Cornell Cooperative Extension | Erie County

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County

**CCE Staff**

**ADMINISTRATION**
Diane Held • Executive Director
Timothy Bojanowski • Operations Manager
Kimberly Krywalski • Finance Coordinator
Ruth Smith • Finance Assistant
Connie Ebel • Administrative Assistant

**AGRICULTURE**
AG & NATURAL RESOURCES
Sharon Bachman • Ag & Natural Resources Educator
Kathleen McCormick • Agriculture Educator
John Whitney • Agriculture Educator
Becky O’Connor • Farm to School Coordinator
Jolie Hibit • Administrative Assistant

TASTE NY STORE
Renee Day • Taste NY Market Manager
Molly Vigrass • Taste NY Asst. Market Manager
Nicolas Bauman • Taste NY Clerk
Susan Bauman • Taste NY Clerk
Timothy Carlson • Taste NY Clerk
Dean Catafo • Taste NY Clerk
James Czapla • Taste NY Clerk
Gianna DePalma • Taste NY Clerk
Joseph Monaco • Taste NY Clerk
Winona Schwartz • Taste NY Clerk
Alexandria Thibeault • Taste NY Clerk
Robert Waz • Taste NY Clerk

CONSUMER HORTICULTURE
Sharon Bachman • Ag & Natural Resources Educator

**NUTRITION**
**EAT SMART NEW YORK!**
Nicole Maline • Project Manager
Melissa Kimbrell • ESNY Assessment & Evaluation
Xyricka Ferry • Senior Nutrition Educator
Unique Brown • Nutrition Educator
Brittany Denz • Nutrition Educator
Christina Ezak • Nutrition Educator
Mallory Hohl • Nutrition Educator
Mary Janak • Nutrition Educator

**EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM**
Kathleen Clayton • Nutrition Educator

HEALTHY CORNER STORE
Sheila Bass • Healthy Corner Store Coordinator

**CORNELL VEGETABLE PROGRAM**
Julie Kikkert, Robert Hadad, Christy Hoepting, Judson Reid, Elizabeth Buck, Caitlin Vore

**CORNELL LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM**
Timothy Weigle, Kevin Martin, Andy Muza

**SWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & FIELD CROPS**
Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Josh Putman, Alycia Drwencke, Amy Barkley

**HARVEST NEW YORK - WNY**
Cheryl Thayer • Ag Economic Development Specialist
Esther Kibbe • Berry Specialist
Anika Zuber • Dairy Processing & Marketing Specialist

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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.
As 2019 winds down, we are going through the annual process of reflecting on the past year’s accomplishments and planning for the year to come. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County has completed more than 100 of these reflection/planning cycles. In our early history when almost half of the country’s population was involved in farming, Cooperative Extension worked primarily with farmers and their families to extend research based information from the land grant college (Cornell) in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H to predominately rural residents of the county. Those are our roots, how and why we came to be as an organization. We still work extensively with farmers, but they are located in the city as well as the rural areas now. Rather than working with homemakers in their homes, we offer nutrition and gardening programs at community centers, libraries, and senior centers. 4-Hers still show their steers and chickens and pigs at the Erie County Fair, but they also address community needs and engage in work to improve the neighborhoods that they live in. Over time, as societal needs changed, CCE Erie adapted, grew, and transformed into the organization we are now.

Thirty six staff support agriculture and natural resources, nutrition, 4-H youth development, and consumer horticulture programs. Program delivery often involves partnerships and collaborations with nonprofit, private and government agencies. Office space in East Aurora, 3 locations in Buffalo, and at Taste NY at the WNY Welcome Center in Grand Island, provide staff with easy access to local communities. Our original base funding from federal, state, and county sources leverages grants and contracts that fund Extension work throughout Erie County.

In the following pages you can read about the exceptional programs that CCE Erie staff and volunteers offered in Erie County over the past year. Almost 300 volunteers multiplied the work of CCE Erie staff and made it possible to reach many more youth, families, and individuals in our communities.

Thank you for supporting CCE Erie and for assisting us to help residents and communities put knowledge to work to solve real-life problems with research based solutions!

Executive Director            President, Board of Directors
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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE Erie) is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The association is part of the national cooperative extension system, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal governments. As New York’s land grant university Cornell administers the system in this state. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer that is governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located as well as state and national goals.

Capital Project Update
In 2016 and 2017, the CCE Erie Board of Directors worked with consultants on the development of a Capital Project Plan to establish site criteria for an educational facility to meet the current and future educational programming needs of CCE Erie, and to create a plan for a Capital Campaign to fund the Project. This was a public, stakeholder driven process and presentations from the process are available to view at: erie.cce.cornell.edu/news/capital-project-progress. In 2018-19, members of the Board of Directors Capital Project Committee visited a number of potential properties which resulted in one offer on a property. After brief negotiations, there was no agreement on the purchase of the property. The board will continue to search for a viable property to house a CCE Erie educational facility in the future.
**Master Gardener Program**

**Celebrating 40 years in Erie County!**

The CCE Master Gardener Program builds on community members’ passion for gardening by providing them with environmentally sound, garden-based educational opportunities. These trained volunteers then share their knowledge with fellow community members. Through the Program, volunteers gain knowledge of, and confidence in, applying science-based gardening practices preparing them to be peer educators who build relationships with community audiences to integrate local experience and research-based knowledge in planning for and initiating steps to manage gardens, lawns, and landscapes with an emphasis on food security and environmental stewardship.

* 87 Active Master Gardener Volunteers provided 3455 service hours to our local communities, and spent 1149 hours completing training to improve themselves as Master Gardeners. The value of this service effort to our community is estimated at over $87,860. Volunteers added another 739 hours fundraising to support the Program’s educational and outreach efforts.

* For a third year, Master Gardeners participated in the Cornell Vegetable Variety Trial Garden growing the same vegetable varieties and reporting into an on-line system how the plants performed in local growing conditions. This year the plants were established at the FeedMore WNY gardens in Buffalo. The Master Gardener volunteers were able to use the garden to offer garden activities to youth who participated in a summer program at a nearby church. The garden also served as a classroom for CCE nutrition educators who wanted to learn hands-on about gardening.

* Master Gardener Volunteers organized and hosted 8 public gardening workshops, reaching almost 300 individuals with environmentally sound gardening best practices.

* Program volunteers staffed a garden question hotline throughout the year, answered 1173 questions, conducted 99 soil pH tests and processed 55 diagnostic samples.

* Volunteers offered 8 soil test clinics at farmers’ markets, libraries and other locations throughout the growing season, providing pH soil testing to home gardeners.

* Master Gardener Volunteers conducted outreach at events across Erie County with the two largest being the Fair and Plantasia making over 1435 contacts.

> I was struck by the strong sense of community (at the Buffalo East Side Garden Walk). The stories really drew me in. And because this is the land of garden walks, it seemed the East-Siders were simply long overdue for the chance to share both their gardens and their stories. I may have started the ball rolling but it’s really the community that has made this happen.”

**Master Gardener, Mary Van Vorst** who helped to start the East Side Garden Walk

*Buffalo News article, August 2019*
Training and Engaging

* In February, hosted the WNY Honey Producers beginning beekeeper 5-part class series. 25 people were trained. A Master Gardener volunteer taught a class session. This fall presented on risk management for beekeepers.

* Trained nearly 100 people with the NYS Integrated Pest Management ‘Don’t Get Ticked’ information including 55 people in West Seneca. These trainings were offered in collaboration with other CCE offices in WNY. Offered a ‘Don’t Get Ticked’ train-the-trainer session to 10 CCE program contacts to allow them to assist in continuing to spread this important educational message.

* Assisted the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District in securing speakers from Moog to present on the application of drone technology in agriculture as part of the 2019 Envirothon county competition. 60 local high school students and their teachers participated in this environmental issue event.

* Held 6 WNY Forest Pest Taskforce meetings. These meetings provide a forum for stakeholders, private landowners, municipalities, industry reps, homeowners and educators to share ideas and resources.

* Along with the NY Flower Industries Association and area growers, hosted a Bedding Plant workshop on soil health for commercial greenhouses; using bio-control in mixed cropping systems; and Spotted Lanternfly, an emerging invasive insect. 57 growers and industry representatives participated.

* Offered the annual CommuniTree Steward (CTS) classes, training 22 interested community members on the aspects of caring for juvenile trees; biology, establishment, maintenance, pruning and ID. Volunteers participated in monthly field projects in the greater Buffalo area. To date nearly 75 people have completed the CTS class. The Buffalo Green Fund provided the funding to offer the classes at low cost. Additional project partners include City of Buffalo, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Re-Tree and area horticulture businesses.

* Through the Master Gardener program, CCE partnered with the County Environmental Management Council (EMC) to promote an updated Healthy Lawns Campaign called Safe Home for the Gnomes (www.erie.gov/healthylawns). Cornell Cooperative Extension provided educational materials, as well as collected pledges from residents that they do not use pesticides on their lawn. Nearly 260 pledges were been collected since March.

Connecting to Research

* Spotted Wing Drosophila trapping: Completed 7th year of trapping for the invasive fruit fly pest, spotted wing drosophila (SWD). The trapping network allows growers to better time control measures to when pest pressure in the field is rising.

* Lily leaf beetle biocontrol: Completed final year of a lily leaf beetle biocontrol project partnering with NYS Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Asiatic lilies are prized by gardeners but the invasive insect, lily leaf beetle, threatens these lilies as the hungry larva heavily feed on and weaken them, making them unattractive.

* Swallow-wort biocontrol: Engaged land managers and agricultural communities to apply and evaluate biological control of swallow-wort in New York. Black and pale swallow-worts are highly invasive plant species that negatively impact agricultural and natural lands. In 2017, the leaf-feeding moth was approved for release as a biocontrol agent in the US. CCE Erie is working with a research team from the New York Invasive Species Research Institute to develop and utilize a streamlined protocol for the leaf-feeding moth.

* Weed-ID: CCE Erie worked with faculty from Cornell’s Weed
Ecology Lab to assist in building a network of Cooperative Extension educators and Certified Crop Advisors, to provide agricultural producers with a system for submitting unknown weeds for identification, and provide resources and training to alleviate identified knowledge gaps in weed ID. The project team is creating a project web-site which will answer common questions and provide tools to identify problematic weeds.

**Buffalo Urban Soils Pledge Drafted**

* Responded to a need from Buffalo urban growers to help consumers understand safe and healthy soil testing practices that farms employ when establishing and growing food in the city. CCE Erie, Harvest NY, Cornell Vegetable Program, and Cornell Waste Management Institute staff aided the growers in drafting an urban farmer pledge for farms to share with their customers. Farms who pledge agree to follow research-based best practices to provide healthy produce to their consumers. The growers plan to formally roll out the pledge to the public prior to the start of the 2020 growing season.

**Master Forest Owners**

* Cornell’s Master Forest Owners (MFO) Program trains woodland property owners to be peer advisers offering fellow woodlot owners free assistance and information, and providing connections to further technical assistance. The knowledgeable MFO volunteers assist property owners with identifying their woodlot management goals and next steps to take.

* Erie County has 208,700 forested acres of which 196,400 acres are private (94%). Currently there are 5 active Master Forest Owner volunteers providing assistance to other landowners. In 2019, the Northwest New York MFO Regional Director provided a talk to the WAVES (Women in Agriculture: Voices, Empowerment, Skills) discussion group on utilizing woodlot assets for maple syrup and more. 13 people participated.

**Seed to Supper**

* The Seed to Supper (S2) initiative connects with interested community organizations providing them with a curriculum and support to offer workshops for adults on how to grow a portion of their own food on a budget. In March 2019, Cornell undergraduate students, with faculty member support, offered a one-day S2S workshop in Buffalo as part of an Engaged Cornell funded project. 30 people attended this workshop.

* After participating in the March workshop, FeedMore WNY offered monthly S2S classes throughout the growing season from April to August. The FeedMore garden provided participants with ample opportunity to learn to grow and harvest vegetables as CCE Master Gardener Volunteers worked alongside in the garden on another project. During the summer, a Cornell College of Ag and Life Sciences intern assisted in reaching out more broadly to the community about the benefits of participating in the S2S project, and offered assistance to S2S trained gardeners to allow for engagement of youth in the garden.

**Farm to School**

CCE Erie’s Farm to School (F2S) Program supports NY farmers by connecting schools and students with local foods and food systems education. The program is funded through two separate NY Department of Agriculture and Markets F2S grants.

* The F2S Coordinator created a NY Product Guide, which provides information about locally-grown and produced products available in WNY, and has since been adapted by neighboring counties.

* Worked closely with districts across Erie County and with producers and distributors to increase the amount of locally grown and produced foods purchased for school food programs. Also assisted the districts in tracking local purchases in pursuit of the “30% NY Incentive,” a program which provides additional lunch reimbursement to schools that spend 30% or more of their lunch budget on NY grown or produced foods. 7 Erie County districts tentatively qualified, spending a total of over $2.9 million on local fruits, veggies, dairy, and beef, and processed products including granola and potato chips.

* CCE Erie was awarded a second NY Department of Agriculture and Markets F2S grant, which focuses on program promotion and outreach. This year, the F2S Coordinator managed the Erie County School Nutrition Association and Buffalo Farm to School Facebook pages, and created a library of promotional materials for schools to use.
* Hosted 2 winter planning meetings and a July 2019 meeting with Food Service Directors and local farmers, which resulted in the launch of **NY Thursdays in Erie County**. On NY Thursdays, participating schools serve a fully NY produced meal. 5 districts are participating throughout the 2019-2020 school year, and the F2S Coordinator is providing support to additional districts interested in joining.

* The F2S Coordinator collaborated with F2S Coordinators from CCE Allegany and CCE Niagara to host the first **WNY F2S Workshop**, which was attended by Food Service Directors from 25 WNY districts, local producers, and regional distributors. The workshop led to new partnerships and collaborations, including an opportunity for schools to purchase new beef products.

* Buffalo Farm to School Team (led by Harvest NY) released its first every **Geographic Preference bids**, awarding $457,021 in fresh and frozen produce, and $510,781 in NY beef.

* F2S and Eat Smart NY collaborated to train 14 pairs of dietetic interns from D’Youville College and Buffalo State to deliver two **F2S lessons to fourth graders** in 14 schools across the district.

* Coordinated Buffalo Public Schools’ first ever participation in **Agriculture Literacy Week**, reaching 450 second grade students.

* Provided **farm tours** for all second graders of West Hertel Academy to maple, dairy, and other farms in WNY.

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**Farmland for a New Generation NY**

Farmland for a New Generation New York supports the viability of agriculture in New York State by connecting farmland owners and farmland seekers with one another and to the resources they need to achieve their farm goals. This collaborative program is coordinated by American Farmland Trust with funding from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. CCE Erie is a Regional Navigator for the program, one of a network of organizations that provide customized support to beginning farmers, senior farmers preparing for retirement, and non-farming landowners who would like to make their land available for farming. The program also supports the New York Farmland Finder, an on-line resource center and searchable database of farmers seeking land and available farmland.

* Developed **NY Farmland Finder brochure**. Brochure was mailed to 200 agricultural landowners in collaboration with Erie County.

* Attended meetings (Erie County Farm Bureau, Women in Agriculture Discussion Group), tabled at events (Erie County Fair, Marilla Ag Days) and met with other service providers (Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District, Western New York Land Conservancy) to **raise awareness about the program**.

* **Visited 8 urban market gardens** to promote the program and determine land access needs.

* Collaborated with CCE Associations in Broome, Essex, Madison and Oneida counties to plan a series of evening **workshops on finding, affording, marketing, and leasing farmland**.

* Provided 46 hours of ongoing, **individual assistance** to 3 new generation and 5 transitioning farmers.
Taste NY

After the grand opening in August 2018, ‘Taste NY at the Western NY Welcome Center’ grew to represent farmers and vendors from our state with a Western NY flavor.

* Some Taste NY vendors are large established producers. Having their products in store helps convey the scope of NYS products to travelers. The store also has very small, new vendors that are showcasing products. All products carried in the store have signage listing the NYS city or town that the product is from and the mileage from the Taste NY store.

* Taste NY was a warming hut for the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce and Niagara Green Way Commission “Footprints Festival” in January. We invited 10 of our vendors to sample their products. **266 people visited the Welcome Center during our event that day, January 26, 2019.**

* In March, **NYS Maple products were highlighted** and educational activities throughout the store told the maple story which included maple nutritional information and maple trivia. A pancake breakfast to celebrate Maple Weekend in the region was held at the end of the month.

* June’s highlighted items were **NYS dairy products** including milk, yogurt, cheese and ice cream. All dairy products were offered with a 5% discount. There were dairy displays and information throughout the store, and an ice cream social hosted during the month.

* In conjunction with Grand Island Farms Inc., Taste NY sponsored a **composting seminar** for 116 participants. On Arbor Day, April 26, the two entities collaborated again for a **tree planting seminar and ceremonial planting**. A few words were delivered by a representative of the Sierra Club on the importance of trees in our environment. At the conclusion of all activities, 100 trees were distributed for people to take home and plant.

* Grand Island Farm’s Inc. is the co-host of the **Farmers Market at the WNY Welcome Center**. The market was open on Thursdays in July through October from 4 to 7 pm. The farmer’s market brought additional traffic and really boosted in store sales every Thursday.

“Have you stopped at Taste NY at the Western NY Welcome Center in your travels across Grand Island? Well, to be honest, I hadn’t either until I retired from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and, somewhat unexpectedly, started a part-time position with CCE Erie. Like many WNYers, I had heard of it but I had driven right by many times. I’m glad I did stop. And it will be a routine stop now – and not just because it is connected to my new job with CCE Erie fostering agricultural marketing & business development!”  

- John Whitney
Regional Agricultural Programs

Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program (SWNYDLFC)

A new collaboration between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben Counties formed the Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program in mid-2019. SWNYDLFC offers educational programming and research based information to agricultural producers, growers, and agribusinesses. Four regional specialists, covering the topic areas of business management, field crops, dairy management, and livestock production, work with Cornell faculty and CCE Educators to address issues impacting these areas through workshops and trainings, consultations, and on-farm research. The SWNYDLFC team approach is designed to meet the rapidly changing needs of our region’s diverse agricultural community.

Producer Outreach, Programming, Presentations, and Field Observations

* Pasture Walk - Cassadaga. Presented on calculating cost of production, beef farm business summary, and direct marketing/processing options for livestock producers.
* Preventing Sexual Harassment, Tools for Farmers - Jamestown. In conjunction with state-wide webinar.
* Beef Producers Association Meeting - Falconer. Team intro and liquid lime/field management presentation.
* Genesee Valley Auction Growers Meeting - East Otto.
* Dairy Focused Pasture Walk - Cuba. Team introduction and dairy farm business summary.
* Dairy Cattle Summer Research Update - Randolph. Coordinated with summer research information on reproduction, farms in attendance represented over 5,000 milking cows.
* Visited the Farm Day - Conewango Valley. Networked with farm volunteers.
* Continue to write and distribute Dairy Market Watch.
* First confirmed Palmer amaranth population in a field setting in NY; working with Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie for future research trial work.
* Worked as a part of the NYS Weed ID network.
* Continued observation of spread and management of waterhemp throughout the state; up to 12 confirmed counties.
* Worked with Dr. Gary Bergstrum at Cornell to identify new and emerging diseases in corn and soybeans.
* Provided information to WNY Crop Management, visited farms with them and will continue, with winter meetings for pesticide/CCA credits.
* Staged corn for a few growers to determine proper time for harvest.

Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP)

The Cornell Vegetable Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in 14 counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates. The team of Vegetable Specialists provides educational programs and information to growers, processors and agri-business professionals, arming them with the knowledge to profitably produce, and market, safe and healthful vegetable crops. Specifically the program focuses on food safety, variety evaluation, market development, pest management, and cultural practices.

The monthly WAVES (Women in Agriculture: Voices, Experience, Skills) discussion group made a splash in Erie County this year. CVP and CCE Erie teamed up to create a monthly workshop series tailored to the needs and interests of local women working on horticultural operations. Thanks to funding from Farm Credit East’s AgEnhancement program, thus far in 2019 6 workshops have been conducted covering greenhouse production (nursery and transplant vegetables), urban farming, maple production and sugar bush management, organic small fruits & vegetables, apple production, and compaction management. New women continue to join each meeting. The men who accompanied their female farming partners enjoyed the dynamic of the WAVES discussion group format. The Cornell Vegetable Program is currently seeking funding to continue (and hopefully expand!) this program next year.

Photo Elizabeth Buck
The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program consists of Extension Educators and research faculty/staff from Cornell University and Penn State University devoted to projects aimed at increasing yields, product quality, diversity and improvement of cultivars, efficiency of production, profitability and adoption of environmentally sound cultural and pest management strategies. The LERGP is supported, in part, by 5 county Cornell Cooperative Extensions including: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara Counties in New York and Erie County in Pennsylvania.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets through the LERGP established a reimbursement grant opportunity funded by the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. This program is available for Concord vineyards in Erie County. The goal is not to remove Concord grapes from the industry, but instead to remove abandoned or poorly producing Concord vineyards and then replace them with an agricultural commodity. This can even be with a new Concord vineyard. Removing sources of pest and infection will help neighboring commercial vineyards.

Harvest New York (Harvest NY)

Harvest NY is an innovative Cornell Cooperative Extension team that focuses on workforce development and business expansion projects that increase profitability and investment in key sectors of New York’s agriculture industry. Harvest NY specialists respond to emerging issues and develop new opportunities using the research of Cornell University, the resources of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and relationships with partnering organizations statewide.

The Buffalo Farm to School (F2S) project, which launched in 2014, is a shared program led by CCE Harvest NY, with support from CCE Erie County, and Eat Smart NY of Western NY. The program strives to create intentional linkages between the cafeteria, the classroom and the community, which the program accomplishes through local procurement, educational initiatives, and experiential learning opportunities. The Buffalo F2S project realized tremendous success during the 2018-19 school year, as they were the largest school district in NY to achieve the state 30% initiative, resulting in $2,618,071 spent on local food for use in the school lunch program. As part of Governor Cuomo’s No Student Goes Hungry legislation, schools that successfully purchase 30% of their lunch ingredients from NY farms and food producers (whose product is comprised of 51% NY farm products) will earn an additional $.19 per lunch served. In Buffalo’s case, this will result in an additional $1M of State reimbursement to the district’s food service department.
4-H Clubs and Projects

* In 2018-19: 553 youth and 169 volunteers enrolled in the Erie County 4-H Youth Development Program, and there were 28 active 4-H Clubs.

* The Club Mentorship Program was started in 2018 to assist with the creation of new 4-H Clubs in different areas of Erie County. New leaders are given guidance on club procedures and projects with the hope that they will continue to offer 4-H programming for several years.

  The Club Mentorship Program assisted with the start of 1 new 4-H Club this program year, which was chartered May, 2019.

* The 4-H Chef Challenge is an event that challenges youth to use their knowledge of nutrition, cooking skills, and creativity to invent a dish using a variety of ingredients. The event was held at Potter Road BOCES Career and Technical Institute.

  12 4-H members participated in an industrial style kitchen and also received cooking tips and tricks from guest evaluators.

* Duds to Dazzle and Textile Review are programs based around sewing and textile skills. Textile review serves as a showcase for 4-Her’s sewing projects where textile items can be reviewed and participants receive feedback about how to improve their projects before fair. Duds to Dazzle challenges 4-H members of all ages to think creatively, work as a team, and use the sewing and crafting skills they have learned in their 4-H clubs and activities to re-purpose old clothing items into something new. Duds to Dazzles helps teach youth the importance of recycling and thinking outside of the box.

  24 youth participated in the Duds to Dazzle Competition; Textile review had 9 youth participants.

* The Public Presentation Program is a hallmark program of 4-H. 4-H members learn how to write a presentation on a topic of their choice, how to practice for a presentation and then give the presentation in a safe and comfortable space. They receive feedback from trained evaluators to further develop their skills in future years.

  Over 300 youth participated in Public Presentations county wide; 20 Erie County 4-Hers participated in district presentation; 2 Erie County 4-Hers participated in the State Communication Institute at Cornell.

* 4 Japanese Exchange students were hosted by 4-H families in August.

* Over 250 Kindergarten-2nd grade students planted seeds, learned about germination, and learned about the wool industry in Ag in the Classroom programs.

* Erie County Fair: 2,395 youth development entries; 46 Special Awards in the Youth Development Building.

* NYS Fair: 150 still exhibits, 19 received purple rosettes (the most awarded to any county); 4 received a blue rosette, recognized as best overall in its class.

**Photo JoAnn DePue**

4-H Livestock Program

Youth that participate in the livestock program learn responsibility, time management, financial record keeping, sportsmanship and how to care for livestock in order to produce a wholesome consumer product. Youth learn from caring adults, as well as through participation in educational meetings and livestock shows.

* 63 animal program educational opportunities were offered for 4-Hers in the beef, sheep, swine, dairy, goat, horse, dog, rabbit and poultry programs. Youth learned about the livestock industries, YQCA Certification (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals), showmanship, livestock judging, skillathon, marketing, and many other topics associated with each of the livestock species.

* 504 animals were exhibited by 207 4-Hers at the Erie County Fair.

* 3 Erie County 4-H members attended 4-H Capital Days in Albany, one was also a member of the State Capital Days Planning Committee.

* 1,927 students in grades K-4 participated in Ag Literacy Week in 25 different schools and libraries. The book “On the Farm, at the Market” followed the journey food takes from farms to a nearby farmers market, ultimately becoming a dish served at a local restaurant.

* The Pheasant Raise and Release program dispersed 500 day-old chicks to Erie County 4-H youth in June with 420 being released into the correct habitat in September.

* 10 market animals purchased and then put back up for resale by the first purchaser to benefit the 4-H livestock program, generating funds to purchase educational materials for various livestock program areas.

* Youth in the poultry program raised 21 turkey and 62 chickens that were donated to the Food Bank of Western NY.
Over the course of the program, we gave homeless care packages, we did a homelessness reception, we did a Community and Police Speakout, we did a recycling project, we did a bake sale to raise money for a Youth CAN member that passed away, for his family. Getting the satisfaction of helping somebody else is just a really humbling experience for me. And Youth CAN has connected me to a whole bunch of different community organizations that I’ve joined recently, like Restorative Justice and Reality Check.

- Naim Dunbar, Youth CAN Member
Eat Smart Western New York (ESNY)

ESNY is a nutrition education and obesity prevention program for western New Yorkers eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP) to find fun and easy ways to eat more fruits and vegetables, drink fewer sweetened beverages, and be more physically active. Free workshops, cooking classes, grocery store tours, and community events throughout the year support these messages. ESNY engages partners to maximize impact on the environments where people learn, live, eat, play, shop, work and worship. ESNY facilitates trainings for Smarter Lunchrooms, a movement to create lunchroom environments that make healthy food choices an easy choice for students. ESNY also supports healthy corner store initiatives (including the Buffalo Healthy Corner Store Coalition) which brings healthy food options into convenience store settings. In addition, ESNY facilitates Coordinated Approach To Child Health (CATCH) activities by collaborating with Farm To School, Buffalo State, and D’Youville College of Dietetics. This collaboration led to training 37 dietetic interns to go into 14 Buffalo Public Schools to teach CATCH lessons. And the regional marketing campaign, “Small Changes Make a Big Difference”, highlights that a healthy lifestyle is built one healthy decision at a time. CCE Erie was awarded funding to continue offering SNAP Education in the region (Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming) for the next 5 years.

ESNY by the Numbers in 2018-2019:
* 1,879 total 1direct events (workshops, cooking classes, grocery store tours in which a survey or demographic information is collected)
* 23,963 total direct events participants
* 10,225 total direct events youth participants
* 13,497 total direct events adult participants
* 4,987 total direct events senior participants
* 638 total 2indirect events (health fairs, school assemblies, community events, tabling)
* 30,390 total indirect event contacts

1participant is actively engaged
2no direct participant interaction (ie mass communication, displays)

Healthy Corner Store Initiative (HCSI)

The Healthy Corner Store Initiative is a collaborative partnership that grew out of a community report presented by the John R. Oishei Foundation’s Mobile Safety Net Team. The report made recommendations for increasing access to fresh, healthy foods in the City of Buffalo and a coalition was created to address that issue. The concept of the HCSI is to incentivize and educate store owners and the community alike to change the way they view ‘healthy’.

Structure:
The HCSI is a true collaborative effort. Currently 16 partners collaborate on the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and the HCSI Coordinator is a staff member of CCE Erie. Each organization brings their own expertise and resources and has a role on one of three HCSI communities: program development, community relations and store owner support.

* In 2018-19, 4 new stores were identified to participate in the initiative along with the existing 7 HCSI stores. This expansion increased the reach of services in some communities with the highest need.

* With additional resources HCSI successfully made major inroads to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables and educational resources at local corner stores in Buffalo. The goal was to establish HCSI stores in the community and to change the perception of these stores to be seen as a healthy resource.

* Family Dollar corporate stores committed to participate in the HCSI with seven stores identified as potential partners.
* Community events engaged hundreds of family and youth in various activities in the stores and surroundings locations. Several opportunities at local HCSI stores highlighted the importance of making healthier choices and easy ways to adopt these practices.

* Store owners reported a major increase in produce purchases, as a result several stores have either purchased or expressed the desire for larger coolers.

* HCSI received funding from the General Mills Foundation, through the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, to support their work. Recently, HCCSI secured funding through the Blue Fund to expand the program to include 6 additional stores over the next 3 years; to increase HCSI marketing; to provide store beautification (renovation); to continue support for the Healthy Food Community Advocates program; to evaluate the program; and to fund the HCSI Coordinator position (CCE Erie). With this funding the HCSI will primarily focus on cardiovascular health, diabetes, and healthy youth.

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**Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**

EFNEP is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program that serves low income families participating in

* SNAP – Food Stamps
* WIC
* Head Start
* Temporary Assistance - Welfare
* Free or Reduced School Lunches

EFNEP serves all of Erie County, working with many agency partners such as Matt Urban, adult education sites, supportive living homes, libraries, churches, community centers and Catholic Charities. The program helps families eat better for less by sharing tips on keeping food safe, budgeting, eating the "My Plate" way, and limiting sugar and fat in their diet. Families are provided information in hopes that they share it with their families. A healthy snack is provided at each class along with a recipe so families have the information to purchase the food at the store. Many of the participants like to take pictures of the food packages so they know what to buy.

* In 2018-19, 175 adults graduated from Erie County EFNEP classes which each class running for 6-8 weeks.

* Participants completed a pre and post test to identify behavior changes people made during the sessions.

* Many participants shared stories on how they made a change in their eating habits.

“LC” is currently in an EFNEP class and shared that after learning about the difference between “portion and serving sizes” he now eats 1 cup of brown rice as opposed to the 3 cups of white rice that he used to eat as a serving!