Annual Report 2017
OUR MISSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County is committed to building healthy lifestyles and healthy communities by conducting educational programs that connect Cornell University resources to community needs for all people in the county.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Cornell Cooperative Extension Supporters, Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (CCE-NC) we would like to thank you for a very successful year. Over the past year, with the relationship of dedicated volunteers working with professionals in environmental science, horticulture, youth development and food/nutrition in partnership with Cornell University, we have had a positive impact on many communities across the County.

CCE-NC is a unique partnership with federal, state and local government where funding and our support is leveraged from all levels of government to create a dynamic/vibrant organization. We would like to thank the Nassau County Executive, Nassau County Legislature, Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation & Museums and other County Departments for their on-going support. We also would like to thank our other federal, state and local partners. We could not do all of our important work without all of your on-going support!

During this past year CCE-NC continued to partner with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the statewide Taste NY initiative. Taste NY promotes local small scale producers and farmers and allows them to showcase their products at our LI Taste NY store (at the LI Welcome Center) and at our TNY Carts at Penn Station in New York City, and at our soon to open Satellite TNY at East Meadow Farm. This exciting agricultural venture showcases our commitment to the local food economy and sustainable food systems. Our other quality educational efforts include our work at East Meadow Farm where we have over 60 community gardens, seven “hands-on” demonstration gardens and hundreds of volunteers. We continue to build upon our Master Gardener program and will hold another Master Gardener class in the Fall of 2018. Another successful program at East Meadow Farm is our Urban Forestry Program where we conduct our Asian Longhorned Beetle Reforestation project (a partnership with the US Forest Service/ NYS DEC). Our Nutrition Programs include ESNY-SNAP-Ed (partnering with CCE- Suffolk and FREE), EFNEP and Senior program where we work with over 100 community centers throughout Nassau County providing hands on nutrition education and recommendations for healthier living. And finally our commitment to 4H Youth Development has been unwavering for over 100 years as we continue to operate our with our Dorothy P. Flint Nassau County 4-H Camp in Riverhead, NY. As you peruse this Annual Report you will learn more about our exciting programs and the impact we are having.

In closing, we would like to thank our CCE-NC Board Members, Staff and Volunteers for their on-going support and commitment to our mission. We are grateful for all of your hard work! Our talented and professional CCE-NC staff are the backbone of all our Association and their dedication allows us to continue to grow and deliver high impact programs throughout Nassau County. As we begin a new year we look forward to continuing to thrive and to serve the community that we so proudly call our own!

Larry Berger
Board President

Gregory Sandor
Executive Director
Our Community Gardens are a wonderful way to bring horticulture and gardening to a community that may have limited space. The Community Gardens at the East Meadow Farm consist of 60 beds that are leased to schools, families, individuals and community groups. Most gardeners grow produce for their families, and school/youth groups utilize the space to learn about botany, plant and soil science.

At the East Meadow Farm we have various Demonstration Gardens that are maintained by Master Gardeners. Admission is free and they are open every day from dawn to dusk. Our demonstration gardens include a Rose Garden, Dahlia Garden, Pollinator Garden, Herb Garden, Vegetable Garden, Compost Demonstration, Small Space Garden, Mini Arboretum, Fruit and Berry Garden and Cut Flower Garden.

The Diagnostic Information Center at East Meadow Farm is a place for residents to get assistance with plants and lawn care, insects, growing fruits and vegetables, and much more. CCE Staff and trained Master Gardeners have assisted with over 2,000 Horticulture Information Center visits. That includes over 630 counter visits, over 228 soil pH tests, and over 1,018 phone calls. We also receive many emails requesting horticulture assistance.

The Master Gardener Program at CCE Nassau is designed to both expand the educational level of volunteers with accurate, unbiased horticulture information and to provide the volunteers with an opportunity to share this information with the community. We currently have over 160 Master Gardeners that work and learn in our Demonstration Gardens and volunteer their horticultural expertise throughout Nassau County. Our Master Gardeners volunteered over 10,240 hours this year. We also provided a new series of Master Gardener meetings and Master Gardener Professional Development for volunteers.
Our Community Outreach consisted of providing presentations to the community and held more than 220 free Environmental Horticulture Gardening lectures and workshops at East Meadow Farm. More than 1,500 people attended. Staff and Volunteers provided Community Outreach at more than 20 locations, including Fairs and Exhibits, and reached more than 2,000 residents.

At our annual East Meadow Farm Family Fun Day, visitors were able to explore the demonstration and community gardens, participate in ongoing education tours and demonstrations by staff and Master Gardener volunteers, shop vendors and purchase pumpkins and other locally grown produce at the farm stand.

Chickens and ducks are an important component of our farm. We currently have 3 Pekin ducks, 1 Crested Magpie duck and 3 Cinnamon Queen Chickens. The chicken and ducks are pasture raised in our demonstration gardens and assist volunteers with pest control, composting and tillage. Duck and hen eggs are much appreciated in the community.

Our Community Farm Stand is run by CCE NC with the help of Master Gardener volunteers. Our produce is grown at East Meadow Farm and at our 4-H Camp Farm in Riverhead. Produce is grown using sustainable farming methods without the use of harmful pesticides. East Meadow Farm is deeply rooted in our dedication and commitment to provide the highest quality produce to our customers. The farm stand accepts FMNP coupons, allowing consumers access to affordable nutritious fresh vegetables. The CCE NC Nutrition department is on hand at the farm stand to educate the community about healthier eating choices.

Our Environmental Preschool Program has entered its second year in the Fall of 2017. Through hands on experience in the natural environment the children explore the seasonal changes and yearly evolution in the world we live in, by having fun, investigating, hands on activities, pictures and more. We are hoping to expose the children to their living environment and escort them on the path to becoming stewards of the land.
MASTER GARDENER OUTREACH

This project at Manorhaven Preserve in Port Washington was born out of an assignment given to the interns of the 2016 Master Gardener Class. Pat Valente, the team leader approached Village officials about the project and it grew from there. This is a large project creating a native plant garden along the walkway entering the dog park. The project will be done in a number of phases. Pat has done an excellent job coordinating and overseeing this project.

To view the article that was posted in Port Washington News, visit http://portwashington-news.com/community-planting-at-manorhaven-preserve/

The week of March 20th was designated as NY Agriculture in the Classroom week, coordinating the eleventh annual NY Agricultural Literacy Week. This literacy program was offered to second grade students throughout New York State and gave children the opportunity to learn about where food comes from.

The book selection this year was, The Grapes Grow Sweet by Lynne Tuft and tells the story of a young boy who is finally old enough to help in the grape harvest on his family’s vineyard. Last year over 52,000 students across New York State participated in the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Program. This year Mickey Michaels and Lois Small followed leads from Jennifer Cappello-Ruggiero, Horticulture/4-H Educator at CCE NC and other Master Gardeners and scheduled 90 classes throughout Nassau County to participate in this reading program.

With the help of many Master Gardener volunteers, all of these classes were read the story and joined in a discussion about growing a variety of plants. Welch’s and the National Grape Cooperative donated grape juice for the children to taste. Each school library received a copy of the book which was donated by New York Agriculture in the Classroom. If the student’s enthusiasm was any indication of their enjoyment of the program, it was a huge success!!

We were pleased to introduce Rudy’s Kitchen to the East Meadow Community this year. Rudy’s is a 1966 Airstream that has been customized as a food truck. The mission of Rudy’s is to source local produce for creating their salads and sandwiches. The menu also includes smoothies, cold brew coffee, drink of the day, and for kids delicious grilled cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Customers walk the gardens, sit, relax and enjoy good food. Rudy’s has been a big success and has a diverse and dedicated following. Rudy’s is open Tuesday through Saturday.
The Urban Forestry Department at CCE-NC is working to mitigate the damage done by invasive insects by replacing trees lost to the Asian Long-Horned Beetle outbreak. Since its appearance in central Long Island more than 8,000 trees have been removed. Our mission is to aid in the eradication process by planting non-host tree species, assist in the reforestation of Long Island by implementing the practice of silviculture (the theory and practice of controlling forest establishment through the analysis of data and application of strategic management plans), and educate/inform the public about urban forestry though outreach programming.

In the year 2017, 316 of the 1178 trees were planted. 174 were planted on private/commercial and residential properties including the Sisters of St. Dominic/Sophia Gardens. 72 were public street trees for the Town of Babylon. 20 were public trees for the Town of Oyster Bay, where 2 were used for press conferences in the Spring and in the Fall. 48 were planted between the Massapequa High School, Unqua Elementary, and East Lakes Elementary.

Higan cherry, Shagbark hickory, bitternut hickory, and Purple leaf plum were removed from our catalog due to diseases, inability to purchase from nurseries on Long Island, and overabundance of population. Choke cherry was added to our catalog to replace Purple leaf plum.

To increase outreach success in the year 2017 we introduced brochures in the Spanish language and utilized social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, we knocked on 507 doors, made 323 phone calls, and sent 70 emails, and plus the use of online interest forms, presentations, tabling events and we also had many referrals from previous planting homeowners.

On Monday, October 16, 2017, Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino announced the Town’s ongoing partnership towards reforestation efforts for South Shore communities plagued by the Asian Long-Horned Beetle. Under this program, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (CCE-NC) will have planted more than 200 trees in the hardest hit areas of the Town of Oyster Bay.

“Through our recent partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County, the Town has been the proud beneficiary of the fruits of the grant funding secured by CCE-NC which has provided scores of new trees planted at various locations throughout the areas in our Town hardest hit by the Asian Long-Horned Beetle infestation,” Supervisor Saladino explained. “The south shore of our Town has been particularly plagued by this infestation over the last 20 years, and this grant has helped in restoring trees lost in the area.”
With over 1,000 camper weeks in the books and 700 happy campers, the 2017 summer season enrollment at Dorothy P. Flint Nassau County 4-H Camp was higher than camp has seen in years. For the last three weeks of camp, waitlists had to be started because so many first time campers wanted to return.

Dorothy P. Flint Camp provides unending opportunities for youth to try new things, step out of their comfort zone, find strength in their independence, and explore interests they may not otherwise have opportunity or exposure to outside of our camp setting. Programming is guided by National 4-H Principles, focused on youth development, and skill-building through experiential learning and emergent curriculum models. In short, “learning by doing”!

During the 2017 summer camp season, our 4-H Farm and Agriculture programs continued to expand our teaching and growing spaces, and successfully incorporated themes of food systems, farm to table, animal science and sustainability through agricultural learning experiences in our every day camp lifestyle. Highlighting one of our greatest assets at CCE-NC, our Camp Farm, interdisciplinary programs were launched connecting the Camp Farm to many other program areas, such as Outdoor Living/Cooking/Survival, Arts and Crafts, Performing Arts, Nature Studies, and Cooking classes. Not only were our youth’s eyes opened to new programs, but our kitchen staff added to the blossoming of our farm to table philosophy by picking fruits, vegetables and herbs from our gardens, and incorporating them into camp meals, BBQ’s and healthy snacks. Campers learned about seasonal and cultural fruits, veggies, herbs, seeds and edible flowers, how to harvest and safely clean their produce, and delivered the surplus to the camp Lodge Kitchen where our staff incorporated the farm produce into meals and the fresh salad bar.

Our 4-H Teen Leadership Club invested time and effort to continue our award-winning ‘Leadership Garlic’ patch, growing 5 rows of 6 different varieties of garlic, 2 of which won a second place ribbon in the adult vegetable category of the Long Island Fair in 2017! Our farm chickens, raised by our 4-H Campers and Leadership Staff, also got in on the action, taking home 2 blue ribbons in 2 categories at the Fair after being shown by our 4-H Youth Leaders.

Our High Ropes Climbing Adventure empowers campers to challenge themselves to complete our 5-station high ropes course, with a 35-foot rock climbing and rappelling tower, zipline and platforms, and gain self-awareness and self-confidence as they increase skills that enable success at each station. The tower includes a moveable “vertical playpen” allowing climbers to work in pairs as they improve their teamwork skills to cooperate, communicate, and work together to navigate obstacles and reach the top.
Our Youth Development Programming in the “off-season” has expanded, keeping our 4-H Youth Leaders connected to 4-H programs throughout the school year. Our Youth Leadership Weekend Programming has blossomed into eight weekends of program encouraging youth leaders to support our camp community by assisting with big tasks on camp grounds that require teamwork (and implement STEAM skills and understanding), trains our leaders to speak publicly with guests and tour visitors through out camp grounds, and practice our hosting skills. Leadership Weekends incorporate many reflective activities, themes and group lessons to encourage growth, self-confidence, and to better prepare our future leaders to improve their skills in a friendly, open-minded atmosphere.

At Dorothy P. Flint 4-H Camp and in all 4-H programs, both on-site and in community settings, CCE Nassau County is supporting the launch of the National 4-H Safe Spaces Initiative and Logo. The purpose of the Safe Spaces Logo is to “Create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and perspectives. The NYS 4-H Safe Spaces Logo is a sign of our commitment to nurturing this safe, inclusive environment” . CCE Nassau County is executing this initiative throughout our Camp programming and procedures, including sensitivity training for staff; Interception training to equip our staff with skills and methods to encourage inclusivity, open mindedness and acceptance among all our campers; And revising programs to include a more diverse cultural perspective and encourage a judgement free space for campers to be themselves in a setting that feels safe and welcoming. As a sign of our commitment to this initiative, we will incorporate the logo on much of our media and will continue to familiarize campers and staff with what the visual representation of this logo means when seen posted on camp grounds.

The Homemaker’s Council of Nassau County, Inc., generously donates money towards “Camperships” for deserving kids in Nassau County to enjoy the lifetime memories of a camping experience. In addition, there are many other individuals who support our camp with generous donations.

Contact us at nassau@cornell.edu to make your tax-deductible donation to help our community’s kids realize their true potential.
FOOD AND NUTRITION

Our nutrition programs enhance the health of residents by helping them establish healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle. We work closely with various community partners to provide education to youth, families, adults and senior citizens. Our major programs are:

* Eat Smart New York! (SNAP-ED) *

* Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) *

We provide free nutrition classes for low-income families and youth. By participating in these programs, adults and youth learn how to: plan and cook easy, tasty, healthy meals; use the Nutrition Facts label on food packages to choose healthier foods; drink fewer sweetened beverages; shop smart and save money on food; keep their food safe; and be more physically active. Funding is provided by USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) and Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

**Senior Nutrition Education Program**

We provide free nutrition presentations for senior citizens at designated senior sites. This program is funded by the Nassau County Office for the Aging.

**Community Nutrition Education Program**

Nutrition workshops for youth and adults are offered at various community locations. A fee is charged for these workshops.

In 2017, 11,900 adults and youth participated in one class or a series of classes to increase their knowledge, and develop the skills, needed to choose and prepare nutritious foods and be more physically active.

We partnered with over 100 community organizations, some of which are located in the following communities: Elmont, Freeport, Glen Cove, Great Neck, Hempstead, Lawrence, Long Beach, Port Washington, Rockville Centre, Roosevelt, Uniondale, and Westbury.
The goal of ESNY is to improve health and reduce obesity among low-income families who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or are SNAP eligible. The ESNY program is funded through a five year grant from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

ROOSEVELT HEALTHY CORNER STORES

As part of our ongoing effort to enhance the health of Nassau residents, our ESNYLI nutrition education and obesity prevention program partnered with three corner stores in the low-income community of Roosevelt. At these stores, we installed signage to promote the purchase of healthier items such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, 100% fruit juice, and water. To enhance the display of fresh fruits and vegetables, we supplied one of the stores with wicker baskets in place of the cardboard boxes they were using. At another store, we installed a literature rack with nutrition education handouts and healthy, low-cost recipes for the patrons to take home. A kick-off event was held to educate residents regarding this initiative. We also taught nutrition education classes at the local library and elementary schools in this community.

EAT SMART NY SIGNAGE

ESNYLI expanded our social media/marketing campaign to include new healthy messaging signage on Nassau and Suffolk County buses and bus depots. The signage promotes healthy food choices and physical activity.
The past year at the Long Island Taste NY Marketplace has been a tremendous success for CCE-NC. Our sales exceeded $750,000 and we have showcased over 80 NY State vendors and their products. As per Dr. Chris Watkins, Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, “Cornell Cooperative Extension and Taste NY share a mission to support New York State agriculture and ensure consumer access to world-class, locally grown, and produced food, beverage, and specialty products. This partnership has provided a broad range of comprehensive educational opportunities for CCE to work closely with producers from effective production on the farm to successful planning for the market shelf”. As part of our continuing mission to introduce local producers/vendors to Long Island residents, we are planning more vendor showcases/samplings, workshops and seminars throughout 2018. We continue to expand upon our dynamic work, rotating vendors and products on a regular basis. Please stop in and see what is new at the LI Taste NY Marketplace. In addition to our work at the LI Welcome Center and at Penn Station, we are planning on expanding the Taste NY mission to our East Meadow Farm in July 2018.

In July 2017 CCE-NC was asked by NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets to open and operate Taste NY Carts at the newly renovated LIRR terminal at Penn Station, NY. At the TNY Carts we provide “grab ‘n go” products from New York vendors to travelers/commuters at Penn Station including water, soda, juice, nuts, chips, cookies/cakes, chocolate and even lip balm. We solicit feedback from our customers regarding the products as well as suggestions for other products they would like to see us sell. Additionally, we educate our customers about the mission of Taste NY and CCE-NC and how we contribute to our local economy and communities while promoting sustainable food systems. Stop by when you are in Penn Station and grab a Taste of NY for your train ride!

Carts are open:
Monday - Friday, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Nassau County began its Cooperative Extension program in 1914, pursuant to the Smith-Lever Act and NYS County Law 224, under the auspices of community leaders who formed the first board of directors. For over a century, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County has been a trusted steward and accessible resource for university research-based information and education with deep local connections to multiple stakeholder constituencies—adept at creating and working in partnerships while making Cornell knowledge, resources and programs useful and readily available, addressing an array of issues of interest and/or concern, typically at little or no direct cost to Nassau County residents.

**Federal**
Federal Grants / Contracts .................................................. 542,234.12
Smith Lever ........................................................................... 101,175.30
**Total Federal Support** .................................................... $643,409.42

**State**
State Grants / Contracts .................................................. 647,112.24
State 224 ........................................................................... 57,953.56
Fringe Benefits ........................................................................ 834,401.91
**Total State Support** ..................................................... $1,539,467.71

**County**
County Appropriation .................................................. 100,000.00
County Buildings .................................................................. 91,275.00
County Agreements / Contracts Federal .................. 63,710.94
County Agreements / Contracts County ................. 40,000.00
**Total County Support** ................................................ 729,985.94

**Other**
Other Grants / Contracts .................................................. 32,395.40
Contributions ........................................................................ 10,912.00
Program / Operating Revenues .............................. 824,711.19
**Total Other Support** ..................................................... $868,018.59

**GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SUPPORT** ......................... $3,345,881.66
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Hicks Nurseries
Herb Society of America
Hofstra University
Homemakers Council of Nassau County
LINLA
Mid Island Dahlia Society
Nassau County
Nassau County Department of Parks
Nassau County Legislature
Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District

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HCNC - Carle Place Eve
HCNC - Farmingdale Day
HCNC - Hicksville Day
HCNC - Massapequa Park
HCNC - New Hyde Park
HCNC - Wantagh Day
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Kessler, Susan & Jeff
Kozlowski, Bruce
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Planting Fields Arboretum
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Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
US Forest Service

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OUR LOCATIONS

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Jericho, NY 11753
516-433-7970

Horticulture Center and Demonstration Gardens at East Meadow Farm
832 Merrick Avenue
East Meadow, NY 11554
516-565-5265

Dorothy P. Flint Nassau County 4-H Camp
3186 Sound Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901
631-727-9762

LI Taste NY at LI Welcome Center
5100 Long Island Expressway
Dix Hills, NY 11746
631-254-0414

Email: Nassau@Cornell.edu
Website: www.ccenassau.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccenassau
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ccenassau

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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