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 Trail Garden (Texas A&M), Dahlia Garden, Butterfly Garden, Herb Garden, Vegetable Garden, Compost Garden, Small Space Garden, and Mini Arboretum.

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 600 counter visits, over 300 soil pH tests, and over 900 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 others. 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 10,000 hours this year. We also provided a new series of Master Gardener meetings and Master Gardener Professional Development for volunteers.
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 Port Washington town 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 Valente 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 20 – 24, 2017 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 Nassau 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!!
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 through 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 were 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.

One of the biggest success stories from over the summer was introducing new, interdisciplinary programs to our youth. With agriculture being such a tremendous asset to CCE-NC, this summer new programs were developed for our youth, many of which were integrated with our camp farm. Our outdoor cooking program went to the camp’s farm to pick food to cook and arts and crafts classes went to the farm to learn how to make wool from the sheep. Not only were our youths eyes open to new programs, but our kitchen staff utilized our “farm to table” philosophy by picking fruits and vegetables.

Kids learned about veggies, tasted and harvested them, and brought them to the lodge kitchen where our kitchen staff integrated the fresh farm produce into recipes and the fresh salad bar. The 4-H classes helped to tend to the lodge kitchen’s herb garden as well. Those herbs were then used regularly all summer to season our dinners. Some of our more popular produce this year were the sun gold cherry tomatoes, apples right from the orchard, the goddess frying peppers, Leadership Garlic and cucumbers.
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)

And

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 few months at Taste NY Marketplace have been very exciting for CCE-NC. The hustle and bustle surrounding the holiday preparations was contagious. We had vendors each weekend demonstrating their products, fresh local seasonal produce in stock, pumpkin and pecan pies as well as cider. Gift baskets with all of our wonderful products were created and displayed all around the market. We stocked many new gift items such as candles, soaps, tea gift sets and gourmet coffees all from New York vendors. A local fisherman provided a variety of fresh seafood salads as well as fresh caught frozen entrees.

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 the year. We rotate vendors and/or products regularly, so stop on in to see what is new at the Taste NY Marketplace.

In addition, we are planning on expanding the Taste NY mission to our East Meadow Farm in March 2018.

TASTE NY PENN STATION

We provide “grab ‘n go” products from New York vendors to travelers/commuters at Penn Station including water, soda, cookies/cakes, chocolate, nuts 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. We educate them about Taste NY and CCE-NC and how we contribute to our communities and promote sustainable living.

We are located in the newly renovated area of Penn Station. Stop by when you are in Penn Station!

Carts are open: Monday - Friday, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
THANK YOU TO SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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Farmingdale State College  
Friends of the Hempstead Plains  
FREE (Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc.)  
Hicks Nurseries  
Herb Society of America  
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Mid Island Dahlia Society  
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Nassau Land Trust  
New York EDEN (Extension Disaster Education Network)  
NYS Department of Conservation  
NYS Agriculture & Markets  
NYS DEC  
Old Bethpage Village and Restoration  
Planting Fields Arboretum  
SOS For Your Soil  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock  
US Forest Service

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

$1,000 and over

$500 to $999

$250 to $499

$0 to $249
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 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
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