On October 24th our office was visited by Ed Dwyer, Compliance Review Manager. Ed does the compliance reviews for the Cornell Cooperative Extension system to ensure that extension associations develop a system of internal controls to protect resources, record transactions in the accounting system using generally accepted accounting principles, and maintain a level of compliance with laws, cost principles, and contractual agreements. We are happy to report that CCE Hamilton’s compliance review was great and Ed was extremely pleased!

Events

Ag Literacy Week, March 20 - 24: CCE Hamilton Board of Directors volunteer to read the year’s book to school children throughout the county. 2017’s book was about grapes, titled The Grapes Grow Sweet, by Tessa DeCarlo. Children in pre-K through 3rd grade in each of our four schools participate.

Indian Lake Farmers Market, July 15: Our annual visit to the market was a great day as always. Jacob Boni and Jack Valentine joined Nancy Welch in educating and handing out information about ticks and Lyme disease prevention.

Family Fun Day, August 7: Over 400 hundred adults and children attended this event. We gave out special red Extension helium balloons and lots of information about ticks and Lyme disease.

Wells Old Home Days, August 4 - 5: This year’s educational booth was all about ticks and Lyme disease. The booth was manned by our summer intern, Jacob Boni and Board volunteers.

Apple Fest, September 23: A very interesting and enjoyable annual event sponsored by the Speculator Historical Society. This year our display was The Versatile New York Apple. We provided information about the Cornell Orchards, apples grown in NY and how to use them, and a great apple crisp recipe. Approximately 300 people attended this all day event.

Cornell Local Roads Program, October 18: This program is hosted by CCE Hamilton and is open to all municipal highway departments throughout the North Country. This year’s topic was “Road Signage”.

Ongoing Programs

Garden Seeds are distributed in April and May. This is a special grant from Hart’s Seeds which we receive every year that allows us to donate seeds to community gardeners and municipal beautification projects. Seeds were donated to Indian Lake Community Garden, Wells Beautification, Benson Beautification, and the Speculator/Lake Pleasant Community Garden.

Farmers’ Markets, July - Indian Lake; August - Speculator: Presentations about Lyme disease which was a particular focus this year. The markets attract large crowds every week - Indian Lake on Saturday, and Speculator on Thursdays throughout the season.
**Community Gardens:** The gardens were started by Extension with a handful of residents nine years ago, and continue to be productive with many residents participating. The gardens are a perfect example of Extension work: we start the project, then gradually over time, it is handed over to the community. Just like in 2016, we had two pumpkin contestants grow their pumpkins in straw bales. Tom pictured above was one of them and he won first prize.

**Grow a Giant Pumpkin Contest:** Began in March with seed sales and ended with weigh-in on October 21. Seventeen people entered this year’s contest. For the second year in a row, Tom Maurer, 13 years old, won this year’s contest with his pumpkin weighing 26 pounds!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**TOM - AGAIN!**

**Odds and Ends**

**Soil Tests:** Throughout the growing season we do soil testing for our area growers and residential gardeners. A thorough test is done for $15, and the results are sent to both the customer and our office.

**Phone Inquiries:** We answer all sorts of inquiries from county residents year round ranging from cooking to gardening to energy. Cornell has guidelines that can be applied to nearly any inquiry and we are always able to send questions directly to Cornell should the need arise.

**Friends of Extension:**
This year’s *Friends of Extension* award was given to Ken and Marion Parslow for their generous donation of home made grape juice during Ag Literacy Week. After reading the book *The Grapes Grow Sweet*, the kids were able to taste the “fruits of labor”, which tied everything together for them.
**Annual Workshops**

**Garden Clubs:** Every growing season Nancy Welch visits the garden clubs in Wells, Raquette Lake, and Long Lake to provide information and assistance to the various needs and concerns they have. Nancy’s advice and expertise helps them to maintain the beautiful gardens in these towns.

**Cheese Making Class:** Every summer we offer a mozzarella cheese making class, but this year we had 2 classes! July 8th the class was held at the Piseco Common School, and on July 10th a class was held in Raquette Lake. Both classes were very successful. It’s a fun and interesting workshop with each student making about a pound of cheese. The cheesemakers also receive a take home kit that makes approximately 30 pounds of cheese.

**Outgoing Board Members**

Anna Smith has served two terms, a total of six years on the Board and always willingly contributed her time and energy to Extension. She has always been an important supporter of Extension within our county. She has been valuable and will be missed.

Barb Reffitt has served on the Board of Directors of CCE Hamilton for the past three years and has been an exemplary volunteer and board secretary. We wish Barbara and her husband Rick a peaceful retirement in the Town of Hope.

**Financial Support 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>2,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>34,329.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>46,339.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 83,768.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff**

Nancy Welch, Director/Senior Resource Educator

Lynn Rappa, Administrative Assistant

Jacob Boni, Summer Intern

**Slate of Officers 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Ginger Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Barbara Van Slyke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jack Valentine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Beth Junquera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 Board of Directors

Ginger Morris, President - Arietta
Barbara Van Slyke, Vice President - Wells
Barbara Reffitt, Secretary - Hope
Jack Valentine, Treasurer - Indian Lake
Debbie Ameden - Indian Lake
Sharon Grisenthwaite - Wells
Beth Junquera - Benson
Cristine Meixner - Speculator
Anna Smith - Wells
Phil Snyder, Supervisor Representative

PO Box 7
Piseco Common School, Room 20

Phone: 518-548-6191
Email: hamilton@cornell.edu

Nancy Welch, Executive Director,
Senior Resource Educator

Lynn Rappa, Administrative Assistant

Jacob Boni, Student Intern

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating. Individuals with special needs requiring accommodations who wish to attend our programs and events should contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 518-548-6191 five days prior to the event. “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”

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Hamilton County
PO Box 7
Piseco, NY 12139