

Connections

The News Magazine of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

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Picture Perfect Day!



We have a winner! Jackson Szaro pets a cow at Stone House Farm in Sharon Springs in the winning photo from the Family Farm Day photo contest. Jeannine Bonhoff, Jackson's grandmother, took the winning photo. Jackson and Jeannine were among more than 2,500 people who meet farmers (and sometimes their livestock) at some of the 37 farms participating in CCESO's 2024 Family Farm Day on August 24th. See more FFD pics on page 3.

Plan to Attend CCESO's Annual Meeting on October 16th

CCESO's 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on October 16th from 6 to 8 p.m. in Morris Hall's Craven Lounge at SUNY Oneonta. All residents of Schoharie and Otsego counties are welcome to attend the meeting. The program will begin with the annual Business Meeting which will be followed by hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to mingle with CCESO's Board and staff, and win door prizes. RSVP requested (but not required) by registering at cceschoharie-otsego.org or by calling 518-234-4303 x111.

To attend the Business Meeting via Zoom contact Nicole Thompson at neh57@cornell.edu or 518-234-4303 x111.



**Jump Start Your
4-H Experience
Information
Night**

**Tuesday, October 8th, 6:30 p.m.
Cobleskill Extension Center**

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Subscribe to CCESO's "Connections EXTRA!" email bulletin and follow CCESO's agriculture-focused social media profiles to receive timely news about agricultural events and opportunities. CCESO's agricultural social media pages include a general agriculture profile on Facebook @CCESchoharieandOtsegoAG as well as Family Farm Day-specific Facebook and Instagram profiles @FamilyFarmDay. Contact us at schoharie-otsego@cornell.edu or 518-234-4303 x111 to learn more about CCESO's agriculture program, or to sign up to receive the **Connections EXTRA!** email bulletin.

FIND US ONLINE

Visit us at cceschoharie-otsego.org

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Main association news: CCEschoharieOtsego
Nutrition education: EFNEPCCESchoharieOtsego;
HeathyConnectionsCCESchoharieOtsego
Master Gardeners: CCEOtsegoMG; CCEschoharieMG
4-H: schohariecounty4H; otsegocounty4H
Ag education and programs:
CCESchoharieandOtsegoAG; AnniesProjectNYS;
FamilyFarmDay
Farm to School: LocalFoodsHealthySchools

Follow us on **Instagram**:

Master Gardeners: otsegomastergardener
Family Farm Day: familyfarmday

Follow our **blog**:

Nutrition education: Life's Solutions:
blogs.cornell.edu/efnep-schoharie-otsego



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.

SEND YOUR COMMENTS

CCE Schoharie Otsego offers unbiased, research-based education and outreach to improve the lives of all residents of both counties. We want to hear how CCESO's resources have helped you, and we welcome feedback about how we can improve. Please send your comments to the CCESO offices in either county, or contact Executive Director Liz Callahan at eac283@cornell.edu. Thank you!

Vol. 7, No. 4, October-December 2024

**Published regularly by Cornell Cooperative Extension
Schoharie and Otsego Counties**

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New York State College of Human Ecology, and New York
State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University,
Cooperative Extension Associations, county governing bod-
ies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

Family Farm Day, continued from page 1



Randi Korona explains the robot milker at Stone House Farm in Sharon Springs. (Submitted by Linda Wegner)



Cousins visiting Grandpa's observation hive at Mickle Hollow Maple in Warnerville. (Submitted by farmer/owner Dean Haskin)



Enjoying a hay ride at Maple Hill Syrup Farm in Cobleskill. (Submitted by CCE Staff)



Visitors learn about honey bees at Stone Mountain Apiary in Schoharie. (Submitted by farmer/owner Bob Muller)



Giving goats a snack at Abba's Acres in Cobleskill. (Submitted by Rebecca Hotaling Nix)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie & Otsego Counties

Free!
Annual Meeting

WEDNESDAY

October 16, 2024

6:00PM – 8:00PM

**Craven Lounge
Morris Conference Center
SUNY Oneonta**

CCESO's brief Annual Business Meeting & Hors d'Oeuvres

Learn more about CCEO's innovative education and outreach activities
Meet new staff members and win door prizes

You may also register to attend the business meeting via Zoom.

To RSVP to attend (free), or to register for the Zoom link, or for more information:
scan the QR code, email neh57@cornell.edu, or call (518) 234-4303 ext. 111



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.

Meet CCESO's New Staff



NELTA MILLER

Hello, Schoharie and Otsego County residents. My name is Nelta Miller, the new Healthy Connections Nutrition Educator. I was born and raised in Schoharie County. I graduated from Gilboa-Conesville Central School, and I continued my education at SUNY Cobleskill. After earning my degree in Child and Family Services, I took a position at Schoharie County Community Action Program (SCCAP), Facilitating the Displaced Home Makers Program. I went on from there to teaching Independent Living Skills at Berkshire Farms (Schoharie County).

It has always been a passion of mine to reach out, and help people of all ages, gender and ethnicity to empower and enrich their lives.

I am excited to join the Cornell Cooperative Extension Team, and I look forward to meeting all of you.

You can contact Nelta at nbm53@cornell.edu or 518-234-4303 x120.



MICHAELA FISHER

Hi all! My name is Michaela Fisher and I am the new Community Energy Educator for Schoharie and Otsego County. I was born and raised in rural upstate NY and am a lifetime 4-H'er, having been enrolled in the program from the time I was five until I was eighteen! I have always had a passion for homesteading, growing up around horses, pigs, chickens, and more. I currently own a herd of Nubian dairy goats as well as a couple livestock guardian dogs, and a horse named Wicki. I live near the Cobleskill Reservoir and have spent many an evening walking along the pond's shores. If I am lucky on some of those days, I get treated to the view of a majestic bald eagle.

I love this community, and when I was offered the chance to work for Cornell Cooperative Extension and serve you all I was thrilled! I can't wait to get to work and help people save money on their energy bills and work with my community to become more energy independent!

You can contact Michaela at [maf396@cornell.edu](mailto:mef396@cornell.edu) or 518-234-4303 x114.



MAEGAN FREEMAN

Hello all! My name is Maegan Freeman and I am joining the Schoharie and Otsego County CCE Staff as a SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator. I am transitioning from Delaware County CCE where I held that title for 8+ years. I am thrilled to continue to serve residents of Otsego and Delaware Counties. I was born and raised in Chenango County and enjoy the small-town environment. I graduated from SUNY Oneonta with a Bachelors in Dietetics and a minor in Personal Training. Health and fitness are two major passions of mine.

I am looking forward to continuing my work as a nutrition educator and reaching members of the community. There is nothing better than encouraging a youth to try a new food and find out that they actually like it! I'm excited to make more connections and continue to guide the community to healthy choices.

You can reach Meagan at: mef265@cornell.edu.

Schoharie and Otsego Counties 4-H Happenings



Throughout the summer, Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H youth have been preparing project work for exhibit at fairs and animals for competition.

Fifty-six 4-H members from across Otsego and Schoharie counties showcased their animals at The Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show in July. The Farmers' Museum works with Cooperative Extension's 4-H educators and clubs throughout Central New York to produce the show each year. The Junior Livestock Show is certainly a salute to youth in agriculture where 4-H'ers work to sharpen their skills and enhance their knowledge as they care for and prepare their dairy, beef, swine, sheep, and goats for competition.

A few weeks later, 4-H youth were eager to participate in the 2024 Otsego County Fair and the Schoharie County Sunshine Fair. Each fair officially started for many 4-H members when they presented their non-animal projects to be judged and displayed within Martin Hall and the Exhibit Hall buildings. Wonderful evaluators encouraged, critiqued, and judged items entered by hardworking and talented 4-H youth. Projects ranged from sewing, food, fine arts and photography to engineering, horticulture,



and woodworking. Each youth exhibit was arranged by discipline with the finished product being a colorful and diverse display of all things 4-H. Throughout the week, some youth participated as teen leaders to assist with youth building activities while others practiced their public speaking skills by delivering presentations to fairgoers.

There was no shortage of 4-H animals at the fairs this year! The animal show rings were bustling with livestock and horses being showcased in front of



2024 Otsego County Junior Livestock Competition participants



judges. Each show highlighted the results of hours of practice, patience, and skills of 4-H youth. Spectators were able to cheer on 4-H youth during the many animal species shows which included poultry, rabbit, beef, dairy, goat, sheep, swine, horse, and dog.

Soon after the end of the county fairs, the New York State Fair began. Both Otsego and Schoharie County 4-H programs were well represented by 4-H youth who showcased their animals, participated

in contests, and exhibited non-animal projects within the 4-H Youth Building.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties is so proud of 4-H youth and all the hard work they put into their projects and animals. Now that the fair season is a fond memory, it is time to forge ahead with the 2024-2025 4-H year. Enrollment is in full swing, with the addition of new volunteers, clubs, and youth members. Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H programs are looking forward to the start of the new 4-H year and are determined to continue to provide hands-on, learn-by-doing educational experiences for youth within the community.

For information about enrolling in 4-H in Otsego or Schoharie County, contact 4-H Program Coordinator Nancy Brumaghim at nb622@cornell.edu or (518) 234-4303 ext. 117.



2024 Schoharie County Junior Livestock Competition participants

The 4-H Afterschool Newspaper Club Report



The 4-H Afterschool Program (ASP) at the Schoharie Central School is starting the school year with the students designing their clubs. The newspaper club is just getting organized so they will resume their writing in the next edition.



The students who know how to play chess are teaching chess to the other children. They enjoy playing chess and ask to play frequently.



The 4-H ASP students had fun creating paper bag puppets.



Evenings in the Garden Program Concludes



The CCESO demonstration garden at 123 Lake Street in Cooperstown has been bustling this summer with more than just pollinators! Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers have been busy maintaining this 12-bed demonstration garden to showcase a variety of vegetable, herb, and flower plantings, methods and styles.

While visitors are welcome to visit the garden anytime, CCESO was thrilled to offer the Evenings in the Garden program series where Master Gardener Volunteers shared information on container gardening, herbs, All-America Selections, and Cornell's Vegetable Varieties Trial Garden. Many vis-

itors turned out for the August tomato tasting where over 20 varieties were sliced and sampled (see the article on "Tomatopalooza."

The Evenings in the Garden series ended on September 26 with a focus on cover crops and seed saving. Otsego Master Gardeners were also doing free soil pH tests.

The CCESO demonstration garden in Cooperstown is a public garden maintained by the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers. Visitors can enjoy the garden on their own during daylight hours or attend a workshop.



New Energy Hub Advisor Helping Residents Save Energy and Money in Schoharie and Otsego Counties

Did you know that throughout New York State there are people dedicated to helping you to "green your wallet" through smart energy choices? CCESO's new Community Energy Educator, Michaela Fisher, is dedicated to doing this by working directly with individuals and businesses in Schoharie and Otsego counties. Michaela's program is part of the Mohawk Valley Clean Energy Hub. The Hub is tasked with linking residents of our region to the clean energy economy by connecting them with resources to save money by making their homes more energy efficient.

Community energy advisors like Michaela are NOT salespeople. They are here to empower residents with information about NYSERDA programs that support the cost of energy-saving measures like

insulating homes, installing heat pumps, or installing solar panels. Michaela can also help residents get a free energy audit, where a licensed contractor runs tests to establish where your home is losing energy, and then provides recommendations on how to make your home more energy efficient.

Energy advisors can help both residents and businesses get energy upgrades that will save money. Everyone deserves an affordable and cozy home or business, and Michaela is dedicated to helping you get there!



Tomatopalooza

BY FRANCINE STAYTER, OTSEGO MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER



It isn't often that you are able to sample 22 varieties of tomatoes in all colors, shapes, and sizes. The Otsego Master Gardeners held a tomato tasting event at the August Evening in the Garden program. The tomatoes came from the CCE Gardens and the gardens of many Master Gardeners and staff. Everyone enjoyed sampling the tomatoes and then picking both their favorite tomato in each of several categories including cherry/cocktail tomatoes, slicing tomatoes, and cooking tomatoes. Someone even brought a saltshaker to heighten the tasting experience.

It was a convivial evening with everyone sharing taste preferences, tomato experiences, and tips. The bonus was that all the tomatoes sampled grow well in our area as we could plainly see and taste. Master Gardeners could share interesting stories of many of the tomatoes. The Berkeley Tie Dye was bred in California as a cross between Cherokee Purple and Green Zebra. Rose de Berne is a Swiss heirloom considered to be the Brandywine of Europe.

The tasting was a chance to think about what tomato you'd like to grow in your 2025 garden as well as talk to gardeners who had grown the tomatoes. Tasting offers much more than beautiful catalog photos. Our tasters took their task very seriously. When votes were counted, there were many favorites but these tomatoes topped the list:



Small/Cherry Tomato Category: Sweet 100 and Sun Gold tied



Favorite Slicing Tomato: Rose de Berne

Favorite Cooking Tomato: Korean Long

From all the tomatoes sampled, we asked everyone which tomatoes they would like to grow in their 2025 garden. Rose de Berne, Sun Gold, Korean Long, Berkeley Tie Dye, Sweet 100, Orange Banana, Paul Robeson, and Marmalade Skies headed the list.

It was an engaging feast for the senses, and everyone was able to take home tomatoes to share. Thanks to the Master Gardener Growers and Helpers.



(front) Darleen Fournier, Francine Stayter, Celia Oxley, (rear) Susan Jones, Fiona Dejardin, Suzanne Belew, and Tina McGurrin. It was truly a Tomatopalooza!

Cultural Roots of Eastern Europe: Vegetable Varieties Trial Garden



Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers, Tina McGurrin and Peter Cole-man with 10 pounds of onions from the VVTG Garden.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Garden-Based Learning

Cultural Roots of Eastern Europe ONIONS



Clear Dawn Onion (*Allium cepa*):

This variety is a long-day type storage onion.

Mature bulbs of this winter storage onion will be round, medium-sized and yellow.

It's a great keeper storing for up to 7 months.

Growing Tips:

Provide rich, loamy soil and steady moisture.

Keep well weeded and don't allow weeds to become large before pulling as doing so may dislodge the onion plant roots.

When the onion tops start to yellow and are falling over, stop watering to allow the soil dry out before harvesting.

With special thanks to



VVTG Cabbage at the demonstration garden in Cobleskill maintained by the Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Garden-Based Learning

Cultural Roots of Eastern Europe CABBAGE



Early Jersey Wakefield Cabbage
(*Brassica oleracea*):

This variety has been a reliable favorite for US gardeners since the 1840s, especially in northern climates.

This heirloom cabbage variety quickly produces large, dense, elongated 7" heads, with a distinctly sweet flavor that is ideal for eating raw in salads and slaws, cooking, or pickling.

Growing Tips:

Cabbage requires fertile, well-drained soil and plenty of water for solid non-splitting heads. Water at least 1" per week, more in extreme heat.

Harvest heads when they become firm.

Cut the heads off the plant leaving the base in the ground and smaller heads will develop around the base.

With special thanks to



Cucumbers, Squash, and Peas . . . OhMy!



There are so many variables that can impact the yield, taste and quality of your garden from year to year. Soil condition, rain fall, humidity, and temperature are only a few things that can impact your plants in a growing season.

As we are nearing the end of our harvest season in the demonstration garden in Cooperstown, we wanted to share a few of our favorite varieties:

Sugar Snap Peas (*Pisum sativum*): These were a particularly delicious and juicy variety and a All-America Selections (AAS) winner in 1979. This variety is still good in our book!

Green Light Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*): Crisp and refreshing, this variety was an AAS winner in 2020 and produced an abundance of tasty summer snacks. Grow Green Light on stakes or poles for a productive, easy-to-harvest vertical garden that will yield 40 or more spineless fruits per plant. This cucumber is parthenocarpic meaning it is a seedless mini cucumber that does not need pollination.

'Juliet' Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*): This indeterminate vine tomato was also an AAS winner in 1999. These tomatoes are tasty, resistant to several diseases, and they don't crack!

'Galad' Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*): Perfect for slicing, this determinate (bush tomato) was an AAS winner in 2020. Not only is this delicious, but it also has a high level of Late Blight resistance!

Interested in learning more about other varieties of tomatoes? Check out the "Tomatopalooza" article.

Eggplant Icicle (*Solanum melongena*): This beauty produced very well in the garden this summer. A 2022 AAS winner, the icicle eggplant has less spines, large fruits, and few seeds. This eggplant also holds up to insect damage.

Like most gardeners we learned a lot from our plants this year and were happy with the results. Aside from some sampling and dishes prepared by volunteers and staff, the abundance of the garden's produce is donated to the Cooperstown Food Pantry.

A special thanks to the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers who have been tending to the garden this year and making it both beautiful and bountiful.



Putting Your Garden to Bed: Do's and Don'ts



As we are approaching the end of the gardening season, CCESO is excited to host a workshop with a very special guest from Cornell's New York State Integrated Pest Management Program. Please join us on Saturday, October 5 for a program on "Putting Your Garden to Bed: Do's and Don'ts." Dr. Dunn-Silver will lead a discussion on how and when to clean up your vegetable or flower gardens. Sanitation (removing diseased plants) is an important part of good gardening integrated pest management. Learn about when it's best to "leave the leaves" for beneficial insects to over winter and what to clean up to decrease tick habitat. This interactive presentation will be held at the CCESO Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown. Following the presentation there will be a walking tour of the new CCESO demonstration garden to discuss how you

might implement what you've learned. This program is free but pre-registration is REQUIRED by visiting cceschoharie-otsego.org or call 607-547-2536 ext. 235. Space is limited so please register by October 5, 2024.



Cooperstown Education Center is Focus of Fundraising Appeal

Thanks to the support of friends like you, the new teaching garden at the Otsego Education Center has blossomed. It's now time to turn our attention to raising support for the exterior rehabilitation of CCESO's adjacent Otsego Education Center. For over 75 years this building has been the home of Otsego County Extension's efforts to promote community sustainability, resilience and vitality. CCESO is seeking funding to stabilize the front porch; repair (or replace where needed) the wood clapboards and trim;

repair the chimney; and scrape, prime, and paint the building. Your support will help us to leverage other funding! Consider supporting CCESO when making your year-end gifts. Your support for the rehabilitation of the Cooperstown Education Center, or for CCESO's operations, at any level, will have a great impact. Please take a moment to make a gift today by visiting cceschoharie-otsego.org, or by sending a check or money order to CCESO's offices in Cooperstown or Cobleskill (addresses on page 2).

Assemblyman Tague's Ag Tour Welcomes NYS Lawmakers To Otsego County



Otsego County 4-H members, Julia Vunk & Maxwell Pullis talking to Senator Roxanne Persaud about their 4-H experiences during NYS Assemblyman Chris Tague's annual NYS agriculture familiarization tour.

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension's Nutrition Programs

EFNEP and Healthy Connections



- ✓ Build habits of healthy eating and activity for a lifetime
- ✓ Learn to make meals that save time and money
- ✓ Try out new dishes and skills
- ✓ Practice food safety and reduce food waste when selecting, prepping, and storing food

Where adults and youth learn by doing!



Whether participating in a group class, one-on-one lesson, or a nutrition event, either online or in person, these programs can make a difference for your family and you!

To learn more about these programs or to sign up, contact our Nutrition Program Educators:



Michelle Leveski
EFNEP Nutrition Program
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Healthy Connections Nutrition Program
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FALL FRUITS & VEGGIES

Building Healthy Habits: Food and Community Nutrition

QUICK TIPS

Thanksgiving Food Safety

Stay safe from food borne illness this Thanksgiving by following these simple tips:

1. Before preparing food and after handling meat, poultry, raw eggs, and flour, wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and warm water. Wash cutting boards, counter, dishes, and utensils with hot, soapy water before starting to prepare another dish.
2. Thaw frozen food on a plate in the refrigerator, in cold water you change every 30 minutes, or in the microwave.
3. Keep hot foods hot- 140 degrees or hotter. Use crock pots, chafing dishes, or warming trays to keep foods hot.



4. Keep cold food cold- 40 degrees or colder. Take cold foods from the refrigerator right when you are ready to serve them. Set bowls in larger bowls filled with ice.

5. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours. Place leftovers in small, shallow containers so they cool quickly.

6. Cook your turkey until it reaches 165 degrees. Use a food thermometer to check the temperature in the turkey breast.

Please note that it will take 2-3 days for a frozen turkey to thaw safely in a refrigerator.



**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**

GET MORE *Healthy* RECIPES

Cranberry Applesauce

Makes 12 servings, serving size 1/2 cup

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 pounds of apples, peeled, cored, and chopped (8-9 medium apples)
- 1 cup of water
- 1 1/2 cups cranberries (fresh or frozen)
- 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice (optional)

Directions:

1. Wash hands with soap and water
2. In a large saucepan, combine all ingredients. Bring to a boil, then lower heat to simmer. Cover and cook 20-30 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and let cool slightly. Use a potato masher or fork to mash mixture to the consistency you want. Serve warm or cold.
4. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours

Find more recipes at: <https://fnec.cornell.edu/for-participants/recipe-table/>

Nutrition Facts for 1/2 cup serving: 80 calories, 0g total fat, 0g saturated fat, 0g trans fat; 0% added calories from fat; 0mg cholesterol, 100mg sodium, 21g total carbohydrates, 2g dietary fiber, 17g total sugars, 6g added sugars, 0g protein, 0mcg Vitamin D, 12mg calcium, 0mg iron, 103mg potassium, 6mg vitamin C

Source: FoodHero.org

Kids Corner

Help your child make handprint turkeys to decorate your holiday table. Trace your child's open hand (fingers spread wide) on construction paper. Cut out the traced hand shapes. The thumb is the turkey's head, and the fingers are its feathers. Have your child color the turkey using crayons, colored pencils, markers, or paint.



MEET YOUR EDUCATOR:

Michelle Leveski
(518) 234-4303 ext. 115
mml39@cornell.edu

Sign up for a FREE class!

All Schoharie and Otsego County residents are eligible for our fun, interactive, supportive nutrition education classes.

REACH OUT TODAY TO SIGN UP!

 Find us on:
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<http://www.facebook.com/adoptinghealthyhabits>

 **Instagram**

Adopting Healthy Habits

This material is funded by the USDA's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

Highlights from The Bottom Line

The Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program's (ENYCH) Business Management Newsletter for Fruit and Vegetable Farms in Eastern New York. Sign up to Receive the Latest News and Events Relevant to Eastern New York Farms at: <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php>

Research You Can Use: The Impact of Large-scale Solar Development on Farm Land Values: Evidence from New York State

Energy projects compete for land with agriculture, potentially leading to undesired farmland loss and appreciation. The study authors looked at more than 12,000 parcel-level farmland transactions between (2007-2021) before and after 2015 when policies like the Shared Renewables Program (SRP) boosted the demand for land for large scale solar projects. They found that large parcels within two miles of substations sold for 15-18% more than comparable parcels located further away a few years after the SRP program's implementation. This effect is absent for small parcels (<10 acres) suggesting their finding is unrelated to housing demand. They also found that farmland parcels within two miles of substations in regions where solar developers can fetch a higher electricity price become ~20% more expensive than comparable parcels in low-electricity-price areas a few years post-SRP.

Li, Zhiyun and Zhang, Wendong and Ortiz-Bobea, Ariel, The Impact of Large-scale Solar Development on Farmland Values: Evidence from New York State (August 30, 2024). Cornell S.C. Johnson College of Business Research Paper, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4942012> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4942012>

Funding Opportunity: COVID Relief Funds Still Available for Farm Employees

Federal grant funding "to defray worker expenses incurred preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic" is supposed to be distributed to frontline farm and food employees who worked in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. For New York farmers, a trusted partner to direct employees to receive this payment is PASA (Pennsylvania Sustainable Agriculture), a dedicated website to administer the **Farm and Food Workers Relief Program**. New York employers should direct employees to this website farmworkers.com to access this payment if they are eligible. Details about eligibility can be found at the PASA site, and the PASA's team of Customer Support associates are

available for assistance via email at support@pasafarming.org (English) and aypoyo@pasafarming.org (Español), or by phone toll free at 833-469-3397 during the following hours: Monday, 4-8 pm (EDT) Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (EDT) Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 4-8 p.m. (EDT). PASA also developed a flyer about the program in English and Spanish, download here: **PASA FFWR Flyer – English-Spanish**

Online Program: ASL101

Agricultural Supervisory Leadership, Transition to Supervisor. Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development's flagship online course, Transition to Supervisor, equips aspiring and new managers with essential leadership skills tailored for the agricultural industry. New managers, those looking to step into supervisory roles, and experienced managers can also benefit from the course. With live weekly Zoom discussions every Tuesday, Nov. 6-Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. To get the most out of the course, students should plan to spend a minimum of two hours each week on combined course activities.

Next Up: Labor Roadshow VIII

In person sessions Dec. 11 & 13; online sessions Dec. 17 & 18

NYS Ag & Markets Food Access Expansion Grants

Grants to increase food access through farm stands, retail stores, mobile markets, or food cooperatives. Grant funds available for the costs of capital infrastructure projects, including services and expenses for the cost of construction, renovation, alteration, rehabilitation, improvements, installation, acquisition, repair or replacement of buildings, equipment, or facilities for the development and expansion of retail food stores.

RFP 0332 - Food Access Expansion Grant Program | Agriculture and Markets (ny.gov)

Highlights from the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team (CNYDLFC) Newsletter

Subscribe [here](https://cnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu) or visit <https://cnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu>

Cornell Agricultural Marketing Research Program Meat Processing & Marketing Workshop, Oct 22, 6:30 p.m. at SUNY Cobleskill

Post-pandemic consumer demand for locally raised meats, sourced directly from the farm remains strong as consumers appreciate the quality and value when they purchase meat from local farms. While new demand presents an opportunity for New York's livestock farmers, selling meat direct-to-consumer also presents challenges and risks. This workshop teaches producers how to avoid and address common challenges they encounter with meat processing and direct-to-consumer meat marketing. The series coincides with the announcement of a new Meat Processor Directory, an addition to the **MeatSuite.com** directory of bulk meat farm products. \$10/farm and includes dinner. Pre-registration by Oct. 17.

Feeders School

One-day on-farm training for dairy farm feeders. Offered in English and Spanish in Little Falls on Oct. 29th and in Schuylerville on Oct. 30. Stations with hands-on activities/demos. Lunch Included. Pre-registration by Oct. 17.

USDA Launches Assistance Network to Support Financially Distressed Farmers & Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing the launch of the Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network, an initiative designed to provide personalized support to financially distressed farmers and ranchers across the nation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), in collaboration with farm support organizations and land-grant institutions, will facilitate this network, which will provide the technical resources and guidance of USDA partners to experts from distressed and underserved communities. The Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network will address the immediate needs of distressed borrowers and provide comprehensive, wraparound services aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by financially distressed producers. Once stabilized financially, these borrowers will be better positioned to access new opportunities and continue contributing to the agricultural economy. USDA encourages producers to reach out to their local FSA farm loan staff to ensure they fully understand the wide range of loan making and servicing options available to assist with starting, expanding, or maintaining their agricultural operation. To conduct business with FSA, producers should contact their local **USDA Service Center**.



Jump Start Your 4-H Experience Information Night

Tuesday, October 8th, 6:30 PM at the Cobleskill Extension Center

4-H is gearing up for a NEW year of fun and learning!

Schoharie County 4-H programs are open to **NEW MEMBERS** ages 5-19 and **ADULT VOLUNTEERS** wanting to join/start a 4-H club.

Come see what we are all about!!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Contact the Schoharie County 4-H Office by October 7th

518-234-4303 x117, nb622@cornell.edu

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.



PROGRAM EVENTS

Visit cceschoharie-otsego.org to see the most up-to-date listings offered.

Enrollment begins for 4-H Positive Youth Development 2024-25 Program Year October 1

Putting Your Garden to Bed Do's and Don'ts & Beneficial Insects

Saturday, October 5, 10:30 a.m.–noon
Presentation on how and when to clean up your vegetable or flower gardens and walking tour of the new CCESO demonstration garden. This program is free but pre-registration is REQUIRED because space is limited. Visit cceschoharie-otsego.org or call 607-547-2536 x235. Register https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Putting_Your_Garden_To_Bed_243. Held at the CCESO Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown.

National 4-H Week “Beyond Ready”

October 7 to 12

Land Valuation and Land Conservation Programs

Monday, October 7, 5:30 p.m.
Webinar hosted by CCE Broome County for landowners and farmers focused on how to value your land and easements. Understanding how to value your agricultural land for a potential sale, whether for another generation to start farming or for another purpose can be challenging. There are many variables and it can be difficult to take personal feelings and history out of the equation. Additionally, understanding what programs may be available to not only conserve your land for the future, but also encourage biological diversity and address potential environmental concerns can be overwhelming to sift through. The webinar will address both of these points! Questions can be directed to Jaime Welch at jjw288@cornell.edu. Registration can be found [here](#). The link to access the webinar will be provided upon registration.

Schoharie County 4-H Information Night

Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.
Cobleskill Extension Center. 4-H is gearing up for a new year of fun and learning! Schoharie County 4-H programs are open to new members ages 5-19 and adult volunteers wanting to join/start a 4-H club. Please register with the 4-H Office by contacting nb622@cornell.edu, 518-234-4303 x117 by Oct. 7.

Federal Holiday (offices closed)

Monday, October 14

CCESO Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 6-8 p.m.
Morris Conference Center's Craven Lounge, SUNY

Oneonta. Free. RSVP requested (not required) by registering below or calling 518-234-4303 x111. You may attend our business meeting on zoom at this link: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2024_Annual_Meeting_243.

47th Annual NYS 4-H Agri-Business Career Conference at SUNY Cobleskill

Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18
Co-sponsored by NYS 4-H, SUNY Cobleskill, and the NYS Farm Bureau Foundation for Education, this career exploration conference is open to all youth ages 14 and over who wish to become more aware of opportunities with agriculture and also the academic requirements for professional positions available in the various agri-businesses. Pre-registration required.

October (dates TBD): New Club Volunteer Trainings, Otsego County Dog Training workshop

Veterans' Day (offices closed)

Monday, November 11

Schoharie County 4-H Achievement Night

Friday, November 22, 6:30 p.m.
To recognize the achievements of enrolled 2023-2024 4-H year youth. To register contact nb622@cornell.edu, 518-234-4303 x117 by November 15.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties November Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, November 26, 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Weekend (offices closed)

Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29

Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Fundraiser for 4-H

November 29–December 15

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day (offices closed)

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25

New Year's Day (offices closed)

January 1, 2025

We're Hiring!

Visit the “employment opportunities” tab at cceschoharie-otsego.org for information on current openings, and watch for additional postings in the near future.

Positions in the Nutrition and Agriculture Programs will be posted soon!

CCE in Action!



Here is how you can support CCE outreach:

Making a donation is as simple as going to www.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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Schoharie and Otsego Counties