

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties

2020 Annual Report to the Community





SCHOHARIE COUNTY EXTENSION CENTER



OTSEGO COUNTY EDUCATION CENTER

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www.cceschoharie-otsego.org



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DON SMYERS



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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.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Cornell Cooperative Extension actively supports equal educational and employment opportunities. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender/gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, protected veterans, or individuals with disabilities. Cornell Cooperative Extension is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US

To learn more about programs offered at Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties, visit our website, www.cceschoharie-otsego.org.

To learn more about the work and outcomes of the Association's two Cornell regional ag program teams, visit their websites:

Central New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team: <https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu>

Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Team: <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu>

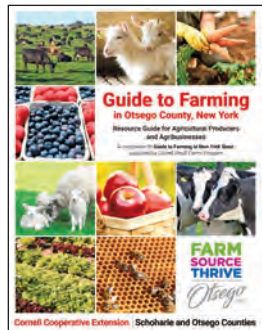
Or follow the links from our webpage, www.cceschoharie-otsego.org



To learn even more about us, read *Connections—the News Magazine of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties*. Sign up for our free online newsletter at <http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/connections>. The articles are chosen to meet the broad interests of community residents. Printed copies are available at our offices.



CCE presents *Your 2020 Guide to Area Farmers and Farmers' Markets*. The guide provides readers with product listings and contact information for area farmers' markets and local farms, compliments of Family Farm Day 2020 at <http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/resources/family-farm-day-2020-farm-list>.



The *Guide to Farming in Otsego County New York, a Resource Guide for Agricultural Producers and Agribusinesses*, provides farmers, food producers and processors, and agribusinesses with contact information and brief descriptions of services provided by local, regional, and national organizations and agencies. Find the Guide online at <http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/resources/guide-to-farming-in-otsego-county-new-york>.



Your contribution can assist us in outreach and programs that help area families and communities thrive in our changing world. Donate online at <http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/donate>.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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October 2020

Dear Friends of CCE:

This year has been like no other in recent history. Because of the pandemic, CCE embraced the emerging health crisis by providing timely and responsive programs while quickly mastering new technology for communicating with producers on their farms and families and youth in their homes. Association educators and those with the Central New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team and the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program have provided and will continue to provide ongoing assistance.

Learn about this year's programs and successes by reading this report, paying special attention to the inside section, "CCE's Key Responses to COVID-19."

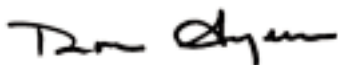
Here are some highlights of our programs this year:

- Despite the pandemic, CCE Association staff and the Ag Teams have been active and engaged. There were no reductions in agricultural programs, and in fact, many programs were created to address specifics of food safety and safe and approved farm practices. Educators also provided guidance to producers for completing Payroll Protection Program applications, farm re-opening plans, and other timely requests.
- The Association and the Teams have utilized the expertise of the Cornell Institute for Food Safety, the Employment and Agricultural Workforce Development Team, and the Small Farm Resiliency staff, among others.
- With the county and state fairs having been rescheduled for next year, staff 4-H educators created the 4-H Virtual Showcase to recognize the efforts of 4-H'ers. The Showcase is not an alternative to a fair experience, but it provided a benchmark of accomplishments for youth, parents, leaders, and staff.
- While the Afterschool Program was halted when local schools closed in spring 2020, the program has reopened in both Schoharie and Cobleskill-Richmondville Schools this fall.
- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Healthy Connections Nutrition Program have continued. Program delivery was modified to accommodate the required social distancing by using virtual communications programs, such as Zoom.

It has been said, we are all in this together, and certainly we are. As we look forward to better times for our communities, CCE will be here for you.

Thank you for your support and interest in CCE during this challenging period. Should you have any questions, please contact me at either the Cobleskill or Cooperstown office.

Sincerely,



Don Smyers
Association Executive Director

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AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Keeping Food Safe, Producers Healthy



Since May of this pandemic year, CCE Schoharie and Otsego Counties, along with other CCE associations statewide, has partnered with NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to implement the NYS CLEAN initiative which provided hand sanitizer and face coverings at no cost to farms and agribusinesses, helping ensure clean, safe food production, harvesting, and distribution.

Having little idea of how much sanitizer would be needed for the season, CCE's David Cox 'shot for the moon' and asked the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets distributor, to fill the truck. Cox called on Jim Saddlemire, crop farmer and hay dealer, and his brother David to help once again with transport using his full-sized flatbed trailer as they had during the floods from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.

Right on schedule, the Saddlemire brothers returned with twenty-six pallets of sanitizer, split between Northern Eagle Beverages in Oneonta and the Sunshine Fairgrounds in Cobleskill, both agreeing to house the sanitizer while CCE organized its distribution. Following a few weeks of advertised events for farm pick-up, Cox arranged for the remaining pallets to be available at ten area businesses around both counties for easier access.

This comment by an area farmer summed up the importance of this initiative well:

"We have been scrambling to find supplies, and are grateful that this opportunity will get products to farmers that will keep themselves and their customers safe."



CCE procured **4,500 gallons of sanitizer, 3000 (2.5 oz.) refillable bottles of sanitizer, and more than 6,000 face coverings to distribute free to farms, farmers' markets, schools, and camps.** Our partner NYCAMH assisted with initial distribution of supplies.

Additional distribution sites and more information can be found at:

<http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/events/2020/05/13/free-hand-sanitizer-and-face-coverings-for-farm-and-agribusiness-use>

FARM SOURCE THRIVE OTSEGO

Grants Help Young Farm Owners Expand



Chicory Creek Farm began production in 2016 with organic produce and pasture-raised chickens and pork. The young farm owners targeted local markets with a plan to expand production capacity as their business grew.

After three years, they had built a loyal customer base, and now, demand for their products was outpacing their capacity to produce and package enough to meet expanding sales. It would require a substantial investment to expand their cold storage capacity and modernize the packing facilities so they could meet the produce safety standards required.

You can imagine their dilemma! They had customers but needed to find a way to meet demand. With the help of the Otsego County Planning Department through a Micro-enterprise grant and assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension in qualifying for a NY Grown and Certified Food Safety grant, this young farm family was able to fund their expansion.

"Every day that we get to use a new piece of equipment or work in our new pack house we are grateful for the assistance we received from Otsego County and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Without these grants, it would have been much harder to expand production this year and find new markets with our GAP certification. Our efficiency has increased tenfold by having a functioning pack house that is much safer and cleaner than our previous set-up, and the tractor implements have dramatically improved our field production," said farmer Kate Rice-Mitchell.

Rural economies are dependent on a strong agricultural economy. Revenues generated through the local food system circulate repeatedly through rural communities, which provide a significant multiplier effect within the economy. Cornell Cooperative Extension is here to provide education, support and assistance to area farmers to help them succeed.



The *Guide to Farming in Otsego County* was developed as a complement to the Cornell Small Farms Program, *Guide to Farming in NY*. Our guide outlines **94 local, regional, and national resources for farmers** featuring an innovative cross-reference table to help users find the specific information and resources.

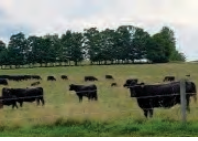
CENTRAL NEW YORK DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, AND FIELD CROPS TEAM

Team's Response from Farms to Pandemic

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops



Dairy



Livestock



Forages



Grains

The Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team (CNYDLFC) was formed to work with these important agricultural sectors regionally. The mission of this extension team is to

provide high quality educational programs that address the needs of dairy, livestock, and field crop producers in Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga, and Schoharie Counties. The team consists of a Dairy Specialist, a Livestock Specialist, and a Field Crops Specialist, led by a Farm Business Management Specialist, working throughout the eight-county region.

During this year, a full response to the COVID-19 pandemic was critically required. In response the team and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences created many extensive resources. These links are active and found on their webpage at <https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu>:

- NY Extension Disaster Education Network
- Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions
- Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions
- Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources
- Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers
- Cornell Farmworker Program
- www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en espanol)

Educational programs were also conducted. They include the following programs:

- Onboarding Dairy Employees—Safe, Engaged, and Productive from Day One
- Building Resilience during COVID-19 Requires Diligence
- Resources for Farm Business Safety Plan
- Dialing into Your Best Dairy-Podcast Series
- PRO-DAIRY Offers Webinars and Podcasts
- Prevention & Control of the Novel Coronavirus for Farms
- Interim Guidance for Animal Care Operations
- Livestock Trainings Online
- Virtual: To Market, To Market
- Virtual: Design Your Succession Plan



The CNYDLFC team expands the technical expertise offered by the Association to agriculture producers and agribusinesses.

EASTERN NEW YORK COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Partnership Provides Expertise

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program



The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program is one of the premier regional agricultural Cornell Cooperative Extension programs in New York, serving a large multi-county area in the Champlain Valley, Capital

Region, and Hudson Valley of the state. The team's specialists work together with Cornell faculty and extension educators statewide to address the issues that impact the vegetable, tree fruit, small fruit, and grape industries.

The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program provides educational programs and information to growers and agri-business professionals, arming them with the knowledge to produce profitably and market safe and healthful horticultural crops, contributing to the viability of farms and the economic well-being of New York State. Specifically, the program focuses on food safety, variety evaluation, market development, pest management, and cultural practices.

This year, the team responded to diverse challenges, COVID-19 assistance being the most critically sought by producers. Specific expertise was heightened to maintain the health of agricultural employees, safe handling of foods, and the integrity of the agricultural food system.

Program specialists continued to conduct research and educational programs on many important insects, diseases, and weeds in New York. On an ongoing basis they offered growers information and expertise on ways to improve their soil management, on using greenhouses to extend the growing season, and by working with organic farmers to determine their needs and offering alternatives to conventional production methods. By offering growers assistance with farm business management, labor relations, and marketing, they helped growers reduce the cost of doing business on the farm allowing this industry to expand.

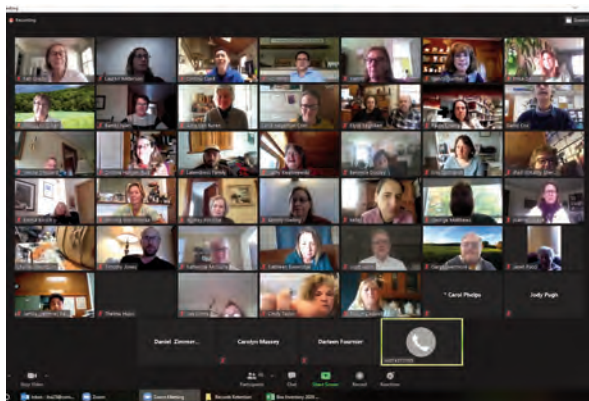
Visit their website at <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu> and go to their events page to view resources like “U-Pick Farm Practices during COVID-19 Pandemic” and “Growers: Are You Running Low on Fall Pumpkins?”—a listing providing NYS Produce Auction locations and contact information. Listen to or read episodes of their informative 2020 Biweekly Vegetable News Podcasts. Check out upcoming events like The Eastern New York Fruit and Vegetable Conference, normally held in Albany, which will be presented virtually in 2021.



Covering topics that include pests, soil health, greenhouses and tunnels, organics, food safety, farm business, and COVID-19, the ENYCHP team partnership expands the expertise provided by the Association.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Online Learning Answers the Need



Until 2004, Master Gardener Volunteer candidates from Schoharie, Otsego, and surrounding counties attended training at CCE Saratoga Co. in Ballston Spa. At the time, we were drawing one or two new volunteers annually. Something had to change. So surrounding county CCE educators and Association Ag Educator, David Cox, developed a new comprehensive Master Gardener Volunteer Training program, so participants could train closer to their home community. Since then, training classes have averaged between fifteen and twenty trainees.

Fast forward to 2020. By January, CCE colleagues Carla Crim, Delaware Co.; Garet Livermore, Herkimer Co.; and David Cox had outlined the ninth Master Gardener Volunteer Training program for our region, held on ten consecutive Mondays, September 21–November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for fifty hours of required class time. To share the travel burden, they planned to host classes among three locations in Cooperstown, Cobleskill, and Hamden.

Soon after, everything changed. The pandemic safety mandates closed our offices and suspended programming temporarily. So they had to change delivery method yet again. The program shift to online training was inevitable and relatively simple—half the class time for twice as many sessions, running through March 15, 2021.

Surprisingly the enrollment grew to forty trainees, the largest class since 2004, and by an odd twist of fate, an unexpected positive outcome during the pandemic.

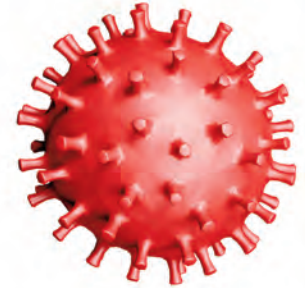
Scientific studies have concluded that access to nature is essential to human health and well-being. Our current Master Gardeners are helping people connect with nature by creating accessible gardens and gardening opportunities that also reignite one's connections with each other. What an enthusiastic boost this new class will bring to increase our Master Gardeners' capacity to engage our communities in need!



Upon course completion in the spring, this year's 40 Master Gardener trainees will become Master Gardener apprentices, who are expected to complete 50 hours of Master Gardener Volunteer service within a twelve-month period. The combined 2000 hours of volunteer service will benefit their communities as they join ranks with the over 23,000 Master Gardener Volunteers nationwide.

CCE in Action:

Key Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic



SPECIAL SECTION



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Schoharie and Otsego Counties

Agriculture Program; Farm Source Thrive Otsego

Initially, CCE Schoharie and Otsego Counties distributed 5,500 gallons of hand sanitizer, thousands of face coverings, and hundreds of 2 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer to area agribusinesses and farmers. With a

critical need to position agricultural producers for managing through the pandemic, *Connections EXTRA* was born under the direction of the ag staff. This digitally delivered digest directs users to rapidly-changing information, educational programs, and online services—provided through the Association’s resources and connections with the Regional Cornell Ag Teams, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell Institute of Food Safety, and other state and federal resources.



My 4-H Story

In the words of a graduating 4-H member, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Ride, because you’ll never know what’s around the next bend.



Photo by Jim Carrabba, NYCAMH

During the early stages of the pandemic, the public was alarmed with the prospect of food shortages. CCE continued its development of *What’s Good*, an online farmers’ market, ensuring continued access to local foods. As the pandemic progressed, the cancellation of the annual Family Farm Day event inspired the ag staff to create the *Guide to Area Farmers and Farmers’ Markets*, an online listing of local food producers.

Central New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team

Supporting our local ag community, the CNYDLFC Team provided instruction and one-on-one guidance for farmers at a time when clear direction was needed. The team conducted numerous programs dealing with a variety of concerns including topics like safe harvesting, writing reopening plans for farms, applying for the federal Paycheck Protection Plan loans, and guidance for hosting essential workers from other states.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops



Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program



The ENYCHP Team staff used their expertise to create special programming to respond to the unique circumstances created by the pandemic. Team members informed producers on writing farm business safety plans, the testing of farm packing sheds for COVID-19, safely harvesting commercial horticulture crops, understanding the state guidance for farms to prevent or respond to COVID-19, and guidance for cleaning and disinfecting food manufacturing facilities and food retail stores.



CCE’s pandemic response required administrative staff has provided support at home and in the office, making a stronger online presence with prog

**CCE's Key
Provided**

CCE provided support and technology, enabling farmers to work from home while continuing to provide services to communities during the early days of the pandemic.



My 4-H Story

member, "No matter what, remember fair lemonade, and go along for the what life has to bring you."

Key Responses to

Staff with support enabling them to work being to provide programs community members during of the pandemic.

Master Gardeners



Association Master Gardeners stepped up to the plate. In Otsego County, Master Gardeners created a self-guided tour of their All-America Selections Garden and the vegetable variety trial plantings. In Schoharie County, Master Gardeners displayed examples of straw bale gardening. Both allowed their communities to learn more about self-reliant gardening, even during the pandemic.



EFNEP and Healthy-Connections



One response by the nutrition staff was to create the *Life's Solutions* blog, filled with practical hands-on information for families, covering topics on how to deal with ingredient shortages like lack of yeast to using eggs as a protein source when meat was scarce on market shelves. The nutrition staff also had to meet the challenge of converting the traditional in-person EFNEP program delivery to a workable online format.



4-H and 4-H Afterschool

4-H responded by developing online resources for projects, collaborating statewide with



other 4-H educators to provide online opportunities for 4-H events, and providing guidance for 4-H club meetings either online or in person following state protocols. When met with the challenges presented by the cancelation of county and state fairs, our 4-H educators created something entirely new, the *4-H Virtual Showcase* to highlight 4-H members year-long project work. Our 4-H Afterschool Coordinator has been in constant communication with our local schools and is prepared to resume programs when regular classes begin.



an all-hands-on-deck effort. Administrative and technical assistance while working it possible for educators to provide programming for our communities.

CCE in Action!



Here is how you can support CCE outreach:

Making a donation is as simple as going to cceschoharie-otsego.org and clicking this button:



Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

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EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Teachable Moments Lead the Way to Change



Do you know a picky eater? Are you a picky eater? This is the challenge Lacy's frustrated mom, Sally, faced daily when preparing healthy meals for her daughter.

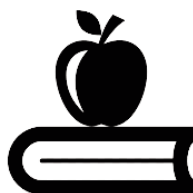
When Sally signed them up for EFNEP's six-lesson Parent and Child Cooking classes, she hoped that it might make a difference for her daughter, giving her the confidence to try new things.

"Lacy is an extremely picky eater. She isn't really open to trying new foods, and I find the most trouble getting her to eat different vegetables."

At the second lesson, Lacy was asked, "What is your favorite vegetable?" She responded by saying, "I like fruits, but I don't really eat vegetables except corn." But when seeing her peers enjoying the Chicken Fried Rice made with carrots, green pepper, onion, and broccoli that they made in class, it emboldened Lacy to try it. Surprised at how good it was, she proceeded to finish her whole bowl.

By the third lesson, trying spinach, a new-to-her vegetable, was a piece of cake for Lacy. At the end of lesson five her mom had this to say, "This is the first time in my daughter's entire life that she is eating every meal that I make lately, and I think it's all due to our participating in these classes. This has been a great experience for her and me, and we appreciate it very much. Lacy has also been helping me prepare meals at home and really enjoys it."

Although we changed their names to provide anonymity, their story is true. The key to EFNEP's success is reaching people when they are at a teachable moment. When reached at their teachable moments both mother and daughter experienced significant positive changes as a result of their EFNEP lessons.



When **teachable moments** occurred, **EFNEP lessons** led to these **outcomes** for participants: **89%** showed *improvement in overall diet quality*, **82%** showed *improvements in food safety practices*, and **57%** are *eating more vegetables daily*, **adding to the 42% who already were**.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

Wait for It



The minute that middle school student, Brody, walked into the classroom he didn't want to be in, he spied the green salad mix.

"I don't like salad; I'm not doing this," he stated strongly.

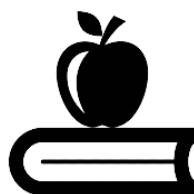
He promptly began his campaign by refusing the refreshing drink the rest of the class was sampling. Then he sat down, put his head on the desk, and refused to introduce himself. This was not a teachable moment for Brody.

His protest might have been successful if he had not made a tactical error—he forgot to plug his ears. Brody's teachable moment was about to begin. He heard the Healthy Connections Nutrition Educator say he could join in with the class at any time. It

advanced when he heard the excitement of his classmates talking about the food they were going to make. His head lifted off the desk. Once the preparation began, he fully engaged in a teachable moment.

Learning hands-on about knife safety during the food preparation, he said excitedly, "I never got to use a sharp knife before, but now I know how." Now ready to take a risk, he even tried the sparkler offered earlier, exclaiming, "I love it, I would drink this instead of soda!"

Sometimes we have to wait for change to take place. Brody had to hear it, then do it, then try it. Although Brody isn't his real name, his story is real, and so were the changes brought about for him as a result of this teachable moment—a new skill and an openness to try healthier alternatives.



The **Healthy Connections** nutrition education program was created to meet an audience not eligible for EFNEP. **Providing that more than 225 community residents**, who would otherwise not be served the opportunity to find **their own teachable moments**, created an ever-widening ripple effect when they share what they learned and the changes they made with family and friends.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The 4-H Virtual Showcase is Born



“Traditionally for 4-H’ers, fair week is an opportunity to exhibit their yearlong project work and show their project animals. It’s also a time when 4-H’ers make new friends, renew acquaintances, and enjoy what the fair offers, all the while creating lasting memories.”



In March our world changed because of the pandemic, and while disruptive for everyone, the uncertainty was keenly felt by youth. But even while schools went to online learning, graduation ceremonies were up in the air, and summer sports were canceled, there was still hope things would normalize. Consequently, in July when both the Schoharie and Otsego County Fairs were postponed until 2021, 4-H’ers deeply felt the loss of yet another tradition.

4-H educators and the organization at large felt that the loss could not be ignored. Alternate plans were sought. Following many discussions and conversations held statewide, a local plan was conceived. “Youth should be recognized for their efforts and they will be,” said 4-H Educator, Catherine Roberts. With the collaboration between Association team members, educators, and board and committee members, the 2020 4-H Virtual Showcase was created.

“Our showcase is unlike the fair experience—not a substitute for it—but we’ve endeavored to create a memorable record for youth. We didn’t want to lose an opportunity to celebrate youth accomplishments,” concluded Roberts. “The abilities of our 4-H youth are truly amazing, and we are happy we can recognize them,” said 4-H Educator Teresa Adell. “CCE of Schoharie and Otsego Counties is proud to have been able to provide a platform for 4-H’ers to showcase their achievements this year.”

To create the Virtual Showcase, youth were asked to make at home a photo or video record of their projects. From the submissions, Catherine Roberts and Teresa Adell created a virtual story board featuring more than 130 projects completed by 4-H’ers in both counties. The Showcase will be available online for family, friends, and the community to view. “It’s a bit of celebration and recognition of the year,” said Teresa Adell, “and we’re confident that youth and their families will treasure the Showcase.” Digital copies of the Showcase will be given to all 4-H’ers showing.



More than **500 youth** in **Schoharie and Otsego Counties 4-H Programs** are registered in over **70 Project Areas** running the gambit from **Animal Science and Horticulture to Robotics and Environmental Sciences**, and everything in between!

Their Words Describe the Impact



“4-H has taught me communications skills, the importance of community service . . . and, most importantly, leadership skills,” writes Makayla Ryder, a recent alumnus of the Schoharie County 4-H program. Makayla shares her story in the **My 4-H Story** column of the September–October **Connections**, the news magazine of CCE Schoharie and Otsego Counties.

4-H is a unique non-formal education program for youth, ages 5 to 19, that engages youth in learning by doing. Few organizations can boast the influence on positive life skills that Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H program can.

The **My 4-H Story** column in **Connections** is a voice of adult 4-H alumni who share stories of their 4-H years. Enjoy these short excerpts from select articles published in recent months.

“I am sure the experience of being immersed in a structured group of like-minded adolescents, led by compassionate, nurturing leaders helped develop a variety of personal and social skills, especially finding the self-confidence that was buried deep within me. The experience helped shape who I am today . . .” Kristin Pullyblank, CCE Board Member **(March/April 2020)**

“Early exposure and experience with public speaking has been very beneficial with my work and volunteer activities . . . being a leader . . . becoming Board President. It feels like I am really giving back to the family that gave so much to me. So, my message to all 4-H members and alumni is to continue paying it forward because it truly does come back tenfold.” Jason Stone, CCE Board President **(May/June 2020)**

“I have obtained certain skills that started in 4-H that have helped me excel through life and certain interests that have brought me to where I am today. I have lived it. I know what 4-H is capable of doing for a child . . .” Catherine Roberts, 4-H Educator **(July/August 2020)**



Did you grow up as 4-H'er, and would like to share how 4-H influenced your life? We invite you to share your **My 4-H Life** story in an upcoming issue. Contact Jan Ryder, Associate Editor, by emailing her at jrc28@cornell.edu or by calling 518-234-4303.

4-H AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Pictures Tell a 4-H Afterschool Story



CCE has operated 4-H afterschool programs in Schoharie County for nearly twenty years, providing a safe place for children after school, homework helper for academic support, physical activities for exercise and fun, cooperative games for interpersonal skills, and 4-H in-school clubs for personal growth.

The afterschool program continues this year, although the program has operated under difficult challenges during the pandemic. The Afterschool Program is fully licensed and operates under the supervision of NYS Dept. of Children and Family Services.

For this year's annual report, we are sharing a pictorial perspective. Please enjoy this montage of photographs that tell a 4-H Afterschool story.



COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS

Thank you all for saying yes to making a difference. Your time, talents, and dedication enable us to offer more to the communities we serve. You have our appreciation. Our board and advisory committee members are listed in a separate section. If we have missed your name, please know we value your effort, as well.

Master Gardeners Schoharie

Debra Bechtold
Carol Bodnar
Elizabeth Brown
Susan Carver
Michele Finin
Pamela Hart
Suzann Kipp
Dolores Kloczko
Margo Kyes
Diane Mills
Scott Mills
Leslie Rigley

Francine Stayer

Betsy Sywetz

4-H Schoharie

Colleen Badger
Jessica Barrett
Cori Bissonette
Sarah Blood
Bettina Brundege
Kathryn Bulka
Paige Bulmer
Jessica Butler
Tiffany Canning
Taylor Cater

Lisa Kuehnle

Amber Lape

Lynette Lawyer

Crystal Liddle

Stephanie Lincoln

Sarah Lloyd

Rebecca Louch

Meghan Mazzariello

Jennifer McGurn

Joe Moore

Kerry Moreland

Lacy Parrish

Julia Phillips

Hannah Pizza

Rachel Pollard

Stacey Price

Tammy Reagan

Cheryl Rechnitzer

Jennifer Rogers

Michael Rogers

Brionna Ryder

Connie Ryder

Jan Ryder

Susan Salisbury

Karen Schaffer

Rebecca Shaw

John Shaw Jr.

Brianne Slater

Patrick Slavinski

Kimberly Smith

Melinda Smith

Beth Spaulding

Eric Stanton

Michele Strobeck

Amy Sulas

Jennifer Swift

Tammy Tansey

Cynthia Traverse

Phyllis VanAmburgh

John Vanderwerken

Jacob VanEvera

Lydia VanEvera

Teresa VanWormer

Jennifer Walrath

Ben Weikert

Rebecca Whiteman

Kelly Yacobucci

Julie Yorks

Kory Yorks

Darlene Zurek

4-H Otsego

Master Gardeners Otsego

Ellen Alex
Susan Blass
Mark Boshnack
Chris Burrington
Mary Ellen Calta
Peter Coleman
Mary Ellen Crawford
Fiona DeJardin
Dianne Dirig
Tim Feury
Pati Grady
Susan Jones
Kathy Koch
Ellen LaSalle
Kim L'Heureux
Annette MacLeod
Robert McCann
Christine McGurrin
Susanna Membrino
Paul Mendelsohn
Elaine Nahman
Carol Phelps

Isabelle Charbonnel

Jennifer Conard

Kelly Coons

Shelby Coons

Sarah Davis

Michelle Echtner

Carrie Edsall

Kelly Edsall

Sandra Emanuel

Andrea Falco

Mark Fletcher

Gwendolyn Freiermuht

Laura Gagnon

Liz Goblet-Schubert

Elizabeth Hackney

Charles Harris

Faye Harris

Julie Herzog

Sarah Hoose

Jonathan Kaya

Theresa Kaya

JoAnne King

Randi Korona

Rachel Pollard

Stacey Price

Tammy Reagan

Cheryl Rechnitzer

Jennifer Rogers

Michael Rogers

Brionna Ryder

Connie Ryder

Jan Ryder

Susan Salisbury

Karen Schaffer

Rebecca Shaw

John Shaw Jr.

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Kimberly Smith

Melinda Smith

Beth Spaulding

Eric Stanton

Michele Strobeck

Amy Sulas

Jennifer Swift

Cynthia Traverse

Phyllis VanAmburgh

John Vanderwerken

Jacob VanEvera

Lydia VanEvera

Teresa VanWormer

Jennifer Walrath

Ben Weikert

Rebecca Whiteman

Kelly Yacobucci

Julie Yorks

Kory Yorks

Darlene Zurek

4-H Otsego

Julie Adelman

Carol Ainslie

Dayle Allen

Karen Andela

Janet Attanasio

John Attanasio

June Baker

Rebecca Barringer

Beth Bartlett

Jonathan Bartlett

Danta Bolin

Greg Bonczkowski

Sandra Bonczkowski

Jennifer Burkhart

Rudolph Burkhart

Kelly Cleaveland

Jeff Conklin

Stacie Connors

Hydie Cotten

Krista Curprier

Anna Dangca

Jessica DeBoer	Jessica Hausmann	Lisa Lippitt	Meg Preston
Michael DeBoer	Lisa Johnson	Dave McLean	Amy Proskine
Stephanie Decker	Nancy Johnson	Sarah Mellor	Holly Pullis
Luke DenBleyker	Kathryn Johnston	Susan Menendez	Doug Roberts
Jennifer Dibble	Lynn Joy	Eugene Miller	Kathy Scalisi
Amy Doody	Shirley Keene	Hannah Miller	Bethany Schidzick
Debra Dutcher	Desiree Kever	Hope Miller	Kevin Segit
Doug Dutcher	Mary Kay Kennedy	Jodi Mravlja	Bridgette Shepardson
April Erkson	Jennifer Kersmanc	Kristine Mravlja	Sue Smith
Nicole Field	Richard Kersmanc	Peter Mravlja	Jaclyn Turnbull
Celine Francisco	Deborah Kogut	Sandra Mravlja	Tammy VanBuren-Duke
Katie Gale	Diane Kroon	Michael Nelson	Lenita VanderKruik
Kay Gale	Lawrence Kroon	Virginia Nelson	Nicole VanDerwerker
Cathy Galley	Lisa LaLonde	Mary Lou Parker	April Vunk
Sonja Galley	Christina Layman	Lori Peck	MacKenzie Waro
Joshua George	Nancy Layton	Aurore Perrine	Mike Wolfe
Naomi Graham	Elizabeth Lesko	Christopher Perrine	Pam Woodrow
Mark Grocott	Sophia Lesko	Holly Peterson	Sharla Woodrow
Brenda Gross	Barbara Lilley	Cindy Powers	William Woodward
Jessica Hart	Iver Lindberg	Jessica Powers	

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

We appreciate your generosity. Your contributions help us keep our programs in action. Thank you making a difference in our communities!

Amazonsmile	The Hudson River Tractor Co.
Bank of Cooperstown	Gregory Northway
Bank of Richmondville	Julie Santoro
Cobleskill Veterinary Clinic	Schoharie County Home of Ongoing Learning
Community Bank of Cobleskill	Schoharie Valley Farm
Community Bank of Cooperstown	John Scott
Dake Family Fund	Bruce Smith
Farm Credit East	Sterling Insurance Co.
Fenimore Asset Management	Stewart's Foundation
Five Counties Charity Fund	Tractor Supply Company
Michele Finn	Elsa Van Glad-Varrecchia
Mark Fitzgerald	Katherine Venette
Judy Hoffman	Wayne Bank

2020 STAFF AND REGIONAL TEAMS

Administrative and Educator Staff

Teresa Adell, Otsego 4-H Subject Educator
Lauren Anderson, Finance & Human Resources Administrative Assistant
Colleen Badger, 4-H Administrative Assistant
James Barber, Otsego Ag Implementation Specialist
David Cox, Agriculture and Horticulture Program Leader
Kimberly Ferstler, Healthy Connections Program Educator
Robin Henson, Administrative Assistant
Michelle Leveski, EFNEP Nutrition Program Educator
Mayra Richter, Finance & Human Resources Manager
Catherine Roberts, Schoharie 4-H Resource Educator
Jan Ryder, *Connections* Associate Editor
Susan Salisbury, Afterschool Program Coordinator
Madelyn Sanchez, Operations Coordinator, Cooperstown office
Linda Sheets, Facilities Custodian
Don Smyers, Executive Director

Afterschool On-Site Activity Leaders

David Avitabile, Schoharie
Megan Haugh, Radez Elementary, CRCS
Sarah Hendrickson, Senior Leader, Schoharie
Serena Hitchcock, Senior Leader, Ryder Elementary, CRCS
Doreen Russo, Ryder Elementary, CRCS

CNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team

David Balbian, Area Dairy Specialist
Ashley McFarland, Area Livestock Specialist
Erik Smith, Area Field Crops Specialist
Nicole Tommell, Area Ag Business Management Specialist

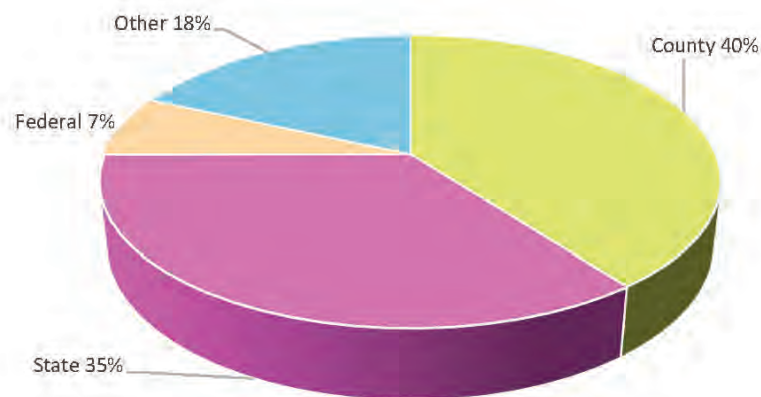
Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

Mike Basedow, Tree Fruit Specialist
Charles Bornt, Team Leader, Vegetable Specialist
Dan Donahue, Tree Fruit Specialist
Sarah Elone, Field Technician - Hudson Valley Region
Natasha Field, Field Technician - Capital Region
Andy Galimberti, Field Technician - Champlain Region
Ethan Grundberg, Vegetable Specialist
Elizabeth Higgins, Business Management Specialist
Elisabeth Hodgdon, Vegetable Specialist
Laura McDermott, Team Leader, Small Fruit & Vegetable Specialist
Jim Myers, Viticulture Specialist
Teresa Rusinek, Vegetable Specialist
Crystal Stewart-Courtens, Vegetable Specialist
Chelsea Truehart, Senior Administrative Assistant
Maire Ullrich, Vegetable Specialist

ASSOCIATION FUNDING

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie and Otsego Counties is financially supported by county, state, and federal funds. This cooperative funding partnership links local residents and communities to Cornell University and the nationwide land-grant university system of research and education. Our core governmental funding is augmented with grants, contracts, program fees, and private contributions. Following is an estimate of the financial support received between 10/01/19 through 09/30/20.

<i>2020 Financial Support for 10/01/2019 - 09/30/2020</i>	
<i>County</i>	
Funding Appropriation	464,780
County Contracts	29,792
Total County Support	494,572
<i>State</i>	
County Law 224 Funds	99,336
NYS Ag & Markets	6,547
Direct Aid, University Resources, Fringe Benefits	333,562
Total State Support	439,445
<i>Federal</i>	
Smith-Lever	31,998
EFNEP (nutrition education program)	48,744
CACFP (free & reduced reimbursements)	4,245
Total Federal Support	84,987
<i>Other Sources</i>	
Program Participation Fees	124,697
Grants, Contracts, Special Projects	41,926
Contributions, Fundraising	25,570
Interest Income, Rental Income, Misc Income	35,467
Total Other Sources of Support	227,660
Total Support to Association	\$1,246,665



Funding Source Definitions:

County Appropriations – represent funds from Schoharie and Otsego Counties to support the work of the association.

Direct Aid – represents fringe benefits paid on behalf of the association through Cornell University.

Federal Smith-Lever Funds – support through the federal enabling legislation for Cooperative Extension, administered by state land-grant institutions.

County Law 224 Funds – represent legislative support from NYS for operation of county cooperative extension associations.

Cornell Cooperative Extension **Schoharie and Otsego Counties**

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