Annual Report
2018
CONNECTION CORNELL UNIVERSITY

to Nassau County Since 1914

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, 4-H 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 and 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 support!

In 2018 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 Market at the LI Welcome Center and at our Taste NY Carts at Penn Station in New York City. 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 (EMF) where we have our diagnostic program, our community farm stand, operate over 60 community gardens and seven “hands-on” demonstration gardens and host hundreds of volunteers. We held a new Master Gardener class in the Fall and continue to build upon our vibrant and successful volunteer program. At EMF, we also wrapped up a successful 3 year grant for our Urban Forestry Program where we conducted our Asian Long-Horned Beetle Reforestation project (a partnership with the US Forest Service/ NYS DEC). We planted over 1,650 trees under this program.

Our CCE-NC Nutrition Programs, which 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 provide hands on nutrition education and recommendations for healthier living. And finally, our commitment to 4-H Youth Development has been unwavering for over 100 years as we continue to operate our Dorothy P. Flint Nassau County 4-H Camp in Riverhead, NY and have expanded our 4-H presence at the LI Fair.

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 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 serve the community that we so proudly call our own and want to say “thank you” to you, our supporters. We truly appreciate your commitment to CCE-NC!

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, as well as 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.

**Our Community Farm Stand** is run by the CCE-NC Farm Stand Manager and interns 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 the available produce, its nutritional value, and ways to prepare the food they purchase.

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.
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.

Our annual East Meadow Farm Family Fun Day and Science Day welcome parents and children to explore the farm, participate in hands on activities, attend educational workshops in a fun setting and grow their interest in horticulture and science.

Our feathered friends are an integral part of East Meadow Farm. We currently have 3 Pekin ducks, 1 Crested Magpie duck and 3 Cinnamon Queen chickens. The chickens and ducks are pasture raised in our demonstration garden. Children and parents delight in their antics. They perform needed chores, eating pests, mulching leaves & compost and tilling soil, not to mention their nutritional egg supply.

Entering its second season, Rudy’s Kitchen continues to be an important part of the community and mission of CCE. Rudy’s is a 1966 Airstream that has been customized as a food truck that resides at East Meadow Farm. 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 week of March 20th was designated as NY Agriculture in the Classroom Week, coordinating the twelfth 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 Before We Eat by Pat Brisson and tells the story of the hard work by farmers, fisherman and many others to bring the food we eat to the stores for us to purchase. Last year over 52,000 students across New York State participated in the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Program. This year CCE-NC read to over 100 classes throughout Nassau County. Once again the program was a phenomenal success for all involved.
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.

Sands Point Preserve, a park and educational center on the north shore of Long Island, added a beautiful vegetable garden to their landscape. This garden will not only provide produce, but will be a valuable educational tool at the preserve. Sands Point hosted one of their high profile fundraising events, the White Party, and looked to CCE-NC Volunteers to assist on the planning and planting of the garden. The CCE-NC volunteers, as always, stepped up to the plate and created a well thought out edible landscape, which was a focus of the event. We are proud to say that CCE-NC was one of the honorees at this event.

On November 16, CCE-NC, in conjunction with Cornell University, conducted field planting demonstrations at Eisenhower Park of the “in-grass bulb planting machine” that Dr. William Miller and the Cornell Flower Bulb Research Program has been testing for the last year. This simple, tractor mounted machine plants bulbs under the sod with minimal disturbance. It lifts the sod, drops bulbs under, and replaces it all in one pass (and with no digging!). It can plant mixtures of bulbs (ex: crocus, daffodils, scilla and grape hyacinths) to provide long-lived color blends, or can create swaths of mono-color plantings for bright accents.
The Urban Forestry Department at CCE-NC completed a 3 year grant through the US Forest Service and NYS DEC aimed at mitigating damage done by the invasive Asian Long-Horned Beetle. Over 8,000 trees have been removed due to damage from the beetle since its first appearance in central Long Island. The grant mission was 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, and educate/inform the public about urban forestry through outreach programming. Over the 3 years of the grant project, 1677 trees were planted within the quarantine zone. Of those 1677 trees, 530 were planted in 2018: 179 were planted on private/commercial and residential properties, 108 were public trees for the Town of Babylon, 23 were public trees for the Village of Amityville, 83 were planted at 5 different Amityville School District locations. Additionally, South Oaks Hospital received 37 trees, St Charles Cemetery received 22, and Pinelawn National Cemetery received 78.

On April 26th 2018, the Honorable Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, along with Nassau County Tree Advisory Board Members and other community members planted a native flowering Serviceberry tree, Amelanchier canadensis, at a corner of the historic Theodore Roosevelt Nassau Executive and Legislative building on Franklin Avenue in Mineola to observe and celebrate Arbor Day. The event also served Nassau County’s quest for achieving “Tree City USA” recognition, a program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Participants included Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, and Tree Advisory Board members, Robert Sympson, Norma Gonsalves, Richard Arnedos, Kathy Gaffney, Rob Alvey and Larry Ferrandiz. To kick off the event, introductory remarks were made by Advisory Board Chairman Robert Sympson, followed by opening remarks from County Executive Laura Curran who provided a proclamation for recognizing the Arbor Day celebration and thanked all for their dedication to improving Nassau County and their work on creating a more sustainable future for all Nassau County residents.

In October, members of the Urban Forestry Team were invited to present at the annual Society of American Foresters Convention in Portland, Oregon. The presentation covered the project planning and process and data from iTree, demonstrating the future projected positive impacts that the new tree plantings would provide. Also, the team leant their expertise for Arbor Day plantings at the Town of Hempstead and at Suffolk Community College’s Riverhead campus.
We enjoyed another summer of fun at the Dorothy P. Flint 4-H Camp. Hundreds of campers joined us for our 94th season of camping. With 999 camper weeks, our 2018 season was full of memories that will last a lifetime!

Dorothy P. Flint 4-H 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 2018 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 campers’ 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.

We also created an initiative to make more “class connections” during the 2018 season. We created more cohesive programming across different areas of camp for a more homogenous learning experience. We launched a class called “Play with Your Food!” Our youth made instruments out of our farm vegetables. This connection between music and our farm was a fun experience for all! We also have introduced more environmental science-based classes during this season. Fishing was a big hit; we even set up a 100 gallon fish tank stocked with what campers were able to catch! This helped educate our youth on our local aquatic ecosystems while being active and having fun.
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, zip line 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 programs 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 continuing to support 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.

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.
Our Eat Smart New York! (ESNY) And Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) 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.

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.

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).

Our Senior Nutrition Education Program provides free nutrition presentations for senior citizens at designated senior sites. This program is funded by the Nassau County Office for the Aging.

Our Community Nutrition Education Program provides workshops for youth and adults which are offered at various community locations. A fee is charged for these workshops.

In 2018 our educators conducted 2,562 classes for 33,458 adults and youth. They 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.
FOOD AND NUTRITION

PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES

West Hempstead High School participates in the SNAP-Ed program funded by USDA. All classes grade 9 - 12 participate in this program with monthly education sessions. As a result of the close work of our educators, the students are now working in the kitchen and sampling the foods they cook. The pictures below were received in an email from one of the teachers showing the students cooking and sampling white rice and whole grain brown rice. You can see their excitement as they prepare their own foods and taste test them.

We continued with our Corner Store Initiative to promote good nutrition to the communities we serve. The goal of this program is to tie together the education provided in the schools with availability in the communities served. We have partnered with three delis in Roosevelt and have had success! At the deli’s we have provided signage and baskets and are continuing to work with the store owner to display fresh fruits & vegetables.

BEFORE

AFTER
The past year at the LI Taste NY Marketplace has been a huge success for CCE-NC. Our sales exceeded $850,000 and we have showcased over 150 State vendors and their products. As part of our mission to introduce local producers/vendors to Long Island residents, we held 3 exciting events this year. In June we featured Dairy Month. Our goal was to promote local dairy farms and vendors and to raise awareness that dairy is NY State’s biggest export. A Cornell University dairy student representing Hudson Valley Farms and was onsite to educate customers about NYS dairy products. In July we featured Seafood Month and with the help of our Seafood Ambassador we raised awareness of our local fishing industry, fishing techniques, fish portion sizes, fish native to Long Island and oyster shucking. The third event we held was a Business to Business Expo which was a collaborative effort between CCE-NC, the Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers, the Nassau Council of Commerce Chambers and the NYS DOT. A total of 27 vendors participated in this event. During the event, vendors exchanged product information and worked collaboratively to cross-promote their products. This provided an engaging platform for buyers and vendors to network and spend quality time together.

For the second year, CCE-NC has been operating Taste NY Carts at the newly renovated LIRR terminal at Penn Station. The Taste NY Carts provide “grab n go” products from NY vendors to travelers/commuters. In May, the Taste NY Carts had their first product sampling, PeKant Tea. The following month, Michael Circosta, of PeKant Tea, was interviewed by the Innovate Long Island magazine. Michael credited Taste NY for increasing their exposure and recognition leading to a jump in online sales. We also introduced Kitu’s Super Coffee. While some enjoy it warm, this shelf-stable drink is best served cool or over ice.

In late Spring 2019, LI Taste NY is planning on expanding our Penn Station Carts to 2 new locations.
2018 FUNDING OVERVIEW

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 .................................................. 571,943.60
Smith Lever ........................................................................... 110,749.33
Total Federal Support ............................................................. $682,692.93

State
State Grants / Contracts ......................................................... 641,372.45
State 224 .............................................................................. 58,703.19
Fringe Benefits ..................................................................... 986,704.10
Total State Support ................................................................. $1,686,779.74

County
County Appropriation .............................................................. 188,000.00
County Buildings ................................................................... 91,275.00
County Agreements / Contracts Federal ................................. 33,900.96
County Agreements / Contracts County ................................. 20,000.00
Total County Support ............................................................. $333,175.96

Other
Other Grants / Contracts .......................................................... 45,377.47
Contributions .......................................................................... 12,223.18
Program / Operating Revenues .............................................. 895,270.71
Total Other Support ................................................................. $952,871.36

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SUPPORT ..................................... $3,655,519.99

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2018 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County programs were made possible via funding from:

- Nassau County Executive and Legislature
- Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums
- Nassau County Department of Health and Human Services
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
- New York State Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance
- United States Department of Agriculture
- US Forest Service / APHIS

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Public Funding Partners

2018 Nassau County, County Executive
Laura Curran

2018 County Legislators by District #

#1 Kevan Abrahams  #11 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton
#2 Siela A. Bynoe  #12 James Kennedy
#3 Carrie Solages  #13 Thomas McKevitt
#4 Denise Ford  #14 Laura Schaefer
#5 Debra Mule  #6 C. William Gaylor III  #15 John R. Ferretti Jr.
#7 Howard J. Kopel  #16 Arnold W. Drucker
#8 Vincent T. Muscarella  #17 Rose Marie Walker
#9 Richard J. Nicolello  #18 Joshua A. Lafazan
#10 Ellen W. Birnbaum  #19 Steven D. Rhoads
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LINLA
Mid Island Dahlia Society
Nassau County
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Nassau County Legislature
Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Anne Sullivan Memorial Fund
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HCNC - Merrick South Shore
Rodriguez, Juan & Katie
Sullivan, Alice K.

$250 to $499
HCNC - Rockville Centre Day
HCNC - Stewart Manor
HCNC - Syosset Day
Heller-Smitelli, Janet L.

$0 to $249
Adams, Paul
Berger, Lawrence
Crane, Charles
HCNC - Baldwin Evening
HCNC - Carle Place Evening
HCNC - Carle Place Evening
HCNC - Farmingdale Day
HCNC - Franklin Square Day
HCNC - Hicksville Day
HCNC - Levittown Evening
Kozlowsky, Bruce C.

Nassau Land Trust
New York EDEN (Extension Disaster Education Network)
NYS Department of Conservation
NYS Agriculture & Markets
Old Bethpage Village and Restoration
Planting Fields Arboretum
SOS For Your Soil
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
US Forest Service
OUR LOCATIONS

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County
5 Old Jericho Turnpike
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

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