfalfa Snout Beetle (ASB) in NNY. Thirty years of research in New York has yielded a new biological strategy for corn rootworm in New York and throughout the Corn Belt. The discovery of using native New York entomopathogenic nematodes (EPNs) controls soil insects including CRW, across multiple growing seasons with a single application. This new strategy has opened a new door in biological control of a broad range of agricultural soil insect pests

Cornell Researcher Dr. Elson Shields and technician Tony Testa presented their research on EPNs, how to apply, the source of the nematodes and cost. Eleven (11) Dairy Farm owners or their crop managers attended the 2 hour session. Grain corn farms and agronomists from industry were also present.

Three farms (two dairy and one grain farm) indicated their desire to begin the application of EPNs in the spring. Initial application was completed on over 2000 acres. All 3 farms indicated that they will continue to apply EPNs in 2023 as time and corn rotation allows. A local Agribusiness in attendance assisted one of the farms in applying the EPNs. Other farms that turned out noted they will consider application in 2023. Farms not in attendance reading educational material printed in AG ALERT! Newsletter wanted to find out more about the program. CCE Cayuga provided them with the details they requested.

Research results over seven growing seasons from the Cornell Musgrave Farm, located in Cayuga County; strongly indicate the inoculation of fields with New York native EPNs will provide sufficient CRW control in rotated corn. This will allow Cayuga County farms to grow non-Bt-RW corn without GMO technology and continue to provide processors and consumers' milk from cows fed non-GMO feedstuffs.



Highlights of 2022

- Shop Talks
- Tractor Safety
- Pasture Walks

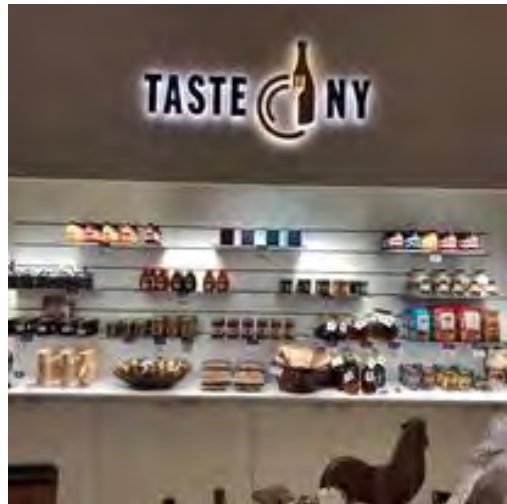
Agriculture Education
– Ron Kuck



TasteNY Store – Heather Ward

- Taste NY opened in November 2018
- Since opening there have been 95+ Vendors and over 600 products
- 30 Vendors have been from Cayuga County or the immediate surrounding counties
- March 2022 kicked off the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial and the featured 25 MWBE Vendors
- COVID took a toll on the Market - June 2022 the Market was back to Pre-COVID Sales

About TasteNY



Vendor Collaborations:

Casi Head, Owner XL Cookie Company, Auburn, NY has continued to expand her business. Again, this year XL Cookie Company was part of the Finger Lakes Sweet Treat Trail Event sponsored by Cayuga County Tourism. She expanded her partnership of making “Sammie’s” aka ice cream sandwiches. In 2021 she partnered with Reese’s Dairy Bar and this year, in 2022 she added Rudolph’s Sugar Shack also a business located in Auburn and a member of the Sweet Treat Trail to make Sammie’s with. All 3 locations had great sales with them. Casi expressed that her sales are back to pre-pandemic amounts. She reluctantly did have to raise her prices this fall due to the increased cost of ingredients. XL Cookie’s continues to be a great seller in the Taste NY Market.

Jim and Chantell Hoteling, Owner Operator, Smokey Hollow Maple, Jordan, NY and New Hope Mills, Auburn, NY: Another Cayuga County collaboration for the Finger Lakes Sweet Treat Trail Organized by Cayuga County Tourism. The Taste NY market carries both vendors’ products. The Sweet Treat Trail provided the market with small cloth totes bags that were then sold with a ½ pint of Smokey Hollow syrup and a pancake mix. The bags turned out to be a great inexpensive gift that sold very well through the fall and holiday season.

Lesli Sagan, Owner Operator, Avital’s Apiaries, Newfield, NY: A woman owned and operated business original started out as a home base business in Ithaca, NY and offers lotions, soaps, lip balm, shampoo and conditioner bars, bath fizzies, body butter and more all made from her own bee’s wax. In 2019 Avital’s opened a bigger location in Newfield, NY after renovating an old farmhouse. The business is run mainly by solar power. During the pandemic Avital’s online sales really grew and she was able to add an additional employee. Lesli is in the process of creating a store in her building in Newfield to do direct sales to customers. In the fall she participated in the Press Bay Pop up markets on the Ithaca Commons which has given her great exposure to new customers.

About the Milk Bar:

- Serve over 300,00 cups of milk each day
- Our milk comes from Upstate Farms, where more than 300 family farms produce wholesome milk each day. We're also thankful to Husted Dairy, who delivers the milk for Fairgoers to enjoy every day.

About the NY State Dairy Industry:

The dairy industry is the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry.

New York has:

- more than 3,500 dairy farms,
- is the 5th largest producer of milk,
- and is the largest producer of yogurt and cottage cheese.

Nationally, 94% of dairy farms are family owned

2022 NYS Fair Milk Bar

Highlights:


- 12,500 gallons- chocolate
- 1,300 gallons-white
- 750 gallons- strawberry
- 14,500 gallons- total
- 265,000- cups total
- 90,000- people served

**Milk and Dairy Facts
2022
New York State Fair**




Did You Know:

- Milk offers a unique and powerful combination of 13 essential nutrients, like vitamin A, Vitamin D, Zinc, selenium and protein that are essential to a healthy immune system
- Milk is an excellent source of calcium
- Milk is a good source of protein and Vitamin D
- Milk also has as much potassium as a small banana
- Flavored milk — like the chocolate milk here at the Milk Bar — has all the same nutrition as unflavored milk.
- Dairy foods provide nutrients people need to grow and maintain stronger bodies and minds




Dairy Cow facts:

- The average dairy cow produces about 7 gallons of milk a day
- A cow needs to be healthy and comfortable in order to make milk.
 - Dairy farmers care for their animals by providing nutritious feed, plenty of fresh water and a clean, comfortable place to rest.



No, brown cows don't make our delicious chocolate milk — wouldn't it be great if they did?

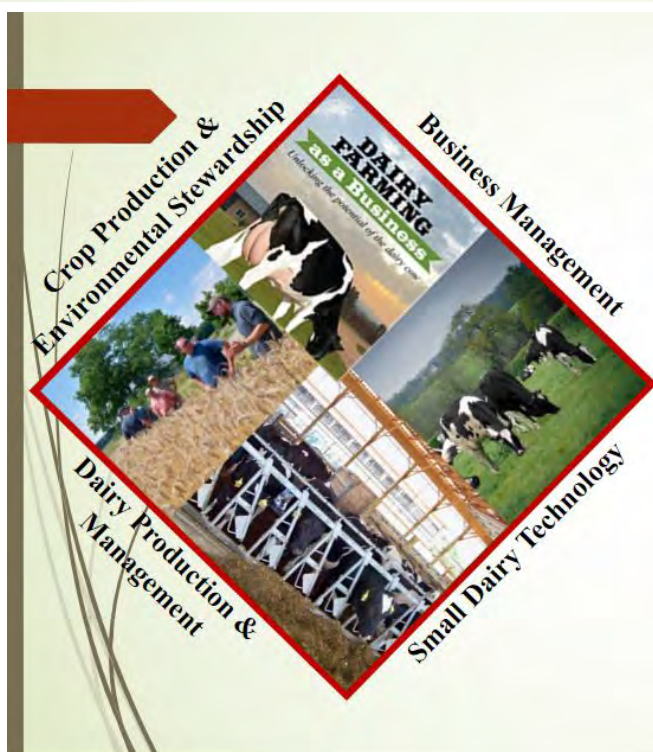
- Each cow breed has specific characteristics, and the reasons farmers chose one over the other for many different reasons
 - Some cows have a higher butterfat content in their milk
 - Some cows are larger and produce more milk
 - Some cows are smaller and easier to handle




CCE Cayuga joins the South Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Program



The **South Central New York Dairy & Field Crops Program** is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in 6 counties.



Team Specialists



Highlights of 2022:

- Alfalfa heights monitoring project
- Predicts timing of harvest for capturing high quality forage
- 9 farms, 9 townships (Victory-Genoa)
- Pasture Walks – Peer-to-Peer Education
- Custom Grazing and Healthy Soils
- Beef Grazing and Healthy Soils
- 22 participants

