2017 Annual Report

October 2016—September 2017

“The Cornell Cooperative Extension system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work”

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Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
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.

**Board of Directors**

Martin Kelly, President
Tim Korona, Vice President
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**Fulton County Supervisor Rep:** No appointment made

**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:

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

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.

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

Extensive. High value educational programs are offered in every county and the 5 boroughs of New York City.

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.

A partnership between the federal, state and county governments, Cornell University, and the citizens of New York State.
“4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills”

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 15 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.

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.

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.
During the week of March 20th through 24th a group of dedicated volunteer readers visited 2nd grade classrooms throughout Fulton & Montgomery counties to read “The Grapes Grow Sweet” by Lynne Tuft. The children’s book is aimed to educate our youth on the grape harvest with additional educational activities included with the reading.

The 4-H Youth Development Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Fulton & Montgomery Counties would like to thank all of those that volunteered their time and agricultural knowledge to read and educate the 2nd grade students within our counties.

Senator James Tedisco graciously volunteered to read for the 2nd grade class of Amy Clapper at Northville Elementary School.
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.

Sixteen dedicated volunteers contributed 820 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.
Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program


2017 Statistics

- **2,264** FARM VISITS
- **2,735** CLIENT E-MAILS
- **2,567** PHONE CONSULTS
- **114** NEWSLETTERS/ E-ALERTS RECEIVED BY **28,193** TOTAL PRODUCERS
- **169** FIELD MEETINGS/ TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

**11,229** PRODUCERS IN ATTENDENCE

- **161** WEBINARS WITH **2,059** PARTICIPANTS

[Image of field meeting with participants]

[Image of university logo]
Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

2017 RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

- Orchard Management Systems for Improved Yield and Fruit Quality
- Statewide Survey of Apple Tree Decline
- Multiple Strategies to Control Bitter Pit in Honeycrisp
- Monitoring and Management Tactics for Control of Ambrosia Beetles in NY Apple Orchards
- Surveying of Viruses in Apple Orchards Throughout NYS
- Nitrogen Dynamics and Yield Response to Minimal Supplemental Heating in High Tunnel Winter Production
- Field Treatments for Mitigating Onion Rot
- Educating Producers about Crop Insurance Cooperative Agreement
- Improving Labor Management on Fruit and Vegetable Farms in New York State
- Development of Effective Spray Programs for Post-Infection Fire Blight Management in Apples and Cost-Benefit Analysis of its Key Components
- Labor Readiness: Pathways for Farm Workers to Start Up and Advanced Beginners to Scale Up New Farm Businesses
- Optimizing Protected Culture Environments for Berry Crops
- Managing Root Weevil Populations for Improved Profitability and Sustainability on Eastern NY Berry Farms
- Using Low Tunnels for Extending Local Strawberry Production
- Climate Change Communication, Climate Smart Farming
2017 RESEARCH WITH IMPACT (continued)

- Monitoring and Controlling Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops
- Unifying Resistance Management Education
- Spotted Wing Drosophila Integrated Pest Mgmt
- Using NDVI Images to Guide Selective Harvest in Wine Grape Vineyards
- Best Management Practices for Long Term Profitability High Tunnel Soil Fertility and Health
- Improving Garlic Production
- Assessing Barriers to Wholesaling for Small-scale Vegetable Growers: Case Study
- Invasive Pest Trapping
- Improving Profitability of Garlic Production Through Understanding and Management of Fusarium Diseases
- Innovations to Maximize Energy Efficiency
- Increasing Yield by Controlling Leaf Mold in Tomato High Tunnel Production
- Identification and Grower Education of Key Pests in Apple Orchards in Northern New York
- Precision Crop Load and Irrigation to Optimize Fruit Size and Quality of NNY Apples
- Apple Harvest Maturity
- Orchard Management Research
- Evaluation of Novel Cold-Hardy Grape Varieties for Production in Northern NY
- Wireworm Management in Sweet Potatoes Using Entomopathogenic Nematodes
- Increasing the Use of Cover Crops with On-Farm Demonstrations
- Scouting and Monitoring for Allium Leafminer in Eastern NY
Precision Feed Management Project improves dairy farm profitability

Milk income is the largest income item on dairy farms. Financial data from Cornell shows that net milk income/cow/day minus feed cost has the highest correlation to overall dairy farm profitability than any other measure. Feed costs are the largest expense on dairy farms. This project funded by the New York Farm Viability Institute concentrated on two of the most economically impactful areas of the business.

Precision Feed Management uses a series of benchmarks to assess the feeding performance of individual dairy farms with easily available data from the farm.

Nineteen farms completed this project. They saw an average improvement of $267.47 per farm per day in net milk income minus total feed cost and an average improvement of $253.83 per farm per day in net milk income minus concentrate cost. If the final daily analysis is translated into an annual number, it comes out to an average annual improvement per farm of $97,626.55 over total feed cost and $92,647.95 over concentrate cost. The three organic herds completing the project also performed well economically on a per cow per day basis because of their much higher milk price.

The primary characteristics of participating farms associated with the best economic performance were:

- High quality forage
- Excellent reproductive performance

We would like to acknowledge others for their financial support:
Central NY Beef Producers Fall Feeder Calf Sale leads to higher prices!

Central N.Y. Beef producers have come together to put a feeder calf sale on in the spring and fall of each year. The tele-auction has been growing and improving for the past three years and this fall, they had a record number of animals for this sale.

In the sale, 62 steers averaged $1.35/lbs.; with the light-weight steer groups bringing $1.50/lbs. and $1.60/lbs. The 47 heifers averaged $1.13 per pound.

The following week at local sale barns steers average $1.02/lbs. and heifers averaged $0.68/lbs.

Producers are required to following protocols in order for cattle to stay healthier through the transition process from producer to buyer. Animals are graded by a USDA certified grader and those not fit into the standard grade will not be allowed to be in the sale.

Maintaining corn silage quality from proper harvest and storage

Corn silage makes up 30 to 70 percent of the forage fed on most dairy farms so choosing hybrids that have good forage quality and yield is important. Equally important is harvesting and storing that silage so that it maintains that quality.

David and Kevin put on a series of pre-harvest corn silage meetings at the end of August to remind growers of best management practices as they relate to correct storage dry matter, kernel processing and particle size. Given the late planting due to excessive rainfall and the lack of heat during the summer, corn was three weeks later than normal at the end of August so part of the discussion was on growing degree days and how to predict when corns silage might be ready for harvest.

Hybrid selection is an important factor in corn silage quality and the results of the PRO-Dairy corn silage trials were presented.
Helping producers through a difficult crop season

The 2017 growing season was very wet through May and June making planting difficult. Rainfall by June 12 was as much as six inches above normal for our area. The Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team answered many questions related to late planting, crusted soils, alternate crops to plant, weed control and when corn was mature to harvest for corn silage. Potato leaf hopper is an insect pest that caused significant damage to alfalfa in 2017. Kevin helped alert growers to the problem and worked with farms to use the best control measures possible.

2017 Dairy Day and Corn Day bring latest technology to Central New York

The Corn Day and Dairy Day, held each at the Otesaga Inn in Cooperstown, brings local dairy and crop farmers in touch with nationally and internationally recognized speakers on important topics of the day.

This year the Dairy Day had to be rescheduled from 3/14 to 3/28 because of the late season blizzard and managed to come off without issue. The topic of this year of dairy reproduction was addressed by Dr. Julio Giordano and Dr. Tom Overton from Cornell. The over 120 people in attendance were also able to interact with vendors at a trade show.

Keynote speaker of this year’s Corn Day was Dr. Margaret Smith, Professor of Plant Breeding, Cornell University whose talk “Genetically Engineered Crops and Pest Management: Silver Bullet or Just Another Tool in the Toolbox?” was well received. The over 100 in attendance learned more about perennial weed control, choosing corn silage hybrids based on Cornell’s corn silage hybrid testing program.
Central New York Dairy
Livestock and Field Crops Team

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A program and funding partnership between Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties.

Spring Forage Quality Monitoring

For the past 14 years the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops team has monitored the quality of first cutting hay crop in the field to give producers a better idea of when they should begin harvest. This prediction of when to cut is based on alfalfa height which works well to predict both alfalfa and grass quality. The 2017 haycrop was ahead of the 2016 first cutting. In 2016 on May 3 the alfalfa averaged 9 inches tall and 65 percent of the fields were 9 inches or less. For 2017, on May 2 alfalfa averaged 13 inches tall and 83 percent of the fields were 10 inches or more. Although we try to start monitoring early enough to anticipate harvest this year by May 2 some locations grasses’s were ready to be cut.