Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County,

What is Cornell Cooperative Extension all about? If we look at the key words in our mission statement, we can get a clearer picture of who we are and what we do. Our mission: “CCE 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.”

The first key word is KNOWLEDGE. We are an educational organization to help extend the knowledge of Cornell University and the entire Land Grant system, which Congress created and President Lincoln approved in 1865. We work most closely with the Colleges of Agriculture & Life Science and the College of Human Ecology at Cornell. The second key word is WORK. Our goal is that residents will not only become aware of new things, but also apply or “put what they have learned to work” in their lives. The third is PURSUIT. Similar to work, this indicates action or doing something. Making positive change or moving towards completion of a goal.

The next several words define what people are pursuing. These include ECONOMIC VIABILITY, ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY, and SOCIAL-WELL BEING. In other words, financial, environmental, and personal wellness or an overall improved quality of life. When you look at all of our education programs and the outcomes in this report, you can see that they all address one or more of these.

The second sentence emphasizes that the knowledge comes from both LOCAL EXPERIENCE and from RESEARCH. We recognize that every issue or problem has its own context. We find SOLUTIONS when we bring the context and the knowledge from the practical and theoretical worlds TOGETHER.

Finally, it ends with the key words of HELPING, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES and CHANGING WORLD. Yes, we provide information, but the individual, family or community must do the work and come up with their best solution for their situation in their context, which we know is constantly changing. This may seem frustrating, but it also leads me to believe that there will always be a need for CCE.

Sincerely,

Andrew Fagan, Executive Director
Organizational Objectives

To provide for a subordinate governmental agency consisting of an unincorporated organization of residents of Chemung County in cooperation with Cornell University and the United States Department of Agriculture; and in accordance with Subdivision 8(b) of Section 224 of the County Law as amended.

To extend the educational resources of Cornell University and the New York State Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Ecology and Veterinary Medicine, the Land Grant university system and other educational institutions, to the people of Chemung County to foster economic, social and environmental improvement of its individuals, families and communities.

To further the objectives of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County and the State Extension system in the fields of agriculture, community and economic vitality, environment and energy, nutrition and healthy families, and youth development.
**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County**

**2017 Revenue and Expenses**

### Revenues

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<th>Revenues</th>
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<td>State (cash and benefits)</td>
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**Net for 2017** $-16,661.68

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### Expenses

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Thank you to Chemung County and all of our volunteers and financial supporters
Local Foods: EastSide Farmers’ Market

Program Goals: Increase access to fresh farm products (especially fruits and vegetables), for low-income families; Provide a viable and profitable market opportunity for farm vendors; Enhance community pride, understanding, and connections; Offer entrepreneurial opportunities for local craftspeople and cottage industries.

Staff: Danielle Howie, Market Manager

Outcomes:

- The EastSide Market ran for 18 weeks from June 15th through October 12th from 2:30PM-6PM. An estimated 2,365 customers, averaging approximately 131 customers per week, attended the market during the season.
- 502 SNAP tokens were sold at the EastSide Market throughout the season. This is a 19.52% increase from the 2017 SNAP sales.
- The market ran the Fresh Connect Check Program which gives an additional $2 dollars for every $5 dollars purchased with an EBT card. 87 Fresh Connect Checks were distributed resulting in $174 additional dollars to SNAP recipients to use at the EastSide Market.
- The Market had 4 returning vendors, Momma Loves, Mann’s Country Gardens, Martin’s Produce, and Theresa’s Maple Mountain, and 5 newly recruited vendors, Sunset View Creamery, LizAnn Body Delights, Levi Bradigan, SteAmy Farms, and Rick’s Roadside Rations who attended the market at least once during the season.
- 3 returning local musicians, The Diagnosis, Andy Fagan, and Mark Havilland, and 3 new musicians, Barbara and her Accordion, Chrystal Chords, and Dragonfly Acoustic Trio performed at least once with 4 playing multiple times throughout the season.
- EastSide Market partnered with several community organizations to provide educational outreach at the market, such as, AIM Navigator, Corning House, Youth Advocate Program, Food Bank of the Southern Tier, CIDS, Arnot Health, Southern Tier Cancer Services, Fidelis, C-Tran, Planned Parenthood, and Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition.

Patrons fill the Eastside Market to buy fresh, local produce and handmade goods during the summer

Barbara, a customer at the EastSide Market in July, told us it was her “dream to play as a girl” for the public but had never done so. She played at 4 markets and had a crowd watching her the majority of the time.

In collaboration with the Ag Promo Society, the EastSide market hosted Farm Fest Day on September 14th. The event had several different farm animals in attendance including, alpacas, a newborn calf, chickens, and goats. In addition to the farm animals, basket raffles, activities, live music, and variety of vendors brought in over 400 customers to the market.

- 84 Credit/Debit tokens were sold at Wisner and EastSide Markets resulting in 420 dollars available for patrons without cash to spend at the markets.
- $2,000 SNAP tokens were sold at the Wisner Market. 388 Fresh Connect Checks were distributed to SNAP recipients allowing 776 additional dollars to purchase fresh food.
- $2,101 SNAP dollars were redeemed by farmers at both the EastSide and Wisner Farmers Market.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Chemung County

CCE Chemung Making a Difference!

4-H Youth Development Program

Program Goals: To provide youth between the ages of 5-19 with opportunities to engage and master projects and curriculum in the areas of STEM, Healthy Lifestyles, and Civic Engagement

Staff: Bernadette Raupers, 4-H Resource Educator
Elaine Noble, 4-H Program Educator
Kimberly Pipher, 4H Summer Assistant

Total youth numbers – 13,656 youth engaged in 4-H programs; 212 enrolled 4-H members; 22,204 youth engaged directly in CCE youth programming throughout the year as well as 40,536 residents benefited indirectly via media.

- Educational outreach on Ag related topics - Old MacDonald’s Farm, Farm City Day, Conservation Field Day, Maker, and Birthing Center at State Fair.

- 4-H Goat Club held a goat awareness day in conjunction with Old MacDonald’s Farm event.

- A record number of youth showed in the New York State Fair in Animal Science. Chemung County was represented in Dairy, Goat, Beef and Pig contests as well in Leadership roles in the youth building. Great job to all youth who participated.

- One of our 4-H Clubs chose to create a Halloween Barn for the third consecutive year. For admission they asked for canned goods. All canned goods will go to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. Any money raised went towards the Kramer foundation this year. This year’s fun barn was attended by nearly 600 children and parents.

- National 4-H Science Day Activity – Computer Coding. Events were held at the 4-H building, REACH afterschool program and during the Fall Festival.

- S.T.E.M. Club continues to meet monthly. We complete all types of science related activities, including: recycling education, science based inquiry.

- Collaborated with EOP and continued to grow our STEMMED Club. Started planting a garden and beautification with 15 youth on a weekly basis as well as working towards the Cornell Garden Based Learning Certificate from Cornell with colleagues Shona Ort, and Jingjing Yin.
ARCADE Program (irrigation project)

Fun Barn

Chemung County Youth & Projects @ NYS Fair

- 2 middle school youth attended Leadership Washington Focus at the National 4-H Conference Center.

- Communication - Mountain Day for 6th grade of Elmira City School District with 150 youth.

- Ran goLEAD Program in June with 5 teens over a one-week period.

- Several 4-H youth enrolled in Shooting Sports attended the National YHEC shoot in Mansfield PA in July.

- 4-H office attended outreach events such as Horseheads Family Day and Horseheads Middle School Open house.

- 4-H Staff provided after school enrichment for the ARCADE program twice a week for 6 week sessions for 4 out of 6 sessions this past year, utilizing 4-H curriculum and resources for 80 area students.

- 4-H recruited 2 new Club Leaders who are starting 4-H Clubs in Chemung County.

- The Chemung County Fair had 1433 exhibits this year. We had many first year exhibitors.

Cornell Summer Intern
Hailey Pipher and 4-H Summer Assistant Kimberly Pipher assist at the Chemung County Fair.

National 4-H Science Day
**Agriculture Program**: The main goal of this program is to sustain and increase the vitality and viability of agricultural businesses in and around Chemung County through educational programming, events, and resources. We also aim to help promote the awareness and importance of agriculture in our local and regional economies and communities.

**Staff**: Shona B. Ort, *Ag Development Specialist*  
Hailey Pipher, *Cornell Summer Intern*

- Overall, 1,485 individuals were directly educated (515 adults and 970 youth).
- Over 55,000 individuals were reached indirectly through social media, newsletters, public displays and printed resources.
- Answered agricultural, horticultural, and natural resource questions for 198 people.
- Distributed 55 Guides to Farming in NY, 40 Guides to Urban Farming in NY, and 199 Small Farms Quarterlies from the Cornell Small Farms Program.
- Hosted 8 agricultural workshops which educated 151 people.
- Monitored 8 Spotted Wing Drosophila traps on 2 berry farms in Chemung County as part of the statewide program facilitated by New York State IPM Program.
- Begun piloting the Community Food System Framework for Change in Chemung County with Cornell University Intern, Hailey Pipher.
- Regularly attended the Chemung County Ag Promotion Committee and participated in the events they hosted.
- Participated in the Finger Lake Farm Country Initiative.
- Assisted the 4-H program at CCE Chemung in Ag Literacy Week which reached 1257 students in 57 classrooms across 8 different schools.
- Attended the annual Ag-In-Service Training at Cornell University.

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Ripe blueberries at Knapp Farm. This year our agriculture staff monitored Spotted Wing Drosophila traps at Knapp Farm and another blueberry farm as part of a program through the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program.

As part of the Growing Oyster Mushrooms workshop earlier this year each participant prepared and took home their own toilet paper roll inoculated with oyster mushroom spawn. This one was prepared and grown by our agricultural staff for demonstration and display in our office.
Community Soaring Day at the National Soaring Museum

This was the second year in which the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program were invited to table at this event. Directly, we educated 32 adults and 36 youth on different types of feathers and controlling bird damage. Indirectly, we reached 450 individuals with our display.

Intro to Maple Syrup Production Workshop & Tour

The lecture portion of this event was held at the Chemung County Fairgrounds and the tour took place at Hill Top Maple Farm. Both the lecture and tour was led by our current board president Jeff Benjamin. The 24 individuals who attended learn the basics involved in maple syrup production as well as got to see a sugar bush and evaporator system first hand.

Internal Parasites in Sheep and Goats Workshop

This workshop was held on Saturday January 27, 2018 at the Chemung County Fairgrounds. A total of 33 people were in attendance for this workshop. The attendees to this workshop not only got the most up-to-date knowledge of parasite management, but also gained hands-on experience with FAMACHA scoring and fecal egg counting.

Taste of Chemung 2018

This year our annual farm to table fundraiser event was held at the Community Arts of Elmira and catered by the Culinary Arts Program at GST BOCES. A total of 21 youth partook in preparation and serving of this meal which was prepared from products that were sourced from 18 farms and farm businesses in the region, 12 were located here in Chemung County. A total of 51 individuals attended this dinner from the public to support CCE.
October 2017 - September 2018 Impacts

- Communicated across CCE with 2 stories included in ‘Extension Insider’;
- Strengthened campus-CCE Chemung connections through monthly Poverty and Economic Hardship Program Work Team ZOOM meetings;
- Diversified our funding with a mix of County, State and Federal grants, along with program fees, private donations and support from United Way and the Community Foundation;
- Created a culture of innovation by becoming the second US location to implement the Poverty Stoplight in the City of Elmira;
-Introduced research-based Tai Chi for Arthritis at 4 locations serving 39 participants;
- Held the research-based A Matter of Balance program with 21 participants;
- 31 volunteers led nearly 1,100 research-based Bone Builders classes for 300 participants at 15 locations;
- Volunteers constructed 14 portable access ramps for elderly and/or disabled individuals (98 as of 9/30/18); and
- Submitted grant applications, to expand ‘Move Forward Elmira’, to the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Hilliard Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes.

Chemung Volunteer Action Corps (CVAC) recruits and educates a diverse group of volunteers who engage in community activities, while enhancing their own mental health and wellness, through the promotion of sound home management and general practices to individuals of all ages in Chemung County. CVAC also employs regular exercise and practical strategies to help older adults live healthier lives by preventing the onset of osteoporosis, and reducing the fear of falling.

Staff: Carol Houssock, CVAC Director
- Danielle Howie, Special Programs Coordinator
- Mary-Lynn Rourke, Volunteer Coordinator
- Jessica Belgrave, Poverty Stoplight Assistant

CCE Chemung Making a Difference!

- Represented CCE Chemung at Cerrito 2018, a global conference in Paraguay;
- Surveyed 191 frail seniors, 89% of whom said Supporting Our Seniors services helped them live independently;
- Introduced the Natural Leaders Initiative in Elmira and 14 individuals graduated from the program;
- Educated members of the Elmira Kiwanis, Sunrise Rotary, and Elmira Heights Rotary about CVAC’s research-based programs and the global Poverty Stoplight initiative.
• Prepared and distributed 6 issues of our THRIVE newsletter to over 600 people;
• Provided nearly 1,000 face-to-face advocacy and support contacts with individuals to promote good mental health;
• In collaboration with CCE Broome, received several loads of suits from Men’s Wearhouse and held two clothing giveaways;
• Increased our presence on social media through posts on Facebook and Instagram; and
• Conducted the first of 100 surveys as part of our ‘Move Forward Elmira’ initiative.

CVAC Programs Address Senior Health and Wellness…..

CVAC Advisory Committee
Mark Edgerly, Chair
Gerry Brown
Caryl Cavalier
Richard Kuhn
Livie Trexler
Evelyn Williams

...And Community Volunteer Engagement
Master Gardeners contributed 456 volunteer hours to the community in 2018.

- 676 adults and 814 youth participated in 33 gardening workshops we offered at a number of locations including Steele Memorial Library, CCE Chemung, Elmira Garden Club, and BOCES.
- Directly reached 402 youth and 193 adults at a number of events, such as Mini Maker Faire, Old McDonald’s Farm Day, and Fall Festival.
- Offered youth gardening programs at EOP and Big Flats Elementary School. More than 350 youth participated in these programs.
- Provided guidance and technical support to the local community gardens, including EOP garden, Able2 garden, and Big Flats American Baptist Community Church garden.
- 200 people came to the Master Gardener Annual Spring Plant Sale.
- 68 individuals received assistance from the Master Gardener Help Line.
- 7 new Master Gardener Volunteers completed their training in 2017-2018.
- 37 youth participated 7 after-school classes we offered at Hendy Elementary School and Parley Coburn Elementary School.
- 7 people attended “Seed to Supper” – a five-class gardening course that was offered in the spring.
- 11466 people received the gardening articles, fact sheets, and Master Gardener news from Facebook, our webpage, radio and TV.
- Partnered with several community organizations, schools, library and municipality on different projects, including EOP, Transformation Center, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, USDA NRCS, Big Flats Elementary School, Chemung Soil and Water Conservation District, Steele Memorial Library, and the Town of Big Flats.

Community Horticulture

Program Goals: To provide the public with unbiased, research-based information and sustainable management practices in horticulture suitable for home gardens, local landscapes, urban environments and the community.

Staff: Jingjing Yin, Horticulture Educator

2017 – 2018 Chemung County Master Gardener Volunteers: Sisi Barr, Gillion Brown, Roxie Burrows, Elaine Caso, Barbara Classen, Christine Gagliardo, Matt Griffin, Linda Guindon, Brandy Kreisler, Steve Monroe, Christine Reiff, Rhonda Schweiger, Peg Weidemann, Ken Wida

EOP STEMMED youth garden club enjoyed growing vegetables in the EOP community garden through our Garden-Based Learning project.

Master Gardeners gave presentations at Old McDonld’s Farm Day on “Pizza Garden”. The students learned about the ingredients of a pizza and where they come from.
More than 200 people visited the Master Gardener Annual Spring Plant Sale this year.

Kids enjoyed making flowers using paper cups with the Master Gardeners at the Mini Maker Faire.

Seven people attended Seed to Supper Program we offered this spring. All of the attendees said they would highly recommend this free course to their friends.

120 students at the Big Flats Elementary School learned about “three sisters” and planted them in the school garden with our Master Gardener.
CCE Chemung Making A Difference!

- Directly educated 7,480 individuals (youth and adults) and reached over 75,000+ indirectly
- Arranged to send 3 youth to DEC Conservation Summer Camp through Environmental Management Council
- Provided 28 lessons to 500 youth at the ARCADE/Elmira City School District Program
- Facilitated 9 EMC meetings and arranged for 4 informational speakers, and/or tours. Coordination for Solarize Chemung Campaign.
- Recycling/Renewable Resources programs were provided to over 600 youth at local Spring events - Environmental Field Day/Old McDonalds Farm Day Earth Day celebrations, Scouting and 4-H programs
- Weekly/Monthly updates to CCE social media and guides
- The more than 10 Chemung County Adopt-A-Highway groups collected over 90 industrial size bags of roadside garbage
- Over 1,518 one-on-one consultations were provided to Chemung County residents in regards to Proper Waste Management and Recycling with 1,585 taking part in Chemung County’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events and Chemung County’s Electronics Recycling Events.
- 308 Chemung County residents learned new ways to save money on heating and cooling costs/the impact heating and cooling has on the environment and low cost energy saving tips with 22 residents signing up for home energy assessments.

NATURAL RESOURCES: We promote responsible waste management in Chemung County through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Education, Chemung County’s Household Hazardous Waste collection events, Chemung County Adopt-A-Highway program, community events and other programs for local municipalities. We coordinate the Environmental Management Council (EMC) and the Chemung Energy Commission - both help leaders & residents understand environmental or energy issues, opportunities, and/or regulations.

Staff:
Antoinette Gardner, Solid Waste/Recycling Educator
Jennifer Trimber, EMC Coordinator
Eileen Hanrahan, Community Energy Educator
This year we visited two sites which contribute to the environmental health of our community. The first was to the Chemung County Municipal Composting Site in Horseheads, and the second was to a no-sort, recycling facility in Stanley, NY.

It was very rewarding to see the results of the council’s project of many years come to fruition. The group’s goal was to bring municipal composting to our area. That work focusing on research and consensus building to make this happen. Soil and Water of Chemung County, the State, and the County Public Works Department secured funding, built and staff the facility.

The City of Elmira, and many of the towns in Chemung County, along with the EMC determined that compost sites were needed because of the law passed by the NYSDEC in 2010, as part of the Solid Waste Management Act, landfills ceased to accept wastes such as trees, grass clippings and leaves. The towns were able to collect some of the resident’s waste on a bi-yearly basis. The Environmental Management Council looked into, and addressed this problem. They accomplished this through fact finding: conducting surveys, and traveling to other communities with successful operations; and also by partnering with local agencies.

The second tour was to the Municipal Recycling Facility in Stanley, NY, marking the beginning of a new challenge. EMC members as well as local lawmakers visited the center where our recyclables end up after they are trucked away to Ontario County. This educational trip answered the many questions from our EMC and local leaders. This trip was a success in that it helped to solidify our resolve to look for innovative solutions to the many new problems facing municipal recycling. It was also a reminder for us to strengthen our educational efforts.

Environmental Management Council Members
Mike Bowles, Mike Cain, Greg Clark, Mike Herrick, Reeve B. Howland, Marcia Metcalfe, Karl Schwesinger, Tim Steed, Catherine Stutts

Ex-officio: Martin Strong, Nicolette Wagoner, Mathew Hourihan, Mark Watts, Chad Kehoe, Andrew Avery, Andrew Fagan, Elaine Farwell
Nutrition Outreach: Through our Eat Smart NY Program, we provide one-time and series education programs to low income individuals and families – both youth and adults - to encourage participants to eat more fruits and vegetables, drink fewer sugar sweetened beverages, and practice healthy lifestyles. We do this through free workshops, food demonstrations, cooking classes, grocery store tours, and community events. We also support families and other community partners to build and sustain edible gardens, farmers markets, and school wellness committees. In addition, we work to strengthen the local food system and manage the EastSide Market in Elmira, NY.

Finger Lakes Eat Smart NY Staff:
  Justine Cobb, Regional Nutritionist
  Debbi Fry, Nutrition Educator
  Joan Martin, Nutrition Educator
  Sarah Hess, Environmental Nutritionist

Outcomes and success stories:
  • 12,462 youth and 6,831 adults participated in a variety of nutrition activities provide by our Finger Lakes Eat Smart NY educators.

Grove Park’s Summer Feeding Program and Kid’s Farmers’ Market, Elmira:

Throughout the summer, 40 youth and 35 adults got fresh air, sunshine, and free lunches at the Summer Meal Site at Grove Park. FLESNY Nutritionist Joan Martin provided recipes, samples, nutrition tipsheets, and other resources. Comments from kids included, “I didn’t like broccoli before, but I like this,” and “Can I have seconds?” (and thirds!).

CMATS Horseheads

The FLESNY Nutritionists from CCE Chemung and CCE Steuben teamed up for a Cooking Matters at the Store Tour at the Walmart in Horseheads. Participants were given a 30-40 minute guided tour through the grocery section of the store, including the produce, dairy, canned goods, and frozen food aisles. Using a Q and A format, participants learned how to select healthy and budget-friendly choices in each section of the store. They also learned how to compare values using the unit price and how to use the Nutrition Facts label to compare sodium, sugar, and fiber content. After the tour, each participant was given a $10 Challenge to find healthy, low cost items from each of the five food groups on the MyPlate.
Southside Community Center, Elmira

On July 26th, at the Southside Community Center, 23 youth learned about the importance of being physically active every day. Using the CATCH Kids Club curriculum, they also learned that there are different types of physical activities that help our bodies in different ways. Aerobic activity gives the heart and lungs a work out, strength-building for bones and muscles, and stretching activity to keep us flexible. One young girl shared, "I never had a beach ball of my own to play with - I'm gonna play with it every day!"

Southside Community Center, Elmira

Kids in the Southside Community Center afterschool program are finally enjoying the fruits of their garden labors. The center is located in a low-income neighborhood on the southside of Elmira, and the garden, which consists of 12 small square raised beds, admittedly has had its challenges this which included a late spring, a short drought and then rain, rain, and more rain. FLESNY Community and School Garden Specialist, Josh Dolan, and a handful of kids spent several afternoons weeding, pulling, and pruning until the garden looked respectable again.

On September 11, FLESNY Nutritionist Joan and a group of nine kids checked on the status of growing vegetables, did some quick weeding, and then harvested the two largest of five magnificent cabbages to use in a recipe for Chinese Ramen Cabbage Salad. As part of the Dig In! youth garden curriculum, the group talked about the various ingredients in the recipe and determined what part of a plant each came from: cabbage (leaf), carrots (root), green onions (root and stem), etc.

Then came the moment of truth: Kids versus Cabbage. Would they try it? Would they like it? They did! And some said they loved it! Every kid had at least one helping, and some had several. When asked, every kid in the group said they were going to continue to eat more vegetables in the future. And big cabbages make big batches of salad, so the extra was served with the evening meal provided to kids by Southside Community Center. Cathleen, the center’s director, emailed to thank us

Haley and Maddie harvesting cabbage for our Chinese Ramen Cabbage Salad Garden.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Chemung County

4-H Youth Development – REACH Afterschool

Program Goals: To provide youth between the ages of 5-19 with opportunities to engage and master projects and curriculum in the areas of STEM, Healthy Lifestyles, and Civic Engagement

CCE Chemung Making a Difference with REACH program:

Between the Spencer PAVE (REACH) program and Waverly REACH Program, we have provided programming to 290 youth after school. This is from July 1, 2018 – December 1, 2018. There were an additional 200 youth January 2018 – June 2018.

- A collaboration began with 3 schools and CCE & 4-H Staff with 3 sites for the REACH after school & Summer programs with 3 site coordinators & 3 Program Assistants to oversee the programs.
  1. Spencer Van Etten Jr./Sr. High School
  2. Elm Street Elementary, Waverly NY
  3. Waverly Jr./Sr. High School
- Daily Tutoring time during school year
- Nutritious & balanced after school snacks for participants
- Daily Physical Recreation & Sports
- Numerous Enrichments available each day:
  1. Varied STEM programming
  2. Chess Club
  3. Sip & Design
  4. Creative Cooking
  5. Book Club
  6. Board Games
  7. Robotics
  8. Interactions with Cornell students.

- Summer Programs
  1. Nutritious Breakfast & Lunches served
  2. Summer School tutoring for academic retention/advancement
  3. Art
  4. Theater
  5. Literature
  6. Computer Programming
  7. Engineering
  8. Recreation/Sports time

- Field Trips
- Career Readiness Events (Cornell Career Explorations) 27 Jr. High Age participants, 3 REACH staff and 1 CCE educator attended event with 500 other students throughout New York State.

REACH After School Staff:
Bernadette Raupers, 4-H Resource Educator
Nicholas Soprano, Site Coordinator
Adam Park, Site Coordinator
Trevor Bauman, After School Program Assistant
Mallory Ryan, Site Coordinator
Janet LaRue, Site Coordinator
Aileen McEvoy, After School Program Assistant
Ross Storm, After School Program Assistant
Maria Noble, 4-H Program Assistant (per diem)
Primary Goal: Enhance the farm viability of dairy and field crops farms.

Staff: Janice Degni, Betsy Hicks, Melanie Palmer, Fay Benson, and Mary Kate Wheeler.

Program Highlights from 2018:

New Farm Business Management Specialist

Mary Kate Wheeler, M.S. in Applied Economics & Management from Cornell joined our team in May 2018 as the new Farm Business Management Specialist. With the very low milk prices and extreme weather, farmers have a added need for a specialist to address financial and business management. She is excited to use her financial analysis and business planning skills to support our dairy and crop producers.

Industrial Hemp – The Potential of a New Crop

This NYS initiative has generated a lot of excitement from rural landowners, sustainability enthusiasts and local economic developers. Recognizing the potential in the Southern Tier Janice was appointed as one of the first CCE Hemp Technical Specialists. As a new crop Cornell researchers and Extension needed to learn the best agronomic practices as well as pest complexes. Janice visited and scouted fields across the region to survey for pests as part of a statewide effort to collect preliminary data. A new disease on hemp was discovered at Nanticoke Gardens (NG), one of the growers she worked closely with. In the fall of 2017, she organized an open house with NG to show their production system to others and update folks on the permit process administered by NYS Department of Ag and Markets. During the winter of 2018, Janice held 3 discussion group meetings for permit holders to create a forum to share information and learn from each other. This has been a step in community building among the growers.

Program to Help Combat Low Milk Price

To help address low milk prices and tp help the bottom-line the team offered a variety of programs: The Dairy Manager’s Discussion Group met formally with professors Andy Novakovic and Tom Maloney from Cornell University to talk about current trends in prices and labor, and then toured three different dairies in the following two meetings to gather ideas and learn from their peers.

A Heifer Workshop held at the Vet School Dairy on campus emphasized to participants that their bottom line is affected by the heifer program that they run, and gave options for reducing total costs while advancing genetic potential of the herd more rapidly, all while maintaining the health of the heifer herd.

Herd Manager Training offered a two-day course to bring producers up to speed on ways to protect the health of their herd, as well as giving specifics on records to maintain to protect their business. Both of the days emphasized points with an on-farm tour and allowed for ample discussion between host farms and participants to encourage peer learning.

Hands-On Training that Directly Impacts Producers’ Bottom Line

Feed is more likely than not the highest expense on dairy farms today. Producers realize the importance the role of the feeder. The team offered a 2-day Feeder School where this type of employee could come to learn the “how” and the “why” behind the things they do every day. Morning classroom sessions explained how the rumen works, why making a consistent Total Mixed Ration (TMR) is important and incorporated several aspects of cow behavior so that feeders more fully understand the animal they are feeding.
Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs should be requested by calling 734.4453 prior to attending a program.