“The Cornell Cooperative Extension system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work”
Volunteer leadership is a vital force of Cornell Cooperative Extension Fulton & Montgomery Counties. The loyalty and hard work of volunteers greatly expands available programming. Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the enrollees and are responsible for determining our local mission, setting program direction, ensuring adequate resources, and enhancing Cornell Cooperative Extension's public standing.

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**Montgomery County Legislative Rep:** Martin Kelly

**State Extension Specialist:** Danielle Hautaniemi

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**Association Staff**

Brian Gilchrist, Extension Executive Director
Georgia Dutcher, Administrative Assistant

**4-H Program**

Kyle Yacobucci, 4-H Educator

**Central NY Dairy, Field Crops and Livestock Program** (Regional)

Kevin Ganoe, Field Crops
David Balbian, Dairy
Ashley McFarland, Livestock

**Eastern NY Horticulture Program** (Regional)

Mike Basedow, Chuck Bornt, Dan Donahue, Ethan Grundberg, Abby Henderson, Liz Higgins, Amy Ivy
Laura McDermott, Jim Meyers, Tresa Rusinek, Eric Schellenberg,
Crystal Stewart, Maire Ullrich, Anna Wallis
CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS:

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.

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 5 boroughs of New York City.

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

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

An education system which extends Cornell University’s land grant programs to citizens across New York State.
Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development program develops citizenship, leadership, and life skills in youth through hands on learning. The essential elements of 4-H are the opportunities to experience independence, belonging, generosity, and mastery.

The 4-H youth development program is unique among youth-serving organizations because it combines the strength of a community based youth organization with the knowledge gleaned from university research to provide positive youth development opportunities.

4-H Youth Development Programs in Fulton & Montgomery Counties are delivered using the traditional 4-H Club Model and special interest programs such as 4-H Shooting Sports, and Tractor Safety.

Over 200 youth are enrolled in 13 4-H Clubs supported by over 200 adult volunteers.
Agriculture & Food Systems: 4-H agriculture programs teach youth how to be engaged food citizens with a greater understanding of the plants and animals that contribute to feeding their communities and the world.

Citizenship & Civic Engagement: 4-H citizenship programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world.

Healthy Living: 4-H healthy living programs help 4-H youth learn how to lead lives that balance physical, mental, and emotional health.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM): 4-H science programs provide 4-H youth the opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering & Math through fun, hands-on activities and projects.
The mission of the Master Gardener program is to provide sound, practical, research-based information to the public in residential and consumer horticulture. Master Gardener volunteers complete a certified training course offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension in conjunction with Cornell University Master Gardeners. Volunteers conduct soil and diagnostic clinics, demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, and inquiries from Fulton and Montgomery County residents.

Eighteen dedicated volunteers contributed nearly 900 hours of service including office hours, community presentations, community service projects, leading youth horticulture programs, and answering questions and providing gardening information at the Fonda Fair.
Modernizing Communication- This year ENYCHP has taken several steps to make our information easily accessible to growers. Our recorded webinars and podcasts (soon to be released) allow growers to learn at a time and place that is convenient to them. 16 videos are also now available to growers on our YouTube station and team social media accounts.

In addition we piloted a text messaging system that notifies growers in an instant of the most important alerts in our region. This season 8 pest alerts or business management reminders were sent from our specialists.

In February 2018, ENYCHP hosted the first Eastern NY Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Albany NY. This two day event averaged 300 attendees per day and offered programing on Tree Fruit, Vegetable, and Berry production, as well as Business Management topics. 93% of people surveyed said that they would attend again, and 99% said the conference was well worth the trip!

In it’s second year, ENYCHP is expanding the conference to three days to include a general session, more in-depth programing, as well as grape production. This year’s conference will return to the Desmond Conference Center on February 19th—21st, 2019.

ENYCHP Research continues in 2018. With 23 grant funded projects across all commodities, our specialists continue to work on the concerns that are most important to our region’s growers. Research results and insights were presented during 250 hours of programming and trainings with 3750 growers in attendance.

Our applied research is conducted on local private farms, as well as collaborating organizations such as the Hudson Valley Farm Hub, Cornell Willsboro Research Farm, and the Cornell Hudson Valley Lab.
## 2018 Grower Concerns

| Labor Issues | Liz Higgins, ENYCHP Business Management Specialist, hosted in person Ag Labor Management classes throughout our region and created 9 recorded webinars. Her soon to be released podcast series on |
| Tree Fruit Production | Tree fruit production is a huge part of the Eastern NY economy keeping Dan Donahue and Mike Basedow busy with an impressive series of educational meetings and ongoing research projects on topics that include Bitter Pit, Precision Management and Tree Decline. |
| Reduced Tillage and Cover Crops | 700 acres of Asian Kabocha squash is being grown in the lower Hudson Valley and sustainable soil management practices especially for muck soils are needed. Ethan Grundberg and Chuck Bornt are looking for solutions. |
| BioControls | Crystal Stewart has been comparing the efficacy of biological fungicides at a number of farms in the region. Another type of biocontrol uses native nematodes that help control all kinds of difficult to manage soil insect pests. Teresa Rusinek & Chuck Bornt are using them to control wireworms in sweet and Irish potatoes. |
| Innovations in Farming Systems | Farmers are using high tunnels, low tunnels, hail netting, insect exclusion systems etc. to help reduce the variability of unpredictable weather, open up markets and provide employment consistency for good help. Amy Ivy has helped growers understand crop nutritional requirements, pruning and cultivar selection in these systems and Laura McDermott has worked with tunnels and exclusion netting systems to improve berry quality. |
| New & Emerging Pests | Spotted Lanternfly, Allium Leafminer, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, Swede Midge, Leek Moth, Black Stem Borer.....each year the list of new and emerging pests grows. ENYCHP specialists remain on the front lines, monitoring for pests and providing information on ID and management. |
| Integrating Information Technology | Jim Meyers has been leading the charge in utilizing data and integrating it into usable formats for grape growers in the region. His first project has focused on weather data, but the possibility of using drones to gather information to help growers diagnose specific problems and take immediate action is part of the plan. |
| Food Safety | The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) has put Food Safety concerns in the spotlight. This year the team hosted two meetings addressing Listeria in apple pack houses and several Farmer Food Safety Trainings. |
Corn Silage Meetings

Getting the most feed value out of home grown corn silage can help dairy farms get improved performance from their herd while also lowering their dependence on purchased feed. Harvesting corn silage at the right stage of maturity is extremely important so Dave put on a series of clinics on five farms in August just prior to harvest with twenty-nine people attending.

Twilight Beef Producer Meetings

Livestock Specialist Ashley McFarland conducted two twilight beef producer meetings during the summer. A pasture walk was held in conjunction with Dr. Mike Baker at the farm of Paul and Winnie Nelson in Schoharie, NY. Forty-five producers came to learn about the opportunities for grass fed stocker cattle in our area. A second twilight meeting was held at Endless Trails Farm in Madison County. Be-

Spring Forage Quality

For the past 15 years the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops team has monitored the quality of first cutting hay in local fields to give producers a better idea of when they should begin

Central New York Dairy Day ...

New milk analysis tools that can help people to manage their herd better was the main focus of this year’s Dairy Day held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in March.

and Corn Day...

The Corn Day is also held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in February. Those in attendance learned more about nitrogen man-

Twilight meeting participants got to take a look at the cattle and pastures at Endless Trails Farm in

Dr. Douglas Beegle, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Agronomy, Penn State University helps Corn Day attendees understand the nitrogen cycle.
Dairy Feeder Schools

Although proper dairy nutrition is an important part of profitability on dairy farms, an equally important part is actually delivering the feed to the cows the diet the nutritionist put together. The dairy feeder schools are for those who are feeding dairy cows and want to learn more about the how and why of what they’re doing. Topics include proper bunk silo and feed bunk management, adjusting for dry matter concentration and feeder safety. The twenty-eight participants of these 2-day schools held in the Canajoharie and Sherburne areas received a combination of classroom and hands on experiences at a farm.

Dairy Acceleration Program

The Dairy Acceleration Program, under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, and in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation look to assist farms with planning for the future. Since the program began the team has provided facilitation for twenty nine dairy farms that received funding. This past year we facilitated for five more farms including one farm that had expansion plans in place (organic dairy) and another four are working on improving production and/or improving day to day efficiency.

Improving the corn silage hybrid selection process on dairy farms

Twenty-one dairy farms are participating in a NYFVI sponsored project that uses green corn silage forage quality analysis to compare the performance of hybrids on a farm. The summarized results were presented to participants at meetings so they could see how their corn silage quality compared to those of others and to the Corn Silage Hybrid Trials conducted by PRO-Dairy.

Nicole Tommell Hired as Regional Farm Business Management Specialist

We welcome Nicole Tommell as the new agricultural business management specialist on the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops team. Her primary goal will be to provide business analysis, planning and development support for agricultural businesses in the region. Nicole received her Bachelor of Technology degree from SUNY Cobleskill in Agricultural Business. She also holds a Masters in Agricultural Education from North Carolina State University.

Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team serving Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer,

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