

Connections

The News Magazine of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties

APRIL-JUNE 2026

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Family Farm Day

Registration is open for the **14th Annual Family Farm Day (FFD)**, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension, on **Saturday, August 29, 2026**. We welcome farms in Schoharie, Otsego, and Delaware Counties to be part of this regional agritourism tradition. Whether you have participated in the past or are considering joining for the first time, we encourage you to register and share your farm with the community.



SCHOHARIE-OTSEGO-DELAWARE
FAMILY FARM DAY.ORG
SAT., AUG. 29, 2026

★ Cornell Cooperative Extension ★

Family Farm Day continues to be a meaningful opportunity for farms to open their gates, tell their stories, and connect directly with the public. Last year's event brought strong community participation and positive feedback from both farms and visitors, reinforcing the importance of agriculture in our region. **We are accepting registrations through Wednesday, April 29, 2026.**

Why participate in Family Farm Day?

Each farm operation is unique, and that diversity is what makes this event so special. As an education-based organization, Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie-Otsego and Cornell Cooperative Extension Delaware encourage farms to use Family Farm Day as an opportunity to showcase your operation and help visitors better understand agriculture. Whether you raise livestock, grow produce, produce maple syrup, or create value-added products, this is your chance to highlight what makes your farm distinctive.

Participating farms have the opportunity to introduce new customers to their products, strengthen relationships with existing customers, increase farm visibility, and build long-term community support. Opening your farm for the day helps keep agriculture at the center of the public conversation while reinforcing the importance of local food and farming in our region.

Farms that have participated in previous years may register online. Information about eligibility, registration forms, county contacts, and

Read more on page 3

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties

FIND US ONLINE

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Main association news: CCESchoharieOtsego

Master Gardeners: CCEOtsegoMG;
CCESchoharieMG

4-H: schohariecounty4H; otsegocounty4H

Ag education and programs:

AnniesProjectNYS; FamilyFarmDay

Farm to School: LocalFoodsHealthySchools

Follow us on **Instagram**:

Master Gardeners: otsegomastergardener

Family Farm Day: familyfarmday



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!

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe to **Connections**, the e-newsletter of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties, visit our website, www.cceschoharie-otsego.org. Click on the red "Subscribe to Connections" button in the right-hand column, and fill out and submit your subscription. It's free, and by subscribing you are assured of receiving future issues, without missing any news or programs of the Association. Printed copies are also available at the Association offices in Cobleskill, Cooperstown, and Oneonta. Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties does not share readers' personal information with third parties. Our emails are to keep you up to date with current events. If you do not wish to receive our notices, you can unsubscribe at any time.

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.

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

Family Farm Day, continued from page 1

agritourism resources can be found at www.cceschoharie-otsego.org/familyfarmdayregistration or by contacting our office directly. If your farm has not participated in the past, we encourage you to reach out to your respective county coordinator to confirm eligibility and discuss participation.

We look forward to working together to make the 14th Annual Family Farm Day another strong and successful event for our regional agricultural community.

Family Farm Day is coordinated by CCE Schoharie and Otsego (CCESO), in collaboration with CCE Delaware.

Farms in Schoharie and Otsego Counties can contact Kelley Doolin at 518.234.4303 ext. 122, or kmd322@cornell.edu.

Farms in Delaware County can contact Desiree Keever at 607.865.6531 ext. 1013, or dnk2@cornell.edu.

Ag Solutions & Networking Expo Recap

On March 3rd, farmers, agricultural service providers, and community partners gathered in the Bouck Hall Ballroom at SUNY Cobleskill for the 2nd Ag Solutions & Networking Expo. The day-long event brought together the regional agricultural community for networking, information sharing, and practical learning. The event was co-hosted by Schoharie County Agricultural Development, New York Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie Otsego, the Institute for Rural Vitality at SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech, NYSERDA, and National Grid.

The program began with opening remarks from campus leadership, followed by a keynote presentation from Richard Ball, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Throughout the day, attendees participated in a series of breakout sessions covering topics designed to support farm business growth and resilience.

Sessions explored areas such as agritourism, value-added products, business planning, energy efficiency programs and grants, marketing and brand-

ing strategies using social media, and other topics within the agricultural sector. An Ag Issues Roundtable provided space for conversation about current concerns and priorities within the industry. The purpose was to encourage dialogue, connection, and understanding among farmers and service providers.

Alongside the educational sessions, the expo portion of the event allowed participants to connect directly with agricultural agencies, organizations, and businesses offering resources and services to support farm operations. The Ag Solutions & Networking Expo continues to serve as an opportunity for the region's agricultural community to come together, exchange ideas, and strengthen networks. We look forward to continuing this event; watch for the date of the 2027 Ag Solutions & Networking Expo to be announced soon!



CCESO at Earth Festival

Earth Festival is Otsego County's annual collaborative celebration of sustainability, community, and environmental stewardship. Look for the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers and CCESO's Community Energy Advisor on May 9, from 10 am to 3 pm at Earth Festival's NEW LOCATION in SUNY Oneonta's Chase Auditorium. Coordinated by the Otsego County Conservation Association, visit www.occa.info.org/earth-festival for more information.





SPRING INTO Giving
ONLINE AUCTION

May 1– May 17!

Bid early and bid often on useful items and unique finds! Auction proceeds will support CCESO's education and outreach programs!

<http://cceschoharieotsegocounties.betterworld.org/auctions/cce-auction>

Questions? Contact Liz Callahan (eac283@cornell.edu) or Nicole Thompson (neh57@cornell.edu) or 518.234.4303 ext.119.



Leading the Farm Team: Supervisory Skills for New Managers



Hiring your first employees—or stepping into a farm management role—means learning how to lead people, not just production. On April 14, 21 and 28 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, CCESO will offer a three-session Supervisory Skills for New Managers training via Zoom that will help farm owners and new managers build practical supervisory skills, including how to set clear expectations, train employees, give effective feedback, and manage workplace conflict.

Build a Better Pest Strategy

Are you practicing low-spray or organic/regenerative farming and want to be prepared for pest problems? CCESO is offering **An Introduction to Integrated Pest Management and How to Incorporate it into Your Farm Operation** on Thursday, April 9th from 5:30 to 7 pm. The program will be held synchronously at CCESO's Schoharie Extension Center, at CCE Madison, and via Zoom.

This program will introduce the fundamentals of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and how it can help growers make informed decisions about managing pests and diseases. Participants will learn what IPM is, explore different types of controls, and review resources for identifying common pests and diseases. The session will also cover some of the factors that can affect crop health and how these considerations fit into a well-rounded pest management strategy.

The program will guide participants through creating a practical pest management plan for their farm, including understanding economic thresholds and when intervention may be necessary. Along the way, we will discuss how growers can evaluate their options and choose management strategies that fit their operation. Participants will also learn about important safety considerations, equipment, and protective gear, as well as how to read product labels and troubleshoot common challenges. Build your confidence in identifying issues and choosing the right response for your crops.

To register contact Kelley at 518.234.4303 ext. 122, kmd322@cornell.edu, or register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/PestStrategy_225.

Participants will gain tools they can immediately apply on their farms this season to improve employee performance and create a more productive workplace. These sessions highlight key concepts from the Ag Supervisory Leadership Certificate Course offered by the Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program, which provides more in-depth training for farm supervisors.

Join us to strengthen your leadership skills and learn how to lead your farm team with confidence. This program is offered by the Eastern NY Commercial Hort Team, the Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, CCE Schoharie/Otsego County and CCE Dutchess County. Cost: \$30 per farm.

To register contact Kelley at 518.234.4303 ext. 122, kmd322@cornell.edu, or register online at <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2203>.

FOR SALE

SIX (6) NEW MARVIN ELEVATE AWNING WINDOWS CN4923

SPECS: R0 size = 49" x 23 5/8"; Stone White exterior, white interior; low E2 with argon; stainless perimeter and spacer bar; 7/8" SDL with space bar 10 light 5W2H; white hardware, screen with white surround; 4-9/16" jambs.

BRAND NEW (still in packaging). Retail value: \$8,000.

Asking \$4,000 (a fair offer will be considered).

Contact Marcie Foster by emailing mkf48@cornell.edu or calling 607-547-2536 ext. 235.



Farm to School Program

CCESO's Farm to School Program is ramping up with our partnering districts and communities! CCESO has been working to engage parents, community members, farmers, colleagues, and teachers in ten school districts in our Farm to School efforts. This program really does take a village, so the more interactions and education for those who could be involved, the better chance of creating support for a sustainable program.

One such interaction was the Cooperstown Elementary School Art Show at the Susquehanna SPCA. Farm to School Coordinator, Mariah Goodwin, set up a table to introduce the Farm to School program while giving parents and families a 'taste' of farm to school: attendees participated in a taste test by trying our Harvest of the Month sample. Participants were asked to cast their vote on whether or not they liked the sample, giving them a better sense of what their kids are experiencing in school.



Grow tower on display from Marie Curie Elementary School during Farm to School Summit

In February Mariah attended the 2026 NY Farm to School Summit in Saratoga Springs – a conference where food service staff, educators, producers and farmers to administrators were in attendance and able to learn from their peers. Speakers included Richard Ball, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, and there were a variety of workshops that shared information from folks working in the Farm to

School field and doing amazing things with their own programs.

Mariah also represented CCESO at the Ag Solutions & Networking Expo in Cobleskill, NY and connected with many local farms and producers to talk about the opportunities local producers have to work with local schools to bring more fresh local food into school cafeterias to feed students healthier meals. With such a rich agricultural presence in Schoharie and Otsego counties there are many opportunities to connect students with local farms!

CCESO is committed to keeping the Farm to School program moving forward, and we need the community's help to grow this program so that we can reach as many students as possible. If you want to learn more about how you can get involved check out our Farm to School page <https://cceschoharie-otsego.org/farm-to-school> or contact Mariah Goodwin at email mog27@cornell.edu or phone 607.547.2536 ext. 234. You can also stay up to date with our Farm to School activities by following our Facebook page Local Foods, Healthy Schools: Schoharie & Otsego Counties.



Farm to School table at art show



Taste test samples—crackers topped with pears and cheese

Solar 101

Winter is finally at its end, and the days are getting longer! The temperature is warming up as the sun's strength grows. But have you ever thought about putting the sun's energy to good use? Let's talk about solar!

Solar energy is a type of renewable energy because it will never run out. We can harvest energy from the sun by using solar panels. The sun emits energy in the form of heat and light, and the panels collect the heat and light and convert them to electrical energy. This energy can then be used to heat our homes, power our cars, or whatever else we want! Solar can lower your electric bill, reduce your carbon footprint, and even increase your property value.

If you are interested in getting solar energy, one option is on-site solar. This means the solar panels are on your property, whether they are rooftop or ground-mounted panels. Rooftop panels can come in a variety of types depending on your roof characteristics, budget and energy goals. There are a few options to pay for solar: which includes leases, power purchase agreements and loans. If you have a south facing roof that is between a 15–40-degree pitch, this could be a great option for you!

If your roof is not a good option for solar, you can also consider ground-mounted panels. Ground-mounted panels are typically more expensive; however, they can be easier to maintain because they are more accessible for cleaning or repair. Ground-

mount panels also may offer increased efficiency because they can be positioned directly towards the sun at the most ideal angle.

However, if you don't own your home or your site is not a good candidate for solar, fear not! You could also explore community solar. Homeowners, renters, businesses, and multifamily buildings can



all access the benefits of solar power without installing panels on their property. Community solar projects generate renewable energy on behalf of multiple customers, who receive credits on their monthly electric bills for their share of the clean electricity that's produced.

Solar is a great option to lower your electric bill and reduce your carbon footprint. NYSERDA's NY-Sun Program is helping New York make solar energy more accessible to homes, businesses and communities through a network of qualified installers. To learn about community solar projects available in your area visit NYSERDA's website.

To get started or if you want to explore whether these programs may be right for you, contact Michaela, your resident energy advisor, at 518.234.4303 ext. 114 or maf396@cornell.edu.



Pollinator Spotlight: Mining Bees



BY DEBORAH BANKS, OTSEGO MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

In early spring, our primary pollinators are native bees. Honey bees are still shivering in their hives, waiting for warmer weather. Some of the most commonly encountered bees in early spring are those in the *Andrena* genus, known as mining bees.

Mining bees are ground nesters, digging tunnels in which to lay their eggs. They are furry, medium-sized solitary bees. Each female bee digs her own nest, collects pollen and nectar, and lays her eggs on her own rather than as part of a colony. Typically, they have only one brood per year, and most species are active only in the spring.

Mining bees are important pollinators of early blooming plants, including wildflowers and fruit trees. Some native bees such as *Andrena dunningi* are generalists and can feed on a variety of plants. Many bee species in the *Andrena* genus are specialist bees, meaning that they feed on very specific plants, sometimes only one specific species of plant. Mining bees have a very short period of activity, spanning just a few weeks. It is crucial that they find their host plant during this brief time.

For example, *Andrena erigeniae* specializes in collecting pollen from the wildflower spring beauty (*Claytonia*). Foraging females will have *Claytonia*'s bright pink pollen on their hind legs. These bees



Andrena dunningi ©Angela Hartley. Used with permission.

are only found in woodland areas that support an expanse of spring beauty. This bee's population is declining in New York state.

To provide opportunities for ground-nesting bees, leave areas of loose bare soil in your yard. Do not disturb the soil if bees are nesting there. The young bees will remain in these nests until the following spring. Also, their preferred host plants should be nearby. Several mining bee species make use of silky dogwood, gray dogwood, native willows, bellworts (*Uvularia*), spring beauty, and violets, among other plants.

Starting an Herb Garden



Herbs and spices are more than just culinary enhancements or seasonal flowers in the garden. These potent, fragrant plants have earned their rightful places in the home apothecary, bath, and boudoir as well as in many household applications. If you are interested in growing and using herbs, join herbalist Gert Coleman to discover which herbs will grow in your space and sun and what to do with them. This workshop will be held on Thursday May 21, 6 to 7:30 pm, in the garden at the Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street (Cooperstown).

Herbal educator, writer, gardener, editor, and herb enthusiast, Gert Coleman loves, grows, eats,

and reads avidly about herbs. Retired professor of English, she lives on 100+ acres in Central New York, growing herbs, flowers, trees, and at-risk native plants with her husband and dog. As an herbal educator, she teaches humorous and informative programs for all ages at parks, museums, and conferences; helped maintain a 70' x 70' colonial herb garden for 3 decades; apprenticed with Rosemary Gladstar; compiled and edited five Herb of the Year™ books; and writes about the legends, lore, and poetry of herbs. In addition, she teaches workshops on nature writing in the wild places of New York and beyond.

Grow a Row: Helping Feed Our Community, One Garden at a Time



The Master Gardener Volunteers of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties invite local gardeners to take part in a simple but meaningful initiative: the **Grow a Row Program**.

The idea is straightforward. If you grow fruits or vegetables in your home garden, on a farm, or through a community garden, consider planting one extra “row” specifically to donate to local food pantries. That one additional row can help provide fresh, nutritious produce to neighbors in our community who may be experiencing food insecurity.

Many food pantries rely heavily on shelf-stable items, and fresh produce is often limited. By participating in Grow a Row, gardeners can help increase access to healthy fruits and vegetables while sharing the abundance that so many gardens naturally produce during the growing season. Grow a Row is a small commitment that can make a big difference. By sharing a portion of what we grow, we can help ensure that more families in Schoharie and Otsego Counties have access to fresh, locally grown food.

Getting involved is easy. When planning your garden, simply designate an extra row or a portion of your harvest to donate. Throughout the season,

harvest that produce, and deliver it to a nearby food pantry.

Learn more about becoming a Grower for this program at virtual informational programs, offered via Zoom on April 22nd and May 28th at 6 pm. To register visit www.cceschoharie-otsego.org, or contact Marcie Foster at 607.547.2536, ext. 235 or mkf48@cornell.edu.

PLANT EXTRA • HARVEST • DONATE LOCALLY

GROW A ROW

.... **OTSEGO & SCHOHARIE COUNTIES**

*Help fight food insecurity in Otsego and Schoharie Counties!
Dedicate a row (or part) of your garden and donate the produce to local food pantries and community partners.*

What is Grow a Row?	Why Participate?
<p>Plant a little extra and donate your harvest to help neighbors in need.</p> <p>Participants get guidance from Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, including training and ongoing support.</p>	<p> Expert gardening tips</p> <p> Connect your harvest to local food pantries</p> <p> Make a direct impact on food access!</p>

How You Can Help:

- Plant an extra row
- Donate surplus produce
- Support local efforts

No garden is too small - Every harvest counts!

Who Can Participate?	Interested in Participating?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home gardeners • Farm & market growers • Community & school gardens • Individuals, families, clubs, and organizations 	<p>For more information, contact Marcie Foster (mkf48@cornell.edu; 607-547-2546 ext. 235)</p>

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Schoharie and Otsego Counties

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Master Gardeners in Both Counties Will Host Annual Plant Sales in May



Spring is on its way, and the Schoharie County Master Gardener Volunteers are planning our annual Plant Sale. This event, open to the public, takes place on Saturday, May 2nd, from 8 am-2 pm, at SUNY Cobleskill, 114 Rockland Lane, Cobleskill, NY. Enjoy the bounty of the collaboration between SMGVs and SUNY Cobleskill’s annual plant sale—and reap the benefits of two plant sales in one location!

The Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers are thrilled to be partnering with the Fenimore Farm and Country Village for this year’s spring sale on Saturday, May 16th. With ample parking and space to shop at all the plant varieties, the plant sale will be held indoors at the Fenimore Farm’s Louis C. Jones Center, 5775 NY-80, Cooperstown, NY. The sale will feature a wide variety of vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, and native plants proudly grown by the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers. And don’t forget to return to Fenimore Farm on May 23 & 24 for the Farm’s annual Heritage Plant Sale. For more information visit FenimoreFarm.org.





Cornell Cooperative Extension
Schoharie and Otsego Counties



SCHOHARIE COUNTY

PLANT SALE

MAY 2, 2026
8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

SUNY COBLESKILL
CANR GREENHOUSE
114 ROCKLAND LANE, COBLESKILL

A Partnership between the
Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers and SUNY Cobleskill

www.cceschoharie-otsego.org



Otsego County:
Mastergardener-otsego@cornell.edu
607-547-2536 ext. 235

Schoharie County:
Mastergardener-schoharie@cornell.edu
518-234-4303 ext. 129

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Schoharie and Otsego Counties

Otsego County

PLANT SALE

MAY 16, 2026
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

NEW LOCATION:

Fenimore Farm & Country Village

Louis C. Jones Center

5775 NY-80

Cooperstown, NY 13326

Proudly featuring a wide variety of
vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, and
native plants lovingly grown by Otsego
Master Gardener Volunteers

Plant sale proceeds support garden based learning in Otsego County.

www.cceschoharie-otsego.org



Otsego County:
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607-547-2536 ext. 235

Schoharie County:
Mastergardener-schoharie@cornell.edu
518-234-4303 ext. 129

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Two-Part Family Gardening Program Offered in Cooperstown



Gardening can be a fun and enriching experience for the whole family. Join Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers for this two-part series focused on beginner gardening topics and tips to engage the whole family. Help to plant a Victory Garden, learn about gardening, and enjoy this time to grow food and family bonds. This event is ideal for families with children between 3-11 years old.

This two-part program will be held on May 20th and July 15th, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, **in the garden at CCESO's Otsego Education Center**, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown, NY.

Pre-registration is required - please be sure to register for each child attending so we can be sure to have enough supplies! To pre-register for each date visit www.cceschoharie-otsego.org, or for more information contact mkf48@cornell.edu or 607.547.2536 ext. 235.



Square-Foot Gardening: Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces

Want to grow more vegetables in smaller spaces? Square foot gardening is a planting method that can maximize space and yield for growing abundant and diverse vegetables. Join the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers to learn more about this fun and fruitful method on June 29th from, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, in the garden at CCESO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown NY. Pre-registration required. Visit www.cceschoharie-otsego.org.



The Year of the Impatiens

BY MARK BOSHACK, OTSEGO MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER



In time for the spring planting season, the National Garden Bureau has named 2026 as the Year of the Impatiens. On its website, ngb.org, you will find all the information you will need to choose a popular variety and the growing tips you will need for success. Similar information can be found on the website for other Green Thumb winners: azalea, crocus, ficus, hot pepper and sedum. It recognizes plants that are popular and easy to grow, among other criteria, according to ngb.org.

There are over 1,000 varieties of Impatiens, which was first named by Carl Linnaeus in 1753. It refers to the way it releases its seeds—ripe capsules burst at the slightest touch. One factor highlighted in choosing Impatiens was breeding success in one of the more popular varieties. Impatiens *walleriana*, also known as Busy Lizzie. It was devastated in 2011 by dusty mildew (IDM), an often-fatal fungus-like water mold that turns leaves yellow and appears as a white mildew on the underside of plants before causing collapse. Several disease resistant series have been developed since then. According to NGB, this includes Beacon, Glimmer series, which has double flowers, and the Imara XDR series. The New Guinea impatiens that is also highlighted is naturally IDM resistance.

Impatiens are relatively easy to take care of, making them a good option for the busy gardener. They also thrive in beds, containers, and hanging baskets. According to the NGB website, traditional varieties, such as Impatiens *walleriana* thrive deep to partial shade and should be spaced 8-12 inches



apart. New Guinea Impatiens prefer partial sun with a spacing of 12-15 inches. SunPatians, a type of impatiens hybrid designed to thrive in full sun, make them ideal for containers and flower beds, where the recommended spacing is 14-24 inches.

Advice on disease prevention includes ensuring good air circulation, promptly removing dead foliage and keeping tools clean. Regular maintenance includes deadheading, pinching back leggy growth and removing yellowed leaves. The website section on learning more about Impatiens links to a variety of helpful videos.

There is similar information for this year's other award-winning plants at the Year of Plants tab on the ngb.org website. An extra bonus there are links to other award winners from 2020-2025. The National Garden Bureau was formed to educate and inspire both gardeners and industry. The program chooses from underappreciated or trending plants.

Growing Microgreens at Home

Microgreens are nutrient dense tiny greens that can be grown at home in a short amount of time in limited space. Learn about the basic steps of growing microgreens from sowing to harvesting on April 14th from 11 am to noon at CCESO's Schoharie Extension Center, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY. No previous gardening experience is needed. The program is free. Please register in advance by visiting www.cceschoharie-otsego.org.



Welcome Master Gardener Volunteer Class of 2026!



CCESO welcomes new Master Gardener Volunteers! Twenty gardeners completed the 55-hour training that started last October to become garden educators in our community. Bringing together a variety of skills, talents, and experiences, this new class will be contributing to garden-based programs and initiatives in Otsego and Schoharie

Counties. The next Master Gardener Training will be held in the fall of 2027. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer, please contact Marcie Foster at mkf48@cornell.edu or 607.547.2536 ext. 235.



Composting Workshop at Mohican Farm



Learning about Hydroponics at SUNY Cobleskill



Soil Texture and pH Testing

We welcome farms in Schoharie, Otsego, and Delaware Counties to be part of this regional agritourism tradition. Whether you have participated in the past or are considering joining for the first time, we encourage you to register and share your farm with the community.

Information about eligibility, registration forms, and agritourism resources can be found at: www.cceschoharie-otsego.org/familyfarmdayregistration

For more information or to confirm eligibility: Schoharie and Otsego County farms can contact Kelley Doolin at 518.234.4303 (x122), or kmd322@cornell.edu. Delaware County farms can contact Desiree Keever at 607.865.6531 (x1013), or dnk2@cornell.edu.



Demonstration Garden Themes

Master Gardener Volunteers are planning for an exciting line up of new garden beds and themes in the garden at CCESO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown. Garden Bed themes will include:

- Herbs
- Succulents
- All-America Selections: Vegetables and Flowers
- Square Foot Garden
- Garlic
- Shallots
- Victory Garden



- Cornell Vegetable Varieties Garden Trial: Mediterranean Vegetables
- Seeds that Built America: Featuring the Three Sisters
- Cut Flowers

Visitors can also enjoy the pollinator garden, shade garden, rain garden, and lasagna garden.



“The Dirt” Is Coming Soon!

CCESO's Master Gardener Volunteers are excited to announce our new newsletter, The Dirt! It is designed to help gardens thrive in our unique local climate. Each issue will deliver research-based planting tips, seasonal "to-do" lists, and practical guidance for gardening in our region. We'll also share insights, resources, and educational opportunities to help you grow with

confidence and deepen your connection to the land. Whether you are a seasoned grower or just getting your hands dirty for the first time, “The Dirt” will provide the grounding you need for a successful season. Interested? <https://cceschoharie-otsego.org/connections-newsletter/membership-subscription-preferences>



April Gardening in Otsego and Schoharie Counties: What to Do Now—and What to Wait On

April is a hopeful—but challenging—month for gardeners in Otsego and Schoharie Counties. While longer days and warming sunshine hint at spring, our region's higher elevations, variable soils, and unpredictable weather mean winter is often not quite finished. Snow flurries, cold rains, and overnight freezes are all still possible, even as lawns begin to green and bulbs emerge.

Understanding what April is best used for—and what should wait—can help gardeners avoid common pitfalls and set the stage for a successful growing season.

What April Looks Like Locally

In both Otsego and Schoharie Counties, April soils are often slow to dry and warm, particularly in clay-heavy or low-lying areas. Working soil too early can damage soil structure, leading to compaction and drainage issues that persist throughout the season.

Average last frost dates in our area generally fall between mid-May and late May, depending on elevation and site conditions. Valley gardens may warm earlier, while hilltop and exposed sites often lag behind. These differences make patience especially important.

Garden Tasks You Can Do Now

Despite the limitations of early spring, April offers many productive opportunities.

Check soil conditions and plan ahead.

Before working garden beds, perform a simple squeeze test: if soil forms a muddy ball or releases water, it's too wet to work. If it crumbles, light preparation can begin. April is also an excellent time to test your soil for pH and nutrients. Visit CCESO's website for more information about soil testing—www.cceschoharie-otsego.org.

Clean up garden beds—selectively.

Remove fallen branches and excess debris, but consider leaving some leaf litter and standing stems until temperatures are consistently above 50°F. Many beneficial insects overwinter in this material and emerge later in spring.

Prune summer-flowering trees and shrubs.

Shrubs that bloom on new wood—such as but-

terfly bush, panicle hydrangea, and Rose of Sharon—can be pruned now. Delay pruning spring-flowering shrubs like lilac, forsythia, and viburnum until after bloom.

Plant cool-season vegetables.

As soon as soil conditions allow, gardeners can plant peas, spinach, lettuce, kale, onions, radishes, and other cool-season crops. These vegetables tolerate cool soils and light frosts common in April.

Begin hardening off seedlings.

On mild days, gradually introduce seedlings to outdoor conditions by placing them in a sheltered area for a few hours at a time, increasing exposure over 7–10 days.

What to Wait On (Even When Spring Fever Hits)

Some gardening tasks are better delayed, even when the weather tempts us otherwise.

Hold off on planting tender crops and annuals.

Warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and basil—as well as most annual flowers—are sensitive to cold soil and frost. Waiting until May leads to stronger, healthier plants.

Avoid heavy mulching too early.

Applying mulch too soon can keep soils cold and wet, slowing plant growth. Wait until soil temperatures rise and plants are actively growing.

Don't prune spring-flowering shrubs yet.

Pruning now will remove flower buds formed last season. Always prune these shrubs after they finish blooming.

April Is a Month for Observation

April provides valuable insights that can guide gardening decisions throughout the year.

- Observe drainage patterns after heavy rains
- Identify areas with winter damage or vole activity
- Note sun and shade patterns before trees leaf out
- Watch for early emerging weeds, when control is easiest

These observations are especially useful in our region, where microclimates vary widely over short distances.

Preparing for a Busy May

Use April to prepare for the surge of activity that comes with warmer weather:

- Clean, sharpen, and organize tools
- Review last year's garden notes and plan changes
- Finalize planting maps and seed orders
- Set up row covers or frost protection systems

Top 10 Spring Vegetables to Plant Now

For Otsego & Schoharie Counties (Zone 5b)

As April arrives in Otsego and Schoharie Counties, gardeners can finally get their hands back in the soil. While frosts are still possible, many cool-season vegetables thrive in early spring and can be planted as soon as the ground is workable. According to Cornell Cooperative Extension, these hardy crops are well-suited to our Zone 5b climate and help kick off a productive growing season.

Here are the Top 10 Spring Vegetables to Plant Now in your garden:

1. Lettuce

Lettuce is one of the easiest spring crops. Plant seeds directly in the garden and enjoy fresh salads in just a few weeks. Sow every two weeks for continuous harvest.

2. Spinach

Cold-hardy and nutrient-rich, spinach thrives in cool weather. It grows best before summer heat causes it to bolt.

3. Peas

Plant peas early for sweet, crisp pods by late spring. Provide a trellis or fence for climbing varieties.

4. Carrots

Carrots prefer cool soil and benefit from early planting. Loose, stone-free soil helps produce straight, smooth roots.

5. Radishes

Fast-growing and reliable, radishes can be harvested in as little as 3-4 weeks—perfect for impatient gardeners.

6. Onions (Sets or Transplants)

April is ideal for planting onion sets or seedlings. Early planting encourages strong root development and larger bulbs.

A Thoughtful Start Makes the Difference

In Otsego and Schoharie Counties, April is less about planting and more about preparation. By respecting soil conditions, timing tasks carefully, and observing the garden closely, gardeners can protect their soil, support beneficial insects, and ensure healthier plants throughout the season. A little patience now pays dividends all summer long.

7. Kale

Kale tolerates frost and even improves in flavor after light cold spells. It provides steady harvests into early summer.

8. Broccoli

Start broccoli from transplants in early spring. Cool temperatures help produce tight, flavorful heads.

9. Swiss Chard

Swiss chard handles cool weather well and continues producing through summer. Its colorful stems add beauty to the garden.

10. Collards

Collards are extremely cold-tolerant and easy to grow. They're ideal for early planting and later fall harvests as well.

Planting Tips for Zone 5b Gardeners

- Watch the soil, not just the calendar. Plant when soil is dry enough to crumble in your hand.
- Use row covers to protect seedlings from late frosts and cold winds.
- Improve soil with compost before planting for better drainage and nutrients.
- Rotate crops each year to reduce pests and disease.
- Water gently to avoid washing away newly planted seeds.

Start the Season Strong

Planting cool-season vegetables in April gives local gardeners a head-start on the growing season and a rewarding early harvest. With a little planning and patience, your spring garden will soon be providing fresh, homegrown produce for your table.

Happy gardening!

April Gardening Checklist

Otsego & Schoharie Counties | Zone 5b

April is a preparation and observation month. Focus on soil health, timing, and planning rather than rushing to plant.

Soil & Garden Beds

- Check soil moisture before working beds (use the squeeze test).
- Avoid working soil that is wet or muddy.
- Submit soil samples for testing.
- Lightly rake beds to remove debris—avoid deep cultivation.
- Observe drainage after spring rains.

Cleanup & Pruning

- Remove fallen branches and winter debris.
- Leave some leaf litter and hollow stems for beneficial insects.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubs (e.g., butterfly bush, panicle hydrangea).
- Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs until after bloom.

Vegetables & Edibles

- Plant cool-season crops when soil is workable:
 - Peas
 - Spinach
 - Lettuce
 - Kale
 - Onions
 - Radishes
- Delay planting warm-season crops (tomatoes, peppers, squash).
- Set up raised beds or low tunnels, if needed.

Flowers & Ornamentals

- Divide or transplant hardy perennials on cool, cloudy days.
- Delay planting tender annuals.
- Check trees and shrubs for winter damage.

Seedlings & Propagation

- Begin hardening off seedlings on mild days.
- Protect seedlings from wind and cold temperatures.
- Start seeds indoors for warm-season crops, if not already done.

Pollinator & Pest Awareness

- Delay full cleanup until temperatures are consistently above 50°F.
- Watch for early weed emergence and remove promptly.
- Monitor for mole or rodent damage.

Planning & Preparation

- Clean, sharpen, and organize garden tools.
- Finalize planting plans and garden maps.
- Set up row covers or frost protection.
- Review last year's garden notes.

Remember

- ✓ Frost is still likely—protect plants.
- ✓ Soil warms slowly in our region.
- ✓ Patience now leads to healthier gardens later.



Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H Happenings



This winter has been packed with 4-H opportunities for youth in both Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H programs. 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.

Throughout February and into March, youth were invited to attend the five-part 4-H Livestock Summit virtual series, which featured a variety of topics including starting a swine project, meat science career opportunities, raising goats 101, next-level show calves, and opportunities beyond the show ring in NYS 4-H livestock programs. The NYS 4-H Livestock Summit is an annual program that provides youth who are members of 4-H in New York State with an opportunity to learn more about market animal projects across multiple species.

Another virtual education opportunity for 4-H youth offered throughout March was a four-part Science of Nature series, which focused on wildlife forensics. This series was presented to 4-H youth across New York State by the Youth Nature and Outdoor Environmental Program Work Team (YNOE PWT). Through presentations from expert speakers, participants explored how science is used to identify, conserve, and manage wildlife, with topics including DNA analysis in mammals, cloning in conservation, wildlife crime involving reptiles, and more.

The New York State 4-H program also hosted two events on the Cornell University campus. The first was the annual March Dog Madness conference for adult and teenage 4-H volunteer leaders, held on March 7. Workshops provided participants with science-based canine education, addressing topics such as animal health, behavior, industry trends, and youth development.

The second event was Cornell's annual Dairy Discovery program, which took place March 27–28. This program provided New York youth ages 14–19 with fun, hands-on, science-focused learning experiences related to dairy production and management, while highlighting the unique facilities, industry professionals, and staff at Cornell University. This year's program focused on milk and milk quality.

4-H Dairy and Horse Quiz Bowl season is underway. Youth teams from the Schoharie and Otsego County



4-H programs practiced throughout the winter in preparation for district competitions, with the first contest taking place at the end of February. Participants have enjoyed testing their knowledge of topics such as the dairy and horse industries, nutrition, animal health, food safety, crops, and other related subjects in this Jeopardy-style team competition.

4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon and Judging contests are also getting started. County programs have been holding practices, forming teams, and helping youth prepare for upcoming district competitions in April. The Skill-a-thon tests members' knowledge of animal science and livestock management, while judging contests teach participants to evaluate animals based on breed standards and qualities for food production. Youth learn about beef cattle, sheep, swine, and meat goats while developing skills to identify animals best suited for breeding or quality meat production.

Otsego and Schoharie County 4-H programs recently held their annual Public Presentations Day events on Saturday, February 28 and March 7.



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Participants learn how to plan, organize, and deliver effective presentations while expressing themselves clearly and creatively in a variety of speaking situations. Many 4-H alumni credit this experience with helping them stand out in school, careers, and personal life. Guided by the 4-H “learn by doing” philosophy, the Public Presentations program helps youth build confidence and communication skills that last a lifetime. Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H continue “to make the best better” by supporting youth as they develop these important life skills.



As part of the Public Presentations Day events, youth also had the opportunity to participate in mock interviews through the Schoharie and Otsego Counties 4-H Youth Professional Development program. This program began with a Professional Development 101 virtual session in February, designed to provide youth with the knowledge and confidence needed to build professional skills and prepare for mock interviews. During the mock interviews, youth practiced answering real-world questions, received helpful feedback, and learned important professional skills to prepare for future opportunities. Whether applying for a first job, preparing for college, or exploring career paths, this program helped youth build confidence, stand out from the crowd, and take the next step toward their goals.



Schoharie 4-H Happenings

Schoharie County 4-H has begun its 2026 Earn-An-Animal (EAA) program. The EAA program allows for youth ages 8-18 (as of January 1, 2026) to earn funding towards a project animal to raise and show as their own. Participants learn how to research, select, purchase, and care for their animals while developing valuable skills such as planning, time management, organization, and record keeping. Throughout the program, youth track animal nutrition, growth, health, and project expenses, attend 4-H animal clinics, work with adult mentors, and participate in competitions to demonstrate fitting and showmanship skills.

In preparation, youth selected presentation topics, organized their thoughts, and created posters and other visual aids. Each county program also hosted public speaking workshops where participants learned the parts of an effective presentation and practiced speaking in front of others. When presentation day arrived, youth delivered their speeches before an audience that included a panel of evaluators.

Why are 4-H Public Presentations so important? Public speaking is one of the most valuable life skills 4-H members develop. While preparing and delivering a speech can feel intimidating, 4-H youth throughout Schoharie and Otsego Counties gain confidence through the Public Presentations program.

After completing all program requirements, including project records and a final story reflecting on their experiences and achievements, participants receive program completion recognition, and a reimbursement check for a predetermined amount toward their project animal. EAA scholarship reimbursements are available for meat poultry, laying

hens, rabbits, sheep, swine, goats, dairy calves, and beef calves. The Earn-An-Animal program is made possible through the generous support of past recipients, local businesses, and community members.

Schoharie County 4-H in collaboration with SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech, is offering the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NST-MOP) throughout April into May. This hands-on certification program will prepare youth to safely operate tractors and agricultural machinery. Upon successful completion of this course, youth will receive a Tractor Safety Certification, enabling 14- and 15-year-olds to be employed in an agricultural operation outside of a farm owned and operated by their parents or guardians. This course will prepare youth ages 14 and older to safely operate tractors and agricultural equipment through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on training. Highlights from this program, including participant accomplishments and photos, will be shared in our next *Connections* article.

Otsego 4-H Happenings

The Ewes and Friends 4-H Club met in January and learned how to make homemade ravioli stuffed with a lemon ricotta filling and learned about Italy in preparation for International Day at the Southside Mall.

The Field & Flats 4-H Club met in January with a tour of Lindsey's woodworking shop and built birdhouses. In February the club meet and worked on their upcoming 4-H Public Presentations.

4-H Public Presentation Workshop

In January 4-H members 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.

Otsego County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Practices

Otsego County 4-H members have been meeting and preparing for the upcoming District 4-H Dairy Bowl Quiz Bowl Contest.

Otsego County 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Practices

Otsego County 4-H members have been meeting and preparing for the upcoming District 4-H Horse Bowl Contest.

4-H International Day

In February the Otsego County 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 about food, customs, clothing and much more.

Ewes N' Friends-Italy
Helping Hands-Australia
Gilbertsville Dairy-Egypt
Crafty Chipmunks-Argentina



Continues on page 20



SAVE THE DATE

4-H Career Explorations

June 30–July 2, 2026
Cornell University



NUTRITION PROGRAMS AT CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Hands-on Learning For Healthier Living

Our EFNEP, Healthy Connections, and SNAP-Ed programs help adults and youth learn by doing. Through hands-on activities, practical lessons, and real-life skill building, participants gain tools that support a healthier lifestyle.

Learn in the way that works for you:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Group Class | Nutrition event |
| One-on-one lesson | Online or in person |

Contact our Nutrition Program Educators to learn more about these programs or to sign up!



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Spring Quick Tips

Cornell Cooperative Extension



► Barbecue Season is Back!

Keep your friends and family safe from foodborne illness by using a food thermometer to make sure the internal temperature of meat and poultry is safe to eat. Use this chart to see what internal temperature your meat and poultry needs to reach. Remember to wash your hands for 20 seconds with warm water and soap before and after handling raw meat and chicken. Refrigerate all cooked food within 2 hours.

SAFE MINIMUM INTERNAL TEMPERATURES	
Whole Poultry	165 °F
Poultry Breasts	165 °F
Ground Poultry	165 °F
Hamburgers, Beef	160 °F
Beef, Pork, Veal, Lamb (steaks, roasts, and chops)	Medium Rare: 145°F and allow to rest for at least 3 minutes Medium: 160°F
All Cuts of Pork	160°F



► Using a Marinade

A marinade is usually made with oil, an acid like fruit juice or vinegar, salt, herbs, and spices. Marinate meat and poultry in the refrigerator to keep it cold and safe to eat. The marinating time depends on the meat type and desired flavor. Generally, marinate vegetables for 15-30 minutes, fish and seafood for 15 minutes to 1 hour, poultry for 30 minutes to 3 hours, and other meats for 30 minutes to overnight. If you want to use the marinade as a sauce after grilling, save some of the marinade before you add the meat or poultry. If you plan to brush on the marinade while grilling, make sure to boil it for at least 30 seconds before using it again.

This material is funded by Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program



Building Healthy Habits Recipe

Rubs/Spices

North African Spice Mix

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons rosemary
- 2 tablespoons cumin
- 2 tablespoons coriander
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 ½ teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 1 ½ teaspoons tumeric
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- ¾ teaspoon black pepper

Directions:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Mix rosemary, cumin, coriander, oregano, paprika, cayenne pepper, tumeric, ginger and black pepper well and store in an airtight container.



Source: foodhero.org

Cinco de Mayo - May 5

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican Army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, symbolizing resilience and pride. In the US, it has become a celebration of Mexican heritage, marked with cultural festivities and events.



Kids' Book Nook

With your child, visit your local library and borrow "My Very First Book of Food" by Eric Carle. As you read with your child about what different animals eat, ask your child about which foods are their favorites to eat!

Sign up for a FREE class today!

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

Please contact:

Nelta Miller

nbm53@cornell.edu

518-234-4303 x115

Building Healthy Habits BHH





10 Ways to Use Beans

Looking for some bean-spiration? There are many different kinds of beans and they are easy to use in a variety of ways. Check out some of our favorite tips to use beans!

<p>1. Roast them!</p>	<p>Roasting cooked beans such as chickpeas with olive oil and seasonings can be a great way to prep a healthy, filling snack or a plant-based protein source to add to salads. Try adding ingredients like honey and cinnamon for a sweeter taste, or Italian seasoning and parmesan cheese for a salty taste!</p>
<p>2. Switch up your cookout!</p>	<p>Instead of your traditional hamburger, try making a black bean burger. Add ingredients such as breadcrumbs, eggs, and cheese to hold your burger together and ingredients such as garlic, chili powder, and cumin to enhance the flavor!</p>
<p>3. Make flour!</p>	<p>Using dry beans, finely mix them in a food processor to create a bean flour. Try using chickpea flour in a blondie or black bean flour in a brownie for some extra fiber!</p>
<p>4. Make a soup!</p>	<p>Beans are a universal ingredient that fits well into many soups. Try out recipes such as chili, bean minestrone soup, or an Italian vegetable soup for a filling, cozy bean-packed meal!</p>
<p>5. Make hummus!</p>	<p>Making your own hummus is an easy way to utilize more beans like chickpeas within the house. Try adding different flavors such as garlic, olives, chilis, and even cocoa powder to your homemade hummus!</p>
<p>6. Use them as a thickener!</p>	<p>Bean flour or a bean puree can make a great addition to thicken any dish in place of other thickener ingredients. Try choosing a neutral flavored bean such as a white bean for best flavor results!</p>
<p>7. Replace oil or butter!</p>	<p>Use some water to create a bean puree for an oil replacement or mash the beans to replace your butter. Try replacing your fat of choice in a cookie recipe with a white bean puree!</p>
<p>8. Make a dip!</p>	<p>Beans add a great creamy texture to many dips while enhancing the nutritional profile with protein and fiber. Try using black beans in a taco-style layered dip, refried beans in a cheesy dip, or cannellini beans in a Mediterranean-inspired white bean dip!</p>
<p>9. Make a salad!</p>	<p>Use beans and other ingredients to make a fun, colorful salad. Try combining black beans, corn, onions, mango, and spices to make a southwestern salad that incorporates both fruits and vegetables in a filling, nutritious side dish!</p>
<p>10. Try different flavors!</p>	<p>Beans are a great staple in many different countries. Try using beans to explore other flavors and cuisines in recipes such as falafel, Caribbean-inspired yellow rice and beans, or huevos rancheros!</p>

SNAP-Ed is funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP.

PROGRAM EVENTS

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

Build a Better Pest Strategy: An Introduction to Integrated Pest Management and How to Incorporate it into Your Farm Operation, April 9, 5:30-7 pm, held synchronously at CCESO's Cobleskill Extension Center, 173 S. Grand St, Cobleskill, CCE Madison and via Zoom. This program will introduce the fundamentals of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), how it can help growers make informed decisions. Participants will also learn about important safety considerations, equipment, and protective gear, and how to read product labels and troubleshoot common challenges. Free. To register contact Kelley Doolin at 518.234.4303 ext. 122, kmd322@cornell.edu, or register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/PestStrategy_225.

Otsego County 4-H Dairy Calf Sale, April 11, 10:30 am, Hosking's Sales, 6095 NYS Route 8, New Berlin. Spring Premier All Breed Sale Fundraiser to support the Otsego County 4-H Dairy Program.

Otsego County 4-H Dog & Handler Skills Classes, 4276 St Hwy 51, Garrattsville, NY. Foundational dog handler skill classes for 4-H members to build communication techniques that are clear and kind and use positive reinforcement through fun activities. April 12 Orientation to review the required paperwork to participate in the program and discuss the workshops; Classes April 19, April 26, May 3, May 17, May 24, May 31. \$40 class fee. Pre-registration required, contact Teresa Adell, tla47@cornell.edu.

Growing Microgreens at Home, April 14, 11 am-noon, CCESO's Schoharie Extension Center, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill. Learn about the basic steps of growing microgreens from sowing to harvesting. No previous gardening experience is needed. Free. Pre-register by visiting www.cceschoharie-otsego.org.

Leading the Farm Team: Supervisory Skills for New Managers, April 14, 21, and 28, 4-5:30 pm via Zoom. This three-session training, participants will gain tools they can immediately apply on their farms this season to improve employee performance and create a more productive workplace. Offered by the Eastern NY Commercial Hort Team, the Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, CCE Schoharie-Otsego and CCE Dutchess County. Cost: \$30 per farm. Pre-registration is required by April 12. To register contact Kelley Doolin at 518.234.4303 ext. 122, kmd322@cornell.edu, or register online at <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2203>.

Schoharie County 4-H Tractor Safety Course at SUNY Cobleskill, April 14 through May 2. CCESO and SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech, will offer the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP), a hands-on certification program that prepares youth (ages 14 and up) to safely operate tractors and agricultural machinery through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on training. **Registration for this event is now closed.**

Tractor Supply Company 4-H Paper Clover Campaign, April 17 through May 3. 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.

Southern Tier District 4-H Livestock Skill-A-Thon, April 17, 5:30 pm, CCE Broome County (Binghamton). For more information contact 4-H Educator Teresa Adell at tla47@cornell.edu.

Grow a Row Information Program, OFFERED ON TWO DATES: April 22 OR May 28, 6 to 7 pm via ZOOM. CCESO's MGVs invite local gardeners to take part in a simple but meaningful initiative: if you grow fruits or vegetables consider planting one extra "row" specifically to donate to local food pantries. Learn more about becoming a grower for this program at this virtual informational program. To register visit: <https://cceschoharie-otsego.org/gardening/grow-a-row-helping-feed-our-community-one-garden-at-a-time>. Events Registration 4/22/2026: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=Grow_a_Row_Information_Zoom_243. Events Registration 5/28/2026: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=Grow_a_Row_Information_Zoom-2_243.

Otsego County 4-H Gardening Workshop, April 25, 1 pm, in the garden at CCESO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown. Participants will see examples of Horticulture Fair Exhibits and create a sample project to take away. Free. Pre-registration required by April 17 to Teresa Adell at tla47@cornell.edu.

Nature Journalling Workshop, April 25, 10 am-noon, Rowe House, 31 Maple Street (Oneonta). Writer, naturalist, gardener, and herbalist Gert Garden will teach participants how to record observations, thoughts, activities, triumphs, and challenges in a garden or nature journal. Each participant will receive a journal to begin making observations. \$15 workshop fee (includes a journal, handouts, and refreshments). Space is limited; pre-registration is required by Thursday, April 23rd by going to www.cceschoharie-otsego.org. For more information call 607.547.2536 ext. 228 or ext. 235. Link to registration for this event: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=GardeningandNatureJournaling-2_243.

Capital & Southeast Districts 4-H Livestock Skill-a-Thon & Judging Contests, April 26, 10 am, SUNY Cobleskill, 10 am. **Registration for this event is now closed.**

Schoharie County 4-H Horticulture Workshop, April 27, 5-7 pm, CCESO Extension Center, 173 S. Grand St. (Cobleskill). 4-H youth will see examples of horticulture fair exhibit ideas and will select a project to take away and work on while at home. Pre-registration required by April 22nd, please contact Catherine Roberts at cmr336@cornell.edu or 518.234.4303 ext. 113.

Spring Online Auction Bidding Opens May 1, Bid Early & Bid Often! <https://cceschoharieotsegocontinents.betterworld.org/auctions/cce-auction>.

Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Sale, May 2, 8 am-2 pm, SUNY Cobleskill, CANR Greenhouse, 114 Rockland Ln, Cobleskill. Plants nurtured by the Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers will be offered for sale in collaboration with the annual SUNY Cobleskill plant sale. The sale will feature a wide variety of vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, and native plants proudly grown by the Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteers.

NYS 4-H Animal Crackers, May 2, at Cornell University (Ithaca). This 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, industry experts, and more, utilizing the unique facilities of Cornell University. This year's species include: horse, sheep, swine,

and dog! For more information, visit <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/programs/animal-crackers>. Pre-registration required by April 22, to register contact Schoharie County 4-H Educator Catherine Roberts cmr336@cornell.edu or Otsego County 4-H Educator Teresa Adell, tl47@cornell.edu.

Sprayer Calibration Workshop, May 14, 2026, 5:30-6:30 pm, CCECO Extension Center, 173 S. Grand St, Cobleskill. 1 DEC credit for categories 1A, 21, 22, & 23. Cost: Free. Pre-registration by May 12 at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/spray_calib_243.

Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Sale, May 16, 9 am-2 pm, Louis C. Jones Center, Fenimore Farm & Country Village, 5775 NY-80, Cooperstown. Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers are partnering with the Fenimore Farm and Country Village to hold this year's plant sale indoors and near ample parking. The sale will feature a wide variety of vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, and native plants proudly grown by the Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers.

4-H Capital Days, May 17 through May 19, Albany. This program gives youth an opportunity to meet and interact with legislators and tell their 4-H story, creates awareness of career opportunities in New York government, provides a better understanding of state government, and allows youth to 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, 2026 may apply. For more information please visit <https://www.nys4-h.org/capital-days>. Pre-registration is required, contact Schoharie County 4-H Educator Catherine Roberts cmr336@cornell.edu or Otsego County 4-H Educator Teresa Adell, tl47@cornell.edu.

Spring Online Auction, Bidding Closes, May 17, Don't Miss the Deals! <https://cceschoharieotsegocounties.betterworld.org/auctions/cce-auction>.

Family Gardening Programs, May 20 (Part 1) & July 15 (Part 2), 4:30-6:30 pm, in the garden at CCECO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown. Join Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers in the garden for this two-part series focused on beginner gardening topics and tips to engage the whole family (ideal for families with children between 3 and 11 years). Families can attend either program or both! Please register by May 18 and July 13. Be sure to sign up for each child attending so we have enough supplies. Free. To register visit www.cceschoharie-otsego.org. Events Registration: May 20: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=Family_Gardening_Workshop_Pt1_243. Events Registration: July 15: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=Family_Gardening_Workshop_Pt-2_243.

Starting an Herb Garden, May 21, 6 pm-7:30 pm, CCECO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street (Cooperstown). Join herbalist Gert Coleman to discover which herbs will grow in your space and sun and what to do with them. Cost \$15. Pre-registration required by May 20 at Cornell Cooperative Extension - Event Registration for Programs (need alternate registration instructions?). For information contact Marcie Foster, mkf48@cornell.edu. Registration at https://apps.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=Starting_Herb_Garden_Coleman_243.

Memorial Day, May 25, CCECO offices closed.

Board of Directors Meeting, May 26, 6 pm, Held synchronously at CCE Offices in Cobleskill and Cooperstown.

Otsego County 4-H Child Care Clinic, June 6, 9 am-2 pm, CCECO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown. 4-H youth ages 11 and up will learn safety, child development, nutrition, activities and business skills to help them in their childcare business. \$20 class fee. Pre-registration is required, contact Teresa Adell at tl47@cornell.edu.

Otsego County 4-H Photography Clinic, June 13, 10 am, CCECO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake St, Cooperstown. 4-H members will learn equipment, lighting, composition, skill building and how to mount you photo to show at the fair. Register with Teresa Adell at tl47@cornell.edu.

NYS Ag & Markets Pullorum Clinic, June 16, 3-5:30 pm, Progressland Building, Schoharie County Sunshine Fairgrounds, Cobleskill. Requirement to exhibit at the county and state fairs. Pre-register with Catherine Roberts at cmr336@cornell.edu.

Juneteenth, June 19, CCECO offices closed.

Square Foot Gardening: Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces, June 29, 4:30-6:30 pm in the garden at CCECO's Otsego Education Center, 123 Lake St, Cooperstown. Want to grow more vegetables in smaller spaces? This planting method can maximize space and yield for growing abundant and diverse vegetables. To register visit www.cceschoharie-otsego.org. Events Registration: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=Square_Foot_Gardening_Workshop_243.

NYS Ag & Markets Pullorum Clinic, June 29, 4-6 pm, Martin Hall, Otsego County Fairgrounds, Morris. Requirement to exhibit at the county and state fairs. Register with Teresa Adell at tl47@cornell.edu.

NYS 4-H Career Explorations, June 30th through Thursday, July 2nd at Cornell University. This conference will exposure 4-H youth to academic fields and career exploration, develop leadership skills, provide hands-on experiences in a college setting, and introduce youth to Cornell University. For more information, visit <https://www.nys4-h.org/career-explorations-2025> or contact Schoharie County 4-H Educator Catherine Roberts cmr336@cornell.edu or Otsego County 4-H Educator Teresa Adell, tl47@cornell.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

GROW Garden Open House, July 23, 4:30-6:30 pm, CCECO Grow Garden, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown NY. Otsego Master Gardener Volunteers will offer garden tours, provide information and answer questions. Enjoy refreshments and kids' activities. For more information visit: www.cceschoharie-otsego.org.

CCE-sponsored Master Food Preservation Trainings* offered in May/June in Herkimer and Delaware Counties!

CCE Herkimer County:

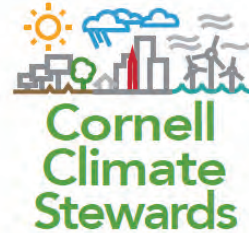
https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/MasterFoodPreserver_221

CCE Delaware County:

<https://square.link/u/1GDzNdHr>

**After completing training and practice hours participants may qualify for Master Food Preserver Certification*

CCE in Action!



Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program – Nelta Miller, nbm53@cornell.edu

Healthy Connections Nutrition Education – Michelle Leveski, mml39@cornell.edu

SNAP-Ed – Maegan Freeman, mef265@cornell.edu

4-H Youth Development Program – Catherine Roberts, cmr336@cornell.edu; Teresa Adell, tla47@cornell.edu

Horticulture & Natural Resource Educator – Marcie Foster, mkf48@cornell.edu

Agriculture & Food Systems Educator – Kelley Doolin, kmd322@cornell.edu

Community Energy Educator – Michaela Fisher, [maf396@cornell.edu](mailto:mef396@cornell.edu); Carlotta Batchelder, cmb529@cornell.edu

Farm to School – Mariah Goodwin, mog27@cornell.edu