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 support is leveraged from all levels of government to create a dynamic organization. We would like to thank Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves, the entire 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 state and federal partners. We could not do all of our important work without your financial support!

During this past year we have delivered high quality educational programs and launched some exciting new initiatives while making strides toward the overall goals of our association. CCE-NC is a proud partner with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the statewide Taste NY initiative. Taste NY promotes New York State agriculture and farmers and allows producers to showcase their products at high profile retail locations across the state. We were selected to operate the LI Taste NY store at the new LI Welcome Center on the Long Island Expressway. This exciting new venture showcases our commitment to the local food economy and sustainable food systems. Other educational programs include our efforts at East Meadow Farm with over 7 “hands-on” demonstration gardens and hundreds of volunteers. In the fall we held a new Master Gardener class with over 40 volunteers becoming new CCE-NC Master Gardeners. Another program is our Asian Longhorned Beetle Reforestation project (a partnership with the US Forest Service/ NYS DEC), our SNAP-Ed nutrition program (partnering with CCE- Suffolk and FREE) and youth programs at the 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 again our CCE-NC Board Members, Staff and Volunteers for your on-going support and commitment to our mission. We are grateful for all of your hard work! Our talented CCE-NC staff is the backbone of all our work and their dedication allows us to continue to grow and deliver high impact programs throughout Nassau County. We look forward to continued growth in 2017, while continuing to serve the community that we so proudly call our own!

Gregory Sandor
Executive Director

William McCabe
Board President
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 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 9500 hours this year. We also provided a new series of Master Gardener meetings and Master Gardener Professional Development for volunteers.
Our **Environmental Preschool Program** started in September 2016 and goes through June 2017. Through songs, investigation, stories and hands on activities this program is designed to foster environmental awareness in a fun and creative setting. Each month will build on your child’s previous knowledge of the natural world around them at East Meadow Farm. As the children become more familiar with the environment, they will learn to appreciate the great outdoors.

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.

**Master Gardeners and Urban Forestry Department** conducted 2 hands-on spring orchard pruning “Work and Learn Workshops” at the DPF 4-H Camp in Riverhead.

Beehive and honeybee pollination education took place at East Meadow Farm throughout the year.

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 a farm and with this in mind we have the pleasure of announcing the addition of two Pekin ducks (Tillie and Daisy) and 3 Cinnamon Queen Chickens (Zuphlas, Kevin and Astrid). These girls contribute to pest management, garden tillage and are conscientious egg layers. Their addition has also been the delight of our volunteers and visitors, especially our preschoolers.

For the third consecutive year our **Community Farm Stand** was a huge success. Vegetables, fruit and flowers grown at East Meadow Farm, the 4-H Camp in Riverhead and at other local farms was offered for sale from June through October. The purpose of the farm stand includes nutrition and healthy living education, promoting food safety, security and local economic development, home growing and community gardening.
NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASS

The Master Gardener Class for 2016 was a wonderful success. The class was held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock.

The class has been very fortunate to receive instruction from a field of exceptional professionals from Cornell University, Farmingdale State College, Extension, and practitioners such as farmers and designers as well as horticulture industry experts. Each presentation has been in depth and elicited many wonderful questions and class discussion. Some of the topics that were part of the curriculum include Herbaceous Plants, Invasives, Weeds, Ecology, Water Conservation, Composting and many more.

The class also had many diverse educational field days. They visited the Energy Center in Point Lookout, Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, Planting Fields Arboretum, Biophilia Farm in Jamesport, LIREC and Bailey Arboretum to name some of them.

The class was also assigned a project to present their opinions for two hot topics. Global Warming and GMO’s. The class was divided into 4 groups, two for each topic. For Global Warming the two groups were asked to address whether or not human intervention has impacted this warming trend or if this is part of a naturally occurring cycle of weather patterns. The other two groups addressed the various aspects of GMO’s pros and cons.

The groups did their research and had 10 minutes to present their case with a five minute Q&A session following each presentation.

Although they have not yet solved the world’s problems, they did come to find that it is possible, after thoroughly researching a topic, to see things in a different way.

The class participants began their internships this past summer before sessions commenced in September. This is an energetic and motivated group of land stewards who are eager to help out wherever they are needed. CCE-NC certainly looks forward to their continued work both at the demonstration gardens at East Meadow Farm as well as locations throughout the community.

We thank them for participating in the class and supporting the mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension and the educational opportunities that CCE-NC strives to bring to the surrounding community.
The **Urban Forestry Department** at CCE-NC is working to mitigate the damage done by invasive insects by replacing trees lost to the **Asian LongHorned Beetle** outbreak. Since its appearance in central Long Island more than 6,000 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 analyzation of data and application of strategic management plans), and educate/inform the public about urban forestry though outreach programming.

In the year 2016, 635 of the 864 trees were planted. 243 were planted on private/commercial residential properties, 75 were planted along the Southern State Parkway, 47 were planted within South Oaks Hospital, 75 were public trees for the Town of Babylon, 195 were public trees for the Town of Oyster Bay, and CCE-NC’s Urban Forestry Department planted 177 of those trees themselves. Planting all of those trees required an extensive outreach program for the year of 2016 which consisted of multiple civic association presentations, tabling events, sending out 942 post cards, and knocking on 932 different doors. We made 269 contacts from door knocking with a 29% response rate.

We provided Urban & Community Forestry assistance to more than 60 village, towns and communities throughout Long Island with outreach and educational materials for tree planting, maintenance, inventory management and financial grant opportunities relating to the care of trees on streets, in parks and public land at community events and schools. Some of them included the Long Island Fair, Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Clark Botanic Garden and Oceanside Schools.

We provided 39 tree related and urban forestry best management practices presentations and workshops to the public and Master Gardeners.

Co-chair and hosted 7 New York State Urban Forestry Council Long Island (Region1) ReLeaf Committee meeting and actively serve on the Council’s board of directors.

Participated in judging this year’s High School Envirothon Urban Forestry themed competition at Usdan Summer Camp For The Arts, Wheatley Heights.

Provided monthly education articles on horticulture and urban forestry topic for New York Landscape Contractor Publication and the CCE-NC Quarterly Newsletter.

Provided Tree/Arboricultural consultations and information to 195 residents, and 25 professionals.

Supported and participated in Arbor Day events by distributing 1500+ Arbor Day posters and bookmarks, to schools and municipalities and providing support at Arbor Day events at location such as Planting Fields Arboretum, Belmont Lake State Park, and 6 communities.
In 2016, we celebrated our 92nd year as New York’s oldest continuing 4-H summer camp!

DPF 4-H Camp is located at 3186 Sound Avenue on the North Fork of Long Island in Riverhead, situated on a spectacular 140-acre wooded site on the majestic shores of the Long Island Sound. DPF 4-H features a 42-acre working farm, woodlands and ample sandy beach access. We are committed to offering high-quality 4-H educational programs, on par with the excellence of Cornell University. We are accredited by the American Camp Association and licensed by the Suffolk County Health Department.

During the summer of 2016, we offered eight full camping weeks and 2 mini-camp weeks, totaling 946 camper weeks. Campers enjoyed exciting program activities including Zumba, Magic, Yoga, Outdoor Adventure programs in our High and Low Ropes area and Horseback Riding in our comprehensive Equine program, as well as our traditional favorites. Some of those program activities included: Archery, Athletics, Creative Arts, Drama, Environmental Science, Farming, Fishing, Kayaking, Outdoor Cooking, Outdoor Daily Living, Outdoor Survival Skills, Rocketry, Swimming on Long Island Sound and Woodworking. We provide the children abundant opportunities to connect with nature, participate in human-powered activities, and help build strong relationships that can last a lifetime.

During the off-season, 4-H alumni, counselors, campers, CITs and friends came together for specific projects during our Volunteer Leadership Weekends in 2016. These weekends are developed to allow these individuals to help us to improve and preserve the DPF 4-H Camp for future generations. We completed work on our gate crop, started a 3 sisters garden and we also refurbished our rabbit hutch.

We continued with our “Mini-Camp” for first time campers in 2016. Our “Mini-Camp” program is intended to give new campers to the excitement of sleep-away camp without a full-week commitment. Two “Mini-Camp” sessions were available for 2016.

In 2017, Mini-Camp 1 will run from Monday, June 26 through Wednesday, June 28. Mini-Camp 2 will run from Monday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 26.

During the off season, our Camp facilities are available for rental by non-profit organizations, schools, church groups and other various organizations during the off-season. In 2016, the following groups, as well as some additional groups, enjoyed off-season camp rentals: Cornell University, Nassau and Suffolk Boces, Bay Shore High School Peer Group, National Junior ROTC, RYLA Rotary District 1255, Stagecoach Elementary and the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless. Call us today at (516) 433 - 7970 Ext. 19 for information and reservations!
Our **High Ropes Climbing Adventure** gives campers confidence overcoming our 5-station high ropes challenge course, with a 35-foot rock climbing and rappelling tower, zip line and platforms. The tower includes a moveable “vertical playpen” allowing climber pairs to work together and navigate obstacles to reach the top, increasing self-assurance.

Camp benefits extend far beyond a memorable summer of fun and fitness: sleep-away camp broadens the horizons of hundreds of campers, inspires their imaginations and shapes new skills for future leaders.

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.

CCE Nassau once again sponsored students to attend the **Cornell University Career Exploration Camp in Ithaca, NY**. The purpose of this program is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration, develop leadership skills, provide hands-on experience in a college setting and to introduce you to Cornell University. The event is made up of two grade specific tracks: University U for youth entering grades 8 - 9 and Focus for Teens for youth entering grades 10-12.

At the **Camp Farm** we believe all children should have the opportunity to experience outdoor life. We aim to uphold that mission by maintaining our year-round farm facility in order to demonstrate best practices, distribute fresh/local/organic produce, and remain available for educational, family-friendly visits and 4-H events.

Our Farm includes 2 functioning barns, several agricultural fields, animal stalls, and a chicken coop. The DPF 4-H Farm provides traditional animal and gardening experiences for all, including caring for and learning to handle chickens, ducks, rabbits, goats and more, while also exploring the many roles animals play in sustainable agriculture. We are expanding our horizons and going organic this season, collaborating with various local institutions to design a more sustainable farm space.
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 2016, 13,440 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 135 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.

Children at the EOC Summer Camp in Hempstead enjoying a healthy fruit smoothie.

Cornell Intern, Michelle Chen teaching a healthy snacks program to campers at the DPF 4-H Camp.
VEGETABLE GARDEN AT BETHANY HOUSE

Jennifer Cappello-Ruggiero along with Master Gardeners, volunteers and staff from Bethany House established a vegetable garden at their location in Baldwin. The vegetables grown were used in the meals prepared for the residents of all five Bethany House locations.

EAT SMART NY LI BUS WRAPS

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk and Nassau Counties, Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) and RIDES Unlimited, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 16, 2016. The ceremony featured four of eight newly wrapped buses highlighting healthy messages as part of their Eat Smart NY (ESNY) Long Island social media campaign. The buses will be seen throughout the Wyandanch, Brentwood, Central Islip, Hempstead, Freeport, Shirley and Mastic communities. The buses will display core ESNY program messages encouraging healthy food choices and physical activity. We hope that the presence of these buses will encourage people to make healthy eating a part of their lifestyle and to be a role model for their children.

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.
CCE-NC is proudly operating the LI Taste NY (LI-TNY) Marketplace at the new Long Island Welcome Center (located on LIE eastbound between Exits 51 and 52). LI-TNY had its grand opening on October 20, 2016 and its focus is promoting and selling Long Island and New York State agricultural products on a rotating basis, providing various farmers and businesses the ability to showcase their unique products. Our East Meadow Farm Beekeeper, Carl Flatow had his honey on the shelves on opening day, along with many other local Nassau County producers.

This is an exciting undertaking for all of us at CCE-NC and has been the focus of much work and organization since the grant for this project was received in the beginning of September. There are similar, although not as large, Taste NY stores throughout the state and stores in Broome and Dutchess County that are also operated by CCE and have seen great success. CCE-NC has hired Bernadette Martin as a full time LI TNY Market Manager and are pleased to have her on the team. “What better way to showcase the diversity of regionally produced foods than at a Welcome Center? The new LI-TNY Marketplace not only provides visitors with knowledge about agriculture and tourism in our region but also to ensure access to those products for the Long Island community. This new and exciting program is working within the local economy to create jobs and economic prosperity for local food producers across the island”, said Bernadette Martin. We believe this is an important step for our organization as we engage further in the local agriculture and food systems arena, as well as connecting us directly to local LI Farmers and Businesses. We hope many of you will be able to visit the LI Welcome Center and Taste NY Marketplace in the coming weeks.
2016 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 ........................................... 764,560.94
Smith Lever .......................................................... 115,186.16
Total Federal Support ....................................................... $879,747.10

State
State Grants / Contracts ........................................... 134,379.91
State 224 .......................................................... 53,064.00
Fringe Benefits .......................................................... 591,060.68
Total State Support ....................................................... $778,504.59

County
County Appropriation .................................................. 291,275.00
County Agreements / Contracts Federal .................. 17,502.75
County Agreements / Contracts County ................. 40,000.00
Total County Support ....................................................... $348,777.75

Other
Other Grants / Contracts ........................................... 9,000.00
Contributions .......................................................... 8,778.76
Program / Operating Revenues ............................... 762,833.14
Total Other Support ....................................................... $780,611.90

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SUPPORT ................................. $2,787,641.34

2016 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County programs were made possible via funding from:

- Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums
- Department of Human Services Office for the Aging
- 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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Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

$1,000 and over
Hicks Nurseries

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
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HCNC – Merrick South Shore
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HCNC – Baldwin Eve Chapter
HCNC - Bellrose Floral Park Day
HCNC - Farmingdale Day Chapter
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$1,000 and over
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Jolly Green Tree & Shrub Care
Lawrence & Sondra Klein
Al Krupski

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