Cornell Cooperative Extension
Putnam County
2019 Report to the Community

AGRICULTURE

FAMILY HEALTH & WELLNESS

NATURAL RESOURCES

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H FAIR

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
What is Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)? A question that is regularly asked from the lips of curious passersby. Every time I hear it from my corner office, I think, “we’re the best kept secret.” Many New Yorkers would answer this question by describing the array of useful workshops, information and support offered at their local association. CCE Putnam, like almost 3,000 other extension associations across the country, the local face of a national network that for over a century has provided people with “practical knowledge on practically everything.” We put Cornell’s unbiased, evidence based research to work to solve real-life problems.

Our local association is a vibrant example of how CCE works to build a bridge between academia and people’s lives. Currently, eight employees and more than 410 qualified volunteers work in communities around the county as well as in our Education Center at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster. We work in a variety of settings to help residents and communities develop skills to improve the quality of life in Putnam County.

We operate on an annual budget just shy of 1 million dollars, with funds coming from county, state and federal appropriations, as well as through contracted services, donations and program fees. Our programs are delivered efficiently and at a low cost, using county funds to attract and leverage other grants and contracts that multiply what can be accomplished with local tax dollars. Our greatest resource is the people who support our work. It is truly your involvement and input that make Cooperative Extension’s programs strong and ensure that they reflect and respond to the needs of all.

If you haven’t done so lately, I encourage you to visit our Education Center at 1 Geneva Road, attend a board meeting, acquire a new skill through a class or workshop, or come and share your expertise as a volunteer. There’s a lot going on at CCE Putnam, and there’s a place for you in what we do!

Stefanie W. Hubert  
Executive Director

Salvatore Gambino  
Board President
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Our Mission
Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families thrive in our rapidly changing world. Since 1944, Putnam County's Cooperative Extension has linked university research, knowledge and experiential learning to the needs and issues facing Putnam County residents.
Putnam County has a thriving horticulture industry of landscape, greenhouse, and tree-care professionals and one of the fastest growing beginning farmer populations in the state. Situated north of New York City, where the country begins, Putnam is unique in that over 40% of our land is protected for the New York City watershed. Today, some of the most pressing issues for our county include water quality and invasive species, farm business expansion, food security, and pollinator and wildlife habitat. Our Educators and Master Gardener Volunteers are trusted voices in the community delivering evidence-based resources that address these evolving issues.

2019 Accomplishments
In 2019, we educated more than 113,510 people through workshops, conferences, articles, demonstration gardens, and digital media. Additionally, we supported 76 turf, landscape, and tree-care professionals in sustainable landscaping practices. Partnering with 26 state and local agencies, our program continues to weave a tapestry of cooperation, delivering coordinated programs that help to make Putnam County a safe, vibrant place to live and work.

Spotted Lanternfly is a new invasive agricultural pest. This leafhopper is also a nuisance, covering homes, cars, and walkways with sticky sap. With PRISM and NYS IPM partners, we warned 33,000 readers by print and online publications about the approaching pest. The cape pictured on left helped us start over 200 conversations about Spotted Lanternfly at public events.
Master Gardener Volunteers reach the Community at our County’s Vibrant Farmer’s Markets

Master Gardener Volunteers engaged over 350 people at two of Putnam County’s Farmers’ Markets (Cold Spring and the Hudson Valley Regional). At these vibrant gathering places, volunteers share important information for residents including how to cook with fresh vegetables, new invasive species threats, and growing shiitake mushrooms.

Visit a Real Pollinator Garden with a Virtual 360° Tour

Master Gardener Volunteers and 4-H Youth & Leaders worked together to create a Virtual 360° Pollinator Garden Tour video with suggestions of how residents can support pollinators. To date more than 5,000 U.S. and 400 international visitors have interacted with our 360° experience.
The Public Presentation Program is one of 4-H’s most beneficial and rewarding experiences. It is the one most often credited by 4-H alumni as having given them an edge above peers in both college and professional careers. Green Chimneys School in Brewster has been a great collaborator by encouraging student participation and hosting the program.

4-H Youth Development

The Putnam County 4-H Youth Development Program strives to create opportunities for youth to develop skills and confidence for leadership and self-discipline. 4-H Youth Development is the only youth program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture and life sciences, home economics, human development, and related areas, which result from land-grant university research.

Today’s 4-H Youth Development programs have a basis in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with subjects ranging from animal science, to robotics, to sewing.

2019 Accomplishments
Throughout 2019, the Putnam County 4-H Youth Development Program continued to provide a variety of opportunities for youth, ages 5-19, and families. 136 members were involved with 16 clubs along with 1,846 youth participating in special interest programming.

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**Kiddin’ Around 4-H Goat Club**

4-H Club Leader, Nancy Mahoney, teaches youth about the science and art of making cheese with goat’s milk. Members of the Kiddin’ Around 4-H Goat Club, at Bluestone Farms (Brewster), meet year-round to learn how to raise and care for animals which includes the health and nutrition of dairy goats, handling and showmanship, and the processing, consumption, and use of dairy products.

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**4-H Lego Robotics**

Youth from throughout Putnam County, ages 10-13, took part in a hands-on Lego Robotics program, in partnership with the Studio Around the Corner in Brewster, and Westchester Community College’s Kathryn Davis Scholar Program.

The youth learned the basics of programming through LEGO Mindstorms, a programmable robotics construction set that allows youth to design, build, program and command their own robot. The participants worked in teams and participated in a “final challenge” on the last day, where each team could demonstrate and apply the skills and knowledge they acquired throughout the seven-week program.
Volunteers Make Community

Regardless of your definition of community, there’s one common thread: people. When volunteers choose to get involved, they not only help others, but they are also helping better themselves. Volunteering benefits a person by building connections with peers, improving family life, expanding career skills, overcoming self-doubt, having lasting life impressions, and creating new opportunities. Even though Putnam County is small, it doesn’t stop it from being mighty.

2019 Accomplishments

In 2019, CCEPC provided information to over 195,000 people including business and other professionals, residents, 4-H and Cloverbud club members and other youth through special interest programs. In addition, our 3 Professional Educators and Executive Director networked with over 100 agencies and organizations, at town, county, state and federal levels. Additionally, in 2019, 410 qualified volunteers contributed 18,498 hours valued at $546,476.

Fahnestock State Park provides a stunning backdrop for Master Gardener Volunteers to lead one of their guided hikes.

Photo credit: Anita Conway
Community-Based

4-H volunteers & families take part in a hands-on, STEAM educational experience on board the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

Members of the 4-H Face Painting Club at the Annual Children’s Expo & Safety Fair sponsored by the Child Advocacy Center.

Master Gardener Volunteer Rich Dunne, has served for over 40 years as a Putnam County Volunteer. Rich is among the first Master Gardener Volunteers in NYS, and the only in service since the program’s inception.

CCE Educators and Master Gardener volunteers take the time to clean-up the South Education and Demonstration Garden at Extension (SEDGe) located at our building.

Our horticulture hotline & diagnostic lab offers pest identification and evidence-based solutions for home gardeners and green industry professionals alike.

Skilled Master Gardener Volunteers plan, implement and provided high-level guidance to families and individuals who come to the annual Master Gardener Plant Sale the Saturday after Mother’s Day at our building.
The 48th Annual Putnam County 4-H Fair once again saw the youth of Putnam put their newly learned leadership skills to use. They helped to plan, organize and implement this annual event. More than 20,000 fairgoers enjoyed a fun-filled family outing exploring the youth and adult projects, hands-on educational exhibits, the animals and more. Many hours of service by CCE volunteers and staff went into planning the Fair. We thank all who were involved with making the Fair another success for our community and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

↑ CCE Intern and 4-H Members hang posters around Putnam County in early July to help promote the 4-H Fair.

← The 4-H Fair provides an opportunity for youth to educate and show the public their animals and livestock, at their best. It also allows them to share some quality snuggle time.
FALL HARVEST

4-H clubs march with their banners to the stage during Opening Ceremonies.

4-H Teen Action Group members take a moment on the bench built by 4-H volunteer Michael Salerno in honor of the late James Reitz.

4-H Fair Youth Leaders play a critical role in the success of the Fair from planning, to setting up and running activities during the Fair!

Parents and youth of all ages were eager to see and climb aboard a "big rig", as part of the Touch A Truck activity.

A Youth Encampment volunteer is surprised, as his peer generates enough energy to illuminate a light bulb.

At the CCE Expo, volunteers give guests introductory lessons on topics like Easy Care Succulent Plants, Beekeeping, and Getting Started with Aquariums.

4-H clubs march with their banners to the stage during Opening Ceremonies.
Community Support

Working together to build strong healthy families and communities while enhancing Putnam County’s social well-being, economic vitality and natural resources.

Putnam County

Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
Soil and Water Conservation District
Bureau of Emergency Services
Child Advocacy Center
Department of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health
Employee Wellness Committee
Highways & Facilities
Historian’s Office
Mental Health Services
Office for Senior Resources
Personnel Department
Probation
Sheriff’s Department
Veterans Affairs
Veterans Memorial Park
Youth Bureau

Brewster Central School District
Brewster Elks Lodge #2101
Brewster-Carmel Garden Club
Brook Farm Veterinary Center
Camp Herrlich
Carmel Central School District
Catholic Charities
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
Comcast
Community Foundation of Putnam County
Companion Pet Hospital of Carmel
Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Shared Business Network

Cornell University - Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
Cornell University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences:
  Cornell Garden Based Learning
  Department of Horticulture
  Department of Natural Resources
  Eastern NY Commercial Horticultural Program
  Lab of Ornithology
  NYS Integrated Pest Management Program
  Small Farms Program
  Seed to Supper Statewide Leadership Team
  Urban Horticulture Institute
Cornell University College of Human Ecology
  CoveCare Center
Danbury Area Aquarium Society
Drug Crisis in Our Backyard
Eat Smart NY Hudson Valley
Garrison Union Free School District
Glynwood Center for Regional Food & Farming
Green Chimneys Children’s Services
Green Chimneys Clearpool Campus
Green Chimneys Clearpool Campus Model Forest
Haldane Central School District
Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association
Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation
Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
Hudson Valley Regional Community Health Center
iMap Invasives International Society of Arboriculture
Jack Stewart Jr. Memorial Fund
Kent Police
Kent Public Library
Live Healthy Putnam Coalition
Lower Hudson PRISM
Mahopac Central School District
Mahopac Garden Club
Mahopac Public Library
New York New Jersey Trail Conference
North Fork Horse Stables
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
NYS Federation of Lake Associations
NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program
NYS Agriculture in the Classroom
NYS Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS Office of Children and Family Services
NYS Turf Association
Oasis Sportsmen’s Club
Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
Patterson Library
Pawling Animal Clinic
Philipstown Garden Club
Putnam County Federation of Sportsmen
Putnam Community Action Program
Putnam County Economic Development Corporation
Putnam County Housing Corporation
Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District
Putnam County Fish and Game
Putnam Hospital Center
Putnam Valley Central School District
Rotary Club of Carmel
South Putnam Animal Hospital
Stonecrop Garden
Studio Around the Corner
Taste NY Hudson Valley
The Prevention Council of Putnam
Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition
Tractor Supply Company, Patterson, NY
Trained by Teresa
Watershed Agricultural Council
Westchester Community College Kathryn Davis Global Community Scholars
Financial Support*

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Putnam County is a partnership between Putnam County, New York State, and the Federal government that responds to the economic, environmental and social needs and concerns of Putnam County residents and communities. We are the legislated education arm of the land-grant university system and county government that provides Putnam County residents with direct access to the research and resources of Cornell University.

* As of February 7, 2020
Cornell Impacting Putnam County

Represents where programs were held throughout Putnam County in 2019.