Our Mission

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County’s mission is to interpret, disseminate, and deliver research-based information and knowledge on issues relevant to Oswego County youth, individuals, families, farms, small business, and communities; and further, to contribute to improving the quality of life through education and empowering volunteers and staff to lead, guide, and teach. Program areas of particular importance include Agriculture, Youth Development, Human Ecology, and Natural Resource Management.
Dear Friends and Supporters of Cooperative Extension:

Each year it is a distinct privilege to prepare our Annual Report, a showcase of the programs and educational opportunities we provide to the people, families, communities and businesses of Oswego County. Through education, we provide people with the tools they need to enact positive change in their lives.

Through the efforts of our staff and volunteers, we encourage people to recognize that education offers a tremendous opportunity to adapt to a rapidly changing world. Having current information, mastering a skill, and learning how to deal effectively with special circumstances are some of the ways that Cooperative Extension supports people in their efforts to be successful.

Educational programs and research-based information regarding Agriculture, 4-H Youth Development and Human Ecology are provided directly to the people of Oswego County. Individuals and families are taught at their homes, in their schools, on their farms and in community settings because we believe people take a special interest in learning if opportunities to learn occur in their own local surroundings.

We remain grateful to the many individuals, especially our volunteers, who unselfishly gave of their time and talent to make this past year so successful. We are also appreciative of the individuals and agencies who collaborated with us on many of our community educational projects. Most importantly, on behalf of the residents of Oswego County, we sincerely appreciate the continued funding we receive from the Oswego County Legislature. Their support and encouragement has been unwavering throughout the years.

We also extend our grateful appreciation, on behalf of county residents, to the Oswego County Legislature for their continued generous support of our efforts to make Oswego County a better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Forestiere II
Executive Director

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Oswego County has a prosperous agricultural community. The diversity of land allows for the production of a variety of agricultural products including onions, apples, meat, cheese, wine, maple syrup, honey, berries, plums, peaches, and a wide variety of vegetables. The Agriculture Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Oswego County, with assistance from regional specialists, continued its commitment to facilitating programming benefitting the diverse agriculture industry in the county. CCE of Oswego County educated large and small agriculture producers through an array of workshops, newsletters, displays, and farm visits. In addition, CCE of Oswego County taught the public about the local agriculture industry through the popular “Harvest Guide”, the annual Harvest Dinner, and the Holiday Farmer’s Market.

In the spring, CCE of Oswego County, in collaboration with Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency held an agricultural workshop, Agriculture Awareness Agency Day. These four agencies who serve the farmers and residents in Oswego County provided information on how to improve or expand their current farm operations.

The Oswego County “Harvest Guide”, now in its third printing, provides the local residents and out of town visitors a directory and map of Oswego County farms. It also lists locations, farms, farm stands and farmer markets where consumers can buy fresh local food as well as agricultural products including fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs and maple syrup.

The eighth annual Oswego Harvest Dinner was again a major success and showcased the quality and diversity of agriculture in Oswego County. The dinner featured locally grown and sourced food from county farmers and agriculture businesses. Attendees dined on a six-course meal that showcased the delicious and diverse agricultural products produced in the county. Guest speakers were “The Fabulous Beekman Boys” who were also available to sign their new cookbook, Beekman 1802: A Seat at the Table.

The winter’s “Holiday Farmers Market” was well supported by the many patrons who visited “Christmas in Mexico”. This producer–only farmers market highlighted food goods and agricultural products from Oswego County. Keeping the dollars in the community, supporting the local economy, and supporting the local farmers keeps this event growing every year.

The Agriculture Program at CCE of Oswego County is actively involved and responsive to the numerous office visits, phone calls, and email questions from individuals seeking current production and marketing information, especially those who are new to owning a farm business.
The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County Nutrition, Health and Safety Program staff are helping to improve Oswego County by providing real-world information to low-income individuals and families. The program’s goals include: reducing childhood obesity, improving nutrition, and increasing food security and safety.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) provides nutrition classes to families with children. The program promotes health by helping limited resources participants establish healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle. The EFNEP nutrition classes also assist limited-resource families in becoming more self-sufficient and self-reliant. Poverty is a risk factor for numerous health problems including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, poor pregnancy outcomes, and obesity. Program participants are taught the nutritional value of foods, how good nutrition translates to more energy and better health, and how to manage food resources more effectively. Participants also gain the knowledge about the relationship between health and basic nutrition, food safety, food preparation, and resource management.

The Eat Smart New York Program (ESNY) provides nutrition education workshops to SNAP and SNAP eligible adults and children in Oswego County. The program encourages participants to increase fruits and vegetable consumption, decrease consumption of sugar sweetened beverages, and increase physical activity, all within a limited budget. Workshops apply basic nutrition information from MyPlate and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Participants have the opportunity to observe food preparation and cooking skills, try new recipes, and participate in grocery store tours. Participants leave the workshops with a new set of skills and knowledge on how to improve their diet and increase their physical activity at home.

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides nutrition benefits to low-income women, children and senior citizens. Encouraging increased dietary consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables is a top priority. The purpose of the FMNP is not only to access affordable produce, but also to educate about the health benefits of fruits and vegetables and develop skills in the area of selecting, preparing and storing fruits and vegetables in ways to positively affect dietary behavior change. The FMNP expands awareness and use of farmers markets which adds to the farmers income by cultivating new customers and increasing sales. Direct marketing of farm products through farmers markets is an important sales outlet for agricultural producers.

The Parenting After Separation and Divorce Program educates divorcing or separating parents about the impact of their breakup on their children. The workshops provide facilitated discussions and interactive activities. Parents learn ways to reduce the stress of the family changes and protect their children from the negative effects of ongoing parental conflict in order to foster and promote their children’s healthy adjustment and development.
The 4-H Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County creates opportunities for positive youth development, and teaches life skills and knowledge. It has been accomplishing this objective through community club programs, school enrichment programs, afterschool programs, and Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center programs. The 4-H Club Program is the backbone of Oswego County 4-H. This past year, 4-H members completed project work in woodworking, photography, public presentations, shooting sports, sewing, animal science, robotics and so much more.

While 4-H clubs are the foundation of the local 4-H Program, the 4-H staff has developed a very strong series of school enrichment programs. Oswego County 4-H educators provided educational programs in all nine Oswego County school districts and three private schools. *Buzzy Buzzy Bees, Sun Safety,* and *Insectaganza* are examples of the programs taught this past school year. In addition, the 4-H educators continue to coordinate the Ag in the Classroom’s Agriculture Literacy Week and Progressive Agriculture Safety Day. These two special educational programs reach over 2100 students combined. They also help to connect the agriculture community with the schools.

Camp Happening returned in Oswego County this summer to the great benefit of the children of APW Central Schools. The camp was held at both the Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center and Camp Zerbe in eastern Oswego County. Oswego County Cornell Cooperative Extension staff, with the help of AmeriCorps volunteers, acted as both hosts and guest presenters; offering the campers a unique kind of experiential learning. Campers gained invaluable experiences that could only be possible outside of the classroom and with the help of Oswego County Cooperative Extension experts. Although the kids were ecstatic to search for frogs in the pond, make homemade bread, and build bottle rockets; they may have been unaware of the “lesson” aspect of these activities. At the completion of the camp, those who were lucky enough to participate went home with new and invaluable information about Environmental Science, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Fitness. Camp Happening was made possible and funded with the gracious support of New York State Senator Patty Ritchie, APW School District, Oswego City County Youth Bureau, and the Oswego County Cooperative Extension.

The Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center serves as an extended classroom for Oswego County Cooperative Extension. This nature preserve, camp and educational facility provides guided interpretive programs year round to schools, youth organizations, churches, and the general public. The educational programs are made possible with a grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In addition, the facility received a Community Arts Grant from CNY Arts to fund *Nature Inspires.* This special series of programs connects nature with art through hands on workshops. Introduction to acrylic painting, pine needle basket weaving, and wood carving in the round are some of the workshops held in 2017.
Financial Support

1. County Funds:
   Appropriation from Legislature $410,310 40%

2. State Funds:
   Includes County Law 224 Formula, Special Projects, Direct Aid, University Resources, and Fringe Benefits $277,477 27%

3. Federal Funds:
   Includes Smith Lever, EFNEP, Special Projects, Direct Aid, University Resources, and Fringe Benefits $176,787 17%

4. Other Sources of Support:
   Includes Enrollment Fees, Program Participation, Contracts, Grants, Program Contributions, and Value of Other County Support $168,598 16%

Total Estimated Support to Association $1,033,172 100%

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County
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