

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Chautauqua County

# Annual Report

# 2021



CONNECTING CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
to Chautauqua County Since 1913



# Table of Contents

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Mission Statement .....          | 2       |
| Directors Statement .....        | 3       |
| Financial Update .....           | 3       |
| Program Budget Summary .....     | 3       |
| Staff .....                      | 4       |
| Board of Directors .....         | 4       |
| Regional Teams .....             | 4       |
| Advisory Committees .....        | 4       |
| Nutrition .....                  | 6 - 9   |
| Agriculture .....                | 10 - 14 |
| Youth Development .....          | 15 - 17 |
| Master Gardener Volunteers ..... | 18 - 19 |

## OUR MISSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.



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## Directors Statement

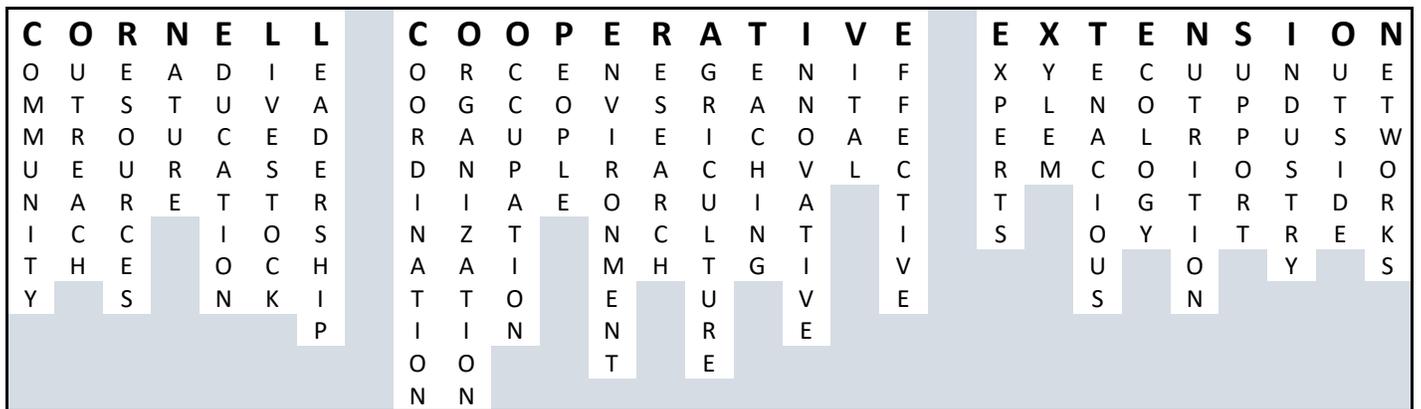
Sometimes the best way to deal with change is to take a walk in nature and see the beauty in the small things. Our world has always been and will continue to be in a state of change. One only has to look as far as an apple tree to see the daily changes, effects of outside pressure and then remember the beauty of its blossoms. Change is unending, and we at CCE are making the best of each moment and developing the fruits of our labor; or sometimes just watching its beautiful blooms.

We are extremely blessed to have been able to offer continued exceptional programming in 2021. Despite the affects of the global pandemic, we have persevered and learned many lessons. None the least is the unwavering and outpouring of support from the community for the programs we provide that you have grown to love. The 2021 opportunity to see our youth

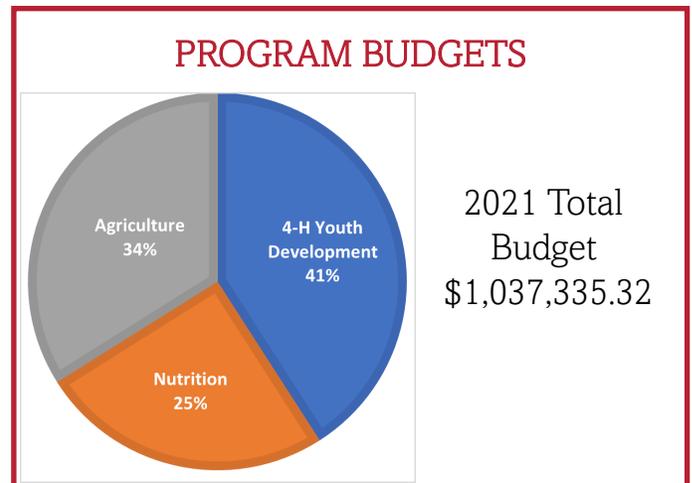
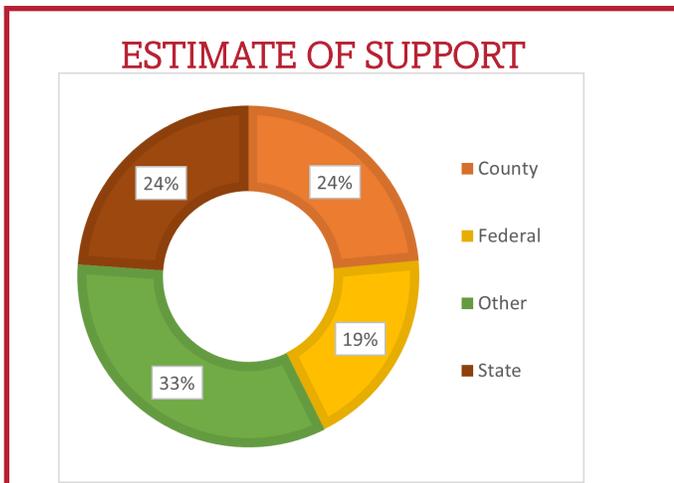


in the show arena again, despite the county fair not occurring in its traditional form was refreshing and exhilarating. To see countless youth learning to make ice cream in a bag, place worms in their own compost bin, decorate a bat box, or learning about the importance of soil while painting a picture, is an experience that reminds us just how fortunate we are to provide these unique opportunities to the youth in Chautauqua County. From agriculture, to nutrition, to youth development; CCE continues to change and improve because of our wonderful supporters, friends, volunteers, staff and partners. Thank you for helping make 2021 an exceptional year at CCE Chautauqua.

**EMILY REYNOLDS**  
Executive Director



- Danielle Gaven, former CCE Board Member at Large



*"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"*

Advisory Committees

**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Dana Overend  
Linda Jarvis  
Kathy Freeman  
Mary Jantzi  
Kimberly Witherow  
Joe Osborne  
Emily 'Beth' Southworth  
Fred DeGoiler

**AGRICULTURE**

Derek Yerico  
Kaitlyn Bentley  
Jeff Miller  
Rosemary Joy  
Michael Wilson  
Jessica Brehm  
Ben Nickerson  
Ron Almeter

Staff

**ADMINISTRATORS**

**EMILY REYNOLDS**  
Executive Director  
**DARCY CRAMER**  
Finance Administrator  
**LUCY CONTI**  
Administrative Assistant  
**LISETTE CABRERA**  
4-H Administrative Assistant

**AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

**LISA KEMPISTY**  
Dairy and Livestock Community Educator

**4-H DEPARTMENT**

**KATE EWER**  
4-H Community Educator  
**MOLLY BROWN**  
4-H Community Educator

**NUTRITION DEPARTMENT**

**MOLLY HOWELL**  
SNAP Education Community Educator  
**MARY RYDER**  
SNAP Education Community Educator  
**HEATHER GREGORY**  
EFNEP Community Educator

Cornell Regional Teams

**VEGETABLE TEAM**

Elizabeth Buck  
Robert Hadad  
Christy Hoepting  
Julie Kikkert  
Margie Lund  
Judson Reid

**SOUTHWEST NEW YORK DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, & FIELD CROPS TEAM**

Amy Barkley  
Camilla Lange  
Katelyn Walley-Stoll

**LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM**

Jennifer Phillips-Russo  
Kevin Martin  
Andy Muza

**Board of Directors**

**SHELLY WELLS**

President

**RON ALMETER**

Vice President  
Agricultural Representative

**KIM WITHEROW**

Treasurer, 4-H Representative

**ANDY JOY**

Secretary

**DANIELLE GAVEN**

Board Member At Large

**MARK MCCONNON**

Board Member At Large

**CHAD BUCK**

Board Member At Large

**ALYSSA PORTER**

Board Member At Large

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Board Member At Large

**PAT WALKER**

Board Member At Large

**GEORGE HAFFENDEN**

Board Member At Large

**JOE OSBORNE**

4-H Representative

**JEFF MILLER**

Agricultural Representative

**MARK SULLENBERGER**

Master Gardener Representative

**DAN PAVLOCK**

County Legislator

**JOHN HEMMER**

County Legislator

**DAN HEITZENRATER**

County Executive Rep

**RENEE MOONEYHAN**

Extension Specialist

# CCE Chautauqua

## Nutrition

Because visitors were not allowed on campus due to COVID-19, EFENP's Teen Cuisine programming was delivered virtually to a group of youth at Job Corps. Because of the unstable server on campus, and rural internet in Chautauqua County, participants rarely turned on their cameras and kept themselves muted despite regular invitations to chat during the session. Three sessions in, I learned that once you find that topic that really grabs the students' interest, Voice becomes a Choice!

.....Continued on Page 6



## Youth Development



The COVID-19 pandemic challenged the hands-on approach to programming that makes 4-H youth development so successful. Through the 2021 year, schools allowed the STORY program and Ag in the classroom to do in-person programming.

.....Continued on page 16

## Agriculture

Lisa Kempisty promoted statewide CCE agricultural virtual educational opportunities with farm businesses and facilitated a successful virtual educational program in the spring of 2021. She has had increased communication with producers by phone & e-mail during the COVID-19 pandemic and looks forward to offering more in-person programming throughout 2021 and 2022.



## Master Gardeners

Seed to Supper Funding enabled our county to purchase Seed to Supper manuals, supplies, plants, seeds, healthy food, soil and to pay for some of the expenses related to the program. Our program's main issue was to conduct a training for first time gardeners with an emphasis on hands-on training, instead of lecturing during a time of restrictions. Each session of learning included something that the participants were able to take home.



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# Nutrition: EFNEP

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program helps income-eligible families eat more healthfully and save money at the grocery store.



## 2021 IMPACTS

**40%.....IMPROVED food security**

**50%.....IMPROVED physical activity**

**50%.....IMPROVED food safety**

**67%.....IMPROVED diet quality**

**83%...IMPROVED resource management**

**100%**

**of graduating adults have made at least one positive change to their eating behaviors.**



Continued from page 5....

We have a group of teenage males in this session. They have not appeared to be engaged in the sessions as their cameras often remain turned off and they rarely respond when asked what questions they have or for input on the subject matter.

We've continued on through the curriculum, and the can of worms finally opened when we got to reading Nutrition Facts Labels!

Reading Nutrition Facts Labels and guessing what food they represented sparked exciting conversations about protein types and portions, physical activity and body image. I was thrilled when these young men started talking about how they feel that regardless of their body type, they should be able to run fast and have six-pack abs and that they need protein powders and no carbs to accomplish this. We talked about differences in bone size and physical build, and how that does influence how fast we can run and/or how much we can lift - ie the runner versus the shot putter on a track team. We talked about how someone can look really fit and healthy on the outside, but we really can't know by looking what their heart health, blood pressure, cholesterol levels are, and that we may not know that until that person we think we should emulate reaches middle age.

It feels so important to impact these young men now, and I hope they will carry these lessons with them as they enter the workforce and begin to influence their own families.

The session ran over time and we will continue the conversation in the next meeting in hopes of keeping the momentum!

*CCE Chautauqua is a portal to all things food, agriculture and land stewardship for people who want to connect with their source of food and our environment. The resources that CCE can marshal to respond to community needs far exceeds the modest staff and operating budget; the local staff is just our conduit to a much greater agricultural knowledge base.*

*—Ron Almeter, CCE Board Member*

# Nutrition: EFNEP

Disasters often provide an opportunity to improve things that have long been in need of an upgrade. COVID-19 has been no exception.

One of the benefits to EFNEP is the opportunity to meet with participants individually, and in the comfort of their own homes. The disadvantages to this arrangement are time lost in driving, and time lost if a participant cancels a session (or you go at the appointed time and no one is home.)

One potential solution is using virtual spaces, like Facebook Live, to reach participants. The idea was met with much hesitancy from our campus leaders, and it felt as though we crossed oceans to finally get permission to try this in Chautauqua County!

With the pandemic came desperation. With desperation came educators doing what must be done to teach their people – and with that – virtual became a reality! We can now use Zoom or Facebook Live (in private groups) to reach participants. The delivery method was created in 2020, and put to work with more consistency in 2021. This has made sessions more accessible as we can reach participants during their breaks at work or other tight time frames. If they are sick/quarantined/caring for someone who is ill, we can still connect without worry of putting health at risk.

As the pandemic eased, we brought back in-person sessions. The beauty and impact of being face-to-face with participants has never been more appreciated. Moving to JCC means we can also hold sessions on campus – which creates the opportunity to merge our new digital offerings with our classic standard assets. The more senses you can engage, the more information retention you gain. Virtual education and JCC



technology (smart boards/projectors), combined with our hands-on materials makes for an experience participants won't soon forget!

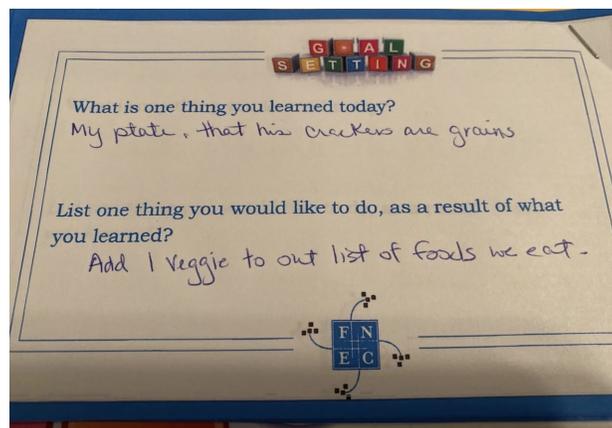


**EFNEP reaches participants with research based curriculum for youth and adults including:** Family and Nutrition Education Curriculum, Healthy Cents, Finding a Balance (Diabetes), Teen Cuisine, and Choose Health, Food, Fun and Fitness. It is easy to participate in EFNEP, our educators reach out through:

**Home visits** – meeting families/individual family members in their homes to teach nutrition, food safety, smarter shopping strategies, and increase physical activities.

**Groups** – partnering with agencies to improve the nutrition, fitness, and food management resources of their clients.

**Youth** – Working with classrooms to teach nutrition and basic cooking skills to youth.



*CCE Chautauqua is an exceptional educational institution with programming that isn't just for farmers, but for the general community at large. The staff is thoroughly committed and strives to provide the best in a wide range of helpful, important information and training.*  
- Tricia Drago, former CCE Educator

# Nutrition: SNAP-Ed

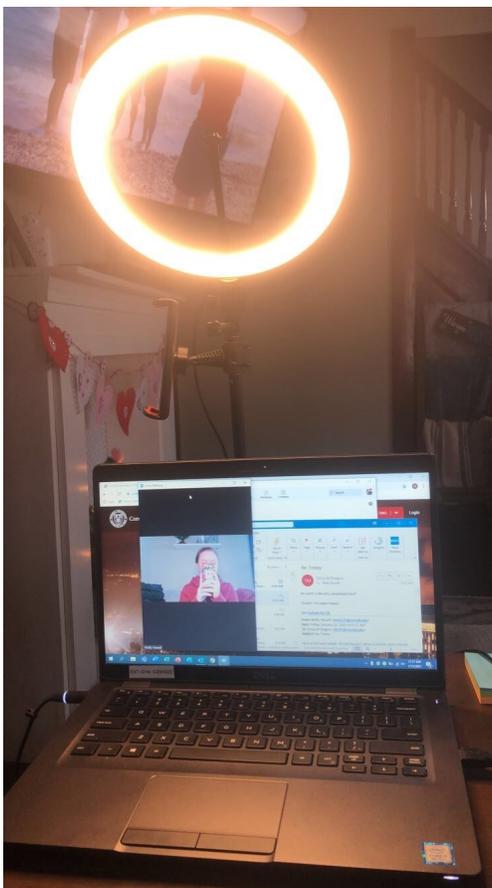
*SNAP-Ed NY teaches people how to shop for and cook healthy meals on a limited budget. Our goal is to give you the tools, tips, and tricks to help you make nutritious food choices and choose a physically active lifestyle. SNAP-Ed works to help make the healthy choice the easy choice for our communities.*

**Nutrition Education:** Using a hands-on, interactive teaching style, we offer classes on a variety of topics: healthy eating on a budget, smart shopping for vegetables and fruit, healthy meal planning, basic cooking and food safety skills, and weight control and physical activity. Our teams will work with you to design programs for youth, adults, and/or seniors, and will come directly to your agency. Programs can last anywhere from 20 minutes to 90 minutes and may include a food demonstration.



One could say COVID-19 was a challenge for SNAP-Ed NY, but it also opened so many doors for new ways to see at what our programming can look like. As a state, SNAP-Ed NY really came together to create more of a cohesive program. Being able to connect with not only the educators in our region, but throughout the entire state. We now have a website that all SNAP-Ed NY regions have access to. We can

pass along great information as well as news to the entire New York state program at a click of a button. Before Covid-19, SNAP-Ed NY looked very different. It was almost as if each region was their own island, but now we all work together as a statewide program. Another huge change for SNAP-Ed NY this past year has been offering virtual classes. This is something that can be a great option to offer to our community partners.



## 2021 IMPACTS

In the timeframe of October 1, 2020-September 20, 2021, the SNAP-Ed Chautauqua region educators have provided community members with evidence-based nutrition education programs for a total of

**109 sessions**

**91 hours of programming**

**1,005 participants reached**

SNAP-Ed region (Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua) educators have completed a total of:

**230 sessions**

**168 hours of programming**

**2,049 participants reached**

The region has also adopted 20 changes through the PSE (Policy, Systems, and Environmental) work.

*My favorite thing that comes to mind when I think Cornell Cooperative Extension, is the amount of great information and resources there are in one office. From nutrition, to livestock, to soil testing, and so many other amazing programs!*

*- Molly Harvey, CCE Educator*

# Nutrition: SNAP-Ed



**Other community programming designed to promote healthy eating includes:** SNAP-Ed goes beyond programming to support and influence community-level health promotion where we work, live, learn, and play. Education can only be applied when an individual has support structures in place to do so.

**Community Obesity Prevention Programs:** Are you already providing SNAP-Ed nutrition education workshops, and looking to take it a step further? This program is designed to encourage partnering agencies to become role models, or Champions for Change. SNAP-Ed teams will provide engaging nutrition education and professional development training to partnering agencies and local human services staff so they can support their patrons.

**Farm to Worksite or Community Site:** This program improves access and eliminates barriers to fresh produce by coordinating a farmer's market or foodbox distribution at qualifying locations. We will provide training and technical assistance to farmers and interested locations, along with nutrition education and food demonstrations at the site.

**School Wellness and Smarter Lunchrooms:** This program provides qualifying schools and their districts with tools, resources, workshops, and professional development training that promote healthy eating and physical activity among children, staff, and families. We can work with your schools to review and update wellness policies, conduct school environment assessments, as well as offer training on various topics such as healthy celebrations, brain breaks, and creating a smarter lunchroom.



*Local questions are best answered by local resources – and CCE Chautauqua County is available to help you learn. Residents can contact CCE-Chautauqua County staff by phone, e-mail, through social media, and in person to get help with questions and receive information on so many topics – Agriculture, 4-H Youth Development, and Food & Nutrition. If CCE does not have a local staff member to assist you, we will help you network with others in the community, as well as with our Extension staff at Cornell University.*

*- Lisa Kempisty, CCE Educator*

# Agriculture

*Our CCE Agriculture Program provides requested information and educational opportunities to local agricultural producers, landowners, and residents. We assist by providing research-based resources to help improve the productivity and profitability of our local agricultural businesses. We also work to help the public better understand the importance of agriculture in Chautauqua County.*

The CCE agriculture teams provide cutting edge research and education to Chautauqua County's 1,228 farms, operating on 223,634 acres with a total market value of \$639,035,000 (land, equipment, machinery) and generates annually over \$161 million/year for the local economy according to the USDA 2017 Ag Census. The county's investment in supporting agriculture through CCE represents only 0.07% of the value of the county's ag industry per year... a small investment to ensure the growth and profitability of the food industry that is vital to put food on resident's tables but is also an important economic engine in the county!

## 2021 IMPACTS

A virtual educational program on NYS DOT Regulations for Farm Trucks & Equipment held in March 2021 was well received with

**65**

participants from Chautauqua County and our local WNY area. This was presented by Trooper Matt Luft from the NYSP Commercial Vehicle Unit to update agricultural business owners, family members and employees on current regulations to help keep agricultural businesses in compliance and ensure truck and equipment safety on our local roads.

The On-Farm Pasture Walk held in June 2021 drew

**50**

participants to visit a dairy farm successfully using rotational grazing. Participants learned about managed grazing to provide high quality and quantities of forage to dairy & livestock, presented by the farm owners, Cornell Specialists, and local agribusiness representatives.

The Soil Health Field Day hosted by Lesch Farms, LLC in Fredonia, NY, with

**50**

people in attendance, provided interactive field demonstrations, presentations, and pesticide recertification credits to meet the need for producers' NYS DEC pesticide recertification credits.

Our local Agricultural program reaches producers in a variety of ways, Some of which include:

- Beef Quality Assurance Training
- Beef Field Day
- NYS DOT Regulations for Farm Trucks & Equipment – Virtual Meeting
- On-Farm Pasture Walk
- Soil Health Field Day
- Sheep & Goat FAMACHA Workshop



*I have learned the lesson that CCE Chautauqua does not depend on a "brick and mortar" physical location to be able to continue its work to provide services to our community. Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic without being in the traditional physical location, while still working without pause, has proven that it is the employee and the team that makes our program happen. While it was an adjustment to step away from the physical location, it has been shown that dedicated employees, determination and creativity are the key to making CCE's programs a success.*

*- Lisette Cabrera, CCE Administrative Assistant*

# Agriculture

In response to COVID, I have promoted statewide CCE agricultural virtual educational opportunities with farm businesses and facilitated a successful virtual educational program in the spring of 2021. I have communicated with producers more by phone & e-mail during the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to offering more in-person programming throughout 2021 and 2022.



**Dairy and Livestock Educational programs** – On-farm meetings, classroom presentations, and virtual programs on current agricultural topics of interest. These educational programs involve guest presenters from Cornell University and others, including agricultural business representatives and local producers sharing useful information for farm owners, family members and employees.

**General Agriculture** – Provide information to landowners' and homeowners' requests including improving pastures, plant and insect information, soil sampling, connecting the public with local

farms growing & marketing various agricultural products, details on Agriculture Assessment, and many other topics.

**Dairy Profit Team Meetings** – I assist with facilitating discussions with dairy farm families and their agribusiness representatives at their farmsteads. The meetings help to improve communications among farm family members, farm employees, and agribusiness representatives addressing specific issues to improve the productivity and profitability of their farm business.

**Chautauqua County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board** - I serve as the representative for Cornell Cooperative Extension on the Chautauqua County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board to participate in discussions and provide recommendations on the best use of land in the county. Throughout 2021, there were many meetings regarding the installation of commercial solar generating facilities on farmland in Chautauqua County and the importance of protecting our prime soils. Also participating in the development of the Chautauqua County Agricultural Enhancement and Development Strategy (update to the County's Farmland Protection Plan). The objective of the update is to provide an accurate reflection of the current agricultural conditions in Chautauqua County and devise strategies to increase the economic viability of the agricultural industry, encourage farmland protection, and to increase public interest and awareness of local agriculture.



*CCE Chautauqua is an invaluable and unique community resource to a variety of people. Traditionally, you may think that Cooperative Extension serves farmers. CCE has much to offer home gardeners, youth and families, and those in production agriculture. The network of knowledge that CCE has is so great that if local staff can't help, they will find someone who can.*

*- Kate Ewer, CCE Educator*

# Agriculture: CVP

*The Cornell Vegetable Program is one of the premier regional agricultural teams in NYS: a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in a large multi-county region in the western and central parts of the state. The team's Vegetable Specialists work together with Cornell faculty and Extension Educators statewide to address the issues that impact the commercial vegetable industry.*

The county's investment to ensure a strong agriculture and food system represents a 13x ROI, not including the value of fringe and overhead by the University. Including this, the value of the program is \$2.7M or a ROI of 23x.

## CVP 2021 Chautauqua Highlight

CVP specialist Julie Kikkert and NYS IPM Program Specialist Marion Zuefle, collaborated with Munsee Farms in Panama, NY on a bird control project in sweetcorn. Together they are working on a laser scarecrow project, an air dancer project and an insect trap monitoring program. Munsee Farms are involved in all three collaborations.

David, owner of Munsee farms, purchased two research laser scarecrows designed by the University of Rhode Island and is testing them in his fields. He also is testing the air dancers (has 4 set up in a row in one field alley) and also tested the Avian Control (chemical) and detasseling. He is very happy with the results so far, but doesn't particularly care for the chemical control. He told us that last year he had \$12,000 in bird damage in his sweet corn and this year it was less than \$1,000. That is some impact! We discussed the laser scarecrow design and set up, and he will be asked for feedback at the end of the season to help inform the design.

Thank you Munsee Farms for your assistance and collaboration to improve our Agricultural industry.



*One lesson I have learned about CCE is how to ask for help and utilize knowledge from other people that specialize in areas that I do not.*

*- Molly Brown, CCE Educator*

# Agriculture: SWNYDLFC

*The Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension offers educational programming and research based information to agricultural producers, growers, and agribusinesses in the five county region of Southwestern New York.*



Chautauqua County's investment of \$113K in CCE's dairy, livestock, field crops, vegetable and grape teams, leverage \$1.47M in extension and applied agriculture research programs critical to the success of progressive farms in Chautauqua County. In partnership with Cornell and other counties, we are able to deploy 18 highly skilled specialists in the areas of dairy, livestock, field crops, vegetable, grape and ag business management.

*Farm Business Management expertise individually helped over 40 farms in Chautauqua County access and navigate COVID-19 relief funds, as well as delivering broad spectrum awareness through radio interviews, press releases, and newsletter articles. This included connecting farms with the Paycheck Protection Program, the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, and the Economic Impact Disaster Loan totaling \$52.7 million of COVID relief through these programs.*

## SWNYDLFC 2021 Chautauqua Highlight

Katelyn designed and delivered the virtual "Farm Business Foundations" series providing direct support to beginning and diversifying farmers with tools for business planning, risk management, and marketing. The series had **62** participants who were able to attend live or watch the recordings.

**100%** of the students rated the program as "delightful" or "good".

*"Everything was great. I like recordings as I can go back as many times as I want to get a better understanding."*

*"Thanks for the great presentations /vids, examples, personal stories, and bringing it all into real life and scenarios accessible to many individuals. I always learn something new from your work and appreciate all that you and the team do!"*

*"I am very grateful to have access to this via webinars in the evening and for free. I'm normally not able to participate in programs like these because of the cost, the distance from my home, and having to devote an entire day to it. My favorite part was the business planning. I've worked with SBDC and local planning dept before and they just never "got it" and weren't as personable, easy to understand, and connectable as Katelyn and Amy."*

### Immediate Implementation

- Participants were able to make marketing decisions, identify funding options, improve their record keeping, and make a set of action items.
- Immediate changes that were made included getting liability insurance, securing a market, developing a business plan, creating a budget, and having a better idea of who to ask for help.

*Hands down, the biggest impact & teacher for me upon joining the CCE team would be Katelyn – or "Katelyn Walley-Stoll". She continues to teach me even after leaving our group to start the SWNYDLFC team. We joined CCE-CHQ a few months apart, but she clearly had more knowledge with agriculture than I could ever wish to have. I know I can always go to Katelyn with a question and not just get a "yes or no" response, but a response with an explanation which I appreciate. We worked a lot together as she put the LEAF program together, all while having babies. She would have me putting folders together, arranging the room, greeting and registering people and sometimes I would want to join in the class. I learned a lot just putting those folders together and reading as I did it! Her excitement for the LEAF program was energizing. She took a small idea and made it happen. I don't think any of us will forget the education I received the day I asked what the semen catalog was for! It was like renting a house in the OBX, picking and choosing the options you want – oh the laughs, but honestly another lesson in an industry I know /knew nothing about. I know I can walk into her office, call, text or email her with a question (or maybe my egg order) and she takes the time to help me out, give guidance or lead me to the person who can help. Her patience with my ignorance is greatly appreciated – I truly miss our morning "before everyone else gets to work" chats about our families. CHQ lost a great team member – but we all know she is always in our corner.*

*- Darcy Cramer, CCE Finance Administrator*

# Agriculture: LERGP



*The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program consists of Extension Educators and research faculty/staff from Cornell University and Penn State University devoted to projects aimed at increasing yields, product quality, diversity and improvement of cultivars, efficiency of production, profitability and adoption of environmentally sound cultural and pest management strategies.*

By participating in regional agriculture teams, Chautauqua County is able to access the expertise and resources of all 11 regional teams in the Extension System and more effectively access the rich faculty and program resources of Cornell University and the entire National Land Grant System to benefit Chautauqua County growers and ultimately, all residents of the county.

## **LERGP 2021 Chautauqua Highlight**

### *Pesticide Recertification Options Offered-*

This 2021 growing season continued under pandemic regulations. However, innovation is a result from being forced to look at a situation differently. Our Lake Erie Regional Grape Program team continued to create new ways to blend old and new ideas as a result. COVID-19 halted in-person meetings and threatened to derail the events where one could obtain pesticide recertification credits. The grace period for pesticide recertification credits had expired, in-person meetings were still not available, and growers needed avenues to renew credits. We held a Spring Spray Schedule Program to help growers set up timely spray programs for the season and offered credits for both New York and Pennsylvania growers. We continued our Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings for educational outreach, with the use of technologies, that bridged the gap of a paused society and allowed for solutions that will have lasting effects to enhance our program for years to come.

Coffee Pot meetings have been a staple of the extension work done by the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program for many years. During these meetings researchers and extension associates come together with growers in a relaxed setting to share up-to-date information and advice on how to take care of the issues that arise in their vineyards as well as offering time for the growers to collaborate on what works and what doesn't work. In addition, pesticide recertification credits are given to those in attendance who present their pesticide applicator license.

LERGP Specialists worked closely with the New York State DEC and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to get pesticide recertification credit approval for these Virtual Coffee Pot meetings and were approved for one credit for both New York and Pennsylvania growers for each meeting. This 2021 pandemic year created a unique opportunity to move to an online platform by using Zoom to meet with the growers, and it was so well received that 2021 continued our efforts. We were able to offer 13 chances for recertification credits this growing season.

In addition, the Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings invited guest speakers with expertise in their fields to present their research in an informal setting and entertain grower questions and comments. These facetime interactions with researchers provided an opportunity to share grower experiences, ask questions that may have always been on the forefront of your mind, and influence future research. This virtual platform for educational outreach was well received (after some bumps in the learning process). Even the growers who were unable to attend in person during the virtual meetings, were pleased with the recorded sessions that are available to watch at their convenience on our website.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is a cooperative effort between Cornell and Penn State Universities; the participating Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and Cattaraugus Counties in New York and Erie County in Pennsylvania; and participating industry partners National Grape Cooperative (Welch's), Gallo, and Walkers Fruit Basket. The LERGP extension team provides research-based educational programming for commercial grape growers throughout the year at venues across the Lake Erie grape belt. For more information on LERGP, call 716-792-2800 or visit our website at <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/>

*The first thing that comes to mind when I hear Cornell Cooperative Extension is "community assistance".*

*- Lucia Conti, CCE Administrative Assistant*

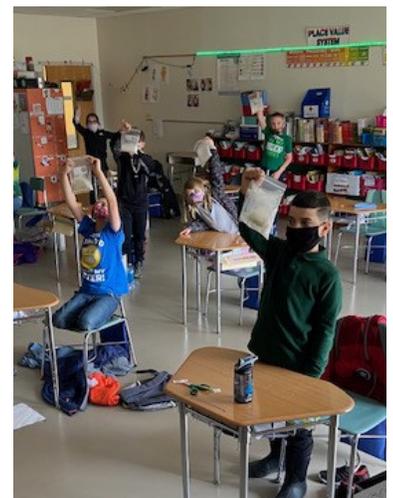
# Youth Development: 4-H

Connect youth to hands-on programming that will shape them into competent, caring, contributing members of society.



**2021 Impacts**

- 19** Public school youth reached through STORY
- 2500** youth reached through Ag in the classroom
- 60** youth reached through DEC Tree Grant
- 10** youth reached at JCC Kids College
- 151** youth participants in CHQ Public Libraries Tales and Tails
- 12** youth reached through Public School Summer programming
- 936** participants at Chautauqua Institution
- 235** youth enrolled in yearly 4-H programming
- 128** enrolled volunteers
- 175** youth participated in the UnFair youth fair
- 4** youth completed Tractor Safety
- 70** youth participated in LEAF Junior workshops
- 45** youth participated in County-Level Public Presentations
- 15** youth participated in Clothing Evaluation and Fashion Revue



*My favorite CCE program is 4-H. I love and am extremely passionate about everything 4-H stands for. I believe that 4-H gives youth a head start to success in life. 4-H teaches kids to be responsible, hardworking, respectful and all around great kids. I love the community based camaraderie 4-H creates. I feel very lucky to be a part of 4-H in my professional and personal life.*

*- Molly Brown, 4-H Educator*

# Youth Development: 4-H

**STORY** – Providing STEM education to schools during and after school.

**Ag Literacy Week** – Coordinating reading and activities to Chautauqua County schools with a chosen agricultural book.

**Ag in the Classroom** – Providing agricultural education to schools and summer programs in Chautauqua County.

**Seed 2 Supper** – Providing gardening education for youth and adults creating an opportunity to grow healthy food for their family.

**Club Programs** -Clubs meet throughout Chautauqua County and are led by volunteers. Youth hold business meetings, learn Robert’s Rules of Order, and explore topics that interest them.



**Animal Science Programs** - Chautauqua County 4-H offers 10 animal science projects: beef and dairy cattle, dog, goat, hog, horse, exhibition and market poultry, rabbit, and sheep. Animal Science programs are led by a committee of 7-10 volunteers who plan curriculum, fundraising, and manage the project at the county fair. Youth attend 4-8 meetings to learn best practices for care, grooming, showing, and industry trends.

**Conservation Field Days** - Conservation Field Days serves 5th graders countywide. Schools bus their youth to the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center where they cycle through stations manned by conservation professionals and enthusiasts. The two-day event, typically held in May, serves 1,000 youth.

**L.E.A.F. Junior** - Following the success of the popular Learn, Empower, Achieve, Farm (L.E.A.F) Workshop series for adults, LEAF Junior offers workshops on interesting and timely topics for youth. Any youth in the community can attend these workshops that are offered

at a low cost to reduce barriers of participation.

**Tractor Safety** - This three-day event held during Spring Break is open to youth ages 14+ and follows the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) curriculum. Youth complete 24 hours of training via classroom instruction, homework, and hands-on training in partnership with a local equipment dealer.

**Family and Consumer Science** - Clothing Evaluation and Fashion Revue are staple programs of Chautauqua County 4-H. Youth work with a volunteer to create a sewing project that is appropriate for their age and ability. The project is then evaluated by a volunteer knowledgeable about sewing. Youth model their creation at Fashion Revue to celebrate their work and build positive self-image.

**Public Speaking** - Youth are encouraged to share a presentation about a topic of their interest. The contest is often held in early March. Youth prepare the presentation in one of 5 styles, share their work in front of peers and volunteer evaluators, and then meet with the evaluators to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their work. Youth who excel are selected to participate at contests at the district level.



*Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic, CCE Chautauqua has continued serving the community without letup. While our physical office location closed, our departments have remained open, working remotely. We endeavor to be creative to continue offering our programming, while being sure to adhere to the state and local requirements.*

*- Lisette Cabrera, 4-H Administrative Assistant*

# Youth Development: 4-H

Continued from page 5....

Masks and social distancing were implemented and the youth of Chautauqua county benefited in STEM education in their classrooms. The kids enjoyed robotics, fiber studies, drones and vermicomposting as part of the curriculum. So far 1244 participants have been reached and provided programming in Chautauqua County. This is a wonderful indication there is a need and desire for this type of programming in the county and STORY is looking forward to providing all programming in any capacity.

Virtual programming options were made available for youth who participated in traditional club projects and animal science programs. Volunteers stepped up to make sure that all youth had the opportunity to learn in the classroom or online. Current curriculum was updated and will continue to be updated in 2022 to better serve in-person and virtual audiences. Meeting attendance has increased because families can attend virtually in instances of scheduling conflicts or severe weather.

The 4-H Fashion Revue was held virtually for the first time ever, and youth modeled their clothing from their homes with a parent or sibling sharing their commentary. Public Presentations were moved virtually as well. This was another event that would not have been possible without the cooperation and enthusiasm of volunteer evaluators and parents who wanted the best for youth.

Perhaps the biggest feat of the pandemic was hosting a four-day youth fair for 4-H participants in lieu of the Chautauqua County Fair. The 4-H UnFair brought together 4-H youth, their families, and volunteers to work toward one goal: offering an opportunity for youth to highlight a year's worth of work! Every animal science project had the opportunity to show and sell (if applicable) their animals. Youth who completed club projects had evaluation day and could display their work as well. The 4-H Meat Animal Sale grossed record individual sales. The UnFair changed the perspective of 4-H programming for many families and could promote positive change to the structure of the 2022 Fair.



*I think of Cornell Cooperatives Extension as a wealth of knowledge that brings the community and volunteers together while teaching others in our community. Why I say that is that when I am looking for answers to questions regarding a gardening, farming, environmental, sustainable living, cooking and want to talk to the experts, Cornell is the place to look for the answer. Whether one uses the website, webinars, or speaks with someone at the extension, the community can get answers to some of their toughest questions. Cornell is always offering programs, webinars, outreach, classes where the community can get involved with and what is important to them, thus strengthening the ties we have to each other.*

*- Sue Bloom, Master Gardener Volunteer*

# Master Gardener Volunteers

*The Master Gardener Volunteers provide horticultural programs and resources that educate home gardeners, youth, community gardeners, consumers of horticultural products, and neighbors teaching neighbors.*



## Help Desk:

Under the leadership of Peg Hite, 10 very active members of the help desk committee enjoy working at the in person desk, rotating turns every Wednesday from noon until two, answering garden related questions for the community. Free ph soil tests are also available at the help desk.

## Education Committee:

Under the expertise of Pat Martonis, the education committee wrote and received a grant for the Seed to Supper program, from May 2 to June 9 on Wednesday nights. A collaborative effort between Cornell staff and Master Gardeners created a unique and successful learning experience. Subjects included reading a seed packet, choosing vegetable plants, planning your garden, rotating crops, composting outside, worm composting, planting micro greens, and vegetable containers. Participants planted a section of the Master Gardener demo garden. Each class ended with a healthy dish that was made from produce that was demonstrated with an actual taste testing.

**Roof Garden:** Nine Master Gardeners have taken over the task of revitalizing the JCC roof garden. Currently the members are weeding the garden and identifying the plants that are there. Once phase one has been completed then a timeline could be established for phase two – organizing the next steps to take.

**Lady Bug Larvae Release:** As part of Cornell's Lost Lady Bug Project, Four Master Gardeners released lady bug larva into the demo garden and a wild area around JCC.

**Native Bee House:** The Master Gardeners were given a free "bee hotel" by the Bee Conservancy which was installed by the demo garden. In September 2021 bees started to use the tubes.

## Demo Garden:

Under the guidance of Wickie Stapleton, ten Master Gardener volunteers helped the Demo garden blossom this year in its new location at 525 Falconer Street. The Demo Garden worked with three 4x12 beds inside the community garden at JCC. We gave 9 - 4x4 sections to our gardeners to plant.

**Evening in the Garden (EIG):** EIG programming was held the third Wednesday of each month, April through September. 2021 topics included: Growing Tomatoes, Common Vegetables Diseases, Tomato Blights, Companion Planting, Irrigation in the Summer, Garden Tips for the Growing Season, Growing Vegetables in the Fall, Garden Cleanup aka "Putting the Beds to Bed" for Winter, Growing Garlic and Winter Sowing for Early Spring.

## Plant Sale:

The MGV led by Irene Culpepper, Deborah McAndrews, and Janet Forbes was held at a new date and location, June 5th on the grounds of JCC in front of the science building. The event was well attended with about 120 persons in attendance. Approximately 30 soil test were completed at the event.



## Chautauqua Institution:

The MGV were a partner organization with the Chautauqua Bird, Tree & Garden Club (BTG). A new smartphone App: [exploreCHQ.oncell.com](https://exploreCHQ.oncell.com) to highlight all the work completed in inventorying all the gardens on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution. Under the guidance of Nick and Sandy Stupiansky, 13 Master Gardener Volunteers helped survey 51 gardens.



*I love our Ag programs. We have something for everyone there! From large commercial farms, to homesteaders... women in agriculture... the LEAF program... There's no income, family status or age exclusion – there's no judgement about your experience or lack thereof. Our Ag programming is our spine – flexible as vertebrae, a supporting structure that everything is connected to and branches out from.*

*Heather Gregory, Nutrition Educator*

# Master Gardener Volunteers

*Continued from page 5.....*

From the onset, our Seed to Supper program was designed to be interagency, allowing for each facilitator to build upon their strengths. Facilitators were the 4-H Educator, SNAP-Ed Educator, and six Master Gardener Volunteers. In the process of developing our program, the facilitators each picked an area from the manual that individual was going to teach. The SNAP-Ed Educator selected a food that was related to that week's session to present how to make a healthy dish from these foods. Each of our participants were able to taste the food and provide feedback. Each session was structured as follows: one or two presentations, hands-on activity and a healthy snack. At the end of each session, the participants were given something to take home such as seed packets, a small microgreen garden, vegetable plants and containers. Every session had an actual demonstration. For example, for composting an actual worm composter was brought in and another facilitator showed different compost stages. This format engaged both the facilitator and the participants.

The major outcome was that the participants became first time gardeners, maintained their enthusiasm and were realistic in their expectations. It was asked that a fall get together be held to share each person's garden experiences.

One of our participants impact story: The participant and her husband have just retired. Neither of them had grown a garden and lived in a rural area. Only the female would attend the program but at the end of each session would relay what she learned to him. At the end of the program, the husband started to build a raised bed garden for the two of them to use next year.



## 2021 Impacts

- 167** questions answered through the Help desk
- 11** participants in the Seed to Supper program
- 9** spotted lady bug larvae released in sustainable landscapes
- 28** people attended Evening in the Garden programming
- \$1,387** raised at the plant sale fundraiser
- 23** Chautauqua Institution gardens highlighted
- 233** adults toured Chautauqua Institution gardens
- 440** children and **139** adults participated in the Chautauqua Institution school gardens
- \$150** was donated to the JCC community garden
- 72** Children's garden based books we purchased locally and donated to **24** Chautauqua Libraries

*The first thing that comes to my mind when I hear Cornell Cooperative Extension is Knowledge and support.*

*- Molly Brown, 4-H Educator*

# - STAY CONNECTED-



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