Our highly skilled educators deliver research-based knowledge through non-credit education in the fields of Agriculture & Horticulture, Environment & Energy, Family & Consumer Education, and 4-H Youth Development.

2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545
Through quality educational programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) builds strong, healthy youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County.

CCEDC links the research, knowledge and technology of the land grant system to the needs of individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout the County.

We provide practical education for stakeholders to use in dealing with critical issues affecting the County's future and we enhance the quality of life by promoting individual growth, strengthening families, improving the economic well-being of businesses, enhancing the environment, and building stronger communities.
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**COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE**

The Community Horticulture staff and Master Gardener Volunteers continue to lead educational programs in Dutchess County and throughout the Lower Hudson Region. Master Gardener Volunteers delivered programming on a variety of topics to nearly 1000 attendees through our Speakers’ Bureau program at local libraries and garden clubs. A partnership with Arlington Adult Education reached nearly 200 adults with classes on vegetable gardening and composting. Participation at community events including the Dutchess County Fair reached over 4,500 people with MGVs answering questions about ornamental plants, vegetables, pest and diseases, composting and ticks. The Diagnostic Hot Line and staff responded to nearly 700 diagnostic requests.

Regionally, CCEDC led the Blockbuster training in 2017 for the Lower Hudson PRISM organization. Blockbuster is a “citizen science” project to identify and map selected invasive species in our region for potential control actions. CCEDC updated training materials and trained over 100 regional MGVs to be experts for the counties in the region.

CCEDC received a grant from the Towards Sustainability Foundation (TSF) to create “The Benefits of Organic Matter in Home Garden Soil.” Building on the growing enthusiasm to support waste reduction by composting at home, these materials explain how organic matter improves soil, and makes nutrients more available for plants to take up through their roots. Soil science is communicated in a user-friendly format to gardening residents who are not necessarily science savvy. With sponsorship from Cornell University faculty, the materials have been created and will be shared regionally. Finally, the Master Gardener Plant Sale in May continues to be a huge success, with shoppers lining up to purchase plants selected and grown by our volunteers. Each plant sold includes education about its cultural needs, ornamental and nutritional value, pest resistance, and attributes which attract pollinators.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

15 Christmas tree farmers participated in the annual Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting. Cornell IPM Specialists Dr. Betsy Lamb and Brian Eshenaur provided a walk-about and Dr. Rich Cowles of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station provided updates on treatment and prevention of phytophthora root rot as well as some unusual arthropod infestations. This annual event is an opportunity for Christmas tree farmers to receive hands-on training as well as network with other farmers and share production and pest management issues.

35 landscapers, arborists, municipal employees and officials learned about street tree planting and maintenance at a one-day workshop titled “Back to Basics.” The day included a hands-on demonstration of how to properly plant a balled and burlap street tree. A healthy urban forest not only supplies aesthetic benefits but environmental and economic benefits as well.
TASTE NY at TODD HILL

The Taste NY Market at Todd Hill continued to see increased sales in 2017; total annual sales were $1,522,614 an almost 23% increase over 2016. The Market continues to offer a wide variety of food, beverages, textiles, artisanal and value-added agricultural products. In 2017, Todd Hill offered approximately 1,300 products from 197 vendors. The outdoor Farmers’ Market was held every Friday from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day weekend and over the course of the season there were 12 regular vendors and several “pop-up” vendors. Products sold included produce, bedding plants, baked goods, craft beverages, baked goods, cheese, hot foods, soaps and maple syrup.

We conducted a vendor survey for feedback and were pleased to find that 48.5% of respondents indicated increased product visibility and an increase in sales for their businesses and 32% reported that they expanded their operations due to Todd Hill sales. Some vendors were able to give their employees extra hours and hire additional employees. Another vendor was able to increase product lines due to sales of it's products at Todd Hill. Overall vendors have stated their participation at Todd Hill has increased their exposure, increased sales and has helped them with branding and visibility.

EASTERN NY COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM (ENYCHP)

As more vegetable growers in the region are using high tunnels for winter production, there is a need to refine fertility management recommendations and provide better guidance on the potential value of supplemental heating in those tunnels. ENYCHP has partnered with the Poughkeepsie Farm Project to study the impact of minimal supplemental heating on nitrogen availability and uptake in winter-grown lettuce, kale, and spinach. Additionally, the cost difference between heating a 42’x196’ tunnel to 33-degrees Fahrenheit and heating an identical sized tunnel to 40-degrees Fahrenheit is being tracked. Yield is being monitored for the three crops in both tunnels for the duration of the winter growing season.

NYSDEC Special Permit Training held at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY provided farm workers with in-depth pesticide applicator safety training, in both English and Spanish. This unique educational program adds to an employee’s value to the farm business by allowing the employees to legally and safely apply specific pesticides whose use is critical to the success of orchard businesses in the Hudson Valley.

Communications to farmers from ENYCHP include The Produce Pages, Vegetable News, Berry News, Tree Fruit News, Grape News and Tree Fruit E-Alert. These newsletters are published throughout the growing season and as needed.
Agricultural Navigator

Dutchess County awarded funding for the Agricultural Navigator initiative to Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County in 2016.

The role of the Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator is one of coordinating, collaborating and communicating with county and municipal officials, the farming community, agricultural organizations and other agencies on:

- Agricultural issues and solutions;
- Economic viability and sustainability of farming;
- Opportunities and feasibility of new infrastructures related to agriculture.

The Agricultural Navigator also assists in the implementation of the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan under the guidance of the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Commit-

Several objectives for the Agricultural Navigator were outlined in the 2017 Dutchess County State of Agriculture Report. They include:

- Improving understanding between: local governments and farmers, and farmers and consumers/residents;
- Encouraging more farm friendly regulations within municipalities;
- Providing local planning and town agricultural committees with the tools to address the needs of our smallest farms;
- Creating infrastructure development opportunities that benefit local farms need and provide new jobs;
- Offering municipal official trainings;
- Investigating opportunities for new and young farmers;
- Assisting Dutchess County farmers in finding sources of start-up capital for acquisition of farming infrastructures;
- Assisting school programs in offering basic agriculture in their curriculums.

2017’s EFFORTS & SUCCESSES:

- Farm and Ag Report - 18,000 reached every weekday,
- Dutchess County Agriculture...It’s A Growing Thing! Facebook Page - growth of nearly 200%;
- Work by Dutchess County Planning and Development on farm friendly towns and with local fire commis-
  sioners on their role in special districts;
- 60 Assessors Trained on NYS Law and agricultural properties;
- Inventory of Resources completed and is soon to be released as a searchable database;
- Work with Dutchess Community College, Dutchess County BOCES, Wappingers Central School District, Marist College and Sprout Creek Farm to enhance their curriculum with agricultural education.

For more information contact:

Jennifer Fimbel
Phone: 845-867-3075
E-mail: AgNavigator@dutchessny.gov
GREENWAY & SMART LAND USE

Through funds provided by Dutchess County, the Environment & Energy team offered a number of learning options, primarily for municipal officials and the general public. Highlights for 2017 included the annual roundtable forum for Conservation Advisory Councils and Environmental Management Council representatives in February, a green infrastructure forum for municipal officials on stormwater management monitoring and maintenance, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training on “conservation planning for municipal officials in Dutchess County,” a forum on how communities can save energy and money through the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program and a roundtable meeting for local watershed groups to address common issues and challenges in protecting Dutchess County water resources. The stormwater management and green infrastructure display at the Dutchess County Fair was well-received by more than 500 visitors. The GIS lab offered assistance to municipalities and residents to address specific questions and needs. This program keeps us aware of current and upcoming needs for Dutchess County residents, and allows us to work hand-in-hand with Dutchess County government to address those needs.

FLOOD RESILIENCY

CCEDC staff continued working collaboratively with Extensions in Columbia, Greene and Rockland Counties on the Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project (HEWRP) in partnership with the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell and the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program. The HEWRP is a combination of research, demonstration, outreach and education focused on climate change, flood resiliency, stream management and related topics. As part of this initiative, CCEDC staff provides tools and resources to assist municipalities in reducing their vulnerability to flooding. In 2017, CCEDC educated communities about the importance of properly sizing culverts and bridges for increased stream flows, organized a forum on the Climate Smart Communities Certification program, researched GIS options for mapping wastewater infrastructure in the region, and much more.

DUTCHESS COUNTY ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY

The CCEDC staff recently completed a 3 year-long study on organic waste recovery and recycling potential in Dutchess County through funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Cleaner Greener Communities Program. The project included research into applicable technologies and local business models, spatial analysis, economic factors, and education and outreach to municipalities and the general public. In addition, staff met with various school districts to learn about their ongoing efforts and potential opportunity to reduce waste and pursue organics recycling. Lastly, a residential survey was conducted in specific Dutchess County municipalities. Findings from this project concluded that there is potential to divert approximately 40,000 additional tons of organics per year in the County from the municipal solid waste.

Students at Mill Road School in Red Hook learn about vermicomposting.
DUTCHESS COUNTY NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE

The No Child Left Inside (NCLI) youth educators have accomplished a lot in this past year, continuing with their mission of gaining new environmental knowledge and sharing it with other youth. The youth educators increased their environmental knowledge and awareness by attending lectures at the Cary Institute, assisting with farm chores at Sprout Creek Farm, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, and electrofishing, among many other activities. In addition, they continued to help local researchers monitor glass eel populations through the American Eel Project, and participated in the annual Riverkeeper Sweep to help clean up the trash in the Fall Kill Creek. They also finished their community project of planting a local pollinator garden, complete with a guide on how to plan a pollinator garden and information about pollinators.

The NCLI youth educators continued to educate youth through the After School Programs at Krieger Elementary and Clinton Elementary, and the Relatives as Parents Program. Some of the lessons for the after school programs were geared towards trash and recycling, so the youth educators visited the Poughkeepsie Waste-to-Energy facility and the Re-community Recycling facility in Beacon to increase their knowledge on the topic. They also educated the public about macroinvertebrates and water quality at the annual event “Science on the River” and they taught fifth grade students from Krieger Elementary about the ecology of the

GIS & MAPPING

CCEDC’s GIS Lab stayed busy again in 2017, partaking in a number of the Association’s ongoing projects as well as several municipal mapping projects. Additionally, the GIS Lab continued with its mission of providing mapping, custom printing, and geospatial training for local residents, municipal officials, and conservation organizations. This year, the Lab created maps for the development of a City of Beacon Natural Resource Inventory; developed maps for the Fishkill Creek Watershed, CACs in the Towns of Pleasant Valley and Stanford; updated maps for the Mashomack Preserve Club; provided analysis and mapping for deer movement research being done by the Cary Institute; and helped organize and present a follow-up training on online natural resources mapping tools for municipal officials and community groups.
The Family and Consumer Education Program (FCE) strives to ensure that families throughout Dutchess County find the resources and education they need to improve their lives. The programs we offer are designed to address the ever-changing needs of Dutchess County households in areas of Nutrition and Wellness, Parenting and Family Education, and Financial Literacy. We continue to educate and work toward positive changes.

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Support Groups are funded in part by a grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Service and the Dutchess County Office for the Aging. Due to a variety of factors, including the opioid epidemic, many grandparents and other relatives now take on the role of primary caregiver for relative children. There are approximately 2,000 families in Dutchess County that are raising relative children. The RAPP program assists these families with support groups, parenting education and financial literacy while also providing referrals to other organizations that can help them with their needs. In 2017, the main focus was to grow RAPP by increasing the number of support groups, as well as focusing on youth activity groups and intergenerational activities. The intergenerational activities are special in that they bring families together with projects and activities that all ages can enjoy and offer an opportunity for the adults and children to interact in new or different ways. Program highlights include educating youth on anti-bullying techniques, assisting with the cost of sending ten children to summer camp, and providing more than a dozen families with supplies to begin the school year. FCE also provided trainings on mindfulness and relaxation techniques to help adults cope with everyday stressors and brought in a certified health care
FCE staff were able to collaborate with other CCEDC programs, including No Child Left Inside (NCLI) and the Green Teen Community Gardening Program, by offering these youth participants Financial Literacy Training (FLY). We also presented at Bard College, to equip soon-to-be graduates with financial management tools. In 2018, we will look to expand this type of training to other area colleges and Dutchess County youth.

The Hudson River Fish Advisory Program reached more than 400 people, who took action to improve their healthy eating, active living, food security and food safety behaviors. This collaborative effort with our sister Associations in Orange, Ulster and Columbia and Green Counties provided our communities with practical education to help them make healthier choices when eating fish from the Hudson River. FCE continues to work toward providing targeted wellness programs to those living in Dutchess County, and we will continue to identify and support the needs of the ever-
**Eat Smart New York!**

**Eat Smart New York Hudson Valley** is the nutrition education and obesity-prevention component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Eat Smart New York provides nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions for low-income people who are eligible for SNAP or other means-tested federal assistance programs. Our activities are evidence-based and delivered through comprehensive multi-level interventions, including behaviorally-focused direct and indirect education, policy, systems, environmental change strategies, and social marketing strategies. Our priority messages include: Fill up on Fruits and Vegetables, Sip Smarter, Drink Water, and Move More.

In Dutchess County, through numerous partners and collaborations, during the 2016-2017 federal fiscal year, we reached approximately 4,876 residents (1,183 residents through direct education, and 3,693 through indirect education). These hands-on interactive educational programs were offered at schools, food pantries, community centers, libraries, community events and grocery stores. In tandem with our education programming we collaborated with many to strengthen policy, systems and environmental efforts that put healthier choices within reach. Our partnerships with the food service departments of Poughkeepsie, Dover, Webutuck and Beacon School Districts are bringing the Smarter Lunchroom Movement to life and encouraging over 6,000 students who qualify for Free and Reduced lunch to “Fill Up of Fruits and Vegetables.” This year, our county-wide Nutrition Advisory Committee members worked collectively to strengthen the Poughkeepsie City School District weekend food backpack program, as well as kick-start one in the Hyde Park District. These programs supply healthy weekend meals to over 140 elementary youth for 30 weeks. Thanks to Nourish Your Neighbor healthy donation partners, we are able to enhance the program with extra meals during holiday breaks, including extra fruits and vegetables. Our Beacon Nutrition Advisory Committee (BNAC) partnership held community assessment focus groups and gathered surveys to try and truly understand the state of hunger in a rapidly changing Beacon community. With schools and community partnerships, we have seen an amazing amount of support for the Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive efforts and have had over 1,000 pieces of healthy food donated to backpack programs, food pantries and community centers. Throughout all our efforts we continued our social marketing campaign via billboards, overhead announcements at targeted grocery stores and pharmacy locations, social media platforms, as well as direct mailings to medical professionals. Our educators are busy, partnerships are strong and col-
LIVING THE 4-H PLEDGE IN 2017!

Head to Clearer Thinking: In the first "Ag in the Classroom" program, elementary school children learned about sheep, dairy cattle, and gardening from 4-H'ers who brought animals into their schools. In another first, 4-H'ers entered the Schoolyard Sugaring Contest. They boiled down their own sap, taste-tested the syrup, and took a trip to local producer, Crown Maple, to learn more about the process.

Heart to Greater Loyalty: 4-H'ers practice commitment and responsibility while completing chosen projects. Over 300 youth were directly engaged in the Dutchess County Fair, exhibiting the culminating products of their work in areas such as animals, science, photography, and crafts. In total, 2,565 entries were shown at the 2017 Fair.

Hands to Larger Service: Over 800 non-perishable foods and personal care items were collected during our annual Nourish Your Neighbor campaign. 4-H'ers delivered donations to Dutchess Outreach, the Grace Smith House, and the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church Pantry. 4-H'ers learn the meaning of service from the 150 volunteers who donated more than 10,000 hours in support of the 4-H program.

Health to Better Living: The 4-H Club program engaged approximately 450 youth in new experiences in 2017. Career Explorations, a three-day event held at Cornell University, provided participants with hands-on guidance to academic

LEARNING BY DOING

4-H'ers participated in a variety of educational activities throughout the year including Capital Days in Albany to better understand state government, and the annual 4-H Horse Clinic where professionals provided demonstrations that supplemented twice daily riding instruction. At the Agri-Business Conference, youth became more aware of opportunities in agriculture, as well as academic requirements for professional positions available in agri-business. The Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program allowed 4-H'ers to earn a US Department of Labor Certificate of Training; and the Sewing Program and Fashion Revue provided education on how to model and ‘rock the runway’ in a "Passport to Paris" themed show. Finally the annual Public Presentation Program gave 328 youth participants experience at the County level, with multiple youth being selected to move on to the District and State levels.
GREEN TEEN COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM GROWS SUCCESS

Success for the Green Teen Community Gardening Program (Beacon, NY) can be defined in many ways: the positive changes this program initiates in the teens’ behavior and outlook, the impact on the community by providing teens with a paying job, or the fresh and affordable vegetables the teens provide to the community. In 2017, Green Teen hired 23 youth and as part of their work, they designed, planted, and maintained 3 urban gardens, grew and harvested over 1,100 pounds of vegetables (200 lbs. more than in 2016), and learned, then taught different recipes weekly to over 100 elementary kids at the summer lunch sites, and engaged in enrichment activities such as yoga to learn about stress management.

THE COMMON GREENS MOBILE MARKET

As part of their business and leadership training, Green Teens again operated, in partnership with Common Ground Farm, the Common Greens Mobile Market at two Beacon stops. In 2017, the market generated $3,698.25 in gross income for the season, provided $2,241 in produce to shoppers using assistance, and donated $840 in produce through the Greens 4 Greens program.

GREEN TEEN GOES TO THE MOVIES!

One of the most exciting Green Teen projects of 2017 was being part of a documentary about Beatrix Farrand! Green Teen youth worked with the Beatrix Farrand Garden, in Hyde Park, during the spring for a three session workshop on this pioneering woman, an landscape and garden design, and on plant reproduction. The film crew documented the workshop on garden design and the teens left the workshop with blue prints of their dream gardens and the hope of one day creating them. When asked what it felt like to be filmed, one of the teens said “it’s was so crazy, I felt like a movie star. Anywhere I went, a guy with a camera was running in front of me.” Stay tuned for the film release party sometime in the future at the Beatrix Farrand Garden and watch for the film.

Green Teens at West Center Street Garden.

Green Teen Summer Program (clockwise): Produce for the Mobile Market, Green Teens at the Main Street Garden, Teen at the Cross Street Garden.
Financial Support

TOTAL 2017 FUNDING $3,813,577.00

- COUNTY: $532,444; 13.96%
- STATE: $1,232,432; 32.32%
- FEDERAL: $35,662; 0.94%
- OTHER: $2,013,039; 52.79%

INDIRECT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Value of Volunteer Time: $108,630.00

Sales Tax Revenue from Taste New York: $53,707.76
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