Cornell Cooperative Extension
Franklin County

Annual Report 2017

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On behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Franklin County staff, program advisors and members of the Board of Directors, please accept our 2017 program summary and financial overview.

During 2017, CCE continued to offer non-formal education and learning activities to county residents in rural town centers and villages. Our programs reached the county’s youth, seniors, farmers and small businesses and municipalities.

Our 4-H youth development has expanded over the past year in terms of traditional 4-H club programs, after school programs, our summer day-camp, Camp Akalaka, and 4-H Camp Overlook, our residential youth camp and so much more. This year, we saw our attendance of Camp Akalaka increase by over 40%, an example of the expansion and impact of our youth development programs.

We work alongside our Cornell regional specialists to address agricultural needs across our county and bring resources to our local farmers.

We continue to offer education and learning experiences by taking knowledge gained through research and education and bringing it directly to the residents of our county to create positive change in the North Country.

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Franklin County is changing, growing and meeting the needs of today’s citizens.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rick LeVitre
Executive Director

Kevin Leahy
President
Agriculture

Cornell Cooperative Extension is a large supporter of local agriculture here in the North Country through educational farm programs, technical services for farmers and rural landowners, and our partnership with the Northern NY Regional Ag Team. We work with a slew of local commercial, established, part-time, small and beginning farmers who have agricultural business enterprises. Our resources and programs include, but are not limited, to topics such as dairy farming, beef and livestock, crops, agronomy, economic development in agriculture, horticulture, specialty crops such as hops and maple production.

Recent and ongoing county initiatives include but are not limited to:

⇒ Reestablishing Hops in the North Country
⇒ Beginning Farmers Program
⇒ Sundaes on the Farm
⇒ Wild Edibles
⇒ Agriculture in the Classroom
Family, Health & Well-Being

Family, in all its diverse forms, is the heart and backbone of a healthy society. The mission of this arm of Extension is to improve the well-being of the family through strength-based programs, nutrition education and community engagement that educate, influence public policy, and help families put evidence-based information to work in their lives.

Our programs include: Growing Stronger, Eat Smart, New York! and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

Above: A young fair goer learns about healthy drink choices and renewable energy by making a fruit smoothie from bike power.

Far Left: NNY Regional Ag Team
Near Left: Dairy Summit, December 2017
Working with youth is a focal point of Franklin County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Whether it be an after school program, a 4-H club, residential or day camp, educational workshop or special event, this piece of Extension is an important one. These activities are made to fit the interests and needs of the youth in our community and allow them to create friendships that will last a lifetime.

**Programming includes**
Conservation Field Days (left) and Ag Literacy in area schools (right).

**After School Programs:**
- Chateaugay Central: Bulldog Hour
- Brushton-Moria Central: Panther Hour
- Tupper Lake 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Akwesasne Mentoring Program

**Keeping Traditional 4-H Alive:**
Children complete hands-on projects in the areas of health, science, agriculture and citizenship, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles.

**4-H Pledge:**
I PLEDGE my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, my health to better living, for my club, my community my county, and my world.
4-H Camp Overlook’s Mission:
“To provide a natural Adirondacks environment where youth, under the guidance of positive role models, take part in personal growth experiences that emphasize community building, positive social interactions, environmental awareness, skill-building and fun.”

4-H Camp Overlook is a traditional, six-day, five-night residential camp located in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains on Indian and Mountain View Lakes. The camp, owned by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties, is open to youth ages 6-19. 4-H Camp Overlook also offers a program for Cloverbuds, those between the ages of six and eight. Camp Overlook also offers team building, leadership training and ropes course facilitation for groups year-round in our two heated facilities.

New for 2017, the Adirondack M.A.A.P. Program was conducted alongside the traditional camp. Campers who sign up for this new program choose the Pathfinders (all ages), Alpine Adventures (age 11+) or Mountaineers (14-19) tract, based on preference and age. The tracts are staffed by experienced trip leaders with wilderness certifications. Although each tract varies to accommodate campers of different ages, each focuses on the basics of backpacking, wilderness survival, teamwork, leadership, and self-reliance. This program was well received by our campers and with a great turn out for each of the different tracts.
Camp Akalaka

Camp Akalaka is an NYS certified day camp open to all youth ages 5-12 in the Malone area provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County and the Malone YMCA. The camp is active for 10 consecutive weeks in the summer following the school year and has been a summer staple since 2012. Camp Akalaka is successful in its ability to provide a safe, affordable, educational and fun environment for the youth in our community to spend their summer. Each week, different skill-building classes are offered that the youth choose from as well as a weekly field trip to a local destination or business such as a farm, a beach or Upper Canada Village. The camp has grown each year and in 2017 we had an attendance of approximately 50-60 campers each week, up from 40 campers on average per week in 2016.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County held a Legislative Ag Tour for county legislators joined by the county manager, and representatives from local USDA offices. Assemblyman Billy Jones as well as the director of economic development for the county also joined for part of the day. The tour consisted of four agricultural-based stops throughout the county: a hop yard, a start-up apple orchard, a leafy greens and potato operation and a newly established micro-brewery.

First stop was in Chateaugay to a hop yard owned by George and Denise Rogers. Here, the process of growing hops was discussed, including the establishment of the trellis system, the plants need for water and nutrients, pest management, and harvesting. Attendees learned more about the increased importance of hops in NY as the number of micro-breweries increases across the state.

The next stop was at the newly established Prairie’s Orchard, owned by Dan and Brandyn Prairie. With help from CCE, USDA and friends and family, the Prairie family has turned their land into a beautiful orchard. As Dan put it, growing apples “is a science”. He has gained further knowledge about the apple industry by attending Cooperative Extension workshops and conferences and meeting with other growers. The farm is an example of economic development in our county as it is currently the home to 650 apple trees. Although the trees were purchased elsewhere, Dan spoke about how most of his production inputs come from local businesses and how, in the years to come, the orchard will become a destination for people to come to pick apples, buy cider and pies. The orchard will grow as a driver of local economic activity.

Childstock Farms Inc., owned by Ralph Child was the third stop of the day. At one of his fields, cilantro was being harvested by a crew, packed in boxes and transported to the nearby processing center. At the farm the packed boxes were cooled in ice water, and stored in refrigeration ready for truck transport to a distribution center in South Carolina. While at the farm, Ralph explained his seed potato business, the changes he has instituted over the years and the customers from across the country.

The fourth and final stop was at Township 7 Brewing Company in Dickinson Center owned by Nate and Jannette Drake. The tour participants were led through the brewery with explanations of the step-by step processes that take place in the production of beer. Having only been open for 11 months, this brewery has really taken off with 75-80 percent of its sales being made through the brewery’s tap room to local customers. With this percentage of sales in house and with the purchase of local ingredients such as hops from the Rogers family, money is staying in our local community, benefiting our county’s economic sector.

In addition to these four farms, agricultural industries such as dairy, Christmas trees, field crops and poultry were discussed while passing by operations while in transit.

Awareness of the various agricultural enterprises within northern Franklin County and their impact on the economic vitality of the region was successfully achieved.
2017 Allocation of Support
Total Budget Expense $876,169.22

- 4-H Youth Development 52%
- Admin & Facility 23%
- Agriculture 18%
- Q of L Family & Community 7%

2017 Sources of Funding

- County Appropriation & Fund transfers 32.0%
- County Rent 6.8%
- Smith Lever 1.0%
- State Fringe 26.8%
- State 224 6.6%
- National Mentoring Program 3.2%
- 21st CCLC 4.9%
- Afterschool & Summer Camp Programs 9.5%
- Miscellaneous Grants / Contracts 4.6%
- Miscellaneous Program Registrations 1.6%
- Fundraising & Donations 0.9%
- Quality of Life Grants 2.1%
- 4-H Youth Development 52%
- Q of L Family & Community 7%
- Admin & Facility 23%
- Agriculture 18%
### 2017 Board of Directors, Committee Members & Staff

#### Board of Directors
- Kevin Leahy, President
- Kathy Corrigan-Dumas, Vice President
- Bob Hest, Secretary
- Star Bashaw
- Josy Delaney
- Gina Sutton
- Brett McLeod
- Danielle French
- Mary Beth Trombly
- Shawn Glacier
- James Ellis

#### Program Advisory Committees

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Vice-Chairperson</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>BOD Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Marsha Gokey</td>
<td>Judy Fry</td>
<td>Jessica Prosper</td>
<td>Brett McLeod</td>
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<td>Melissa Poirier</td>
<td>James Hutchins</td>
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<td>Family &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>Josy Delaney</td>
<td>Cindy Louey</td>
<td>Sheila Glinski</td>
<td>Brittany Fish-Lashua</td>
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<td>Michelle Poirier</td>
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<td>John Eick</td>
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<td>4-H</td>
<td>Elizabeth Couillard</td>
<td>Cindy Clark</td>
<td>Valerie Dalton</td>
<td>Gina Sutton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patricia Shantie</td>
<td>Nancy Leroux</td>
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<td>Jack Tierney</td>
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#### Administration

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<tr>
<td>Rick LeVitre</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Denise LaVoie</td>
<td>Assistant to Director</td>
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<td>Laura Nicholson</td>
<td>Finance Manager</td>
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<td>Beverly Brady</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
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<td>Teresa Peterson-Martin</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Steve McDonald</td>
<td>Ag Team Coordinator</td>
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<td>Harry FeFee</td>
<td>Ag Outreach Educator</td>
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<td>Richard Gast</td>
<td>Horticulture &amp; Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Diane Dumont</td>
<td>Livestock Educator</td>
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<td>Jessica Prosper</td>
<td>Small &amp; Beginning Farmer Educator</td>
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<td>April Gokey</td>
<td>Summer Intern—Hops</td>
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<td>4-H Youth Development</td>
<td>Steve McDonald</td>
<td>4-H Team Coordinator</td>
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<td>Pat Banker</td>
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<td>Abby Langdon</td>
<td>4-H After School Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Dan Sweet</td>
<td>4-H After School Program Educator</td>
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<td>Leah Moore</td>
<td>Summer Intern—Youth Development</td>
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<td>4-H Camp Overlook</td>
<td>Casey Sukeforth</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
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<td>Teresa Peterson</td>
<td>Camp Registrar</td>
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<td>Terry Sweet</td>
<td>Year-Round Caretaker</td>
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<td>Family, Health &amp; Well-Being</td>
<td>Vanetta Conn</td>
<td>Program Educator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dan Sweet</td>
<td>Nutrition Educator</td>
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*Note: The table above lists the names and positions of the board members, advisory committee members, administration, and staff. The table is structured in a tabular format with clear headings and consistent formatting.*
2017 Summer Interns

April Gokey  
*Agriculture Outreach Educator*

This summer, April completed an internship with CCE Franklin. She was mainly focused on working with hops growers in Franklin and Essex Counties. She created a “What’s Up with Hops?” summer newsletter where growers could access information and resources related to growing hops.

Leah Moore  
*Cornell University Summer Intern*

This summer, Leah conducted research centered on the ways 4-H summer programming fosters positive youth development. She was able to create three surveys to be used by Camp Akalaka and 4-H Camp Overlook to access camper’s development before, during and after attending camp to better aid CCE Franklin in evaluating both programs.

A Fond Farewell...

Vanetta Conn  
*Community Educator*

Vanetta began with CCE Franklin County 12 years ago as the SNAP Ed Coordinator. With highs and lows in funding, she adapted to changes in program focus, sought outside funding, started the Growing Stronger program and duplicated it around the county. She took on communications for our organization – built our website, wrote articles and collected those of colleagues to send to the many publications we use. We will miss Vannetta at CCE Franklin and thank her for all her work over the years.

Diane Dumont  
*4-H Program Educator, 4-H Club Coordinator, Livestock Educator*

Diane has been a 4-H Educator for CCE Franklin for 22 years. Diane encapsulates what 4-H means and represents the 4-H motto “To make the best, better.” She has been, and still is, a mentor to many 4-Hers and young professionals. Diane helped to maintain the traditional 4-H Club program in Franklin County and recruited and trained volunteer leaders, worked on fundraisers, and organized leader recognition events. All of us at CCE Franklin wish Diane all the best in her retirement.

Harry Fefee  
*Agriculture Outreach Educator*

Harry has been the face of CCE Franklin to dairy farmers for the past 6 1/2 years. He carried updates from the office, research findings and program announcements out to the farm and returned with questions and needs of the farmers. Because of his involvement in agricultural organizations over the years, he was a turn-to guy for knowledge of who, when and where to go for tips and leads on just about anything to do with farming in the North Country. We would like to thank Harry for his help over the years and we wish him the very best.

Richard Gast  
*Natural Resource Educator*

After over 16 years with Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County, we bid adieu to Rich Gast. Rich has tested hundreds of lawn, garden and field soil samples; identified insects and plant diseases; examined wildlife pest damage; and conducted many, many horticultural and natural resource programs throughout Franklin County. He is perhaps best known for his newspaper columns in many area newspapers. Rich is a jack of all trades and has been a great asset to CCE Franklin over the years.
Cornell Cooperative Extension

A partnership between the federal, state and county governments, Cornell University, and the citizens of New York State

Practical. Programs are designed to solve real life problems, helping to transform and improve communities

Locally-rooted. Citizens are key to identifying and creating programs which serve the needs of communities, businesses and individuals

An education system which extends Cornell University’s land grant programs to citizens across New York State

Comprehensive. CCE programming covers five primary mission areas: Agriculture, Community, Environment, Nutrition, Youth and Families

Research-based. Educational programs are developed through interpretation and practical application of research conducted at Cornell University

Integrated. A network of professionals includes campus-based faculty and staff, regionally deployed specialists, county-based educators and professional employees

Extensive. High value educational programs are offered in every county and the five boroughs of New York City