Highlights

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County has had an exciting and productive year in 2016. Our agriculture program remains strong, 4-H had an excellent showing at the State Fair, and our Family Community Development program is in the final stages of creating the Parents Apart program, which is badly needed in Cortland County.

4-H Camp Owahta has had a facelift with new signage, painting, and repairs to cabins to keep it strong. In addition, we have added a Farm & Garden program that included raised bed gardens and space for animals. This addition proved to be one of the favorite programs for campers.

Though it has been a year of successes, we could not have done it without the generous support of all of our volunteers. From 4-H parent leaders to donations of money, materials and time at camp, we count on help from the Cortland Community. You’ve never let us down, and we are grateful for all you do.

Please join us 2017. It just gets better!

-David Rutherford, Executive Director

2016 Leadership Message

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2016 Annual Report

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### Finance & Consumer Education Program

The ability to make sound, informed financial and consumer decisions is key to building the financial security of households and strong communities.

In 2016, CCE Cortland provided **171 adults and 9 youth** with education in the areas of budgeting, credit, debt management, consumer protection, and insurance.

### Parenting Education

Parenting education will be returning to CCE Cortland. The training for the PS It Works Parenting Education Program has been completed and the process to recertify CCE Cortland to once again offer the Parents Apart program for divorcing and separating parents is underway.

### Master Gardener Volunteers

14 Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV’s) performed **692 hours of community service** which reached **467 youth and 187 adults** in the community.

Some programs included: 4-H Plant Sale, Perennial Plant Sale, McGraw Afterschool Program, Ag-Stravaganza, Holiday Workshop and many local community gardens, just to name a few!

MGV’s collaborated with 4-H Camp Owahta to create beautiful raised beds for campers to grow vegetables and flowers. This project was a huge hit as it provided campers a fun and hands-on way of learning the Garden to Table concept of creating a sustainable food system that builds community, improves access to healthy food, and teaches campers how to cultivate their own vegetables.

### Horticulture

The Horticulture office has focused on customer service, youth & adult education, Master Gardener Volunteer supervision, and community outreach.

In 2016, through outreach and special programming, **916 youth and 407 adults** engaged in fun hands-on activities and classes. In addition, 135 community calls were answered. Claudia Hitt also serves as the NYS Fair 4-H Youth Building Horticulture Superintendent.

### SCNY Dairy & Field Crops

The South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops Program provides educational opportunities and technical assistance to help the industry with emerging issues, production bottlenecks, and new technologies. We focus on areas that will help improve farm profitability within the region since farm financial success is key to sustaining the dairy and field crops industry. Our program’s education helps our industry respond to both internal and external forces that help it keep pace in a rapidly changing world.

In 2016 we held:

- 47 meetings/workshops with **1306 participants**.
- 55 Members active in farmer-to-farmer leaning groups
- 110 Personalized Consultations
- 500 Responses to phone inquiries
- 20 Events with the Soil Health Trailer with **3106 Participants**
- 15 Events to Increase Public Awareness of Agriculture - **2000 indirect contacts**

CCE of Cortland Agriculture Program wears two hats, both educating the non-farming community about agriculture and also educating the non-dairy livestock community about production, management and marketing of their livestock.

In 2016, workshops geared towards nutrition, reproduction, hay production, meat quality, farm business management, health and feeder calf grading were provided for to over 600 non-dairy livestock producers in the southern tier of NY.

Do you know where your food comes from?? Here at CCE of Cortland, we provide a host of educational events that encourage a better understanding of agriculture by the general community. Over **2000 youth and adults** in 2016 have been connected with this important agriculture information.