Keeping the Agriculture Industry Strong

The big news in agriculture this year is that Anita Deming is retiring and the new person will be full-time agriculture. We have 23 regional and state specialists serving Essex County now, so there is almost no question that we cannot answer. Our new agriculture educator’s first job will be to meet all of our farmers and make sure they are connecting with these specialists that cover Essex County. We had over 325 farmer inquiries for information on starting or improving crop production in person or by phone or email this year. You can call the specialist yourself or call CCE Essex to find out the best person to answer your questions.

Research projects continue across Essex County working on questions such as the best control for mastitis depending on the species you have; getting the best management and yields for high tunnels; group calf housing; water quality on the farm; impacts of tile drainage on farm runoff; and best maturity for brown mid-rib sorghum at harvest. If you have an idea for research contact this office or the specialist working in that area.

Our beef farm numbers continue to increase. Many people find this a profitable part-time enterprise that maximizes our pasture and grass resources.

Adirondack Harvest – Direct Marketing Programs

The Adirondack Harvest program completed 2 big projects this year. We finished the 6-county evaluation of food hub needs for various communities which has been distributed to many economic development agencies. At the same time, Hub on the Hill started a value-added venture in Essex that many local farmers are using to process and market their products. The other big effort was the Adirondack Harvest Festival in Westport that had almost 1,000 attendees. This was designed to link farmers to consumers and to increase sales direct from the farm. We had 23 farm booths and talks on a wide variety of topics including making cheese, wine, and sausage.

Our new project this year is to add forest products to the Adirondack Harvest marketing effort. We have new funding to improve the website making it more user and smartphone friendly, and adding lumber, logs, foresters, loggers, and wood crafts to the mix of local commodities.
**Consumer Horticulture**

In Essex County, our 22 Master Gardener Volunteers are social activists that put their Cornell research-based knowledge into the hands of our citizens. Our MGVs provide over 1200 hours of volunteer gardening advice and guidance to citizens. They provide an immeasurable resource to their communities within the county and are uniquely placed to reach a broad section of citizens from of every age. To highlight a few numbers, our MGVs assisted 1,944 adults and 1,078 youth citizens throughout the county, holding 254 programs and workshops. MGVs educate the public on a variety of topics including Environmental Field Day, Fair Judging, school gardening, garden to table, composting, mulching, invasive species, pollinators, use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and the health and wellness benefits of gardening.

MGVs annual events such as the two Maple Weekends in March held at the Cornell Maple Station in Lake Placid saw 332 adults and 115 children and 2 dogs pass through the doors and the annual June “Perennial Plant Sale & Free Gardening Advice” event in Lake Placid is a fast-paced morning serving over 100 garden enthusiasts. This year our MGVs co-hosted a three-part pollinator series on bees, butterflies, flies and beetles. MGVs continue to provide educational support and expertise at farmers markets, community gardens, school gardens, school programs, and garden clubs from Schroon Lake to Saranac Lake and every mountain in between.

**Adirondack Medical Home**

Since 2012, Adirondack Medical Home, has contracted with CCE to provide basic nutrition education, free of charge to the clients of primary-care physicians in Essex and Clinton Counties. Nutrition appointments are available at the Elizabethtown Health Center, High Peaks Health Center, Smith House Health Center, and the Westport Health Center, as well as two practices in Peru and five practices in Plattsburgh. Two weekly Healthy Nutrition/Cooking classes are presented at the JCEO in Plattsburgh.

**Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, Range of Motion Class**

The range of motion program partners with the Essex County Office of the Aging (OFA); Lake Placid, Ticonderoga, and Moriah senior meals site and senior centers. We have 28 participants in Ticonderoga and 9 in Lake Placid. Classes are offered every Monday and Wednesday in Ticonderoga and 3 Wednesdays a month in Lake Placid. Each class starts with a short nutrition lesson followed by a 40 minute exercise class, the participants are given a nutrition handout and coordinating recipe each week. In Ticonderoga we have a participant that has been trained by the arthritis foundation exercise program who conducts the Wednesday class. The Ticonderoga Seniors have expanded their fitness program by offering walking space and paddleball in their building.
**4-H Program**

We have 22 traditional 4-H clubs, 51 leaders and 140 youth members. 4-H club projects focused on a variety of STEM projects including animal science such as horse, cattle, horticulture, entomology, embryology, sheep, goats, community service, teen leadership, healthy living. 4-H members took advantage of Career Explorations, Focus for Teens, University U at Cornell University, ABC at SUNY Cobleskill, Public Presentations, Essex-Clinton Horse Camp, STARR, Cupcake Wars, Lego Car Derby and Bird Sleuth from the Lab of Ornithology.

Essex County hosted the 2nd Tri-State Ag Business and Farm Tour that 25 teens from NY, New Hampshire and Vermont attended. Teens had the opportunity to be exposed to off-farm and on-farm careers and educational paths within the agricultural community. This two-day tour was funded by Yankee Farm Credit.

Essex County 4-H Fair saw 85 members enter static and animal science projects. By selling ice cream confections at the 4-H Dairy Bar youth were educated in real life skills, such as customer service, teamwork, math, counting money, public speaking, and friendship.

Ag Literacy Week celebrated apples in 2016. In partnership with the Farm Bureau of Essex County and Soil and Water, we deployed volunteer readers armed with the book The Apple Orchard Riddle. Volunteers read in 12 school settings and reached just under 300 youth. Environmental Field Day was filled to the brim with environmental science stations including, trees, birds, watershed and pollinators. The finale was when all 350 youth and their chaperones gathered at the grandstand to watch the Canine Agility Trial at the end of the day. Three border collies & one Jack Russell terrier joyfully ran up, down, and over an agility course as fast as lightening, highlighting recreational use of space between humans and their canine companions.

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**The Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Essex County Board of Directors**

In 2016 we once again held even with Federal, State and County dollars. We have been teaming up with other counties to share areas of expertise, both in programming and administration, which means we only have five people in our local office. This has increased the level of expertise for our clientele and saved dollars. We have 31 specialists covering Essex County in almost any topic area you could think of.

Ann Moore retired this year after 21 years of dedicated service. We are now sharing our financial management with Clinton, and Franklin Counties. Ann is missed, but we know she is enjoying herself.

You may have heard that Anita Deming is also retiring at the end of this year. CCE Essex will be hiring an agriculture educator - full time, and Rick Levitre - part-time (CCE Franklin County) to cover Agriculture and Administration. Our primary programs remain 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Master Gardeners, Adirondack Harvest, and Human Health (nutrition and range of motion)

We have been successful in finding grant funds to add some special programs this year including: a revamp of Adirondack Harvest’s web site to add Forest Products and the Cuisine Trail to our listings and for 4-H sponsorship from Stewarts to send our 4-H youth to Cobleskill ABC Conference, sponsorship from the Lab of Ornithology for the Bird Sleuth Program, sponsorship from Tractor Supply for the bluegrass 4-H Club, and sponsorship from Farm Credit for the Tri-State Agriculture Tour.

Good news for those of you who have donated to the CCE Essex Building Fund over the years. We completed the kitchen upgrade several years ago, and have a new ADA-compliant bathroom being built on the first floor. We are still seeking funds to fix the windows and doors if you are able to help us. Believe it or not we have 53 windows, 2 large arched windows, and 6 exterior doors to modernize. Your help is truly appreciated.
### 2016 Funding Sources

- **Federal Funds**: $9,000 (2%)
- **State Funds**: $55,033 (9%)
- **County Appropriation, Adirondack Harvest, Bldg. Rental Value**: $278,200 (47%)
- **Other County Grants/OFA Exercise**: $8,000 (15%)
- **Other Grants**: $91,916 (15%)
- **Programs (Regional & Local), Interest, Misc.**: $18,975 (3%)
- **Estimated State Benefits**: $132,480 (22%)

Total Budget = $593,604

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### 2016 Board of Directors

- **Jay White**, President
- **Mark Buckley**, Vice President
- **Anne Bassler**, Secretary
- **Barbara Dwyer**, Treasurer
- **Ann Lamb**
- **Florence St. Pierre Sears**
- **Jori Wekin**
- **Charlie Harrington, Supervisor Rep.**
- **Steven Ives**
- **Megan Murphy**
- **James Cunningham**
- **Paul O’Connor, Cornell Specialist**

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### 2016 Agricultural Program Committee

- **Lesley Trevor**, Chair
- **Florence St. Pierre Sears**
- **Erik Leerkes**, Vice Chair
- **David Lincoln**, Sec’y
- **John Bingham**
- **Diane Dodd**
- **Gary Goff**

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### 2016 Quality of Life Committee

- **Dave Wyant**, Chair
- **Julie Ives**
- **Elijah Ives**
- **Noah Ives**
- **Kathy Bogdziewicz**
- **Tom McNally**

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### Staff

- **Anita Deming**, Executive Director
  - Agriculture/Natural Resource Issue Leader
  - Adirondack Harvest Coordinator
- **Linda Gilliland**
  - 4-H/Youth Development/Nutrition Issue Leader
  - Horticulture
- **Laurie Davis**
  - Adirondack Harvest Administrator
  - Office Manager, Technology, HR
- **Ann Moore** (retired September, 2016)
  - Finance Administrator
- **Laura Nicholson** (hired September, 2016)
  - Finance Administrator
- **Eileen Longware**
  - Nutrition Program Educator
- **Samantha Davis**
  - Program Assistant

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### SIX-COUNTY REGIONAL SPECIALISTS

- **Lindsay Ferlito**
  - Dairy Production
- **Betsy Hodge**
  - Livestock
- **Michael Hunter**
  - Field Crops
- **Amy Ivy**
  - Vegetable & Small Fruit
- **Ron Kuck**
  - Livestock/Beef
- **Tatum Langworthy**
  - Six County Administration
- **Kimberley Morrill**
  - Dairy Production
- **Kelsey O’Shea**
  - Farm Business Management
- **Kitty O’Neil**
  - Field Crops and Soils
- **Lindsey Pashow**
  - Direct Marketing
- **Anna Wallis**
  - Fruit
- **Mackenzie Waro**
  - Livestock Processing
- **Anika Zuber**
  - Dairy Processing