Annual Report
2016
Cornell University Cooperative Extension
Livingston County
GOALS:

- To provide leadership in planning, implementation, and evaluation of educational programs in Family and Consumer Science and other related issues in Livingston County
- To coordinate regional program efforts in cooperation with other programs

Raising children is a rewarding but often challenging endeavor, especially in today’s society. Because being a parent or guardian requires significant amounts of time, energy, and emotional strength, it is not uncommon for parents to feel stress related to this important role. Our goal is to help parents gain skills in the areas of understanding children, how to help children learn and thrive, effective discipline, and personal stress management. As parents learn how to better understand, guide, nurture, and motivate their children, they become more effective. Parents of children of any age benefit from these programs.

We offered six series of parenting classes this past year. These were held at the Goodwill Community Center in Geneseo and the Dansville Public Library. By changing the location, we were able to serve parents in their communities. We also reduced the perceived stigma of attending parenting classes by choosing public locations.

We had a total of 25 families attend these classes. Some of these classes had a registration fee. The Dansville Public Library received a grant that allowed us to offer our last series of classes free of charge in the fall.

We are in the final stages of a search for our new Family & Consumer Science Educator. Our hope is to have our parenting programs running at full capacity early in 2017.

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GOALS:
- Provide research-based programs through Extension and collaborate with community agencies in order to promote and educate Livingston County residents on the importance of eating well and being active.

In 2010, the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reported 35.7% of adults are obese and 8.3% of Americans are diabetic - with about 6% as diagnosed cases. Furthermore, about 17% of children (ages 2-19) are considered obese. Comparatively in Livingston County, only 28% of adults are obese and 11% of adults are diagnosed with diabetes. Although Livingston County was named the seventh healthiest county in New York State in 2014 (Robert Woods Johnson Foundation), we still have a long way to go.

The need for nutrition awareness and education has never been more necessary. As health educators, we need to educate parents on healthier lifestyles so they can model this to their children, and use theory-based nutrition programs with children in order to break this cycle. In Livingston County, the nutrition program collaborates with and advises education programs that happen through other Livingston County agencies and professionals. It is in this way, working to modify the community environment, that we can be most successful as an instrument of change.

NUTRITION EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS:
The CCE Nutrition Educator has been busy this past year working in the community to help improve the nutrition status of Livingston County residents. These activities included:

- Serving on the Department of Health (DOH) CHIP chronic disease committee, the Livingston County Food Security Council, and the Livingston County Diabetes Coalition. Our Nutrition Educator has also been active in the DOH community health assessment leadership team for planning the community health improvement plan for Livingston County for the next 3 years.
- The health of students was addressed by membership on the Geneseo CSD Wellness Committee and advisor to the PEP Grant at Caledonia-Mumford CSD.
- Grocery store tours continue to be available to community groups who desire to improve their food choices as well as save money. Group education presentations are also available upon request.

CCE continues to contract with the Livingston County Office for the Aging (OFA) for registered dietitian consultant services for the Senior Nutrition Program. This includes nutrition education and counseling to the participants of the program aged 60 and over, assisting in planning and performing nutrition analysis of the menus served, monitoring the food service kitchen and congregate meal sites for food safety, and working with groups in the community to improve the nutrition status of seniors. This collaboration has resulted in the delivery of over 6,000 units of nutrition and health education to county residents aged 60 and over this year, to in excess of 600 different people. Individual nutrition counseling has been provided to over 100 individuals.

As the number of seniors in the county continues to grow, this number is expected to increase annually. Our Nutrition Educator was involved in the senior meal program transition of the meal service to chilled meals for home delivered clients. This change resulted in providing meals which will have improved nutritional value, quality, and food safety.

This collaboration is ideal as we share the same mission. Our goals of improving community nutrition allow us to serve on many of the same committees. While the OFA focus is individuals aged 60 and over, CCE continues to have a role in educating groups of all ages in the benefits of good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.
GOALS:
• To provide injury prevention education programming to reduce the severity and number of childhood injuries in Livingston County
• To collaborate with other agencies to offer comprehensive injury prevention education programming for Livingston County residents
• Collaborate with other agencies to offer a comprehensive program that is accessible, meets the needs of Livingston County residents, and impacts traffic safety issues in our community by reducing the number of traffic fatalities and injuries

It has been a very busy year for the program. Katelyn Sanders was hired into the vacant position in February 2016. She kicked off her new responsibilities with the 2016 Wheeled Safety Coloring Contest, as well as the annual Safety Fair. Approximately 2,500 children, 7,100 adults and 3,700 families were educated by the Traffic Safety Education Program this year. This does not include the number of people that read our newspaper articles and newsletters, visited our website, or viewed our social media accounts. Facebook and Twitter postings (including photos and educational information) increased ten-fold in an attempt to reach more families.

CHILD SAFETY FAIR & CONTEST:
The 14th Annual Child Safety Fair was held in April at the Livonia Central School with over 300 attendees. The safety fair features interactive stations that encourage discussion on several safety topics, games and/or activities, prizes, and more.

A ceremony was held at the fair for the winners of the 14th Annual Wheeled Sport Safety Coloring/Writing Contest. Over 535 entries were received from Livingston County students in Pre-K through sixth grade. All first place winners (8) received a new bicycle and properly fitted helmet. Second place winners (49) received a new properly fitted helmet. Funding for the bicycles was donated by Wentworth Motors, Inc., Carrie Johnson, Mt. Morris Police Benevolent Association, Livingston County Sheriff’s Department, and Penny Lane Printing. Additional donations were received from Barilla America and John Cox Trucking.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK:
Once again, we participated in the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Injury Prevention and the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee statewide child passenger safety community outreach initiative entitled “Know for Sure - Is Your Child in the Right Car Seat”.

During National Child Passenger Safety Week in September, educational displays focusing on the initiative were placed at twenty local human service agencies with educational materials that promoted the correct occupant safety restraint for a child and provided a schedule of upcoming child passenger safety events.

Other activities held during the week included a booster seat giveaway and two car seat checks.

The campaign continues to be used year-round at Wentworth Motors. An interactive display on occupant safety is located in the showroom and a schedule of upcoming child passenger safety events is available.
WHEELED SPORT RODEOS:
This year, in addition to the summer recreation centers, we provided a wheeled sport rodeo at Genesee Valley Educational Partnership and a handful of local day care centers. A total of 15 wheeled sport rodeos were held during the months of June, July, and August with a total of 680 participants and 450 helmets given out. The Livingston County Health Department, the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office, and other law enforcement agencies within the county assisted with these rodeos.

HELMET HEROES PROGRAM:
The annual helmet reinforcement program was continued this year, collaborating with law enforcement agencies. Of the names of the youth that were caught wearing a helmet, one name was drawn for a first place prize donated by Walmart. The following agencies participated in this year’s event: Avon, Caledonia, Dansville, Geneseo, Nunda, and Mount Morris Police Departments; Livingston County Sheriff’s Department; New York State Troopers; and the Livingston County Department of Health.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY:
Our program oversaw ten child passenger safety fitting stations, held fifteen child passenger safety seat check events, and over 500 child passenger safety seats were distributed through a low-income distribution grant program.

We relocated some of our car seat checks from the traditional sites in an effort to attract more families. Those events were successful and helped create several new relationships within the county.

IN SUMMARY:
Throughout the year, we provided educational programming at various locations in the county. We attended multiple school Open Houses, family health fairs, and business wellness fairs. By providing traffic safety education and interactive activities, we hope to reduce the risk of traffic safety injuries in participant’s lives.

In 2016, we collaborated with the following agencies: Livingston County Department of Health; Livingston County DSS; Headstart/KidStart; KidsCare Daycare; Livingston County Sheriff’s Office; Livingston County Traffic Safety Board; Livingston County Youth Bureau; Livingston County Highway Department; New York State Police; Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo, Nunda, and Mount Morris Police Departments; Arc of Livingston-Wyoming County; Catholic Charities; Dalton Bus Garage; Chances and Changes; Genesee Valley Educational Partnership; Noyes Memorial Hospital; and Wentworth Motors.

Our programming continues to evolve in order to meet the needs of the community and educate residents on the importance of traffic safety. Our program includes free car seats to those that qualify and programming for all ages on occupant, wheeled, and pedestrian safety. These programs are available for schools, community groups, agencies, families, and individuals.

“Funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee in collaboration with the Livingston County Traffic Safety Board, partial funding by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County and by donations.”
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

GOALS:
• To contribute to a sustainable agriculture production industry in Livingston County through educational programs addressing productivity and profitability issues with environmental management considerations
• To assist county residents with home and home environment maintenance with knowledge about energy, conservation, pest identification, and environmentally sound management alternatives, plant selection and maintenance, indoor air quality management, waste reduction and management, and water quality production

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM:
Master Gardeners continued their outreach activities with requested presentations for local groups. Community events, Farmers’ Markets, on-site visits, and classes continue to receive their attention and connect people to CCE resources. Collaboration with the Wadsworth Library (Geneseo) and the development of a Garden Mentor program offer opportunities for outreach to the community. A Master Gardener column is included in the Livingston County News. This weekly public exposure helps to identify CCE as a resource for garden-related information.

TOPICS OF INTEREST:
Hops and malting barley continue to draw attention from prospective growers. We provide resources for farmers to evaluate potential and to grow these crops. A Cornell Hops Production Guide is utilized to aid decision making.

FARMERS’ MARKETS:
County staff work with a regional Farmers Market Specialist to assist market development, management and operation with a link to the Farmers Market Federation and the Department of Ag & Markets for technical and legal knowledge and policy information.

SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA (FRUIT FLY):
Spotted Wing Drosophila has continued to increase in numbers. It is being found in a variety of late maturing fruit like raspberries, blueberries, and elderberries. We continue to participate in a trap network to create control guidelines. Management by cultural practices and pesticide use were indicated in the Gardening Gazette.

PROBLEMS WITHIN THE COUNTY:
Emerald ash borer stays in consideration as a problem for individuals and communities. Indication of progression of the infestation in the state is done with announcement of regulatory activity involving quarantines and movement of wood products. Updates on assessment for action such as utilizing pesticides and pesticide selection are made as they evolve.

Hemlocks trees are now affected by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This tree is critical as habitat and efforts are increasing to minimize the losses and effects by pesticide and predator insect management. Pesticide treatments are available. The problem is most evident within Letchworth State Park with its vast numbers of Hemlocks. Information on this problem has been given in our publications.

NWNY TEAM:
The NWNY Team Field Crop Specialist sent Crop Alerts to over 800 members of the agriculture industry. These bulletins include pest/disease outbreaks, weather impacts on crop management, timely tips, and more.

A two-day class held in Linwood focused on lameness detection and treating lame cows. Classroom and hands-on training included Hoof Trimmers’ Association member practitioners and a representative from the Animal Health industry.

In Western NY, one-third of farmland is rented from non-operator landowners. Estimates indicate about one-third of the rented farmland is owned by women. CCE has engaged with American Farmland Trust, Utah State University, and the Women, Food & Agriculture Network to learn about the needs of women as landlords and their tenants.

A pilot Caring for the Land Learning Circle was held for women landowners - introducing them to soil health and conservation practices from local service providers, experts from the Women, Food & Agriculture Network, and farmers. These efforts were funded through a planning grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund and supported locally by staff from the NWNY Team, USDA Farm Service Agency, Western NY Crop Management Association, Genesee Valley Conservancy, and NYSDEC.

Findings are being used to develop a multi-year proposal for the Great Lakes Protection Fund which will develop and implement a model for working with women non-operating farmland owners and their tenants in the Great Lakes Basin to increase conservation practices on their land. The end goal is to improve the long-term health and productivity of leased farmland. The NWNY Team will be engaged in the project helping to develop and test teaching tools and recruit landowners and their tenants to participate.
**GOALS:**
- Help keep Conesus, Hemlock, & Canadice Lakes free of aquatic invasive species (AIS)
- Provide public outreach about how AIS threaten waterways
- Educate watercraft users on how to minimize/prevent the spread of AIS by teaching them how to look for, remove, and dispose of unwanted aquatic hitchhikers
- Collect and analyze watercraft inspection data that will be used to determine the overall AIS state of Conesus, Hemlock, & Canadice Lakes

For the third year, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County continued its collaboration with the Conesus Lake Association, Conesus Lake Watershed Council, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Parks, and the Livingston County Planning Department to coordinate the Watercraft Steward Program. The program, which helps control the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), educated watercraft users on how to prevent the transport of AIS and how to decrease the likelihood of transporting these species from one body of water to another.

We received a NYS Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program grant to expand the Watercraft Steward Program to Hemlock and Canadice Lakes for the next three years. The grant also allowed for expansion of the program on Conesus Lake. We were able to add a fourth steward to the program - increasing the number of days stewards were able to be at the boat launches interacting with people. This grant would not have been possible without the help of the Livingston County Planning Department.

The Conesus Lake Association received funding to purchase and install a boat decontamination station at the Conesus Lake Boat Launch this summer. Stewards were able to instruct those with “high risk” boats how to decontaminate their boats using the station.

At the boat launches, stewards conducted inspections to make sure that people were not bringing or taking any AIS to/from the lakes. Additionally, boaters were provided with information about AIS and walked through the steps of CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY.

Stewards also talked to boaters about state regulations declaring that boaters are liable to receive a ticket for transporting invasive species if they are caught with any plants or animals hanging off the trailer or found in the live well.

Conesus Lake boaters were familiar with the Watercraft Steward Program. Boaters came to the launch with cleaner boats and cleaned their boats when exiting the lake without prompting from the stewards. This made the inspection process much more efficient and easier for both stewards and boaters.

The Watercraft Steward Program, the inspection process, and the steps of CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY were introduced to Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

The data collected was used to record what AIS were coming into and out of the lakes, what species were already there, and helped ensure no new AIS came from another lake. Stewards used tablets to collect the data from each inspection. The technology streamlined the process and made each inspection quicker and more efficient. Overall, nearly 5,000 watercraft were inspected this summer with 91% of these watercraft users having previous contact with stewards. Twenty-six percent of “risk launches” had taken some preventative steps on their own. Of all watercraft launched into Conesus Lake, only 3% were “high risk launches” and had at least one AIS found and removed prior to launching.
GOALS:
• To provide agriculture instruction and resources to school classrooms throughout the county
• To promote the agriculture industry in the county
• To collaborate with other agencies for more agricultural exposure to the public
• Help students and communities understand the connections between agriculture, the environment, and people.

This has been a great year for the Ag in the Classroom program! Altogether, we had 10,184 youth contacts this year - an increase of over 4,000 from last year. We were able to visit with classrooms in every school district in Livingston County.

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY:
Our Livingston County Agricultural Literacy event was our biggest yet with 1,784 youth in 100 classrooms! “The Apple Orchard Riddle” (written by Margret McNamara; illustrated by G. Brian Karas) took students on a journey through an orchard and students learned how oxidation in apples can be prevented with different substances.

SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM:
By having over 10,000 youth contacts and having some extremely successful lessons, we’ve definitely seen the fruits of our labor! Students are recognizing us when we go into schools and can often share things they learned from previous lessons... even from previous years! We have had many students tell us how they shared the activities and information with their parents and siblings. That is the ultimate success, having students share their knowledge of agricultural science and its relationship to their lives.

The program rolled out some creative lessons in connection with the holidays, from Slime Time during Halloween, to a Christmas tree lesson during December. Students could make connections with their holiday traditions and learn about agriculture. Both of these lessons were successful and we look forward to offering them again next year!

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS:
For children enrolled in summer recreation programs, we rolled out lessons related to dairy products. Youth loved getting to make butter, do milk art, and learn why dish detergent works. They also learned how ruminate digestive systems function. Youth participants in Avon, Caledonia Mumford, Honoeeye Falls-Lima, Mount Morris, and the Genesee Valley Migrant Center took part in these lessons. Many expressed excitement to replicate these activities at home with their families.

Thank you to New York Senators Patrick Gallivan and Cathy Young for supporting the funding for this program.
MT. MORRIS SUMMER RECREATION

GOALS:
• Provide a safe and positive environment for school-aged youth during the summer
• Improve the social, emotional, academic, and physical competencies of school-aged youth
• Prevent and reduce the incidence of risky behavior such as violence and crime; tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse; and personal-compromising behavior

For the third year, Cornell Cooperative Extension collaborated with the Village of Mount Morris to manage and deliver the Village of Mount Morris’ summer recreation program. Thanks to a generous $5,000 donation from the Mount Morris Branch of Five Star Bank, youth within the school district were able to attend the six-week program and field trips at no charge. Youth received free breakfast and lunch each day thanks to the Village of Mount Morris.

The program ran daily Monday-Friday, 8:30am-3pm, at Bellamy Park. The program included arts & crafts, games & activities, and educational opportunities. Each week featured activities focused on a specific theme that included birds, science experiments, fun and games, agriculture and food, and cheer week/sports tournaments. Implementing different weekly themes based on the interests and input of youth was well received. Since youth had a hand in deciding themes, interest and participation in activities increased.

This year featured two new activities - the “Mount Morris’ Got Talent” talent show and an end-of-program arts and crafts show. Both events allowed participants to showcase their talents and earn prizes.

Fridays were field trip days. They included swimming at the Letchworth State Park Pool, games & activities at the Chip Holt Nature Center, and a program-ending trip to Minnehans.

Youth over age 11 were encouraged to take a leadership role at the program. These older youth were mentored and supported by staff to assist with morning activities. Youth worked with staff members and outside presenters in prepping, setting up, helping younger members, and cleaning up activities. Although apprehensive at first, these youth quickly embraced their roles - feeling valued and empowered.

Over 100 youth registered for the program, with a daily average attendance of 52 youth. Many of the youth that participated in the program were returning after attending the program in 2015.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has forged a powerful collaboration with the Village of Mount Morris to provide a high quality summer recreation program that has helped improve the lives of many youth and families in Mount Morris.
GOALS:
The four Hs (head, heart, hands, and health) represent four basic human needs: independence, belonging, generosity, and mastery. Research shows that youth whose basic human needs are met in positive ways are likely to grow into active citizens and contributing members of their families and communities. 4-H Youth Development helps children fulfill these needs and provides a framework on which they can build self-confidence, responsibility, and generosity.

4-H Youth Development intends to strengthen the following life skills in young people:

- Effective problem solving and decision making skills
- Positive work attitudes and skills
- Valuing diversity
- Accepting community and social responsibility
- Demonstrating communication and leadership skills
- Valuing life long learning
- Practicing healthy and safe lifestyles
- Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills
- Career exploration

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS:
In the 2015-2016 project year, there were 308 youth enrolled in 4-H. Of this number, there were 72 Cloverbuds (grades K-2) and 98 Independent members. There are 21 clubs in the program. A total of 137 volunteer leaders worked with young people to teach them skills in such project areas as public speaking, nutrition, clothing construction, arts and crafts, outdoor education, horse, livestock, small animal care, horticulture, and science and technology.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & HORSE COMMUNICATIONS:
At County Public Presentations and Horse Communications, 57 youth gave demonstrations and other types of presentations on topics related to their 4-H work. Three youth presented specifically on horse-related topics. Fifteen of the presenters were Cloverbuds. Fourteen members had the opportunity to present at District Public Presentations and four won Top Presenter Awards. Two members had the opportunity to attend Regional Horse Communications. This program continues to help youth develop skills and self-confidence in public speaking.

PRODUCED IN NEW YORK:
Produced in New York is a silent cooking demonstration that encourages youth to cook and bake with locally grown foods, review nutritional information, and learn new cooking/baking skills. Participants are evaluated on their overall demonstration skills, finished product, and meal plan. This year, there were 18 participants at the county level, with 2 chosen for the State Fair.

ANNUAL CONSERVATION FIELD DAY:
Three hundred twenty-five 5th and 6th grade students from four school districts attended the 50th Annual Conservation Field Day in September. Students participated in 10 different educational stations focusing on the importance of conservation practice and natural resource preservation. Thank you to our event presenters: Bernadette Harwood and Renee Hopkins, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County;
CHIP HOLT NATURE CENTER:
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County continued its collaboration with the Town of Livonia and the Chip Holt Nature Center (Vitale Park, Lakeville). The mission of the collaboration is to provide interpretive and outdoor recreational programming to the public (and schools) for the stewardship of Conesus Lake and the Finger Lakes ecosystem.

The program year kicked off in March with “Marsh Madness”. The Seneca Park Zoomobile entertained 125 fourth graders with its “Amazing Animal Adaptations” program. The day concluded with an interpretative marsh walk at the southern end of Conesus Lake.

The 7 week summer youth program provided educational activities for youth ages 4-12. Hands-on activities focused on nature crafts and experiments based on different nature themes each week. There were 700 youth and 400 adult contacts during this program.

2016 LIVESTOCK AUCTION:
The Livingston County 4-H Livestock Auction was held at the Hemlock Fair on July 23rd and raised over $60,000. Altogether, 36 market hogs sold for an average price of $2.95 per pound; 3 market lambs averaged $3.12 per pound; 8 market beef averaged $1.90; and 29 pens of two market birds averaged $220 per pen.

Open to the public, the auction provided individuals and businesses the opportunity to acquire fresh, top quality meat and chicken while supporting a worthwhile youth activity.

The 4-H Livestock Auction is the culmination of a 9-month project for market beef animals, a 3-month project for market hogs and lambs, and a 10-week project for market birds. The 4-H market animal program helps youth develop valuable life skills in many different ways. 4-H members who complete a market animal project learn how to manage, feed, and fit an animal to produce a high quality product for the consumer. Complimenting this, 4-H members are also learning business skills such as financial management, marketing, and record keeping that enables 4-H members to track profit/loss on their project.

CHARITY MARKET ANIMAL PROJECT:
Three 4-H members raised market animals and donated the proceeds of the sale to a local worthy charity of their choice.

This is the sixth year in a row that Emily Cooper has elected to participate in the program. Emily sold one of her swine project animals to raise money for United Cerebral Palsy. The animal was initially purchased by Genese Construction Service, Inc. (Larry & Mary Ann Merle) for $370 before donating it back to be re-sold. The hog was then purchased by Larry Wilkins for $333. Altogether, the animal raised $703 for the organization.

Connor Rodwell sold his pen of two meat birds to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation of Western New York. David LeFeber purchased the meat birds for $560 and then donated them back to the 4-H Program. They were then re-sold to Genese Construction Service, Inc. (Larry & Mary Ann Merle) for $500. As a result, Rodwell’s project will donate $1060 to charity.

Bridgitte Johnson also sold one of her swine project animals at
the 2016 4-H Livestock Auction to raise money for the Genesee Valley Farm Discovery Center. The animal, purchased by Floyd and Lucy Gath, raised $433.95 for the organization.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY 4-H HORSE CAMP:
The annual Livingston County 4-H Horse Camp was held at the Hemlock Fairgrounds on June 26-July 1 with 26 members attending. The mission of the camp program is to provide a positive, fun, youth development experience.

The priority themes for the camp are:
- A sense of mastery in horsemanship and riding
- A sense of belonging to a group that shares a passion for horses
- A sense of responsibility and ownership as it relates to a 4-H Horse Project

The Junior Assistant Program links experienced teens with younger campers. Five Junior Assistants developed valuable leadership skills while serving as leaders and mentors. They helped plan, deliver, and supervise the many activities of camp.

The camp program utilizes Livingston County’s many talented and dedicated volunteers to provide a quality, fun, and educational experience for youth interested in horses.

NEW YORK STATE FAIR PARTICIPANTS:
Nine Livingston County 4-H members represented the county in various 4-H shows, contests, and activities at the New York State Fair. Members entered a cumulative 42 animal science classes and received numerous Danish awards, top ten placings, and championships. Congratulations to all our participants:
- **Horse**: Danielle Bosch, Sarah Bosch, Heidi Phelps, Kelsey Weiser
- **Avian Bowl Contest**: Audrey de Wit, Rian de Wit
- **Dog**: Clara Benham, Jacob Sherman
- **Cynology Booth**: Clara Benham, Clark Benham, Leah Tilson, Hannah Tilson
- **Dog Skill-a-thon Contest**: Clara Benham
- **Swine**: Ben Lyness
- **Goat**: Ben Lyness

Livingston County was well represented in the 4-H Youth Building with 111 exhibits, 4 Teen Leaders, and 2 Produced in New York participants. Entries included baked and canned goods, photography, woodworking, fine arts, clothing and textiles, horticulture, and more. Sixty-one blue ribbons, 25 red, 5 white, and 20 participation ribbons were collected. In addition, 11 exhibits received a Purple Rosette, the highest total received in years.

STARR:
The State Teen Action Reps Retreat is an annual weekend for 4-H teens from across NYS to get together to build leadership skills, as well as network with peers and adults. Participants gain new skills and knowledge by attending workshops and participating in community service activities. The event is planned by teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR planning committee and is open to all NYS 4-H Teens. Four teens attended, including three first-time participants.

TEEN COUNCIL:
Teen Council is a group of 4-H teens (ages 13-18) from across Livingston County. Regular monthly meetings, developed and organized by the Teen Council officers, offer the opportunity for teens to develop leadership, work as a team, socialize, and have fun. Additionally, teens select, prepare for, and participate in a variety of other activities meant to foster a sense of community and good citizenship. This past year, 19 members of Teen Council completed a blanket project for local foster care children, helped Livingston County Office for the Aging pack food for Meals on Wheels, played BINGO with seniors, and continued to develop leadership skills through participation in various committees.

TEEN EXCHANGE TRIP:
The week of August 1-6th was a busy one for eight Livingston County 4-H members and their families. As
part of the Teen Interstate Exchange, members from the Bedford County 4-H program, packed their bags, flew out of Nashville, TN and arrived here in the Finger Lakes region. This was the first part of a two year program, which will continue next summer when our delegation enjoys a week in Tennessee. Highlights included visits to Letchworth, Stony Brook, and Niagara Falls State Parks; stops at Genesee Country Village & Museum and Corning Museum of Glass; a day spent in the sun at Seabreeze; and a tour of the Hemlock Hills Alpaca Farm. We also enjoyed trips to Ontario Beach State Park, Mendon Ponds Park, and Wohlschlegel’s Maple Farm. Potluck dinners were enjoyed at members’ homes and allowed time for comradery, conversation, and fun.

**CREATIVE FIBER ARTS REVUE:**
Fiber arts projects give members the opportunity to learn techniques such as sewing, quilting, felting, applique, etc. to manipulate fiber through one or more steps to a finished product. Creative Fiber Arts Revue is the county event in which a member’s completed fiber arts product (project) and skills are evaluated. Projects are not limited to only sewn clothing garments. Following the evaluation, members participate in the fashion revue portion of the event. This year, 19 members and 6 Cloverbuds participated in the event on April 26th at the Goodwill Community Center, Geneseo.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:**
Participation in community service activities frequently call into action all four Hs identified in the 4-H Pledge. Most community service projects involve an aspect of learning and thinking (Head). Often, they include how to make something or learning about the needs of a local organization. When youth spend time devoted to improving an aspect of their community (Hands), greater loyalty (Heart), and a sense of worth (Health) are stimulated and supported. This year, eight 4-H clubs and four families sought to improve the communities in which they live by organizing food drives for local food pantries, raising money and donating items to local animal shelters and Noyes Hospital, volunteering time to improve local gardens, offering companionship to seniors, and more.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY RUSSELL B. ACE MEMORIAL 4-H SCHOLARSHIP:**
This scholarship was established in 2007 by Livingston County 4-H in memory of Russell B. Ace, the first 4-H Agent in the county. It recognizes current 4-H members who have demonstrated leadership skills and served their community through active participation in the Livingston County 4-H program. Winners are awarded a one-time scholarship of $1,000 to be used toward a secondary education program, resulting in a certification or degree.

This year’s recipients are Sarah Linsner and Jill Pero.

Sarah is a 12-year 4-H member whose areas of focus include community service, baking, photography, gardening, crafts, and leadership. She has served as President of her 4-H club and as a mentor to younger members. She has also served as a youth representative on the 4-H Program Advisory Committee and has led various youth activities at 4-H Discovery Day and Hemlock Fair. Sarah is currently attending Hobart & William Smith Colleges and pursuing a degree in chemistry. In her application, Sarah said, “Joining 4-H was one of the best decisions I ever made. Hopefully I can be a 4-H leader later in life.”

Jill is an 11-year 4-H member whose areas of focus include community service, Horse Communications, Horse Bowl & Hippology, horse showing, crafts, and leadership. She has served as President and Vice President of Teen Council, Treasurer of her club, a 4-H Horse Camp Junior Assistant, and a mentor to younger members. Jill is currently pursuing a degree in Occupational Therapy at Keuka College. In her application, Jill says, “Each year I have learned new skills and improved old ones. These skills will help me with my occupational therapy career and life in general. I am proud to be a Livingston County 4-Her because it has molded me into the person I am today and I don’t know where I would be without it.”

**OUTSTANDING 4-H MEMBERS:**
Abigail Bean and Ethan Low are Livingston County Outstanding 4-H Members for 2016. The Outstanding 4-H Member Award is the highest award given for 4-H achievement and overall involvement in Livingston County 4-H. The 4-Her must apply by writing an essay about how 4-H has influenced their life and have a leader recommendation. A plaque and $100 scholarship was awarded to each.

Abigail is a 10-year member of the Scottsburg Highlanders Club. Throughout her time in 4-H, Abigail has focused on the food and nutrition, horse, clothing and textiles, and basket weaving project areas. Participation inProduced in New York, Public Presentations, Hippology, and Creative Fiber Arts Revue have given her confidence and experience
speaking in front of groups - which she identifies as one of her biggest achievements.

Abigail’s commitment to community service is quite impressive, logging well over 150 hours over the past years. This desire to improve her community began with small 30-minute increments as a 6-year-old and grew to include long-term investments of time (some as much as 25 hours), many on her own.

When asked what 4-H is to her, Abigail states, “There isn’t one word that could sum up everything in 4-H. It’s a place where everyone can experience personal growth, responsibility, and life skills.”

Ethan is a 12-year member of 4-H - joining when he was in Kindergarten. Over the course of his 4-H enrollment, Ethan has been active in learning about rabbits, goats, poultry, food and nutrition, leadership, and photography.

He has logged well over 100 hours of community service hours and participated in Public Presentations and Produce in New York at the county, district, and state levels. In addition, Ethan has been involved with Animal Crackers, Teen Exchange, Teen Council, STARR (as both a participant and planning committee member), Career Explorations, and more.

Ethan states, “4-H has been (and will continue to be) a huge part of my life and has been crucial in guiding me toward my future.”

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:
Jennifer Lilly has been named the 2016 4-H Volunteer of the Year.

Jennifer has been an active and dedicated volunteer in the 4-H Program for 10 years. Like so many volunteers, she began her journey as a young 4-H member learning from caring and supportive 4-H volunteers who helped to shape who she was and who she would become. Those caring and supportive 4-H volunteers made quite an impression - inspiring her to become a 4-H volunteer herself.

As a volunteer, she has been helping and impacting Livingston County youth in the 4-H Horse Program at the club, county, and regional levels. As a club leader, Jennifer is always supporting her club members in the exploration of 4-H project areas and activities. She is a member of the County 4-H Horse Program Committee, coordinates and chairs the County Hippology Contest, chairs multiple horse shows each year, and coordinates educational clinics and program fundraisers.

ACTIVITY NIGHTS EXPAND:
Monthly Cloverbud Activity Nights, designed for our growing Cloverbud population, were created during the 2014-2015 year. As the 2015-2016 year got underway, it appeared things had changed. With several former Cloverbuds now aging up to become 4-H members, and many families having both 4-H age and Cloverbud members, expansion of the program seemed natural. Thus began monthly 4-H Activity Nights.

From October-June, topics were varied and meant to introduce 4-H members to different 4-H project areas. Resources for continued learning were often identified and shared.

This year’s topics included some aspect of recycling. Plastic bottles, glass jars, tin cans, and old t-shirts became the bones of holiday decorations, luminaries, tin punch creations, planters, and even superhero costumes. Healthy eating, science experiments, a variety of arts and crafts, house plants, cake decorating, textiles, pressed flowers, and robotics were also explored.

Participation increased as more Cloverbuds took part this year. By January, we expanded to include a new date and location each month. Gail Ruliffson graciously offered the use of Sam’s Place in Dansville to accommodate our monthly gathering, allowing us to offer the same activities in both the northern and southern parts of Livingston County.

Overall, 72 individual 4-H and Cloverbud youth took part 190 times during eight Activity Nights.
CCE LIVINGSTON COUNTY
SOURCES OF SUPPORT

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FINGER LAKES SHARED BUSINESS NETWORK

We are now heading into our fourth year of having Regional Lead positions in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology. The Leads continue to provide strategic guidance, best practices, and problem-solving to the seven Associations in the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network: Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates.

Highlights of 2016 include guiding Executive Director searches for three counties; assisting with the hiring and training of finance staff in four counties; facilitating the change in HR recruiting systems; providing information, guidance, and support through the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) transition; guiding OS upgrades and ensuring compliance with CU encryption requirements; and attending and leading meetings in their respective areas to allow for ongoing conversations and professional development.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Livingston County

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