Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County

is a proven investment in providing research-based education, personalized programming that addresses current and emerging needs, and engages residents in enhancing the quality of life for all in Ontario County.
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Dear Friends of Extension,

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County is proud to provide our 2018 Annual Report. The incredible work of our staff, volunteers, and program participants is highlighted throughout the report in the areas of Agriculture & Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, and 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. As we move into celebrating our 100th year of service to the residents of Ontario County, I am looking forward to showcasing the evolution of these areas demonstrating the growth and vitality of Ontario County and Extension’s role within it. What I have learned is while reviewing all the details we plan to share in the coming year, is CCE Ontario remains an organization you can grow with and an organization you can count on. We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone with you.

Our work in the Community would not be possible without the tremendously dedicated volunteers who provide an incredible amount of expertise, time, and program leadership across all our programs. Our volunteers significantly multiply the number of participants we reach, expands the number of programs we offer and provides the needed expertise to identify and develop new programs. Volunteers also share their administrative, finance, facility, human resource, and fundraising expertise by serving on our Board of Directors, People and Program Committee, Finance and Facility Committee, Advisory and Fundraising Committees. Our volunteer base – part of our “cooperative” of CCE - remains a vibrant and critical component of our association.

Our community partnerships continue to grow as identified in this year’s report through our relationship with Honeoye CORAL. These partnerships help to bring new growth opportunities which brings additional Cornell University and other land-grant university resources to Ontario County. While we continue to provide these resources directly to program participants, we are expanding our reach by partnering with community agencies to reach new audiences as outlined in the successful partnership for the Agriculture Safety Day held this past August. Bringing university resources – the “extension” part of CCE – opens a number of opportunities for us to address emerging needs in each of our program areas.

We remain humble and thank you for reading a snapshot into a year of our life. We are grateful that from childhood to adulthood and into retirement, CCE Ontario programs provide ongoing opportunities for learning, personal development and citizenship.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our 2018 Annual Report or if there is an opportunity for Cooperative Extension to support you, your family, or your community. Together, we are “Putting Knowledge to Work.”

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Davis
Executive Director, CCE Ontario

Peter Maslyn
President, Board of Directors

“tremendously dedicated volunteers provide an incredible amount of expertise, time, and program leadership...”
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Extension’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Impact

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ontario County collaborates with Cornell University to bring leading technologies, resources, and information to the agricultural community of Ontario County. CCE Ontario Agriculture Team, in partnership with campus-based faculty and regional CCE specialists, creates useful and inclusive educational programs which focus on the current agricultural education needs of the community. As a result, CCE Ontario has been an essential component and driving factor in improving agricultural production efficiency, food quality, and food safety. This results in better production practices and has a positive impact on the economic return for farmers. CCE Ontario also addresses issues, such as environmental impacts of agricultural wastes and strives to implement innovative programs to help farmers.

Every day, the Agriculture and Natural Resources staff assist county residents with inquiries related to agricultural production, natural resources, marketing, local foods/food safety, consumer horticulture, well water and much more. Over 2,867 individuals received consultations through telephone, email, and in person discussions. Staff conducted 35 programs reaching 1,526 county residents. Other contacts:

- Rural and Farm Land Notes (monthly electronic newsletter) - 900
- Inside Dirt (monthly February to October) – 264
- Household Hazardous Waste (April, 2018-485), September, 2018-762
- Electronic Waste (December, 2017-433)

Ontario County Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener volunteers are a critical component in extending knowledge about gardening within our county. There are currently 45 active Master Gardener volunteers in Ontario County. They volunteered 2,250 hours, offered over 45 programs that reached more than 4,659 youth/adults and had direct contact with an estimated additional 1,960 Ontario County residents. They have a Plant Sale to generate funds for one Finger Lakes Community College ($500) and five 4-H Camp Bristol Hills Scholarships.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total public outreach: 75 programs

Total Instructional Hours: 177 hours

Volunteer Hours: 2,290 hours

As of 2016 there were 853 farms, totaling 192,616 acres; about 46% of Ontario County land is farm land.

Of the 192,616 acres: 44,300 acres were producing 3,289,000 bushels of corn.

Ontario farmers planted 27,100 acres of soybeans, those acres yielded 807,000 bushels total.

From 21,000 cows 450,500,000 lbs. of milk was produced.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Residents of Ontario County have a need to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronic waste in an environmental and responsible way. On December 2, 2017 the E-waste Collection Day was held at Bristol Town Highway Garage. There were 433 households that participated. 65,151 lbs. of electronics was collected. A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 21, 2018 was held at Casella Landfill with 441 households participating. A second Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on September 15, 2018 was held at the Canandaigua Highway Garage with 676 households participating.

People are concerned about how to dispose of household hazardous waste items because they don’t want to put them in the landfill. Also, households don’t know where to dispose of all the electronic equipment when it is no longer useful. These two type of events assist the public on their concerns.

Collaborators on this project included Ontario County Planning Department, Casella Waste Management, Clean Harbors, E-Waste+, and the Towns of Bristol, East Bloomfield and West Bloomfield.

Local Staff:

Timothy S. Davis, Program Leader
Russell Welser, Senior Resource Educator
Marie Anselm, Senior Resource Educator

Agriculture Economic Development

Nancy Anderson, Senior Administrative Assistant
CCE ASSISTS IN CREATION OF A LOCAL BUSINESS

In early 2015, Mark Lajeunesse, President of Agro Research International with headquarters in Florida contacted Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County to explore the market potential and crop use of their organic crop production/protection products in the Northeast. The initial meeting took place on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 11:00 am in the CCE Agricultural Office. During the meeting, CCE agreed to set up a meeting between Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialists and faculty/researchers from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station to meet with Mark and other staff from Agro Research International.

WELL WATER TESTING

It is recommended that Ontario County residents test their well water annually for potability (Coliform Bacteria and E.coli) to insure they have safe drinking water for their family. Contaminated water has no smell or taste.

Residents that get their water from a well are responsible for their well. Wells can become contaminated. Dug wells are shallow wells that are fed with surface water and are susceptible to contain Coliform Bacteria and E.coli. Drilled wells can also be contaminated; the casing could become cracked as it ages and surface water could enter the well. Also, the well cap could allow insects in the cap. Private wells are not regulated by any state agency.

Well Water Testing Program information is on the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County website. When people Google “testing well water in Ontario County”, the information is the first one to come up in Google search. Also, posters are sent to all the town/city/village halls and libraries with tear off slips for people to take to call about the well water testing program. If residents well water tests positive for Coliform Bacteria and E.coli, CCE sends them remediation information and information about wells and how to protect them. Our office also fields many questions about well water problems from residents.

CCE Ontario offers bottles and directions for residents to test their well water. The testing is done by Life Science Laboratory in Syracuse. The City Mini Storage is the drop off point for the samples. The lab picks samples up Monday through Thursday at Noon. From October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, 75 households tested their well water. 22 tested positive with 13 of them testing positive for E.coli also. There were 40 that were potable.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR’S TRAINING - 47 NEWLY CERTIFIED

Educational efforts in core pesticide training has resulted in 47 agricultural producers receiving New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Private Pesticide Certification and recertification in 2018.

Statewide agricultural producers face a multitude of pest pressures (weeds, insects, and diseases) in growing crops. Chemical pesticides are a vital tool in the management of such pests and may require the use of a restricted pesticide. Crop losses can be significant without the use of these products. In order to purchase and apply restricted pesticides the agricultural producer must be a New York State certified private pesticide applicator. Such individuals must recertify every five years after receiving their license. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County agricultural educator provided a series of four classes each 2½ hours for a total of 10 hours of instruction over 4 weeks. Training included pesticide laws and regulations, mixing and calibration of the pesticides, environmental considerations, how to read and understand a pesticide label, first aid, how to use and maintain personal protective equipment, spray drift prevention, pesticide disposal and storage, pesticide formulations and toxicity, pesticide exposure and risk along with much more. 28 agricultural producers received recertification credits and 17 took the DEC pesticide exams.
Christen Groeling

What motivated you to become a Master Gardener for CCE Ontario?
When I was moving to Ontario County I was looking for something to connect with that was meaningful.

What makes this a meaningful use of your time?
Whatever I learn I get to share with other people and make a positive impact. As a lifelong learner and a retired teacher, I like to be able to share and expand on. Plants and kids are a positive thing and most people respond and feel better for what they learn.

What is the biggest personal benefit you receive as a volunteer for CCE Ontario?
Personal growth and interacting with others.

What is the most memorable accomplishment of your volunteer experience?
Working at Quail Summit with the residents there. We have held classes seasonally. We have held container gardening, personally shopping for container gardening and floral arranging. It will be something that we continue to do and expand upon. We just love it.

Judi Furman

What motivated you to become a Master Gardener for CCE Ontario?
I had been to a seminar a long time ago and they talked about it and I thought it sounded fun. Shortly thereafter my mother had Alzheimer’s and sadly, after she passed, it seemed time to do something really fun! And, it is really fun! We have a great group of people that are Master Gardeners, Russ knows everything off the top of his head and Nancy just makes everything seamless. I love working with the people.

What makes this a meaningful use of your time?
I really appreciate working with people. I love the stuff we do with kids and the folks that we work with at Quail Summit. A big part is the people thing but expanding their thoughts on gardening and trying to get them to try new things. I love working on composting, teaching others on the benefits, it can be done in a small way. I love showing others these ideas at the plant sale. Educating others on gardening is very fun!

What is the biggest personal benefit you receive as a volunteer for CCE Ontario?
Personal growth and interacting with others.

What is the most memorable accomplishment of your volunteer experience?
I would say the camaraderie of the Master Gardeners and the folks at CCE Ontario. The folks that we interact with.
MEAT AND GREET CONNECTS COMMUNITY AND FARMERS

More consumers are looking for products raised locally. Many of those consumers, however, have trouble connecting with nearby farms to satisfy their meat buying preferences. Looking to continue to break down that barrier in the Finger Lakes was the second Meat & Greet Farmer and Chef Fair.

Producers do a great job of taking care of their animals and the day-to-day things, but marketing often does not always come naturally to those folks. It is so important that farmers get out and let consumers get to know them. There is no one better positioned to tell an animal’s and farm’s story than the farmers themselves.

It was held for the second year at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva as a collaboration between Cornell Cooperative Extension and HWS Finger Lakes Institute. The event brought together more than 20 farms and approximately 65 consumers, including home cooks, families, professional chefs, restaurateurs and food distributors. During the event, three local chefs prepared meat that was donated from some of the attending farms. The demonstrations were entertaining, educational as well as delicious!

It was not only a networking event for consumers to connect with farmers, but farmers to connect with other farmers. New and beginning farmers attended to pick up some marketing and promotional ideas as well.

CORNELL VEGETABLE PROGRAM

REPELLENCY TACTICS TO MINIMIZE BIRD IMPACTS ON SWEET CORN

Bird damage continues to wreak havoc in sweet corn. CVP fresh market specialists Darcy Telenko and Robert Hadad, along with NYS IPM specialist Marion Zuefle partnered with six vegetable farms in central and western New York over a three-year period to evaluate repellency tactics to minimize wildlife damage in sweet corn, a project supported by NESARE and NYFVI. Sweet corn research trials were set-up starting early July following the first bird migration at the end of June. Initiation of each trial was based on crop maturity and movement of wildlife on that specific farm. These research trials ran until the end of August. Various tactics for bird deterrence were evaluated including the chemical deterrent, Avian Control; detasseling; scare-eye balloons; and an air-dancer. The timing of application of the chemical deterrent was also evaluated to determine best management practices (BMPs) in utilizing this option. At each location data was collected on overall bird activity on the farm, specific bird activity at each field location, crop maturity at application, and damage at harvest. Conclusions from the research project are summarized in a video produced by the team, and an eight page glossy report both available online https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/pests.php. Research found that initial bird damage on the first picking of sweet corn can be extremely high. One site experienced 86% loss of ears overnight due to the migration of red-winged blackbirds. 10% damage was observed even when air cannons and nuisance permits were being deployed. Birds would completely avoid the research sites if tactics were deployed prior to them finding the food source. Success of the four deterrence tactics was highly dependent on application timing, placement and crop maturity as described in the final report. The average reduction in ear damage over the three-year period was 85% for detasseling, 77% air-dancer, 63% balloon and 38% Avian control. Results were presented at the Empire State Producers Expo and local vegetable meetings.

A new report and video is now available discussing the various bird deterrent strategies evaluated by the Cornell Vegetable Program – air-dancers, scare-eye balloons; detasseling; and chemical deterrent, Avian Control. Video produced by Jim Monahan, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Photos: Darcy Telenko, CCE Cornell
FINGER LAKES GRAPE PROGRAM

SOUTH BRISTOL WEATHER STATION BRINGS VITAL DATA TO ONTARIO COUNTY GROWERS

In 2016, a new weather station that is part of the New York State Mesonet network of weather stations was installed at Randall Standish Vineyards in South Bristol. It is the only weather station located along Canandaigua Lake, and is in close proximity to many of the vineyards located along the lake. Unfortunately, the data from this station was not accessible to those growers at first, and even when it became available, it was not in a form that was very helpful for them.

Shortly after the station’s installation, the FLGP started working with staff from the New York State Integrated Pest Management (NYSIPM) program to convince those in charge of the Mesonet to send the data collected from the South Bristol station to the Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA), which is a system that collects data from weather stations all over New York and uses that information for pest and disease models and other applications that help farmers to make important decisions about the timing of scouting and spray applications, and other important field practices. Growers in other parts of the Finger Lakes are able to access information from nearby NEWA weather stations and have gained significant benefits from having this data from stations located close to them. The FLGP continued to advocate for this station’s inclusion in NEWA because the growers around South Bristol and Naples should be able to have access to the same kind of information and benefits.

In April, 2018, the weather data from the South Bristol station finally started streaming into the NEWA system. This now allows growers along Canandaigua Lake to have a localized and reliable source of weather data that is being made more accessible and useful for them. Having more relevant weather data allows these growers to better understand the impacts of winter cold temperatures on their pruning strategy for the winter, for example, and how the weather is affecting insect populations and disease development in their specific location. The FLGP is continuing to educate growers on ways to use the data from NEWA that will improve their vineyard operations, and this new source of data will be a useful tool in that effort.
CORN SILAGE PRE-HARVEST WORKSHOPS PREPARE HARVEST TEAMS FOR LONG TERM SUCCESS

A lot of time is spent on the basics to achieve an optimum corn silage harvest. This time is justified as these foundational steps are critical to a successful harvest, where the decisions made during a very short time period impact the farm’s production performance and economics for the upcoming year. In late August 2018, the NWNY Team combined efforts with Joe Lawrence of PRO-DAIRY and industry representatives to discuss the 2018 corn silage crop outlook, and best management practices for the year’s corn silage harvest.

Forty plus participants, of which 90% were members of an area farm’s harvest team, attended one or more of the four separate workshops held on four different progressive dairy farms over two days throughout the NWNY region. One of our most popular workshops was hosted by Willow Bend Farm in Ontario County, and drew 22 total participants from 4 different farms and 3 agribusinesses.

Participants learned of the benefits of putting up a high quality crop, and the steps to reach quality and yield goals. They were also encouraged to consider the short and long-term economics of corn silage cutting height, additional packing tractor weight, kernel processing score, and inoculant use. Abundant farmer to farmer discussion was valuable in sharing experiences with different equipment and technologies, with highlights including learning from each host farm’s harvest practices, as well as seeing and exploring the different aspects of each farm’s kernel processor. Participants left feeling better prepared for the 2018 corn silage harvest, aware of the impact their decisions have on the farm’s success, and thinking about improvements to be made in the years to come.
The mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to create supportive learning environments in which diverse youth and adults reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring citizens. Youth in 4-H Programs range from five to nineteen years of age. In Ontario County the 4-H program priorities are Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Workforce Development; and Positive Youth Development. There is a full range of delivery methods that includes: traditional 4-H Clubs; a 4-H camp; 4-H after school programs in Geneva; school enrichment through Conservation Field Days, and community outreach through workshops like Tractor Safety.

4-H Camp Bristol Hills offers an outdoor camping experience integrated with top rated educational programming. Summer camp extends several choices for camper participation that include: day, overnight and specialty camps. Educational classes include programs in outdoor adventure, nature and science, sports and creative arts as well as a continued focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Cornell University outreach continues to be a major component of the camp program during 2018 with Cornell interns based at camp during the summer.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total 4-H Clubs: 41
Total Members in Organized 4-H Clubs: 257
Number of youth in 4-H After School Programs: 66
Total Number of 4-H Youth: 323
Number of youth attended 4-H Camp Bristol Hills 2018: 1154
Number of Volunteer Hours: 9204

In 2018, 4-H youth projects involved horticulture, food and nutrition, geospatial science, science, textile, robotics, rocketry, woodworking and animal science. Hallmark educational events of the 4-H Club Program include Harvest Food Fest, Public Presentations, Tractor Safety, the Ontario County Fair and the New York State Fair.

Local Staffing:

Timothy S. Davis
Executive Director/4-H Youth Issue Leader/Camp Administrator

Jim Hooper, Resource Educator

Jennifer Jensen
Resource Educator

Amy Morrisey, Program Educator

Ellen Rosenbarker
Administrative Assistant 4-H Camp

Susan Angell
Administrative Assistant 4-H Club

Matty Brooks
North Street School
4-H Coordinator

Jessica Middleton
Summer Camp Director

CCE Staff from several counties come together for the Building the Agricultural Intellect of Finger Lakes Youth event at the Ag Experiment Station in Geneva. Here, Rachel Williams of Seneca County works with a youth on the energy bike, demonstrating renewable energy.
4-H GROWS CLOVERBUDS IN ONTARIO COUNTY

Cloverbud 4-H members have been part of the NYS 4-H Program for nearly 30 years. For a long time Cloverbuds were just “little members” who participated in many of the same projects as their older siblings. As the interest of families to enroll their children in a positive youth program, more inquiries have come to us in the past few years. We have put an emphasis on reaching out to serve these members with age appropriate youth development activities. We have had 11 clubs with Cloverbuds enrolled this year. 3 of these clubs have Cloverbuds as a majority of their membership. Characteristics of Cloverbud 4-H Clubs incorporate short term activities and learning to their club meetings to reach the attention span and abilities to make 4-H a valued part of their life. Evidence of this positive growth showed in the record breaking number of Cloverbud exhibitors participating at the Ontario County Fair this summer.

4-H WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:
CAREERS IN THE EQUINE INDUSTRY

According to the American Horse Council, 7.1 million Americans are involved in the Horse Industry with 258,100 living in New York. Over 197,000 horses reside in New York and we are home to 9 race tracks. The equine industry alone provides 12,800 employment opportunities in New York. The most recent New York State Equine Survey shows 987,000 acres of land devoted to equine purposes. The total associated assets with this industry are $10.4 billion according to this same survey. Statistics are from the most recent 2005 New York State Equine Survey published in 2007 by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

4-H Youth interested in the equine industry have many career and educational options. To explore these possible careers, Amy Morrisey, 4-H Educator from Ontario County, working with Robin Bartholomew of Cayuga County, secured grant money from Cargill Feeds and The Agricultural and New York Horse Breeding Development Fund to cover half the cost of a two day bus trip to Saratoga Springs, August 7-8, 2018.

The focus of this trip was to connect 4-H youth from the Region II 4-H Horse Program with equine professionals that have successful horse breeding and racing careers while creating a sense of belonging among the participants that comes from a shared interest and love of horses.

• Twenty one 4-H youth from five Finger Lakes counties made new friends on the bus ride to Saratoga Springs and shared their 4-H back-grounds and horse interest and experiences as well as future plans with each other.
• Meeting and listening to professionals about their particular career journey and their personal advice.
• Equine careers that were discussed in depth were thoroughbred breeding, training, racings, stable management, and veterinary services.

Highlights were:
• Toured and met the veterinary professionals at the Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital for a “behind the scenes” tour and observed a Colic Surgery in progress. Veterinarians, vet techs and other staff talked to us about their particular careers. A very valuable discussion with the clinic manager about what she looks for in new employees (they have over 300 between their 3 hospitals) covered resumes’ and interviewing skills.
• A visit to The National Museum of Racing and Racing Hall of Fame highlighted the history of the “oldest sport in the world” and explained the economic value of the sport not only to the horse owners but to NYS and the country.
• A stop at The Harness Horse Museum located on the grounds of the race track property was where we learned about trotters and pacers and harness horse equipment before the race.
• Attended the Harness Races at 7:00pm to watch the evening races at the rail.
• A guided tour of “the back side” of the thoroughbred track to watch the horses warm up on the practice track.
• A personal meeting arranged by Lynn Scott, former 4-H Leader in Ontario County, with, Trainer of the Year, Gary Contessa, and his barn manager for an hour at his shed row of 30 horses at the track.
• A tour of Sugar Plum Farm, home
of War Dancer, Millionaire Son of War Front. We met and had lunch with the farm owners, and were invited to review four of the most recent foals of War Dancer.

- At the Thoroughbred Track to meet up with Mr. Contessa, who had invited our group into the restricted Paddock Area as his guests, before watching the races of the day.

The opportunity to learn from horse owners, trainers and breeders of both Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds on a first person basis is what makes this trip so unique. Add in the opportunity to watch the thoroughbred races “at the rail” as one of the oldest race tracks in the USA with 4-H friends, new and old to make it truly special. Participants sought out answers to questions only folks currently making a living in the industry can truly answer. Guidance about education, internships and training was presented. Personal experiences were shared at the farm, hospital and track visits.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

- This was an awesome experience; and, I will remember this trip and what I have learned for a long time and put the information to use.
- I am grateful that I got the chance to go on this trip. I got lots of information; and, a chance to meet new friends and people. I hope they repeat this trip every year!
- The visit at the equine surgery hospital was incredible!! We got to see an actual colic surgery in the operating room and the recovery room and surgical instruments; and, talk with the radiology technician about her career choice.
- I plan to attend Morrisville College for Equine Business Management and this trip helps me realize other potential career choices.
- I never realized you could get an internship on a horse farm or race track or an equine clinic! I can’t wait to apply next summer.
- The best part of the trip was touring the back side of the track and meeting Gary Contessa and his staff. I loved watching the races and visiting the Hall of Fame.
- The best part of the trip was touring Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. It just confirms my decision to attend Medaille College for Veterinary Technology.

ONTARIO COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL EVENTS

Annaleigh DeBoover of Phelps was a member of the NYS 4-H Livestock Skillathon team that participated at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville. Skills demonstrated during the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon competition held in November 2017 included management and marketing decision making, animal health and quality assurance knowledge application, product identification, product evaluation, and an understanding of animal behavior. New York’s team was in the top 10 in several categories with Annaleigh placing 7th High Individual overall in Evaluation. The New York State team was coached by Ontario County 4-H leader, Scarlet Lamphier of Middlesex.

Also in Louisville the National Egg and Poultry Conference was held where Ontario County 4-H members also participated. Mackenzie Lill was a member of the 2017 Avian Bowl Team that placed 3rd at the national competition. Gracie Nicol placed 5th in the national chicken barbecue contest. 4-H volunteer, Mary Ann Whipple was the coach of the teams. All of these were selected at competitions at NYS Fair.

In April, Cassidy Draper was selected as a delegate to the National 4-H Conference held in Washington. National 4-H Conference is the pinnacle experience in 4 H Civic Engagement, providing the opportunity for young people to connect, learn, engage, lead and impact their communities, their nation and their world. Cassidy’s emphasis at this conference was to work with the youth voice in regards to the national opioid addiction, which included a presentation to a committee of the National Institute of Drug Abuse..
PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE SAFETY DAY

There are many challenges in farming today: increased government regulations, falling milk and commodity prices, labor uncertainties to name a few. But the most daunting daily challenge may be keeping everyone on the farm safe. In 2010 in New York State alone there were 27 farm fatalities and an estimated 2,417 ambulance calls related to farm injuries and accidents. An event was needed to make the farm a safer place by raising the awareness of farm and home hazards for all children and family members through education and training.

In an effort to address farm family safety, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County partnered with The Progressive Agriculture Foundation and The New York Center for Agriculture and Medicine and Health to bring a day long family focused safety program to Ontario County farm families. Community sponsors and supporters were sought to help in implementing the hands-on learning day. More than 50 volunteers responded to the request to participate. Cost were covered by: The New York Steam Engine Association, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit-East, American Equipment, Monroe Tractor, Jeff Dann’s Auctions, IBA, Farm Family Insurance, Wegman’s and others.

In-kind donations included milk, ice cream and apple chips and the uses of two tents. Cash donations cover the cost of the event and the Slow Moving Vehicle signs given away. Each participant received a free t-shirt donated by the Progressive Agriculture Foundation.

After a brief opening welcome from NYCAMH Director Julie Sorenson, participants rotated through the ten sessions every 20 minutes.

Session 1: Water Safety: Ontario County Sheriff Deputies
Session 2: ATV Safety and Helmet Safety: Gary Hume, certified ATV-UTV Trainer

More than 60 farm family members of all ages participated, many 3 generations of the same family. Their ages ranged from under 2 to over 65. We had over a dozen Mennonite family members participate. There were volunteer presenters, demonstrators, and helpers from across the county and New York State. The volunteers represented nearly 30 different occupations. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and engage in all the activities presented.

Participants watched as a dummy was entangled in an unguarded PTO shaft and learned about tractor rollovers from a tabletop demonstration. Rollovers are the leading cause...
of death on farms. All participants experienced walking blindly through a smoke filled building and then used a fire extinguisher to put out an actual fire. From sheriff’s deputies, they learned about the dangers of water and that drowning are the third leading cause of deaths in children in the USA. They got to actually preform CPR on a dummy after learning the technique from the Public Health nurses. Participants learned about Grain Bin safety from a presenter who had previously been trapped in a bin and they got to identify dozens of farmstead hazards on the hazard board. They learned about ATV safety and bicycle safety and then 28 youth participated in a bike rodeo to show case their new skills. Everyone watched as a “mock scene” was narrated by the fire chief as the Hopewell firemen and EMT’s personnel worked diligently to free a “dummy” trapped under a tractor.

The surveys indicate that the day was full of learning and each station offered important details on how to stay safe! Parents, grandparents and youth all listed things they are going to do now to be more safe! When asked if you could change anything, what would it be? One 7 year old wrote “change the name to Fun Day”. A 23 year old said “it was great being here” Another young family indicated they would “bring more people with us”

Pat Blakeslee

During the last 17 years, Pat Blakeslee has worn many hats as a dedicated volunteer for CCE Ontario. She began as a Master Gardener in 2001 and thought just that would be enough. Then, while working as a teacher’s assistant at the North Street School in Geneva, she was recruited into service to help form a 4-H Afterschool club there to focus on creating a Jr. Master Gardener program. “It went from being for at-risk youth to anyone that was interested” Pat said.

The program teaches youth about gardening in a hands-on environment. Junior Master Gardeners is a nationwide program facilitated through Cooperative Extension designed teach Elementary School children a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the mind. There are more than 96 requirements consisting of group activities performed, individual achievements and community service. And after 17 years of teaching more than 300 students, finally, one student has completed the full curriculum to officially become a Junior Master Gardener. And hopefully, two more students will become certified right behind.

At every stage stood Pat, “I value the skills that 4-H offers kids. It allows them to learn through an interest area. That’s the best way to integrate with practice and make it meaningful and joyful. It’s more joyful when kids choose to do it on their own. 4-H strives to be inclusive, which is wonderful.” And while Pat’s time volunteering is coming to an end, the club is not. “I hope to be making guest appearances. We meet 40 weeks a year as a club and have to meet during the summer, so our year goes from the middle of November until the middle of August. The kids I am working with right now are so motivated! I really like the Jr. Master Gardener program as it teaches them life skills. I know they will continue and for me, it’s a nice way to leave. I will miss the people I have worked with over the years as a Master Gardener and a 4-H Leader. I have made so many friends and all the kids.”

Pat and her husband are moving to midcoastal Maine, where they will be living in an Eco-Village Community and Pat will continue her love of gardening.
While 4-H Camp Bristol Hills strives to be efficient with our resource to provide an affordable camp experience, the reality is that for many families in our area, attending recreational programs like summer camp is a luxury that is simply out of reach. Through the generosity of many individuals and agencies in our area, we have been able to develop the Hilltop Fund, which funnels donations directly to the families who can benefit the most from the summer camp experience.

The Cornell Program on Applied Demographics cites that Ontario County is home to 3106 youth (ages 0-17 years) living in poverty. Data US credits 10.3% of the population of Ontario county is currently living below the poverty line, with women between 18-24 years of age being the single highest demographic of poverty in Ontario County (followed by women aged 35-44 and women aged 25-34 years, respectively). Further, the unemployment rate in 2017 was 4.5%, accounting for 2,507 residents claiming unemployment. The Geneva Children’s Data Report cites that 28.2% of Ontario County youth under 6 years of age are living in single parent homes. For those living in Geneva, 52.7% of the children are living in single parent homes. For children in these environments, a week at Camp can provide much needed physical activity, a week of healthy eating, and a community of positive young adult role models.

Children and their families are in need of programs which provide youth with opportunities and supports that build necessary skills to become healthy, contributing and successful adults. While schools and community organizations provide a wide variety of programs and supports for children throughout the school year, youth have limited opportunities to participate in programs during the summer that intentionally target youth development outcomes connected to healthy living and the development of life skills.

Since 1925, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County has operated 4-H Camp Bristol Hills, providing positive outdoor experiences for youth. For many years, Camp has received donations from organizations including the Ontario County Youth Bureau, the Disney Corporation, local farms, and many others, as well as from individual donors, to help extend the summer camp experience to families with limited financial resources. Several years ago, with requests for financial aid from camp families growing, camp instituted the Hilltop Fund. This dedicated fund is distributed directly to families in need, by way of discounted camp enrollment fees. Many recipients of these funds are awarded full camperships, allowing them to attend camp at no cost. Others recipients receive a partial campership, where the family is financially responsible for a small portion of the camp fees. Distribution of these funds is based on perceived benefit to the child, as well as financial need. A small campership selection committee annually reviews over 200 requests for Hilltop Funds, and the generosity of our community has typically allowed us to accommodate nearly 75% of these requests for either full or partial campership support. In 2018, 151 campers received support to attend camp.
Replenishing the Hilltop Fund each year has become an area of focus for camp administration. In 2018, 58 such donations were received, totaling $61,858.18. This was up 12.7% from 2017, when donations totaled $54,849.13. The dedicated efforts of camp staff to recruit additional funding for this fund resulted in 35 new donors to the Hilltop Fund in 2018.

A survey of Hilltop Fund recipients showed that these campers showed the most significant gains in independence (89% of respondent camp families reported an increased sense of independence), social relationships with peers (89%) and a willingness to try new things (93%). Campers also claimed increases in self-confidence (82%), generally happiness (78%), maturity (77%), ability to deal with stress (71%). These results are similar to, and in most cases higher than, similar ratings for traditional (self-pay) campers. Notably, half of the camp families responding to the survey stated that without the Hilltop Fund, their child would not have attended any sort of camp program, and 27% claimed that their children would have participated in a less expensive summer recreation program elsewhere. These indicate that financial limitations are still a very significant concern for these families, and that there is still a largely unmet need for further financial support.

Charlie “Peanut” Plyter was a camp staff member in the early 1990’s, who was loved by campers and counselors alike. He was an active member of the Project Adventure team, facilitating ropes course programs for hundreds of campers during his years at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. Charlie passed in his sleep in January 2016, leaving a wife and two sons behind. That spring, one of Charlie’s friends and co-counselors, made a gift to camp in Charlie’s memory, paying the full fees for two campers enrolled in the Adventure Program. This donor’s generous gift has continued each year since. In the Spring of 2018, however, Camp Staff contacted the father of Charlie to let him know of the annual gift in his son’s memory. Mr. Plyter was so moved that he also made a gift. Mr. Plyter requested that we create a Charlie Plyter Memorial Campership, and offered to seed it with funds to get it started. His offer was to match up to $1000 for any contributions made in his son’s memory. CCE staff spread the word on social media and emails, and the gifts began to roll in.

By the start of the camp season, 25 donors (20 of which were new donors) had stepped forward to contribute a total of $2,930, and help make camp a reality for children who may not otherwise be able to afford it. Donations ranged from $25 - $1000, and with those funds, 11 campers were able to enjoy Charlie’s favorite camp program, the Adventure (ropes course) Camp. We are truly blessed and humbled by the generosity that is shown throughout our camp family every day.

If you, or someone you know, has been touched by 4-H Camp Bristol Hills, and would be interested in making a gift to share the joy of camp, please contact Camp Educator, Jim Hooper (jah249@cornell.edu) today.
The Honeoye Central School CORAL Program is a life skills program that focuses on functional academics and obtaining successful transition (employability) skills. The CORAL Program has been afforded the opportunity to partner with the Bristol Hills 4-H camp over the past 5 years. Through this association, our students have been provided some amazing work-based learning opportunities. Our students have been able to develop work skills, improve communication, and learn to work as a collaborative team to problem solve real-world situations as they apply to a building project.

We have worked closely with the 4-H staff to build an Archery Shed, a 12’ X 12’ storage shed, a shed for fishing gear storage, and to help with other small projects around the camp. These projects parallel and strengthen many of the current CDOS (Career Development Occupational Standards) requirements, Work-Based Learning, and transition skills that are the focus of our program at Honeoye Central School. These projects provide our students practical hands-on experiences that they do not get in a conventional school setting.

Many academic as well as social skills are applied throughout these work-based learning environments including functional mathematics, communication, pragmatic language, conflict resolution, planning (both long and short term), as well as knowledge and safe operation of requisite tools. Perhaps the most valuable effect of this experience for our kids is the immense feeling of pride and sense of community they get in knowing that they are working in the community and helping others through this “service learning”.

Our students are involved in all aspects of these projects from pre-planning meetings in the classroom, design, consultation with the customer, calculating costs, ordering materials, and production from start to finish. They are exposed to specific skills that range from measuring to a sixteenth of an inch, budgeting, and identifying angles to social skills on the job site such as effectively communicating with supervisors (teachers and camp staff) and co-workers. A time card is required of all students on-site, which not only teaches this particular skill but reinforces time telling and calculating elapsed time when working.

Furthermore, students are learning the value of work and how to begin a job and see it through from beginning to completion – including addressing unexpected difficulties as they arise when working on such projects. The improved social emotional status of our students while working at camp has been amazing. They are more outgoing, carry on age-appropriate conversations with Cornell Cooperative Extension staff, and always look forward to working at camp. Other students in our school constantly ask how they can be a part of this work-based learning because they see how happy our students are and hear their positive stories about camp. This experience has been extremely valuable for our students and has been a wonderful extension of our life skills programming – a truly beneficial experience for all involved. We are very grateful for this opportunity, and the support and encouragement given to us by CCE staff throughout.
ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

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American Legion, Macedon
Nancy Apolito
Teresa Berley
Dennis Brewer
Louisa Brownell
Sandy Button
C&R Foods
Linda Camp
Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters
Jane Cespglio
Pam Chiverton
Bill and Amy Colburn
Charlotte Daum
Tim Davis
Disney Corporation
David DiRaddo
Cecil Duncan
Grant Fletcher
Jeff Gleason
Sarah and Brian Gregory
Linda Green
Harmony Circle
Nancy Hey
Honeoye Valley Redemption Center
Jim and Alyssa Hooper
Rita Hooper
Carolyn and Edward Housel
Don Jones
Katherine Joyce
Suzanne Kennedy
Ann Lill
David Lorchner
Mary McAndrew
Dan and Jessica Middleton
Abbey Mongosa
Phil Munson
Hollis Noble
Ontario Co. Children’s Fund
Ontario County Youth Bureau
David and Linda Patrick
Patricia Pavelsky
Mary Peck
Kevin Phalen
Charlie Plyter
Mary Kay Plyter
Catherin Preston
Francis and Andrew Reubens
Anson Rogers
David Schinsing
Lee Schutt Memorial
Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club
Tractor Supply, Inc.
Erin and Ryan VanDamme
Judith Vandeverde
Barbara Wheeler
Women of the United Church
Wyckoff Family Foundation

Master Gardeners
Carol Altemus
Lindsey Ayers
Jim ballerstein
Victoria Barnsbee
Pat Bartholomew
Kathie Belly
Sandra Bierbrauer
Pat Blakeslee
Vaughn Buchholz
Dawn Carter
Jane Sheetz Clark
Sandra Ebberts
Sandra Eckert
Judi Ferman
SK Ferris
Stacy Fox
Christen Groeling
Bob Haggett
Rose Hancock
Kenneth Harbison
Lucy Ignizio
Vicki Jennejohn
Dana Kincaid
Scarlet Lamphier
Julie Macko
Debbie McWilliams
Sarah Meyer
Susan Nettleton
Helen Pellett
Tom Poplasky
Maria Racza
Stan Racza
Leslee Rice
Marge Shanahan
Cathy Simpson
Candi Smith
Nancy Stelnyk
Pamela Tichenor
Jeanne Totman
Heather Tucker
Stacey Van Denburgh
Shelley Van Lare
Roger Van Nostrand
Sandra Voigt
Peggy Wehs

Master Forest Owners
Dean Faklis
Ronald Gay
Harry Heuer
Dale Schaefer
Jeff Thompson

4-H Leaders & Volunteers
Allyson Adam-Anderson
Kay Aman
Dana Atwood
Deanna Bagley
Jennifer Bay
Haley Bickel
Pat Blakeslee
Sherry Blanco
Lauren Bolanda
Barb Bolton
Heather Bond
Matty Brooks
Calvin Brown
Debbie Brown
Krista Brown
Lisa Burley
Lynne Colacino
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Michael Cunha
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**Community Partners**

- Amanda’s Garden
- American Equipment Company
- Amberg’s Inc.
- American Camp Association
- Applebee’s
- Bank of the Finger Lakes
- Bejo Seeds
- Bennett Farms
- Benton Fire Department
- Bioworks
- Black Brook Farms
- Bloomfield Central School
- Blowers Agra Services Inc.
- Bristol’s Garden Center
- Cal and Krista Brown
- C & R Foods
- Calexis Livestock Farm
- Canandaigua Chrysler Dodge/Jeep
- Canandaigua National Bank & Trust
- Canandaigua Rotary
- Canandaigua City School District
- Canandaigua Lake Watershed
- Cargill
- Casella Farms
- Casella Waste Management
- Center for Dispute Settlement
- Sue Chapman
- Cindy’s Pies
- Clifton Springs Methodist Church
- Community Bank NA
- Constellation Wines
- Cornell University
  - Agriculture Experiment Station
- Cornell Agriculture, Food & Technology Park
- Cornell Soil Health Team
- Cornell University Departments of:
  - Animal Science
  - Crop and Soil Science
  - Entomology
  - Food Science
  - Horticulture Science
  - Human Development
  - Physics
  - Plant and Pathology
  - Textile Sciences
SUMMARY OF RESOURCES & SUPPORT

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| **Capital Campaign** | $171,476 |
| (Camp Bathrooms)     |          |

| **Other** (user fees, rent, fundraising, donations, etc) | $622,239 |

| **Volunteer Support** | $336,179.04 |
| (value of time/expertise for 13,616 hours of volunteer time at $24.69/hour per The Independent Sector) | |

| **TOTAL:** | $2,402,598.04 |
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

Kerry Adams, Shortsville
Sue Craugh, Treasurer, Canandaigua
Andy Fellenz, Phelps
Adam Hughes, State Extension Specialist
Don Jensen, Jr., Stanley
Melinda Kinnear, Canandaigua
Fred Lightfoote, Supervisor Representative
Peter Maslyn, President, Farmington
Nina McCarthy, Vice-President, Geneva
Sally Mueller, Secretary, Clifton Springs
Alfredo Resendiz, Clifton Springs
Andy Rogers, Canandaigua
Sue Shively, Nominating Committee, Gorham
Charles Van Hooft, Vice-President, Clifton Springs

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION STAFF

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Timothy S. Davis, Program Leader
Russell Welser, Senior Resource Educator
Marie Anselm, Senior Resource Educator Agriculture Economic Development
Nancy Anderson, Senior Administrative Assistant

CORNELL VEGETABLE PROGRAM
Julie Kikkert, Commercial Vegetable Program Specialist *
John Gibbons, Field Technician*
Angela Ochterski, Administrative Assistant*

NWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & FIELD CROPS
Libby Eiholzer, Dairy Management Associate*

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Timothy S. Davis, Program Leader
Jennifer Jensen, 4-H Resource Educator
Amy Morrisey, 4-H Program Educator
Susan Angell, Administrative Assistant

4-H CAMP BRISTOL HILLS
Timothy S. Davis, 4-H Camp Administrator
James Hooper, 4-H Resource Educator
Ellen Rosenbarker, Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION
Timothy S. Davis, Executive Director
Erin VanDamme, Association Administrator
Debbie Huls, Finance Manager
Collette Francese, Facilities Supervisor

*Multi-County
A Honeoye CORAL student and a teacher working together to build the framework for a new storage cabin at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. 4-H Camp has been working with the Honeoye program for several years on construction projects that provide students with developmental disabilities opportunities for job skills. Read more about this program on page 18.