

# Connections

The News Magazine of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties

## APRIL-JUNE 2025

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## Staff Changes at CCESO

*“You can hear the smile in her voice when she answers the phone.”*

For the past 28 years **Madelyn Sanchez Taylor**, the Association’s Otsego Operations Coordinator, has often been the first staff person people interact with then they call or visit CCESO’s Otsego Education Center. Madelyn greets callers, visitors, volunteers and co-workers with a friendly smile, and for almost three decades she has lovingly supported the Otsego County’s Master Gardener Volunteer and 4-H Youth Development programs, and kept things—big and small, seen and unseen—running smoothly at the Otsego Education Center. Madelyn will retire from CCESO at the end of April and her seat will be hard to fill. She has worked thoughtfully and tirelessly on behalf of CCESO, and she will be sincerely missed. Please join us in wishing Madelyn all of the best in her next chapter and new adventures.



Hi everyone! I’m **Kat Cordero**, and I’m excited to join the team as your new Association Program Coordinator! My journey to this role has been shaped by my passion for community, education, and helping others. As a former 4-H volunteer, I discovered my love for animals, which led me to earn a bachelor’s degree in biology from SUNY Geneseo and later become a licensed veterinary technician. After six rewarding years in veterinary medicine, I transitioned to . . .



Hi everyone, my name is **Kelley Doolin** and I am the new Agriculture and Food Systems Educator for Schoharie and Otsego Counties. I am very passionate about agriculture and education; I look forward to putting both together in this position.

Growing up in Albany County, I was very active in 4-H and primarily participated in horticulture projects until my family moved to a more rural part of the county where we had the space to raise animals as well. I . . .



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173 South Grand Street, Suite 1  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
518-234-4303  
e-mail: [schoharie@cornell.edu](mailto:schoharie@cornell.edu)

123 Lake Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326  
607-547-2536  
e-mail: [otsego@cornell.edu](mailto:otsego@cornell.edu)

[www.cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://www.cceschoharie-otsego.org)

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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](mailto: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](http://cceschoharie-otsego.org)

Like us on **Facebook**:

**Main association news:** CCEschoharieOtsego

**Nutrition education:** EFNEPCCESchoharieOtsego;

HeathyConnectionsCCESchoharieOtsego

**Master Gardeners:** CCEOtsegoMG; CCEschoharieMG

**4-H:** schohariecounty4H; otsegocounty4H

**Ag education and programs:**

CCESchoharieandOtsegoAG; AnniesProjectNYS;

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**Family Farm Day:** familyfarmday

Follow our **blog**:

**Nutrition education:** Life's Solutions:

[blogs.cornell.edu/efnep-schoharie-otsego](http://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](mailto:eac283@cornell.edu). Thank you!

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*Elizabeth Callahan, Editor*

*Cathleen Berry, Associate Editor, Design, and Layout*

*Madelyn Sanchez Taylor, Proofreader*

173 South Grand Street, Suite 1 123 Lake Street

Cobleskill, NY 12043

Cooperstown, NY 13326

518-234-4303 or 518-296-8310

607-547-2536

[schoharie@cornell.edu](mailto:schoharie@cornell.edu)

[otsego@cornell.edu](mailto:otsego@cornell.edu)

[www.cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://www.cceschoharie-otsego.org)

Office hours both locations:

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# National Volunteer Week Is April 20–26

CCESO would like to recognize and thank our outstanding volunteers for their contributions and commitment and emphasize the significant impact of their time and talent. In 2024 CCESO's 228 active volunteers spent over 6,800 hours supporting our education and outreach in Schoharie and Otsego Counties.

Master Gardener Volunteers love gardening and have a passion for sharing that knowledge. As trained volunteers, the Otsego and Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers dedicate thousands of hours answering gardening questions, providing educational opportunities through workshops, maintaining demonstration gardens, providing guidance to community gardens, and growing and selling plants.

The Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H programs have many wonderful volunteers who give their time and special skills to make a difference in the lives of 4-H youth and are critical to the success of the 4-H programs in each county. Adult 4-H volunteers share their time, talents, and interests with 4-H members to help youth grow into caring and contributing citizens. There are many types of 4-H

volunteers who help make 4-H programming possible, including: club leaders, activity leaders and contest coaches, project leaders, workshop and clinic instructors, fair and public presentation evaluators, mentors, chaperones and Fair Superintendents (in Otsego County).



It's also important to acknowledge the leadership and representation of over two dozen residents of Otsego and Schoharie counties who volunteer as elected members of CCESO's Board of Directors and appointed members of the Association's Agriculture & Horticulture, Family & Consumer Science, and 4-H Program Advisory Committees (PACs). The Board and Program Advisory Committees meet regularly to ensure that CCESO's operations and programs continue to respond to evolving needs in our counties.

Thanks to all of our current and past volunteers, CCESO could not do many of the things we do without you!

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## *Staff Changes at CCESO, continued from page 1*

### **Kat Cordera:**

... software support, where I discovered my love for building meaningful relationships while assisting others. This experience reignited my desire to directly impact my community, ultimately guiding me back to the 4-H program and this incredible opportunity.

I'm thrilled to be here and to contribute to the 4-H mission of empowering youth through education. I truly believe in the program's ability to foster growth, connection, and opportunity for young people, and I'm honored to be part of such a meaningful initiative.

Outside of work, I live locally with my husband and our four cats. We love hiking, exploring the outdoors, and spending time in nature.

I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and working together to make a difference in our community. Feel free to reach out to me at [kc2299@cornell.edu](mailto:kc2299@cornell.edu)—I'd love to connect!

### **Kelley Doolin:**

... attended SUNY Cobleskill, receiving my bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business Management with a minor in Ag Education and my associate's degree in Animal Industry.

Since graduation I have managed my home farm, raising poultry, dairy goats, hogs, and growing a garden. I worked at the Dairy Processing Center at SUNY Cobleskill and was part of the team that got the plant built, open and running. Most recently, I was the Farm Manager at Indian Ladder Farms in Albany County where I was responsible for overseeing the orchard, berries, and field crops.

I am excited to join the CCE Schoharie-Otsego team and promote agriculture in these counties. I look forward to meeting and connecting with all of you!

You can reach me at [kmd322@cornell.edu](mailto:kmd322@cornell.edu).



# Spring Gardening Tips

BY LIZ BROWN, SCHOHARIE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER



Springtime is an exciting season for gardeners. With some pre-planning, you can have a successful growing season. Here are a few tips to help your garden thrive.

When deciding what to plant in your garden, it's best to take stock of what you want to grow before you visit the garden center or order seeds. In terms of vegetables, the best recommendation for beginning gardeners is to grow what you like to eat. Certain plants, like leafy greens such as lettuce, take up a small amount of space, can be grown easily in containers or in the ground, and can offer a big harvest over a long time. Want something quick? Try radishes, just a few weeks from seed to harvest. Root vegetables like carrots and beets tend to be harvested once, as opposed to cucumbers, which can be harvested over weeks. Many people think there is nothing better than snacking on a fresh picked green bean—so much better than canned or frozen. Swiss chard is a favorite—low maintenance, pest resistant, can be eaten raw and cooked, and will produce right thru the fall.

If you're new to gardening this year, think about where your plot will be. Most vegetables need full sun (6-8 hours a day). How close are you to a water source? Are you in a windy area? Will your space need protection from wildlife that may nibble on your plants? If you are growing in containers, look for varieties that mention being suitable for that or are labeled dwarf. And if you have never gardened before, start small and build your skills.

It is helpful to know what zone you are in. This is a measurement of the average annual coldest temperature. The map was recently updated in 2023 to reflect the changing climate. Check out [planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov) and plug in your ZIP code. Then you can determine your last average frost date, which for the Otsego area is typically around May

25th. If you plan to start your garden plants from seeds, the seed packet has lots of helpful information. For example, tomatoes can be started six to eight weeks before the last frost date. Look at a calendar and work backward. Six weeks before May 25th is April 13th, so now is a good time to start tomato plants.

If the frost is out of the ground and it's not muddy you can start preparing the soil while waiting for the seedlings to grow. Remove any plant material from the prior year. Lots of different tools are available to turn the soil over—garden shovels, forks, tillers, broad forks, and rototillers. The object is to turn the soil and loosen any clods. Now is a good time to add organic material, such as compost. This will add nutrients and improve drainage.

There are many local options for finding your plants. Be realistic when purchasing plants. One zucchini plan is sufficient for a household, but if something comes only in a six-pack, keep one for yourself and share the rest with friends and neighbors. If you're looking to start from seed, there's nothing wrong with purchasing the four-for-\$1.00 packets at discount stores. They typically offer tried-and-true varieties that do well in most gardens.

This winter seemed colder and windier than those in recent years. But there was also a snow pack on the ground for a long time. The snow is an insulating layer on perennial plants, which helps shelter the plants from the brutal wind. It also adds moisture to the ground, especially important to the roots.

Gardening is a very rewarding, life-time activity but it can also be time consuming. Don't get discouraged if the weeds get ahead of you, just enjoy the time spent outside and learning how to grow and care for your garden. Most experienced gardeners know that every year is a new year, we learn what did well one year and what mistakes to avoid next year. There is always a new variety to grow, a different tool to try, and a new method to practice.

For more information, check out [gardening.cals.cornell.edu](https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu) or your local county extension service for research-based information on how to grow the best garden.

# Starting Plants Indoors

BY STEVE REINERS, PROFESSOR, HORTICULTURE, SIPS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, CORNELL AGRITECH

A big mistake gardeners make is starting their transplants too early. The table below provides guidance on when you should start them. It assumes a last frost date of May 20th. If your last frost date is earlier or later, add or subtract from the optimum planting dates to compensate for the difference.

**Table 1. When to start vegetables indoors and optimum temperatures for growth**

Vegetable	Outside Transplanting Date	Transplants, Indoor Planting date	Weeks Needed	Optimum Daytime Temperature (°F)
Broccoli – spring	4/15 to 5/15	3/5 to 4/5	6-7	65-70
Broccoli - fall	7/20 to 8/15	6/15 to 7/10	5-6	65-70
Brussels sprouts	6/10 to 7/1	5/1 to 5/20	6-7	65-70
Cabbage	5/1 to 7/10	3/25 to 6/1	5-6	65-70
Cauliflower- fall	7/1 to 7/20	5/20 to 6/10	5-6	65-70
Cucumber	5/25 to 7/15	5/5 to 6/25	3	70-75
Eggplant	6/1 to 6/15	4/10 to 4/25	7-8	70-75
Lettuce - spring	4/10 to 5/15	3/5 to 4/10	5-6	65-70
Lettuce - fall	8/1 to 8/30	6/25 to 7/25	5-6	65-70
Muskmelon	6/1 to 6/15	5/10 to 5/25	3	70-75
Onions - bulb	4/15 to 6/1	2/15 to 4/1	8-9	65-70
Peppers	6/1 to 6/20	4/10 to 4/30	7-8	70-75
Squash, summer	5/25 to 7/15	5/5 to 6/25	3	70-75
Squash, winter	5/25 to 6/20	5/5 to 6/1	3	70-75
Tomato	5/25 to 6/20	4/10 to 5/5	6-7	70-75
Watermelon*	6/1 to 6/15	5/10 to 5/25	3	70-75

\*If seedless, will require heat mats and 85°F to germinate

**Soils** – Use a synthetic seed starting mix containing peat moss or coconut coir, perlite, vermiculite and usually a little fertilizer. Don't use your garden soil or compost as it may contain plant diseases like damping off, which will kill your seedlings.

**Containers** – Lots of choices. You can buy plastic flats/plugs that vary in size that can be reused after cleaning. Or you can use egg cartons, cups, or 'peat pots'. If making your own, make sure it has drainage holes.

**Labels** – Small plants look alike. And even larger plants like cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage are hard to tell apart. Label everything using a permanent marker.

**Start warm** – Vegetable seeds don't need light to germinate. Place flats/containers in the warmest part of your house, even if it is a dark closet. Most seeds prefer 75°F to sprout. Check twice daily and move under lights as soon as the plants break the surface. Lower temperatures are better for growth (see table above).

**Lights** – A sunny windowsill will not provide enough light. Use fluorescent or LED lights and place two to three inches above plants. Put the lights on a timer and aim for 14 to 16 hours of light.

**Water** – When the soil starts to dry, water lightly until you see water start to run out the bottom. How often depends on the humidity, air temperature, and soil texture.

**Fans** – Use a small fan to lightly blow the plants. It helps dry the soil, reduces humidity and creates a stockier plant by thickening stems. Use a timer and have it on every two hours for 10 minutes.

**Fertilize** – Most mixes have some fertilizer to start, and the seed provides nutrition for the first seven to 10 days. Use a half strength soluble fertilizer once a week once plants have two true leaves.

**Hardening** – Get the plants acclimated to outdoor conditions. Stop fertilizing two weeks before planting, move them outside for a few hours per day and let the soil dry out a bit more between waterings.



# Schoharie County Plant Sale



**Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers  
are partnering with SUNY Cobleskill**  
for the  
**Annual Spring Plant Sale**  
Saturday, May 3th  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**at SUNY Cobleskill**

Fabulous selection of Annual Vegetables and Flowers,  
Native Perennials, Hanging Baskets, House Plants, and more

Enjoy Taste NY products at the college's historic  
Carriage House and General Store





Spring is on its way and the Schoharie County Master Gardener Volunteers are planning our annual Plant Sale. This event, open to the public, is happening on Saturday May 3, 2025, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Once again, our plants will be sold at SUNY Cobleskill (on Schoharie Parkway North, just off NY Rt 7) alongside SUNY Cobleskill's plant sale. We are growing some new perennials for you to try, including:

- *Achillea millefolium* 'Saucy Seduction' (common yarrow) Z4. 18"x24", FS, drought tolerant, attracts butterflies
- *Anemone X* 'Honorine Jobert' (windflower) Z4. 48"x24" FS-PSh, moist, well-drained soil
- *Coreopsis* 'Red Elf' (tickseed) Z5. 12"x18" FS, dry-medium soil, attracts butterflies
- *Euphorbia X martinii* 'Ascot rainbow' (Martin's spurge) Z5. 36"x20", FS-PSh, dry-medium well-drained soil
- *Geranium macrorrhizum* 'Bevans' (cranesbill) Z3. 12"x18" FS-Sh, well-drained soil, semi evergreen foliage
- *Penstemon digitalis* 'Blackbeard' (beardtongue) Z3. 36"x24", FS, dry-medium soil, attracts hummingbirds, butterflies
- *Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Crazy Blue' (Russian sage) Z5. 18"x18" FS, dry-medium well-drained soil
- *Salvia nemorosa* 'Bumbleberry' (meadow sage) Z3. 12"x24", FS, dry-medium soil, attracts pollinators

- *Veronica spicata* 'Snow Candles' (spike speedwell) Z4. 10"x10", FS, well-drained soil, attracts butterflies
- *Tiarella X* 'Angel Wings' (foamflower) Z4. 10"x12", PS-FSh, moist, well-drained soil

Resilient and successful gardens begin with healthy and safe soil!

## 2025 Community Gardens Soil Testing Program

Open to community and backyard gardeners that...

- ✓ Grow food and
- ✓ Share their bounty with family, friends or neighbors.

Free nutrient and heavy metal soil testing! Free soil sample shipping and supplies available.




PROGRAM RULES and APPLICATION

Support and technical assistance provided by CCE Harvest NY Specialists.  
Program details available at [HARVESTNY.CCE.CORNELL.EDU](https://harvestny.cce.cornell.edu)  
Questions? Reach out to Mallory Hohl at [mdh286@cornell.edu](mailto:mdh286@cornell.edu).

NEW YORK STATE Department of Agriculture and Markets

Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest New York

A partnership between NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest NY, and the Cornell Soil Health Lab.



# The Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer Seed Starters

BY FRANCINE STAYTER, MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER



*An Interview with Carol Phelps, Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer and Seed Starter*



*Carol Phelps, MG*

## How Does the Seed Starter Committee Decide What to Grow?

We have built a reputation for providing plants we know will do well in upstate New York. We want varieties that match our growing season. For example, we look for pepper varieties that bear fruit in about 60 days. For basil and cilantro, we select varieties that are slower to flower and bolt. We also want varieties not commonly found in garden centers. We've learned from experience that there is a demand for our herbs, native plants, and blight-resistant and heirloom tomatoes.

To get started, the Seed Starters meet in the fall as a group to decide what the mix of plants will be this year. They draw from a variety of seed companies with whom they've had success in the past. As chair, I will determine what seeds and supplies need to be purchased and determine the capacity of each seed starter. Then the supplies required need to be distributed.

## What Exactly is Each Seed Starter Asked to Do?

Deciding all of what we will start is a group decision, but individual seed starters choose which seeds to start. Some become specialists in one variety like Lemon Gem marigolds, or heirloom tomatoes. To begin, seed starters have to set up the lights and shelving we've provided and make a schedule to have an optimal plant in time for the sale by dating backwards from the Plant Sale date. Not all varieties are planted at the same time.



*Typical grow set up for Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer plant sale.*

The actual planting of the seeds is the least time-consuming part of the process. After planting, seeds must be monitored daily or more for germination and careful watering. As they grow, the plants need to be potted up into bigger pots, watered and lightly fertilized. This always involves plenty of rearranging, so the plants get the right amount of light since not all varieties grow at the same rate.

Hardening off the plants is the most time-consuming part of the process, as the plants have to be moved outside and back inside in an increasing amount of time to get them ready to always be outdoors by mid-May. Each container then needs a label. Finally, we transport our babies to CCE's Cooperstown Extension Education Center for the sale.

## What is Something You and Other Seed Starters Have Learned Over Time?

I would say all of us have refined our watering technique. Poor watering practices are the downfall of novice seed starters. From the get-go we could get most to look good enough for the sale. Now, our watering technique is refined enough to get most to top quality for the sale. Many of us have enjoyed starting the "difficult" to start plants. To do this we have learned about cold stratification and how to coax germination from even the tough ones like rosemary.



*Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers often meet as a group to pot up and transplant.*

**Continues on page 8**



## What are Some of the High Points for You for Being a Seed Starter?

Personally, I have been starting seeds for more than twenty years and have done it with the Otsego Master Gardeners since we started seed starting as a group. Two high points of each year are seeing the first seedlings sprout and then three months later admiring our combined efforts as we finish setting up the plant sale. As the years go by and we learn more, we take pride in better quality plants and get some of the more challenging ones to Plant Sale size.

## What are Some of the Challenges?

A crop failure from an unknown cause is always a disappointment. We try to hedge our bets on this by having two seed starters per variety. If both starters fail, we can suspect the seed. If one succeeds and the other fails, we can compare notes and learn from each other.

Curbing our enthusiasm on the variety and quantity of what we start is always a challenge. Then as all gardeners know, the weather can disturb your best-laid January dreams. Kim L'Heureux, past chair, said the biggest challenge for the chair is the coordination of supplies and who is starting what.

## What is Your Greatest Satisfaction with Doing This?

Being part of a group that works hard to provide a wonderful community event, connecting with and encouraging fellow gardeners brings great satisfaction. Making enough money to fund the rest of Master Gardener Volunteers' work is a bonus.

This year the Seed Starters have set a goal to raise 2,000 plants. Some were started in February and some later depending on the seed. Barring late frost



Homegrown vegetables are nutritious and fun!

and woodchuck incursion, the Seed Starters have produced thousands of plants. We celebrate our unsung heroes and especially the work of MGV Kim L'Heureux, who developed and led the Seed Starter Committee for many years. Let your garden sleep, the Seed Starters have you covered. At the Plant Sale this year, let's give them a special ribbon so you can recognize them. They will be delighted to tell you about the plants they raised.



Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer Kim L'Heureux

**SAVE THE DATE! The 2025 Otsego Master Gardener Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 17, 2025.**





Master Gardener Volunteer

# PLANT SALE

[ccescholarie-otsego.org/events](https://ccescholarie-otsego.org/events)

**Sat. May 17, 2025, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

123 Lake Street,  
Cooperstown, NY  
607-547-2536

*Proudly Featuring:*

- A wide variety of vegetables, annual flowers, herbs, and perennials at reasonable prices
- Perennials started from seed or propagation to prevent the spread of jumping worms
- Blight-resistant and heirloom tomatoes
- Gardening experts happily giving advice
- Varieties known to grow well in Otsego Co.
- Photos of mature plants on display

Plant sale proceeds support the outreach and educational efforts of the Master Gardener-Volunteer Program of Otsego County.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties



# Master Gardener Volunteers are Growing for You! Save the Date for the Plant Sale!

Every spring, gardeners are counting down the minutes until they can get their hands in some dirt. The Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers (SMGV) have already started growing for their upcoming plant sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm in conjunction with SUNY Cobleskill's Plant Sale (Route 7, Cobleskill, NY).

The Master Gardener Volunteers have chosen a nice variety of perennials (plants that come back every year) to add to your gardens. Have you heard of Tiarella? It is commonly called Foam Flower and does great in shade. The graceful, pale pink blossoms of the variety "Angel Wings" are on upright stalks and can bloom springtime and again in the fall. It is also deer resistant as well as attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

These and several other plants will be available for purchase. These are not the typical varieties that you find in the big box stores. Come see if the

unique plants we've chosen will suit your garden!

The SMGV plant sale is a fun annual event that raises money to promote garden-based programs and outreach in Schoharie County. This important funding will allow Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie Otsego (CCESO) to host low-cost programs on gardening for children and adults, and maintain demonstration gardens at CCESO's facilities.

For more information on the annual plant sale, call 518-234-4303 ext. 129 or email [mkf48@cornell.edu](mailto:mkf48@cornell.edu). For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie and Otsego County's community programs and events, go to [ccescoharie-otsego.org](http://ccescoharie-otsego.org) or call 518-234-4303 ext. 129. Stay connected to CCE Master Gardeners' daily postings at [facebook.com/cceotsegoMG](https://facebook.com/cceotsegoMG) and follow CCE Schoharie and Otsego on Facebook at [facebook.com/CCESchoharieOtsego](https://facebook.com/CCESchoharieOtsego).



Come visit the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers at Earth Festival! Visit our table for gardening information and kids' activities. Or attend a Native Plant presentation by Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer, Celia Oxley. More information and details can be found here: [www.occainfo.org/earth-festival](http://www.occainfo.org/earth-festival).

# Victory Gardens Through the Ages

BY LIZ BROWN, SCHOHARIE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER



Are you familiar with the term “Victory Garden”? These are vegetable gardens planted during the war years to help feed the population, our allies, and our troops.

Originally called “Liberty Gardens” and then “War Gardens”, the term “Victory Garden” was coined by Charles Lathrop Pack, head of the National War Garden Commission. This Commission was formed in 1917 to encourage Americans to grow their food, consume less, live simply, and volunteer. His idea was that food production could be increased without expanding commercially cultivated land and without the need for additional agricultural labor. It was meant to ease the numbers needed on mass production farms given the number of farmers entering military service, as well as everyone using their patch of land for the greater good.

As World War I raged on, a crisis beyond warfare and shell shock emerged: Europe was running out of food. Barren from drought and often the scene of battles, fertile farmland across the continent was rapidly disappearing. Combined with political issues like trade embargos and labor shortages due to the many farmers and farmhands drafted into the war, there were fewer people left to plant and tend to crops. No European country had the ability to grow a sustainable food supply for the foreseeable future. Where could an area as large and vastly populated as Europe get enough food to keep everyone alive during and after the war? The answer was lying across the Atlantic Ocean in the backyards and empty fields of North America.

During World War II, the US government reintroduced the idea of victory gardens to help feed the expanded military and hungry population. The program was widely promoted with much success. By 1944, 40% of U.S. produce came from victory gardens.

Government agencies, private foundations, businesses, schools, and seed companies all worked together to provide land, instruction, and seeds for individuals and communities to grow food.

## Benefits of Victory Gardens

- Helped to avoid or reduce wartime rationing
- Boosted morale
- Communicated patriotism
- Reduced demands on commercial farms
- Saved families money on vegetables, while providing nutritious food
- Provided healthy physical exercise and recreation
- Encouraged a sense of community

Victory Gardens were planted in backyards, churchyards, city parks, playgrounds, in flower boxes, on rooftops, and more. Sometimes an individual family had one; sometimes a neighborhood shared space in communal areas.

As the United States government developed and distributed pamphlets to teach novice gardeners about soil, compost, crops, and how to assemble cold frames, gardens began blooming across backyards, public parks, and schoolyards. Schoolchildren, known as “Soldiers of the Soil,” contributed millions of new garden plots. Planting and tending gave children a way to contribute, affording them a



sense of purpose and sometimes helping combat anxiety if their family members fought in the war. Not to mention, learning gardening is a valuable skill.

Citizens were encouraged to educate themselves about agriculture and how to produce food in home gardens. Popular vegetables in Victory Gardens included kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, Swiss chard, beans, beets, cabbage, and carrots. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt guided the planting of her own Victory Garden on the White House lawn. Growing a garden was a sign of patriotism, but it was also a defiant gesture, a way to take back some control over fractured lives.

The Victory Garden movement stressed proper storage and food preservation as well. At the time, pressure canners (being made out of the metals being shuffled to the military) became a precious possession for a family. People were encouraged to team up and use a Canning Day so that everyone could preserve their harvests as it was required to be able to last the winter. At harvest time, many families would buy a crate of fruits or vegetables that did not grow in their region, and they canned them for later use. Canning became progressively more widely practiced as the war continued.

Other methods of preservation included storing produce like squash, pumpkins, and suitable root

vegetables in a root cellar. Fruits such as apples, pears, and peaches could be dried, as could vegetables like beans, and corn. Foods were frozen, pickled, and fermented, along with smoked and cured as it was in the pioneer times. It was a smorgasbord of methods utilized for preserving the food.

Food shortages during the war could have led to starvation—as was the case in many war-torn countries across the globe—were it not for the level of food production by civilians in their backyard gardens. When the hard times hit, people were able to step up and take the “Hoe by the handle” and provide for themselves and their neighbors.

It’s no surprise we’re embracing victory gardens today. During both world wars, patriotic Americans kept the home fires burning—and their soldiers fed—by converting any available space into a garden. It was an act of defiance and self-reliance with a shovel and a hoe. Most recently, during the Covid pandemic, people again took to gardening to provide nutritious food for their families as well as enjoying the fresh air and stress relief.

Your local Cooperative Extension agents, including Master Gardener Volunteers who are trained in research-based gardening practices, are ready to assist the home gardeners as you plant the “seeds of victory” once more.

## Join Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Nutrition Programs EFNEP, Healthy Connections and SNAP Ed



- ✓ Building 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 you and your family!

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



**Michelle Leveski**  
EFNEP Nutrition Program  
Educator  
518-234-4303 Ext. 115  
mml39@cornell.edu



**Nelta Miller**  
Healthy Connections  
Nutrition Program  
Educator  
518-234-4303 Ext. 120  
nbm53@cornell.edu



**Maegan Freeman**  
SNAP Ed Nutrition Program  
Educator  
716-816-6019  
mef265@cornell.edu

# Decreasing Your Energy Bill (Part 1)

As spring approaches, many of us are looking forward to lower heating bills as the temperatures outside increase. And as many of us will start spring cleaning, why don't we also try to spruce up our building envelope?

A building envelope is the physical separator between the conditioned and unconditioned environment of a building. This includes your walls, roof, and floors. The building envelope's job is to keep the weather out and the conditioned air in. Your energy bills will be higher if the building envelope is not strong.

One of the biggest inefficiencies in a home comes from heat loss, which is when heated air leaks out of your conditioned space. An important strategy is to air seal to remove those leaks. A sealed building envelope will improve comfort and air quality and reduce your energy bills.

Here are three ways to improve your building envelope with sealing measures:

## 1. Weatherstripping

Weatherstripping is a narrow strip of material used to cover the joints of a door or window to keep the cold out. It is often made from silicone and rubber or foam with an adhesive that allows you to easily affix it to ensure a tight seal for doors and windows when they are shut. It's easy to install, and there are various thicknesses to accommodate different-sized gaps!



## 2. Door Sweep

A door sweep attaches to the bottom of an exterior door and is typically screwed in. It is flat and narrow, made from rubber or plastic. They can come in three main styles: strip, bristle, and under-door. It can help significantly with a drafty



door and, depending on the amount of usage, can last for a couple of seasons before it needs to be replaced.

## 3. Caulk

The next time you have a windy day, light up some incense and go around your home. Do you see any places where the smoke changes directions and speeds rapidly? That is where you have some draftiness in your building envelope. Caulk can be used to seal off gaps and seal joints or seams. Some types are rated for outside, while others are best suited for indoor use. Many times, there will be leakage around window frames, so be sure to check there!

All three of these materials can be purchased in hardware and general stores at a low cost to the homeowner. For more tips and other ways to make your home more energy efficient, contact Michaela Fisher, CCESO's resident energy advisor, 518-234-4304 ext. 114 or maf396@cornell.edu.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
Smart Energy Choices – Mohawk Valley

**Join us for a FREE Weatherization Workshop  
and FREE meal with Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**Tuesday, April 29th, 2025**  
**5:30pm-7:30pm**  
**Middleburgh Library**  
**323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122**

- Learn how energy is wasted in your home
- Access programs to reduce your energy use
- Receive a FREE home energy savings kit (worth \$40!!!!)




Visit our website to register:  
<https://www.mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/events>



Contact for more info:  
Michaela Fisher  
Energy Educator  
518-234-4304 ext.114  
maf396@cornell.edu



Registration is required  
and space is limited





# Animal and Plant Biosecurity Programs

The animal biosecurity programs will take place on Tuesday, April 15th, at the Cooperstown CCE office from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and Thursday, April 17th, at the Cobleskill CCE office from 9:30-11:00 a.m. To register: [reg.cce.cornell.edu/Animal\\_Biosecurity\\_243](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Animal_Biosecurity_243).

The plant biosecurity programs will take place on Tuesday, April 29th, at the Cooperstown CCE office from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, April 30th, at the Cobleskill CCE office from 6:00-7:30 p.m. To register: [reg.cce.cornell.edu/Plant\\_Biosecurity\\_243](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Plant_Biosecurity_243).

We encourage you to come in person to learn how to keep your operation safe from the introduction or spread of pests or pathogens. All sessions will have a Zoom option if you are unable to attend in person.

Some of the topics we will discuss include: What is Biosecurity; How Pathogens or Pests Enter the Farm; Protecting Your Operation; and Developing a Biosecurity Plan.

For more information contact Kelley Doolin at 518-234-4303 ext. 119 or [kmd322@cornell.edu](mailto:kmd322@cornell.edu).

Cornell Cooperative Extension · Schoharie and Otsego Counties

## PLANT BIOSECURITY

Prevent spread of pests and pathogens that pose potential risks to plant health

**Cooperstown Program**  
**April 29, 2025**  
**9:30 am - 11 am**  
 Otsego County CCE  
 123 Lake St  
 Cooperstown, NY 13326

**Cobleskill Program**  
**April 30, 2025**  
**6 pm - 7:30 pm**  
 Schoharie County CCE  
 173 S. Grand St  
 Cobleskill, NY 12043

**Zoom option available for remote attendance**

**Register Online, QR code, or by Phone**  
[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Plant\\_Biosecurity\\_243](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Plant_Biosecurity_243)  
 518-234-4303 EXT 119

**Questions? Contact:**  
 Kelley Doolin  
[kmd322@cornell.edu](mailto:kmd322@cornell.edu)  
 518-234-4303 EXT 119

**You will learn:**

- What is Biosecurity?
- How Pests or Pathogens Enter the Farm
- Pests or Pathogens on Plants or in the Soil
- Protecting Your Operation
- Developing a Biosecurity Plan

Cornell Cooperative Extension · Schoharie and Otsego Counties

## ANIMAL BIOSECURITY

Prevent spread of pests and pathogens that pose potential risks to livestock

**Cooperstown Program**  
**April 15, 2025**  
**6 pm - 7:30 pm**  
 Otsego County CCE  
 123 Lake St  
 Cooperstown, NY 13326

**Cobleskill Program**  
**April 17, 2025**  
**9:30 am - 11 am**  
 Schoharie County CCE  
 173 S. Grand St  
 Cobleskill, NY 12043

**Zoom option available for remote attendance**

**Register Online, QR code, or by Phone**  
[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Animal\\_Biosecurity\\_243](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Animal_Biosecurity_243)  
 518-234-4303 EXT 119

**Questions? Contact:**  
 Kelley Doolin  
[kmd322@cornell.edu](mailto:kmd322@cornell.edu)  
 518-234-4303 EXT 119

**You will learn:**

- What is Biosecurity?
- How Pathogens or Pests Enter the Farm
- Protecting Your Operation
- Developing a Biosecurity Plan

SCHOHARIE-OTSEGO-DELAWARE  
**FAMILY FARM DAY**  
 .ORG  
 SAT. & SUN., AUG. 23 & 24, 2025  
 ★ Cornell Cooperative Extension ★

## How Can Your Farm Join?

If you farm in the Schoharie, Otsego or Delaware Counties, we welcome your participation!

Please review your eligibility and requirements and complete the registration online by **April 30, 2025**.

We are happy to address questions by phone or email. If you know of other farms interested in participating in this event, please direct them to the Family Farm Day website.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**  
[WWW.FAMILYFARMDAY.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILYFARMDAY.ORG)

- ✓ Raise Ag Awareness
- ✓ Educate Local Community
- ✓ Increase Farm Sales
- ✓ Introduce New Products
- ✓ Share Your Story

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**CONTACT TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY**

Kelley Doolin  
[kmd322@cornell.edu](mailto:kmd322@cornell.edu)  
 518-234-4303 x119  
 607-547-2536 x226

Debbie Koeber  
[dnk2@cornell.edu](mailto:dnk2@cornell.edu)  
 607-865-6531

# Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H Happenings



This winter has been packed with 4-H opportunities for youth in the 4-H programs in both Schoharie and Otsego Counties. Between virtual opportunities, in-person workshops, club meetings, and county events, youth have been busy learning and working toward their 4-H interests and project areas.

Beginning in January and throughout the month of February, youth were invited to attend a five-part 4-H Livestock Summit virtual series which focused on a variety of topics including selection of a 4-H project animal, trailering 101, sheep and goat management strategies, the increasing risk of ticks on livestock, and the keys to raising a beef project. The NYS 4-H Livestock Summit is an annual program that gives New York State 4-H members the opportunity to learn about market animal projects of different species.

Another virtual education opportunity for 4-H youth this winter was a four-part series called ‘Hop, Swim, and Crawl with the YNOE PWT’ that focused on teaching youth about amphibians within New York State. This series was brought to NYS 4-H members by the Youth Nature and Outdoor Environmental Program Work Team (YNOE PWT). Participants dove into the fascinating world of amphibians, learning about their unique characteristics, habitats, and conservation. This interactive series featured expert guest speakers, exciting hand-on activities, and opportunities to ask questions. 4-H members from Schoharie and Otsego Counties attended this virtual series and discovered the amazing amphibians that call New York home!

4-H Dairy and Horse Quiz Bowl teams have also been practicing in preparation for the 2025 district competitions. Quiz bowl participants have been eager to showcase their knowledge of the dairy and horse industries, nutrition, health, food safety, crops, and other relevant fields in this Jeopardy style team competition!

4-H Livestock Skill-a-Thon and Judging contests are also underway, with county programs helping youth prepare for the upcoming district competitions. The Livestock Skill-a-Thon contest tests a 4-H member’s knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management while helping the youth to gain and develop production livestock

skills and life skills through a competitive environment. The livestock judging contests train youth to critically evaluate production animals based on breed standards and qualities for food production. Participants learn about the anatomy and physiology of beef, cattle, sheep, swine, and meat goats. Youth gain skills needed to distinguish which animals are more likely to become breeding sticks or quality meat products. In preparation for the upcoming livestock competitions, NYS 4-H will hold a three-day virtual Livestock Judging Series. The first day will focus on how to evaluate goats and sheep. The second day will help youth learn the importance of oral reasons, which include setting up your paper, the different terms used, and giving a perfect set of reasons. The third day will focus on questions and what youth should be writing down and looking for when it is a questions class.

The Otsego and Schoharie County 4-H Programs held their annual Public Presentations Day events on March 1st. In preparation for these events, youth worked toward choosing a presentation topic, organizing their thoughts, and creating posters and visual aids. Each county program held a public speaking workshop where youth learned about the parts of a presentation, how to organize their thoughts, and gained some practice speaking in front of others. When Public Presentation Day arrived, participating 4-H’ers gave their presentations in front of an audience including a panel of evaluators.

Why are 4-H Public Presentations so important? Public speaking is one of the most important life skills youth learn in 4-H. To most people, the thought of preparing a speech and delivering it to an audience is terrifying. However, 4 H youth members throughout NYS, and across the country, have an advantage in public speaking. Through the 4-H Public Presentations program, youth learn how to plan, organize, and structure an effective presentation. They express themselves clearly, with confidence, creativity, and pose in a variety of speaking situations. Alumni of 4-H will tell you that this experience allowed them to stand head and shoulders above their colleagues in every realm—school, career, and personal life. The 4-H “learn by doing” motto is the focus of the Public Presentation program’s educational approach. Schoharie and



Otsego County 4-H youth are certainly continuing “to make the best better” as they continue to foster youth in their development of life-long skills.

### **Schoharie 4-H Happenings**

Schoharie County 4-H has begun its 2025 Earn-an-Animal (EAA) program. The 4-H EAA program allows for youth ages 8-18 to earn funding towards a project animal to raise and show as their own. This program requires dedication from the youth members and support from their guardians. Youth accepted into the program will not only learn how to care for their animal, but will also experience the process of researching, selecting, and purchasing an animal. Through the 4-H Earn-an-Animal program, youth will further develop their planning, time management, organization, and record-keeping skills. Once a youth is accepted into the program and the 4-H staff has confirmed that all the program requirements are completed, they receive a check for a pre-determined amount for the reimbursement of their project animal.

Throughout the EAA program, youth compile project records to track animal nutrition, feeding, growth, health, costs, and overall project participation. Youth attend 4-H animal clinics and receive support from their adult mentors to learn how to safely care for and handle their animals. Youth attend competitions to showcase fitting and showmanship skills and their animal’s breed characteristics.

To wrap up the program, youth complete a project record story, allowing them to document their experiences and reflect on their goals and achievements. This program provides scholarship reimbursement opportunities for each of the following species: meat poultry, laying hens, rabbits, sheep, swine, goats, dairy calf & beef calf. This program is made possible through the generous financial donations of past recipients, area businesses, and individuals who wish to support this specific 4-H program. Without financial support from community members, the 4-H Earn-an-Animal program would not be possible.



*Schoharie County 4-H youth members from the Senior, Junior & Novice Dairy Quiz Bowl Teams*



*4-H Public Presentations Day: 4-H youth interacting with a Guernsey calf, while learning about this dairy cattle breed*



*4-H Public Presentations Day: Cloverbud, Karter, after his presentation on bull riding titled, ‘8 Seconds to Ride’*

***Continues on page 16***





4-H Public Presentations Day: 4-H member, Kinsley, demonstrating her recipe on how to make 'Cookies for One'



4-H Public Presentations Day: Cloverbud, Gabriella, demonstrating 'How to Make Butter'



4-H Public Presentations Day: 4-H member, Arrietta, giving her presentation titled 'Say Yes to Ag Ed'

## Otsego County 4-H Club News

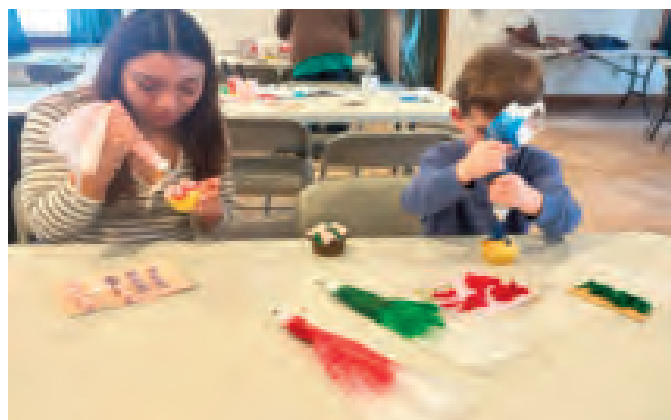


In January the 4-H Gilbertsville Dairy Club celebrated the 4-H year end with a candlelight ceremony and a potluck dinner.



The Ewes and Friends 4-H Club met in January to learn about Slovakia and made their national dish, Halušky, in preparation for 4-H International Day. In February the club met to practice public presentations and complete the CLOVER by 4-H "Cookie Science" activity.

The 4-H Crafty Chipmunks Club January meeting was an intro to sewing. We learned the basics of the sewing machine and practiced straight sewing. We were all able to make a 2-in-1 fleece hat and neck warmer to fight the bitter cold we've been having. In February, we will be learning to decorate cupcakes and plan for spring Earth Day and gardening projects.



**4-H Cooking Clinic**—During the month of January members of the Helping Hands 4-H Club attended the 4-H Decorating Cakes & Cupcakes workshop.





**Otsego County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Practices**—Members of the Otsego County 4-H Dairy Bowl Team have been learning about Calf Care with Amy Proskine and Digestive Tract Dissection with Carrie Edsall. The 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl is an opportunity for 4-H youth to demonstrate their knowledge of dairy related subject matter in a competitive setting.

**4-H Public Presentation Workshop**—In January members of the Ewes N' Friends and the Crafty Pumpkins attended the 4-H Public Presentation Workshop to learn the basics of public presentations. Giving a public presentation can help you to grow as an individual, think and talk before a group of people, and gain poise, and self-confidence.



4-H Public Presentations



**4-H International Day**—In February the Ewes N' Friends and the Helping Hands 4-H Clubs participated in the Otsego County 4-H International Day at the Southside Mall in Oneonta. They picked a country they were interested in and shared information with a walking audience (the shoppers in the mall) about food, customs, clothing, and much more: Ewes N' Friends—Slovakia, Helping Hands—Norway, Otsego County 4-H—Australia.





# SPRING QUICK TIPS

## Building Healthy Habits: Food and Community Nutrition



**Building  
Healthy Habits**



### April is National Garden Month

April is a wonderful month to start cool season vegetables—like radishes, lettuce, and spinach—in your garden. Your garden can be a plot of land in your yard, a raised bed you build with wood, or a good-sized flowerpot full of potting soil. Homegrown vegetables are often more flavorful than those you choose at the store. Gardening can help to decrease your food bills and can help improve your mental and physical health. Being outside in nature can help lower stress and boost your mood!



**Cornell  
Cooperative  
Extension**

Use your EBT card to buy vegetable seeds and plants from any retail store that accepts EBT. Some of the easiest vegetables to grow from seed are green and yellow beans, lettuce of all types, spinach, fresh herbs, green onions, and radishes. When you buy seeds, be sure to read the back of the package to find out how deep and far apart to plant seeds. Make sure to thoroughly water your seeds and plants after planting. Check seeds daily to see if they need water, once sprouted, water when dry. Contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension with all your gardening questions!



# GET MORE *Healthy* RECIPES

## Spring Garden Salad

Serving Size: 1 cup

Serves 10

### Salad Ingredients

- 1 bag of baby spinach OR 7 cups of other salad greens
- 3 oranges or 1 - 15 oz can of mandarin oranges in juice (drained)
- 1 1/2 cups of washed, halved strawberries
- 1 cup of walnut pieces (toasted) optional

### Salad Dressing Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon of sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoon vinegar (any type)
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

### Directions

1. Wash hands with soap and water
2. Wash and dry spinach or salad greens, tear into pieces and chill.
3. To prepare orange: cut off peel and membrane of one part of the sections. Using a paring knife, gently cut out sections from membrane edges. This will make orange sections with no outer membrane. If using mandarin oranges, drain juice.
4. Make dressing by mixing sugar, paprika, orange juice, lemon juice, vinegar, onion and oil in a small bowl or jar with tight lid. Shake well. Set aside.
5. Right before serving, toss orange sections and strawberries with walnuts and spinach. Add dressing.
6. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

Nutrition Facts: Calories per serving: 100; Total Fat: 6 g; Cholesterol: 0mg; Total Carbohydrate: 11 g; Added Sugar: 0g; Fiber: 3g; Protein: 2g; Calcium: 69 mg; Potassium: 166 mg; Vitamin C: 56 mg

Source: Revised from FoodHero.org

## Kids' Book Nook

To begin your gardening adventure, take your child(ren) to the public library and borrow, "Plant it! Grow It! Eat It!" by Kathryn Selbert. Together, read the book and decide what vegetables you want to grow and talk about the insects that are helpful for our plants.

Are you ready for the April 8th eclipse? Many libraries and schools are giving away free eclipse glasses. Pick up a pair for everyone in your family!



### 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!!



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



# **Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties**



*Come Visit!*

## **EVENINGS IN THE GARDEN**

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
123 Lake Street, Cooperstown NY

Join us for an evening in the garden with Master Gardener Volunteers  
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
Programs begin at 5 pm

### **Evening Garden Topics:**

- May 21:** Potato Tower & Square Foot Gardening
- June 10:** Invasive Species in the Garden
- July 23:** All-America Selections Tour and Cut Flower Demonstration
- August 20:** Tomato Tasting and Cornell Vegetable Variety Trial Garden  
Garden of Africa
- Sept. 24:** Seed Saving Demonstration & Harvesting Potatoes

***Gardens open daily for self-guided viewing from dawn to dusk***

Demonstration Gardens include All-America Selections, Native Plants, Deer Resistant Plants, Sensory Garden Plants, Cornell's Vegetable Variety Garden Trial Garden, Perennial, Annuals, Pollinators and Vegetable Beds

Programs are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required.  
For more information visit [www.cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://www.cceschoharie-otsego.org) or call 607-547-2536 ext. 235



# Evenings in the Garden Series

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie and Otsego County is excited to announce a series of gardening programs at its new learning and demonstration garden in Cooperstown. The demonstration garden is designed to educate the community in horticulture. Maintained by Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers, it's open to the public and free to use for self-guided tours, or join us for one of our evening programs this summer.

The garden series will be held from May to September featuring different gardening themes and topics. Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers and professionals will be onsite to lead the workshop and answer gardening questions from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Each of the below guided programs will begin at 5:00 p.m.

## May 21

**Space Saving Gardening Techniques:** Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers Celia Oxley and Tina McGurkin will demonstrate how to build and maintain a vertical potato tower and Master Gardener Volunteer, Mary Ellen Calta will demonstrate a square foot garden.

## June 10

**Invasive Species in your Garden:** Join Dan Snider-Nerp, Terrestrial Invasive Species Manager, from the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) to learn about invasive species commonly found in your garden.

## July 23

**All-America Selections Demonstration Garden Tour and Cut Flower Demonstration:** Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers Susan

Jones and Kim L'Heureux will lead a discussion and tour of the prized All-America Selections gardens, while Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer Mary Ellen Calta will demonstrate how to cut and arrange flowers.

## August 20

**Tomato Tasting and Cornell Vegetable Variety Trial Garden—Garden of African Roots:** Join Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers for a delicious evening of tasting dozens of tomato varieties while also learning about the Cornell Vegetable Varieties Trial Garden (VVTG). This year the VVTG features African roots vegetables such as white velvet okra, yellow cabbage collard, cowpeas, African eggplant and many more.

## September 24

**The Art and Science of Seed Saving:** Learn the benefits of seed saving, which plants are best suited to seed saving, and how to harvest and store the seeds you collect. Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers will guide participants in the identification and collection of seeds from the gardens at CCE.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please visit [cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://cceschoharie-otsego.org) or call 607-547-2536 ext. 235.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties community programs and events, go to [cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://cceschoharie-otsego.org) or call 518-234-4303 ext 129. Stay connected to CCE Master Gardeners' daily postings at [facebook.com/cceotsegoMG](https://facebook.com/cceotsegoMG) and follow CCE Schoharie and Otsego on Facebook at [facebook.com/CCESchoharieOtsego](https://facebook.com/CCESchoharieOtsego).

# Weatherization Workshop

The Mohawk Valley Region Clean Energy Hub will host a no-cost Energy Education Weatherization Workshop on Tuesday, April 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Middleburgh Library located at 323 Main St, Middleburgh, NY.

The workshop will provide hands-on experience with various measures to save money and energy. Attendees will learn more about energy efficiency and how you can make your home more healthy, affordable, and cozy.

A free meal and free weatherization kits will be provided for all attendees who complete the class. The kits will include 6 surge-protected smart power strips, 2 LED light bulbs, 5 foam outlet gaskets, and 5 foam switch gaskets, window shrink and seal insulation kit, door sweep, premium rubber weather-stripping, and foam tape for windows and doors. When used together in your home, these supplies can help

to seal gaps through which heat escapes, ultimately making your heating and cooling more efficient.

Space is limited, so registration is required for the workshop. To register, visit our website [mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/events](http://mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/events). For more information, contact Michaela Fisher at maf396@cornell.edu or 518-234-4303 ext. 114.

The Mohawk Valley Region Clean Energy Hub, also known as Smart Energy Choices - Mohawk Valley, is one of 12 Regional Clean Energy Hubs in New York state. Smart Energy Choices—Mohawk Valley is a collaboration of Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Oneida, Herkimer, and Otsego, and Schoharie Counties.

For more information about the Hub or to be put in touch with a local Energy Advisor, visit [mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/meet-our-team](http://mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/meet-our-team).



**April 21 - May 5, 2025**

Stop by your local Tractor Supply and purchase a Paper Clover to help support the 4-H Program. Funds raised are used for scholarships to 4-H Camp and Leadership events.



# PROGRAM EVENTS

Visit [cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://cceschoharie-otsego.org) to see the most up-to-date listings offered.

## Animal Biosecurity

Tuesday, April 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

CCESO's Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown AND virtual option

What is animal biosecurity? How pests and pathogens enter the farm; protecting your operation; and developing a biosecurity plan. Presented in collaboration with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH).

## Animal Biosecurity

Thursday, April 17, 9:30-11:00 am

CCESO's Cobleskill Extension Center, 173 South Grand St, Cobleskill AND virtual option  
What is animal biosecurity? How pests and pathogens enter the farm; protecting your operation; and developing a biosecurity plan. Presented in collaboration with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH).

## Orientation for Otsego County 4-H Dog & Handler Skills Classes

Sunday, April 27, 2:00 p.m.

4276 St Hwy 51, Garrettsville

Otsego County 4-H is offering dog handler foundational skill classes that build communication techniques that are clear and kind and uses positive reinforcement through fun activities. Orientation class is to review the required paperwork to participate in the program and discuss the workshops (classes held 5/4, 5/18, 5/25, 6/8, 6/22, 6/29). \$40 class fee and preregistration required. Contact Teresa Adell 4-H Educator [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu).

## Plant Biosecurity

Tuesday, April 29, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

CCESO's Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake St, Cooperstown AND virtual option  
What is plant biosecurity? How pests and pathogens enter the farm; protecting your operation; and developing a biosecurity plan.

## Plant Biosecurity

Thursday, April 30, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

CCESO's Cobleskill Extension Center, 173 South Grand St, Cobleskill AND virtual option  
What is plant biosecurity? How pests and pathogens enter the farm; protecting your operation; and developing a biosecurity plan.

## Energy Education Weatherization Workshop

Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Middleburgh Library, 323 Main St, Middleburgh, NY

Learn more about energy efficiency and how you can make your home more cozy. A free meal and free weatherization kits will be provided for all attendees who complete the class. Registration is required. To register, visit our website [mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/events](http://mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/events). For more information, contact Michaela Fisher at [maf396@cornell.edu](mailto:maf396@cornell.edu) or 518-234-4303 ext. 114.

## Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteer Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

SUNY Cobleskill, Schoharie Drive North, Cobleskill

## 4-H Science Day

Saturday, May 3

SUNY Oneonta

Come to be a citizen scientist and learn about our earth and other planets in outer space. Hands-on activities for all ages. For more information contact Otsego County 4-H Educator, Teresa Adell [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu).

## NYS 4-H Animal Crackers

May 3

Cornell University

The annual Animal Crackers program provides youth ages 8 and older with fun, hands-on, science-oriented learning experiences on Animal Science topics. Participants will learn about different aspects of animal care, interact and exchange information with faculty, staff, students, professional producers, and industry experts utilizing the unique facilities of Cornell University. Species will include: dairy, goats (dairy & meat), rabbits, and poultry. For more information, visit [cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/programs/animal-crackers](http://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/programs/animal-crackers). Please contact your local 4-H Office by April 22nd to register.

## Otsego County 4-H Gardening Workshop

Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m.

The Rowe House, 31 Maple Street, Oneonta

This workshop will explore the varieties of annual flowers, starting annuals from seed, planning and planting an annual garden, and care of the garden. Participants will plant a container garden to take home. \$8 material fee, preregistration required by May 2 to Teresa Adell 4-H Educator [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu).

## Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

CCESO Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown

## Otsego County 4-H Beef Showmanship Clinic

Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.

Otsego County Fairgrounds, Morris, NY

4-H members interested in fitting and showmanship Clinic will learn to clip, fit,

judge and show a project animal. Pre-registration is required, contact Teresa Adell [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu).

## 4-H Capital Days

Sunday, May 18 through Tuesday, May 20

Albany, NY

This program gives youth an opportunity to meet and interact with legislators and tell their 4-H story. Capital Days creates awareness of career opportunities in New York government and better understanding of state government, and participants network with delegates from other counties. Delegates are chosen by their county 4-H program. 4-H members ages 14-18 (as of January 1, 2025) are invited to apply. For more information please visit [nys4-h.org/capital-days](http://nys4-h.org/capital-days). To register, please contact your local 4-H Office by April deadline (TBD).

## Evening in the Garden Series - Space Saving Gardening Techniques

May 21, program begins at 5 pm, Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers will be onsite to answer gardening questions from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

CCESO Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown

Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers, Celia Oxley and Tina McGurrin will demonstrate how to build and maintain a vertical potato tower and Master Gardener Volunteer, Mary Ellen Calta will demonstrate a square foot garden. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please visit [cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://cceschoharie-otsego.org) or call 607-547-2536 ext. 235.

## Memorial Day (offices closed)

Monday, May 26

## Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.

Meetings of CCESO's Board of Directors are open to the public and are held synchronously at the CCESO Extension Center in Cobleskill and the CCESO Education Center in Cooperstown.

## Otsego County 4-H Together We Grow & Eat Gardening Workshops

June 5, 6/12, 7/10 & 7/17, 5:30-7 p.m.

CCESO Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown

Hands-on workshops taught by the Otsego County Master Gardener Volunteers will give 4-H youth experience in planning, planting, caring for and eating from a garden. \$25 material fee, pre-registration is required, contact Teresa Adell, 4-H Educator, [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu).

## Otsego County 4-H Child Care Clinic

Saturday, June 7, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Rowe House, 31 Maple Street, Oneonta

4-H youth ages 11 and up will learn safety, child development, nutrition, activities and business skills to help them in their childcare business. Class fee is \$20, pre-registration is required, contact Teresa Adell, 4-H Educator, [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu).

## NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Pullorum Clinic

Monday, June 9, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Martin Hall, Otsego County Fairgrounds, Morris, NY

Participation is a requirement to exhibit at the county and state fairs. Register with 4-H Educator, Teresa Adell [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu)

## Evening in the Garden - Invasive Species in your Garden

June 10, program begins at 5:00 p.m., Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers will be onsite to answer gardening questions from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

CCESO Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown

Join Dan Snider-Nerp, Terrestrial Invasive Species Manager, from the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) to learn about invasive species commonly found in your garden. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please visit [cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://cceschoharie-otsego.org) or call 607-547-2536 ext. 235.

## Juneteenth (offices closed)

Thursday, June 19

## Otsego County 4-H Photography Clinic

Saturday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.

CCESO Cooperstown Education Center, 123 Lake St, Cooperstown

4-H Youth will learn equipment, lighting, composition, skill building and how to mount a photo to show at the fair. Register with 4-H Educator, Teresa Adell [tla7@cornell.edu](mailto:tla7@cornell.edu).

## NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Pullorum Clinic

Monday, June 16, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Progressland Building, Schoharie County Sunshine Fairgrounds, Cobleskill, NY

Requirement to exhibit at the county and state fairs. Register with 4-H Educator, Catherine Roberts [cmr336@cornell.edu](mailto:cmr336@cornell.edu).

## New York State 4-H Career Explorations Conference

Wednesday, June 25 through Friday, June 27

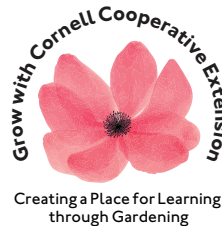
Cornell University

The purpose of this conference is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration, to develop leadership skills, to provide hands-on experience in a college setting and Cornell University. For more information, visit [nys4-h.org/career-explorations-2025](http://nys4-h.org/career-explorations-2025) or contact your local 4-H office.

Cooking with Kids series at CCE Cobleskill – 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Session A – Tuesdays: June 17, 24, July 8, 15, 29, August 12 • Session B – Wednesdays: June 18, 25, July 9, 16, 23, August 13

# CCE in Action!



## Here is how you can support CCE outreach:

Making a donation is as simple as going to [www.cceschoharie-otsego.org](http://www.cceschoharie-otsego.org) and clicking this button:



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