The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.
6 ways Cooperative Extension supports agriculture in Madison County

1. **Economic Impact**
   - 117.7 million of ag sales
   - 74.8 million derived solely from dairy
   
   CCE provides targeted educational opportunities to farmers to increase productivity and profitability of new and established farms.

2. **Youth Development**
   - 201 Participants
   - 13 Clubs
   
   CCE’s 4-H program offers agriculture education to youth, spurring interest and opportunities in farming.

3. **Food Security**
   - over 830 farms in 661 sq miles
   
   CCE sponsors farmers’ markets, provides food safety/nutrition education, and promotes local foods and healthy lifestyles.

4. **Rural Heritage**
   - in 2017, CCE celebrated 100 years in Madison County
   
   CCE supports family farms by offering succession and transition planning to strengthen farming for the future.

5. **Scenic Beauty**
   - Land in farms = 187,496 acres
     - cropland = 110,997 acres
     - pasture = 23,437 acres
     - forest = 34,874 acres
     - other = 18,187 acres
   
   CCE works to protect farmland and preserve air, soil, and water quality while enhancing the views that are unique to our area.

6. **Environmental Stewardship**
   
   CCE and partner agencies keep drinking water clean by educating, implementing and maintaining sustainable practices on local farms.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Madison County
Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension,

2017 was a historical year as it marked the centennial anniversary of extension service to Madison County. The early citizens that embraced the notion of ‘cooperative education’ were able to see the potential for a relationship that would extend Cornell University research and services to Madison County. That relationship has served us well by shaping, and continuing to shape, the landscape of Madison County in ways that ensure we remain true to our agrarian routes while always looking forward to the ever expanding needs for agriculture and life sciences. This report includes two articles that offer a look at the history of cooperative extension. I hope you will take the time to read, and appreciate, the early roots that brought us to a centennial landmark of service to Madison County.

2017 was also a pivotal year for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County. Early into the year, the Board of Directors voted to re-establish CCE-MC as its own entity after having shared association services and resources with Oneida County since 2012. Corey Mosher was voted in as the new Chair of the Board of Directors and Elizabeth Crofut was hired as the interim Executive Director. Together, they worked with Cornell, the Board of Directors, Advisory Committees, and the Madison County Board of Supervisors to create the foundation for a reinvigorated outlook for CCE in Madison County. I was delighted to have the opportunity to join the association in July to begin serving the County in the role of Executive Director.

The CCE Slogan of ‘Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities’ is a passion shared by all who work or volunteer with our organization. During 2017, the work of the CCE-MC Team generated significant impact including:

- 207,458 indirect program participants reached through a variety of communication mediums
- 16,201 direct participants in outreach and educational programs and workshops
- 1300 state and federal tax returns completed for free for seniors in our County
- 5,000+ individuals and families visited local farms through the annual Open Farm Day event
- 2,600 individuals were reached through the Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program
- 2,000+ monthly distribution of education and outreach materials through the Hometown Harvest and the Field and Fork newsletters
- 468 farmers benefited from the Alfalfa monitoring report
- 200+ youth benefited from 4H clubs and activities
- 45 women built healthier lives through the Cornell University Strong Hearts research project

As I finish the final pieces of the 2017 annual report, I would be remiss to not thank the incredible team at CCE-MC along with the passionate and supportive members of the Board of Directors, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Youth Development 4H Advisory Committee, CCE Shared Business Network, the Madison County Board of Supervisors, Volunteers, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension administration and staff. As we move into the next 100 years, our success will be attributed to collaborative efforts that continue to build strong and vibrant communities through the powerful network of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

On behalf of the 2017 MC-CCE Team, please accept our thanks and appreciation for your involvement in, and support of, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Madison County.

Best Wishes,

Karin D. Bump, PhD, PAS
Executive Director
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Madison County

FR: Debbie SeGuin, Jessica Spaulding Alicia Luhrszen-Zombek
BR: Jennifer Farwell; Steve Miller; Sarah Ficken, Karin Bump, Jackie Dickerson
Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Boards, Committees, Volunteers, and County, Region and State officials that supported our work in 2017.

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- Nate Durfee - Vice-President
- Laura Shoemaker - Treasurer
- Tara Truett - Secretary
- Sue Bookhout
- Jessica Burch
- David Jones
- David Hatch
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- David Hatch

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- US Representative Claudia Tenney
- Assemblyman Bill Magee
- Senator David Valesky

And all our Volunteers!
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VII. Home Bureau – the early roots of Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County
Celebrating 100 years of service - by Karin Bump

In 1917, the citizens of Madison County made the decision to join a relatively new ‘cooperative extension’ program to extend Cornell University research and services to Madison County. With that decision, a relationship was formed that has shaped, and continues to shape, the landscape of Madison County by applying Cornell University knowledge and resources to address community needs. This year we celebrate our 100-year anniversary of service to Madison County.

Cooperative Extension programs are present all across our nation, with a history that dates to 1862. That was the year the United States Department of Agriculture was formed and, just weeks later, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act (also known as the Land Grant Act) which provided for the donation of land in order to establish “at least one college [in each state] where the leading object shall be... to teach branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts [engineering].”

That legislation opened the path for Ezra Cornell to found Cornell University in 1865 as New York’s Land Grant institution. It is quite remarkable that among the many challenges of the time – including the Civil War and Emancipation – President Lincoln recognized the importance of agriculture to building a strong and sustainability society. Past Cornell President David Skorton remarked in 2011 that the act was a “hopeful, optimistic piece of legislation, premised on the belief that through the education of people from all backgrounds in an expanded range of fields – from agriculture and the mechanic arts to liberal studies – we could become a better, more prosperous nation in a changing world.”

Moving forward to 1914, the Smith Lever Act provided a funding mechanism to extend land-grant research and teaching to the general public by providing for instruction and practical demonstration in the areas of agriculture and home economics. So formed the three-arm mission of Land Grant Institutions: teaching, research, and extension.

Just three years later, Madison County embraced the mission of Cooperative Extension and, in 1917, formally established the Madison County office of Cooperative Extension. With funding sources that include federal, state, and county dollars, Cornell Cooperative Extension leads the way with outreach by ensuring that programs and offerings are designed to best fit the needs of each county they serve. The one requirement mandated of all Cooperative Extension offerings is the promotion and oversight of 4-H as a mechanism to develop future leaders by empowering youth to work and learn under the guidance of dedicated caring adult volunteers.

Madison County is truly an agricultural county blessed with a scenic ‘green space’ landscape. We have close to 45 percent of land devoted to some form of agriculture, and are home to approximately 850 farms, according to the 2012 Census. Within the farming community, the dairy, livestock, and field crop industry is valued at over $100 million in farm gate receipts each year. Coupled with this are strong and growing industries in equine, breweries, craft beverages, and emerging small farm ‘niche’ areas ranging from goat's milk soap to worm farming for vermicompost. And the demographics of farmers are changing, with more women and ‘late bloomers’ entering the rewarding professions and side businesses available in agriculture.

In December, the community gathered at the annual meeting to celebrate the centennial milestone and look forward to the next 100 years. Centennial proclamations were delivered from the offices of Governor Cuomo, Representative Tenney, Senator Valesky, Assemblyman Magee, and the Madison County Board of Supervisors. It was a meaningful opportunity to recognize the contributions to Madison County for the past 100 years. It was equally meaningful to look forward to continuing to apply trusted university research that helps address problems and create new plans for agricultural economic growth and development in Madison County.
Pictures from the Centennial Celebration

4-H member Kav Young with Board Chair Corey Mosher

Members of Board of Directors and Advisory Committees

Corey Mosher, Chair of CCE-MC Board of Directors

Dr. Christopher Watkins, Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension

Steve Miller honored upon his retirement from CCE-MC

Dr. Christopher Watkins, Dr. Karin Bump and Danielle Hautaniemi

Recognizing Christine Selinsky in advance of her retirement.

Honoring Liz Crofut for her service as interim Executive Director.
Tim Williams and Board Member Sue Bookout served donated beverages provided by Critz Farms, Empire Brewery, and the Copper Turret.

Executive Director Dr. Karin Bump with new Board Member Mathew Webber.

Supervisor John Becker, presented a Centennial proclamation on behalf of the Madison County Board of Supervisors.

Board Member Tara Truett read the centennial proclamation from Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Senator David Valesky provided comments along with a joint Senate and Assembly centennial proclamation with Assemblyman Bill Magee.

Kip Hicks and Scott Ingmire represented Madison County IDA and Madison County Planning.
Meet the Education and Outreach Staff serving Madison County

Jenn Farwell, AED Resource Educator
Sarah Ficken, Ag Subject Educator
Debbie SeGuin, Nutrition Specialist
Jessica Spaulding, 4-H Subject Educator
Alicia Luhrssen-Zombek, Ag Subject Educator
Judy Parker, Tax Credit for the Elderly Program
Southern Tier SNAP-ED Staff: Neisa Pantalia and Betty Clark
Regional Team Members: Ashley McFarland, Kevin Ganoe, and David Balbian
A look at some key programming from 2017

1. Improving farm practices and profitability

First Cutting Forage Quality Monitoring reaches farmers throughout Madison County - by Sarah Ficken

Madison County farmers can now project optimal timing for quality harvest as a result of CCE-MC joining the harvest quality monitoring program through Oneida County. The monitoring program provides farmers with projected optimal quality updates so they are better prepared for the first cutting.

First cutting harvest quality is a critical method for managing profitability as it represents a significant portion of the annual hay crop. However, optimal harvest timing can differ by over 8 days across the county dependent on elevation. Given this, careful monitoring in diverse sites is important for real time information that allows farmers to make decisions based on the conditions in a similar location.

CCE-MC monitored eight sites around the county for first cutting harvest quality. Harvest quality was determined through measuring alfalfa height and percentage of alfalfa growing in 8 different fields in geographically and topographically diverse sections of Madison County. Alfalfa height is a reliable indicator of quality in alfalfa stands, mixed stands, and grass hay fields.

The Alfalfa Monitoring report was distributed via email to over 468 farmers in Madison County each week during May and June. The very wet spring lead to the monitoring of forage quality having even more impact on farmer decision making.

Aspiring Farmers Academy Brings Producers Closer to their Dreams - by Sarah Ficken

The Aspiring Farmers Academy is a two-part, intensive business planning workshop to help farmers shorten the time between initial planning and farm implementation. Fourteen individuals representing eight farms participated to learn about business management principles, marketing practices, and local land use regulations. All of the attendees left with a roadmap detailing the next steps to move their operations forward.

Participant feedback demonstrated the usefulness of the program. One farming couple performed two partial budget analyses on enterprises within their operation and, as a result, made the decision to move away from their initial enterprise in order to expand their secondary operation, which they identified as more profitably aligned with their farm goals. “Understanding how to build a partial budget helped us refocus our enterprise to become more profitable. We are really looking forward to next year.” Another farmer embraced a new production technique after taking stock of their resources and realizing that the new approach would better align with their resources. “We plan to invest in slightly more expensive infrastructure so that we can optimize our use of labor in the future.”

Helping aspiring farmers take stock of their resources, understand financial statements, and develop attainable goals and objectives will result in more new entrants to Madison County farming. Given the results and feedback, the Aspiring Farmer’s Academy will continue into 2018 with Aspiring Farmers Academy II.
Supporting Dairy Farms in Madison County - by Karin Bump

New York is the nation’s third-largest dairy state, generating $2.3 billion annually, over half of the state's total agricultural receipts. In Madison County, Dairy is the number one ag industry with a $74.8 million impact on our economy. Despite these numbers, dairy farming is in a crisis.

“...dairy farms are a vital piece of New York’s agriculture – in many communities, they are the most important part of the local economy. But dairy farming is becoming an endangered species in New York. The lackluster economy is threatening hard-working families and their way of life. We need to make sure generations of toil and enterprise are not lost to this recession. New York needs the dairy industry.” State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli

During 2017, a number of programs were offered through CCE-MC to help Dairy Farms maintain or expand. Three examples are highlighted below.

The Academy for Dairy Executives Program is an educational program that provides progressive young dairy executives and agri-service personnel the opportunity to increase knowledge, leadership and management skills necessary to run a successful dairy. The Academy provides a forum for producers to learn and interact with each other - and the presenters - during three one-night sessions over 3 months. CCE-MC was involved with the program this year and served as host for one of the sessions.

For milk production, feed quality and consumption rates are key. To help farmers understand more about how to ensure that both occur as planned, the Dairy Feeder School was offered in conjunction with the PRO-DAIRY program at Cornell. CCE-MC was the host association for the 2-day training. A diverse set of farms were represented by around 20 individuals. With a goal to learn strategies to improve the on-farm feeding process, the program was an important addition to the 2017 CCE-MC programming.

Another addition in 2017 was involvement with the Cornell PRO-DAIRY Dairy Acceleration Program. As an on-farm direct to producer program, CCE-MC was able to offer assistance in preparing Dairy farm records for business planning including benchmarking to determine financial status of operations.

Looking forward to 2018, CCE-MC has recently joined as a partner association with the Central New York Regional Dairy, Livestock and Field Crop Team (a Cornell Regional Team). In large part this was driven by the need to provide another level of production and management support for Dairy farms as well as other livestock and crop operations. Another area of support for our dairy farmers comes from strengthening our relationship with NY FarmNet which is a Cornell based program offering free and confidential support services ranging from financial analysis to personal wellbeing.
A Multi-layer Approach to Helping the Next Generation of Farmers - by Alicia Luhrszen-Zombek

When Ainsley and James Gorman showed up at a CCE-MC Garden Series workshop at Colgate Community Gardens, it was their first introduction to Cooperative Extension. Ainsley and James had recently taken over approximately 15 acres of family land outside Hamilton. They had an interest in growing vegetable seedlings for commercial production and were in need of insight into use of the land. Not unlike other new entrants to agriculture, Ainsley and James had passion and enthusiasm but needed help with the science and management of farming. The summer workshop gave them the tools to work on a first growing season but they soon realized the need for more help. Their positive experience at the Garden Series workshop brought them back to the CCE-MC educators for more assistance.

In the Fall, the couple engaged in one-on-one meetings with the Ag Team to develop a field management plan for their land. Knowing they needed to and very much wanted to continue their education, they were excited to join the Aspiring Farmers Workshop, until a personal schedule conflict prevented them from doing so. Despite their inability to take advantage of that program, they were able to continue to work with the Ag Team to learn, plan, and build this new farming opportunity. Along the way they considered ways to diversify their business and attended a Food Preservation Series offered at the CC-MC Ag Center. The series focused on canning, cheesemaking, fruit preserves and pressure cooking, adding more opportunities to grow their business. When Aspiring Farmers II is offered in 2018, they fully intend to participate this time to build upon the five year plan they developed this year.

The story of Ainsley and James is not uncommon and it shows the power of cooperative extension. All of our outreach and programming is continuous with the ability to build layers of educational experiences. What starts as a person making a decision to attend a program can lead to the inspiration and skills to build or expand a business. Ainsley and James showed up at a workshop not knowing much about cooperative extension and now, with support and training of CCE-MC educators, they have a diverse and well thought out five-year plan.

Seeing the growth and excitement of our County’s new farmers is extremely rewarding and with the growing need for transition and succession planning it’s a win-win for both new and existing farmers. We look forward to working with many more aspiring farmers like Ainsley and James Gorman.

Open Farm Day – Continuing Success in Promoting Our Local Farms and Farm Products – by Jennifer Farwell

Open Farm Day is a signature program of CCE-MC that saw another increase in attendance in 2017 with over 5,380 participants covering 172 different zip codes. It’s an event that has broad reach with visitors.
coming from all over Central New York as well as out-of-state and even out-of-country. There are also plenty of return visitors each year with one family sharing: “We plan our family vacation around Open Farm Day”.

There were 33 participating farms in 2017, covering everything from beekeeping to goats and dairy to fiber. Visitors were able to touch, feel, and smell, farming in an environment that encouraged conversation.

While increasing the understanding and appreciation of farming is important, the primary focus of Open Farm Day is boosting agricultural enterprises in Madison County. The event provides farms with opportunities to market their business and expand their customer base. This year was no exception with farmers reporting high sales numbers and record amounts of visitors. Chris Shafer of Silly Goats Soap Company said “This was our first year and we sold more in one day than we do at a normal weekend long event!” Terri of Jewett’s Cheese House echoed those comments saying, “This is a great boost for small businesses in the County, I have been open that Saturday the past few years and it amazes me that so many have never traveled to this part of the County.”

Each year, the economic impact of the event gets higher, with majority of consumers saying they spent over $20 on just the first two farms. Farmers reporting sales from the event demonstrated the economic success of the program – over $27,000 in increased sales were reported! The majority of the farmers participating also see their Open Farm Day customers come back throughout the year to support them and purchase from their farms.

As Madison county agriculture continues to diversify and expand, the community loves that Open Farm Day gives them the ability to visit and support its farmers.

2018 will mark 10 years of Open Farm Days fun – mark your calendars now for July 28, 2018!
A Decade of Hops Growth in New York and Beyond

We wish Steve Miller the best in his retirement and thank him for his work helping hops producers begin and expand production in NY and beyond. Here is a quick look at a decade of progress in growing hops!

The CCE Hops program began in 2011 at CCE in Madison County. The program was launched with a small Specialty Crop Block Grant from USDA and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets written by key members of the CCE-MC Staff and Agricultural Advisory Committee including Bee Tolman, Paul O’Mara and Becca Jablonski. This group realized the exciting potential for hops in NY and were instrumental in working with the Northeast Hop Alliance to initiate the decade of growth that followed.

Since the initial founding, the Hops program grew to represent a state wide initiative funded by a series of grants including USDA, NYS Ag and Mkts, NY Farm Viability Institute and Brewery Ommegang. Some additional funds were generated through events, conferences, and donations. Steve Miller served as the project leader with statewide and regional work as provided for in the grants. What started as an idea in Madison County, grew to a need that was met across the northeast with Steve Miller as a leader and facilitator of hops education and outreach. When the program started in 2011 there were only about 15 acres of hops in the state. That figure has increased to 400 acres and 160 Farm Breweries. This represents $8,000,000 invested in hop production infrastructure alone.

The Hops program provided advice, information and direction regarding the status of the hop industry in NY. This included subject matter training for CCE staff, state inspectors, and USDA employees. Work with media was also key in raising awareness of, and interest in hops. Industry visits, trade show exhibits, and an annual Hops Conference were all integral parts of the past ten years. The annual Hops Conference at Morrisville State drew around 350 people with a trade show for brewers and growers.

The Cornell Extension Hops Program was primarily possible through grants and awards from 2011-2017 totaling over $500,000. In Governor Cuomo’s proclamation to honor CCE-MC’s 100-year anniversary, he acknowledged the important role of Madison County in ‘providing a home for the hops program’.

As we look to the future of extension work in Hops, CCE-MC is actively advocating for new grant and contract opportunities to build on the past decade of education and outreach to NYS Hops producers championed by Steve Miller.
II. Building stronger communities through access to healthy local foods

**Strong Hearts for a Healthier Madison County** – by Debbie SeGuin

Heart disease is the number one killer of women. So how can we reduce cardiovascular disease, improve quality of life, and reduce cardiovascular disease-related health care costs in our rural communities? That’s exactly what the Strong Hearts Project seeks to understand.

Forty-five women in Madison County are building stronger hearts thanks to a research project partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University and Bassett Research Institute with funding from the National Institute of Health. Madison County is one of only 5 counties in NY involved in this research project.

The program started in April with two groups in Hamilton who met regularly for exercise and education. The goal is to improve individual behaviors through promoting an environment that includes use of, and access to, local food and physical activity. The long term goal is to shift social behaviors and norms associated with active living and healthy eating.

The Hamilton group finished in October and participants got stronger, lost weight, and felt better. Along the way, they worked with others in the community to make the Hamilton area more walkable by creating a new Monday Mile walking trail and improving signage to make an existing trail more user-friendly. Having safe places to walk helps people exercise more, which helps to reduce the risk (and high costs) of heart disease in our communities.

Here is what some of our Hamilton Strong Hearts participants said about the program:

- “I LOVED the program. The thing I enjoyed most was meeting other women of my age trying to improve their health. Also, gaining knowledge about healthy foods and receiving recipes was a huge help. The biggest change for me is how much better I feel and look. I have lost 45 pounds, eat healthier and exercise regularly.”
- “I really enjoyed the group. It was great to have that accountability. Exercising with others, along with the leader’s enthusiasm, really was the highlight. The other day I did a 45 minute exercise video, and I actually finished it and felt empowered!”

A new group has begun in Morrisville and will continue through April 2018. We look forward to sharing their success stories!

**Making Health Living easy to CATCH for our youth** - by our Southern Tier SNAP-Ed colleagues

Healthy life skills are essential tools to develop in our youth. In recognition of this, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed the Coordinated School Health model (CATCH) for school based youth education in targeted high risk areas. CATCH combines eight components to interactively educate young people about, and provide support for, a healthier lifestyle through nutrition and physical activity. The program is offered through the Southern Tier SNAP-Ed program.

This past May, Betty Clark, supervisor for the SNAP-Ed, Eat Smart New York program, recruited CATCH program participant teams from schools from Chenango, Cortland, and Madison Counties. Morrisville-Eaton organized a team from both the Elementary and Middle Schools and Sherburne-Earlville brought in a small elementary school team. All the teams engaged in an interactive, hands-on workshop blending the knowledge and practical skills necessary to implement the CATCH program. Topic covered included rationale
and need for improving children's health, an overview of the CATCH Program and resource materials including a guide to coordinates the efforts of key CATCH Team players, such as Principals and Administration, Classroom Teachers, Child Nutritionists, PE teachers, Parent Leaders, and Specialized and Support Staff.

The students and teachers have enthusiastically embraced the program and its positive outcomes. As demonstrated in the following quotes, students learned about new foods and began to understand and appreciate tasting new healthy foods. "I didn't know what a plum was but I like them" (Student); "I liked the pomegranates so much my mom bought 2 and I have some in my lunch today." (4th Grade Student); "I thought this {program] was powerful as they are taking ownership of their own food." (Teacher)

**Farmers Market Nutrition Program** – by Alicia Luhrssen - Zombek

This past summer, through a grant from NYS Department of Ag and Markets, CCE-MC educators provided nutrition-based education and food demonstrations at 40 markets and community events. Staff visits extended throughout the entire county as well as seven neighboring counties.

Outreach at the markets focused on ways to involve youth in the kitchen, ideas for shopping on a budget and examples of creating fast, simple and fresh recipes using ingredients purchased at Farmer Markets. Beets, Swiss chard, eggplant, apples, kale, grapes and peaches purchased at the market were highlighted in recipes made on site.

The Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program promoted regular consumption of a variety of fresh produce to assist our community in taking a big step towards better health. We anticipate that the grant will continue for 2018.

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**III. Youth Development through Madison County 4H**

America's Largest Youth Development Organization, 4-H empowers nearly 170,000 young people across New York with the skills to lead for a lifetime!

“...programs in science, healthy living and citizenship are backed by a network of 100 public universities and a robust community of 4-H volunteers and professionals. Through hands-on learning, kids build not only confidence, creativity and curiosity, but also life skills such as leadership and resiliency to help them thrive today and tomorrow.” National 4H
Madison Count 4H Club Spotlight: Young Riders

Faith Young and Jamie Cordell are the co-leaders of the Young Riders 4H Club. Their commitment to being volunteer leaders rises from their interest in being able to provide kids with the opportunities to do things they didn’t get to do when they were young. Young Riders is one of the oldest clubs in the county and has a long history of providing hands on education and fun for generations of youth.

In 2017, ten enthusiastic youth were involved in a range of activities including local, regional and state events such as horse bowl, hippology, and horse judging. They also participated in the Animal Crackers program at Cornell, the Madison County Fair, and the NYS Fair. At the Fairs, the youth were participants as well as presenters and played an important role in community outreach by manning the Madison County Table and helping fairgoers with ‘make and take’ paracord bracelet crafts.

A favorite club activity in 2017 was a fundraiser where the youth cooked and served food at a Cow Horse Show. They learned about food preparation and money management while also having fun with horses and cows. The youth really benefited from working as a Team in a ‘real world’ activity that also helped them promote 4H in their community.

Madison County 4H Club Spotlight: Working Bees

Michele Stewart and Michelle Gienger serve as co-leaders for the Working Bees. Michele Stewart began the club 3 years ago when she was looking for a ‘right fit’ opportunity to have her family and children become part of a community club or organization: “When I learned about 4H I was in another county of NY State and I watched a group of 4H children present projects ranging from raising pigs, building small engines to solar energy and public presentations - I knew 4H was for us.” Michelle realized that the range of possible projects and topics combined with the excitement of the leaders provided an excellent opportunity to expose young minds to topics outside their daily education. In addition, the ability of leaders to learn and try new things provided an additional element of joy and excitement.

The Working Bees club had 9 youth ranging from 6-15 years of age. 4H Fit Kids is one of their annual events – and it’s a favorite. They learn to make nutritious snacks and also try out meditation, yoga and Zumba. It’s a favorite because the kids are challenged to try new foods (like spinach smoothies!) and new fitness activities. At the end, they all get together to calm down, take deep breaths, learn real yoga poses and then end with a meditation.

“*The growth I see in the kids as they open themselves for a new experience is magical. The ‘eww that’s gross’ or the ‘I can’t bend like that’ turns into something they are excited and proud that they accomplished.*” Club leader.
A few other favorites from 2017 include: learning about media communication including a local News Station tour; learning about the Christmas tree farm business with a tour and hands-on activity making Christmas wreaths; and the importance of blood donation with a guest speaker from the American Red Cross.

Q&A with the leaders: What do you think youth gain from being involved in 4-H? What I hope the kids in my group gain is a sense of ownership of their - or any - community. A "can do" or "will try" attitude. I hope they learn that there is work involved in being part of 4-H (like any group they will be part of), and it's not always non-stop excitement and can be challenging - but they can identify that sometimes the best reward is the feeling that you are an important part of something. Big or small, your role makes a difference.

I pledge...
my head to clearer thinking,
my heart to greater loyalty,
my hands to larger service, and
my health to better living for
my club, my community,
my country, and my world.
IV. Tax Credit Program for the Elderly – by Judy Parker

More than 1300 State and Federal Tax returns for Madison County senior citizens are completed by TCE volunteers. The program saves seniors $250,000 in tax fees and resulted in refunds over $530,000 in 2017.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly, (TCE) is a grant from the Internal Revenue Service with additional support from a private Trust. The award of the IRS grant results in the ability for CCE-MC to offer free income tax assistance to senior citizens 60+ years of age. Under the sponsorship of Cornell Extension of Madison County this service has provided to seniors throughout Madison County for more than 30 years.

The program serves senior citizens in Bridgeport, Chittenango, Canastota, Cazenovia, DeRuyter, Hamilton, Morrisville and Oneida. During the 2016 filing season the TCE volunteers completed over 1300 state and federal returns, which refunded over $530,000 to seniors in Madison County. When considering that the Federal Government average of $150 for tax preparation services, this program provides $250,000 in savings for our senior population.

More than 130 other citizens were served in a variety of ways, from reviewing a return prepared by individuals to assisting in guiding seniors to services that are available to help with heating, healthcare and other issues.

V. Meet our Community Partners residing at the CCE-MC Facilities

The Morrisville Community Church Food Bank – by Suzanne Bartow

A sudden emergency, a tragic house fire, joblessness, retirees whose income is not enough to carry them through the month, the Food Pantry will be there and available to them.

In 2017, 448 households were served receiving 12,474 meals.

The Morrisville Community Church Food Pantry is a not-for-profit organization that distributes food items to less fortunate families in our community. Partnering with the CNY Food Bank, Syracuse, NY. The volunteers at the organization work to distribute the proper amount of fruits, vegetables, grains and protein foods for three meals a day for three days.

The organization relies solely on donations, fund raisers and grant money to purchase grocery items and cover basic expenses of the operation. Purchases are often made at local stores and at local farms with an emphasis on having fresh fruits and vegetables on the shelves. Without donations and grants, the Pantry would not be able to exist and the community would lose a vital resource that helps eliminate food insecurities in our community.
The Pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and also provides food outside of normal hours during emergencies. The families who are eligible to be served at the Pantry, once a month, are those that reside in the Morrisville-Eaton and Stockbridge Valley School Districts. In 2017, 448 households were served receiving 12,474 meals.

**Madison County Rural Health Council - by Bonnie Slocum**

The Madison County Rural Health Council bridges healthcare to community resources to support better health for residents. It was formed in 2013 by a Board of Directors representing health and service organizations throughout Madison County.

The Council coordinates and conducts Evidence Based programs to address Chronic Disease, such as the National Diabetes Prevention Program and the Chronic Disease Self-Management program. A Mobility Management plan was completed in 2017 and implementation will begin in 2018 to begin to improve transportation options for Madison County residents to access care.

The Council's Live Well Committee has worked to develop eleven Monday Miles in areas with high childhood obesity rates. Monday Miles provide safe, accessible areas for people to walk in these rural communities. One Monday Mile starts from Cornell Cooperative Extension's office in Morrisville and employees, 4-H groups and the local elementary school have used the Monday Mile for exercise.

The Rural Health Council looks forward to a continuing collaboration with CCE-MC on projects to promote good nutrition in the coming year.
VI. Association Funding

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County is funded by annual appropriations from County, State and Federal governments. This tri-fold funding partnership links our County residents, businesses and communities with Cornell University and the nationwide land-grant university system of research and education.

Our core governmental funding is augmented through grants, contracts, program fees and private contributions. The total budget for 2017 operations was approximately $938,000.

2017 Estimate of Support

Funding Source Descriptions:
- **Federal Smith Lever Funds**: Federal Funds that come to extension associations through their associated Land Grant Institution.
- **State 224 Funds** represent monies received through Cornell from NYS for operation of county cooperative extension associations.
- **State Funds** represent fringe benefits paid through Cornell.
- **Madison County Appropriations** represent funds from Madison County to support the work of Madison County’s Cooperative Extension association.
Are you aware of how Home Bureau came to be? President Woodrow Wilson was responsible for the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 in an attempt to reach out to farming people. Shortly after, in 1916, the Federal Farm Loan Act was passed, assuring low cost, long term mortgages for the agricultural community.

Land-Grant Universities all over the U.S. and in territories had been created in the 1860s. A land-grant college was made such by the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890 which made federal land available to states to acquire funds for development by selling these federal lands for endowment land-grant colleges. Thus, making the purpose to include the teaching of agriculture along with science, engineering and classical studies. (Many of these colleges are now public universities. However, Cornell, MIT, and perhaps others, have become private.)

In 1906, a dean at Cornell started the organization of Extension for New York State. The passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 allowed the formal formation of Cooperative Extension across the nation. Cornell became the headquarters for N.Y. State. Orleans County organized the first County Farm Bureau in the state in 1917. The County Home Bureau began in 1918 (Orleans Co.).

A desperate need for guidance presented itself as a result of tumultuous worldwide conditions in the early 1900s. Farmers were searching for scientific facts such as soil types, crop fertilizers, local climate/crop adaptability. Women were looking for methods of food preservation, nutrition guides, and meal planning. Youth quickly became involved in the whole farm and home program by the creation of 4-H, which remains a vital part of many young peoples’ lives today.

Madison County Home Bureau held its first annual meeting November 16, 1921. Seventeen names are listed in a news article (an unidentified news clipping). One would assume these names represented all areas of the County.

Snippets of information have been found in bins of historic information stored in the Cooperative Extension office in Morrisville, NY. The privilege of searching these bins was granted to the author by Debra Seguin, the current Nutrition Educator, working in Morrisville. A majority of the following information is taken from newspaper clippings in scrapbooks. Many of the scrapbooks are dated by decades (10 years at a time). The clippings are just that, without newspaper title and date.

The Nelson group served meals at the Grange Hall on Election Day 1924. The total amount taken in was $22.00. The next meeting was to be on Tuesday to elect officers. Proper dress for women would be the program: the following lesson was to be on home cooking taught by Miss Taylor, the county agent. Basketing was to be taught within the year: members were encouraged to bring heavy shears, pliers, tape measure, awl and punchers. A rubber apron, too, if you had one. There was an announcement of the Farm and Home Bureau meeting in Norwich December 7th. Mr. Linderman would talk on "Joy Living and Every Day Fun."

Jean Jones’ sewing screen made at Home Bureau meetings in Fenner.
Some information from 1926 showed records and reports from a survey:

**How many in your family eat whole wheat bread? Do you use milk for bread making?**

**A contest of some sort revealed the following winners in 1927:**
- Whole wheat bread and cinnamon rolls; Mrs. Orlo Burd, Erieville
- Yeast muffins and breakfast cake; Mrs. Addison Rice, Erieville
- Muffins; Mrs. Harvey Smith, Erieville and Mrs. Earl Judd, Nelson
- Chocolate Cookies; Mrs. English, Nelson and Mrs. E. J. Brown, Erieville
- Macaroons; Mrs. Addison Rice, Erieville
- Divinity; Mrs. Addison Rice, Erieville
- Jelly Roll; Mrs. Addison Rice, Erieville
- Cake; Mrs. Eva Hudson, Nelson
- Steamed Bread; Mrs. Howard Brown, Nelson
- Baking Powder Biscuits; Mrs. Beck Davis, Nelson

The major issue for 1929 was milk. Emphasis was on value including protein, mineral content, vitamins, energy within and flavor - all aides for marketing.

Among some stats for 1933, the following enrollments were given. Membership in Erieville was 31, Bolivar was 4 and Hamilton was 60. Cost and quality of food appeared to be a primary issue. Less expensive meals were recommended such as liver/rice loaf, chili con carni, beef hash a la Normandie, baked lima beans in tomatoes, coddled apples, and gingerbread. These low cost suggestions were nutritious, tasty and made from home products.

Training for teaching took place in Erieville in 1933 or '34. Participants included Mrs. Theodore Tainter, Mrs. Garland Pynn, Mrs. P. S. Omans and Mrs. Frank Cook. Canned fruits and vegetables were judged on appearance, container/label and quality including flavor and texture. Yeast breads were featured, as well, and were evaluated by general appearance, crust, crumb and taste.

An annual report for December 1, 1937 thru Nov. 1, 1938 provided the following information. Eight radio talks were presented over station WFBL. (It wasn’t clear who made these presentations.) Specialists from Cornell spent 35 days in Madison County on program teaching and giving assistance. The Home Demonstration Agent from Morrisville made 159 visits to help homemakers. The name, Clarice Cookingham, was mentioned as the Home Demonstration Agent at that time. Clippings from 1941 listed modern cleaning methods and weaving, hand-stitched gloves and foods for intestinal health as topics that were to be made available for learning.

A list of programs was prepared by Ms. Cookingham that included: improved food and health practices; serving better balanced meals; canning fruits, vegetables and meat; planning costumes; making and finishing garments; making dress accessories; improving posture; color and design in the home; using wallpaper and draperies in the home; improving lighting in the home.

**News from September 1927:** The membership in Erieville was eighteen. Projects for the year were to include table covers, wall hangings, lamp shades. Prices for supplies were as follows:
- Burlap.................................................................20cents/yd
- Rug Hooks.............................................................50 cents ea.
- Turpentine............................................................20 cents/pt
- Lampshade frame 8”..............................................15 cents ea.
- Lampshade frame 14”.............................................35 cents ea

Listings for amounts of home canning of home grown produce, and storage, for a family of five were part of the content. A few samples were: 90 quarts of tomatoes; 25 quarts of sweet corn; 100 pounds of onions; 60 quarts of rhubarb; 12 bushels of potatoes. Also included in the program were suggestions for school lunch boxes. Some suggestions were prunes with cottage cheese, stuffed egg, tapioca, jelly sandwich, nut bread, baked beans and other tasty items.

Madison County reached its highest membership in 1942 at 662. Mrs. Harold Smith was chairwoman of the Erieville group. Mrs. Merle Pynn was vice-chairwoman; Mrs. Ernest Brown was secretary and Mrs. Leonard Hamilton was treasurer. The activities were remodeling, budgeting time, money and food, darning and mending and Christmas greenery.
Additional names and projects from this area, were mentioned through the remainder of the forties: Mrs. Sherrill Case; Mrs. Anna Hawes; Mrs. Richard Hughes; Mrs. Ruth Howells; Mrs. Iva Stoker; Mrs. Lilian Omans; Mrs. Archie McEvers; and Emily G. Palmer, County Home Demonstration Agent. Lesson topics, reflecting pressures from WW II, were sewing machine clinics, Easter cooking of ham and glaze, renovating old furs, emergency preserving, cool cellar storage, tuberculosis, repairing furniture, making tomato catsup, shoes and repair and hair styling.

A delightful afternoon spent with Jean Jones melded nicely into the 1950’s, which is when Jean believes she became a member of Twin Cities Unit (Fenner). Cooperative Extension of Madison County was still anchored in Morrisville and Cornell University remained the NYS source of Extension operations. Ann Schultz, now deceased, was the agent for Home Economics.

By the fifties, meetings were a gathering of farm women for lessons and socialization. Meetings were usually the first Thursday evening of the month. Members rotated hosting meetings, unless projects were extended lessons. In such cases, the Fenner Church was used. An example of such a project was making tin trays with etching; extra space was necessary to accommodate acid and paint fumes and to store supplies between lessons. Leaders of each project were taught at Morrisville by experts from Cornell. Another long term project was the sewing screen. Serving baskets for rolls were also made with wooden bottoms and raffia side. Jean remembers jam and jelly making, canning and casseroles. The casseroles were made large enough to serve attendees for meeting refreshment, tasting and polite critique. A Spring Luncheon usually occurred. Many times, it was held at The White Elephant in Canastota. Membership, as Jean recalls, was usually between 12 and 15 ladies. Some of the family names included were Lyga, Christiansen, Stoker, Ryan, McEvers, Schokker, Watebury, Jones - many familiar to you, the reader.

At least two memories stand out in Jean’s mind. One was a snow storm. A member's husband called the meeting hostess asking that she tell his wife to please head home because of poor driving conditions. The ladies continued their gathering (chatter). The husband called a second and third time. At last a group left; the driver crept at snail’s pace with her head out the car window with zero visibility in a typical Fenner winter storm.

A final, spontaneous “Q and A” with Pat Coe confirmed some of the smaller details I remember from the Nelson group. The unit name was Argos, the name of a hamlet just north of today’s Nelson, no longer existing. Members included Joyce Davies, Henrietta Ungleich, Florence Phillips, Evie Westfall, Pat Coe, Leah Case and Genevieve Davis. Many other names were included, for sure.

Cooperative Extension still exists today. The office is still in Morrisville; Debra Seguin is the current Nutrition Educator. Due to so many changes in life style, manufacturing, technology and communication the Home Bureau described above no longer exists in Erieville, Nelson nor Fenner. We have closed a door on a unique phase of local history.
CCE of Madison County has been serving the community since 1917.

We are proud to be part of the Cornell land grant mission of building strong and vibrant communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.

Please visit us at our office in Morrisville, NY, or on the web at: madisoncountycce.org.

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