Strengthening Community and Economic Vitality
Enhancing the Environment
Strengthening Youth and Families
Dear Friends and Supporters of Cornell Cooperative Extension,

On behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Putnam County Board of Directors and staff, we proudly present the 2016 Annual Report. 2016 was an exciting year filled with new opportunities and initiatives. This report provides a snapshot of this year's accomplishments and their positive impacts on the local economy, environment and social well-being of Putnam County residents.

For 73 years, Cornell Cooperative Extension has maintained a strong and unique partnership with Putnam County government, linking our residents to world-class research and intellectual knowledge of Cornell University, New York's land-grant university and a world-renowned institution.

It is our commitment to assist Putnam County government by helping our residents and communities find practical solutions to problems and improve the quality of life. Putnam families, businesses and communities deal with a wide variety of issues, from simple to complex. Our educational programs and services help our residents respond in a positive manner by providing them with reliable, unbiased, research-based information.

Our slogan, “Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities,” reflects what we do to make Putnam County a better place to live, work and raise a family. In this report you will learn how our community-based education programs respond to local needs:

- Strengthening community capacity & fostering economic vitality
- Protecting and enhancing our environment
- Promoting sustainable agriculture
- Improving individual and community health
- Preparing youth for the future
- Strengthening families
- Providing and enhancing volunteer opportunities

Our professional educators and staff, along with a corps of 338 qualified volunteers, actively and diligently assist residents, youth, business people, educators and decision makers in making informed decisions and developing important leadership and life skills. Through our daily efforts, we provide custom-tailored educational programs and assistance that provide opportunities for positive change. We use a variety of methods to create learning partnerships and disseminate university-based knowledge, including workshops, webinars, publications, mass media, websites, individual consultations, 4-H clubs, youth activities and special events such as the Putnam County 4-H Fair.

Thanks to the continued financial support we receive from our County, State and Federal partners along with private foundations and community supporters, our knowledgeable and skilled staff and volunteers are able to deliver quality programs and services that meet the needs of our Putnam residents and communities as well as state and national goals. We look forward to serving you in 2017.

Sincerely,

Marjorie L. Nichols Keith
Executive Director

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
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 and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

Values
Since 1944, Putnam County's Cornell Cooperative Extension has linked university research, knowledge and experiential learning to the needs and issues facing Putnam County residents. We are committed to the following:

- **Excellence**
  We build on individual competence, credibility and integrity to deliver innovative programs of the highest quality.

- **Responsiveness**
  We respond in a timely, efficient and resourceful manner.

- **Collaboration**
  We optimize resources through partnerships.

- **Learner-Centered**

- **Lifelong Education**
  We help people adapt to a changing environment.

- **Results-Oriented**

- **Programming**
  We deliver successful programs that are valued by people.

- **The Future**
  We anticipate future needs and develop appropriate funding.

- **Volunteerism**
  We respect and depend upon volunteers to multiply program efforts and help provide organizational leadership.

- **Inclusiveness** -
  We embrace diversity in faculty, staff and learners. We respect diversity of opinion and take pride in the variety of our programming.

Initiatives

**Strengthening Community and Economic Vitality**
To strengthen the social and economic vitality of communities by helping to create a shared vision of the future and by working with government and other agencies to deliver programs that have significant impact.

**Enhancing the Environment**
To improve the quality and sustainability of the environment and natural resources by promoting environmental stewardship, sound decision-making and best management practices.

**Strengthening Youth and Families 🌟🌟**
To empower youth and families to reach their fullest potential through 4-H Youth Development. These experiential learning opportunities develop critical life skills, foster civic responsibility and strengthen the community.

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Making a Difference in Putnam County
Strengthening Community
And Economic Vitality

Putnam County’s community and economic well-being is dependent upon a vibrant local economy, local job opportunities, quality community and human services and financially secure families. As community builders, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators help create strong, vital, healthy communities. We work with a broad range of participants, including government, business leaders, service-provider professionals and concerned citizens to develop and deliver programs that have significant impact on the social and economic well-being of families, businesses and community organizations.

We’re helping expand Putnam County’s economy.

Our Extension educators provided leadership to promote business development and preserve open space. During the year we served on: the Putnam County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, implementing the County’s Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan; the Cornell University Sustainable Landscape Commercial Horticulture Program Work Team, providing technical training and assistance to the County’s commercial horticulture industry; the Clearpool Model Forest Steering Committee, helping Putnam landowners understand the shared benefits of properly managed forests; the Cornell Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program Administrative Management Group, providing technical training and assistance to the County’s agricultural growers; and the Putnam BizCon Committee, encouraging businesses and residents to shop locally.

We’re helping build stronger and more vibrant communities.

The Putnam Community Service Network (PCSN), a Cornell Cooperative Extension program, provides professional development and networking opportunities for Putnam County’s nonprofit and public agencies.

We helped government and nonprofit organizations build capacity by partnering with United Way - Pace University Not-For-Profit Management Center, Putnam SCORE, and Putnam County Personnel Department to provide affordable, high quality, professional development opportunities in Putnam County. 156 managers, supervisors and personnel from local human service organizations and government attended these half-day seminars held throughout the year: How to Manage Expectations of Difficult Clients Effectively; Long-Term Planning for Not-for-Profits Using a Sustainability Model; Online Marketing for Not-for-Profits; and Working with Difficult Individuals and Difficult Situations.

The 31st PCSN Community Awards Breakfast, held at the Putnam County Golf Course, had 215 community leaders in attendance and recognized 30 Putnam County organizations, professionals, volunteers and youth for their service and contributions to improving the quality of life in our local communities.

Left: Ann Ellsworth, Executive Director (center), accepts the 2016 PCSN Distinguish Service Organization Award presented to the Westchester/Northern Putnam Women’s Resource Center for its distinguished service and advocacy since 1979 to those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.
We take leadership roles in our county and region.

Extension educators provide ongoing leadership and resources to facilitate the delivery of quality, cost-efficient community services that address local needs. We serve in community leadership roles on committees and boards such as: the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) assisting NYSDEC with strategic management and integrating relevant information to prevent and minimize the harm caused by invasive species; Live Healthy Putnam Coalition assisting the Putnam County Department of Health in their efforts to encourage residents of all ages to eat right and stay fit; and Putnam County Youth Board assisting the Putnam County Youth Bureau in developing and implementing their comprehensive plan for youth services.

We’re helping Putnam residents make healthier food and lifestyle choices

Eat Smart New York (ESNY) Hudson Valley joined CCE of Putnam County’s educational efforts this summer with a bilingual nutrition educator on board. ESNY provides community-based nutrition education and obesity prevention activities targeted to low-income and limited resource individuals, families, youth, schools and communities. The ESNY program collaborates with local organizations to create systematic change through policy, practice and environmental approaches.

In Putnam County, the efforts began in July with ESNY collaborating with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley and Kent Public Library to offer the USDA Summer Food Service Program. This program provided a free, nutritionally balance lunch to an average of 10 to 15 youth each week this summer. In addition, Cornell Cooperative Extension’s ESNY bilingual nutrition educator, Bintou Hinds has served over 70 individuals in partnership with Putnam County CAP, Catholic Charities, Patterson Library and Green Chimneys with nutrition education being offered at different venues. These sessions emphasize: eating more fruits and vegetables; drinking less sugar-sweetened beverages, exercising more, and balancing calories eaten as part of a healthy lifestyle. ESNY and CCE Putnam educators continue to work to increase awareness of the program in the County and have several exciting projects planned for the spring/summer of 2017.

Making a Difference in Putnam County

“What if?”: safety training for ingestion pathways of food contamination

This summer Jen Stengle attended a series of ingestion pathways tabletop drills to prepare and practice for emergency response to a radiological incident that might affect agricultural commodities in Putnam County and beyond. Cornell Cooperative Extension is the liaison between New York’s Department of Agriculture and Markets and farmers in each county. Public safety agencies from every county in the lower & mid Hudson Valley as well as surrounding states participated in this drill. To complete the circle of communication and response FEMA, USDA, state and county emergency management services, law enforcement, health departments and other federal, state and local agencies were part of this exercise.

A coordinated response to an emergency helps to ensure open lines of communication so that our food supply is safe. Farmers need to be informed of potential contaminants, so they can keep livestock and field crops safe. They need to know how soon they can resume normal farm operations. We need to have a plan for livestock and pets in case of emergencies like floods and extreme weather events. While we hope these “what-ifs” never come to pass, we need to have a plan in place so that farmers know what steps to take to keep our food supplies safe.

Above: Putnam farms produce dairy products, field crops, maple syrup, honey and other food products. In case of a radiological event, emergency responders drilled on how to keep those foods safe and how to inform the public on the safety of Putnam’s agricultural commodities.
Seed to Supper: Forging Community Connections
With the input of Eat Smart NY and Putnam County Department of Health (DOH) partners, we have identified communities in Putnam County where food is not always plentiful. CCE Educators Jen Stengle and Kate Everitt are building a network of community and agency partners that will work to address food security in these communities by offering free vegetable gardening classes and planting-supplies for those in need, and by providing fresh vegetables to a local soup kitchen and food pantries.

Partners such as the Brewster Library, Putnam CAP, Longview School, Patterson Library, Camp Herrlich, and Brewster’s Studio Around the Corner will help us connect with these communities and offer space to grow and teach. Teaching gardens and classes in Patterson and The Village of Brewster will focus on small space gardening. The community will experience the how-to’s of growing healthy, fresh vegetables and turning them into nutritious meals. Afterschool programs and summer camps at Camp Herrlich will dig-in to gardening with Master Gardener Volunteers.

We are looking forward to getting started on these exciting projects and have connected with Cornell University Garden Based Learning for the “Seed to Supper” and “Seed to Salad” curriculum. This initiative is included in Putnam County DOH’s 2017 Community Health Improvement Plan.

International Society of Arboriculture Certification Training:
Arborists have a tough job. Besides the dangers inherent in climbing trees and using a chainsaw while strapped in, they are operating on a living organism. Like other living organisms, trees get diseases, have circulatory systems and depend on good nutrition and water to stay healthy. No wonder arborists are sometimes called “tree-surgeons.”

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is a way for arborists, landscapers and other green industry professionals to educate themselves on best practices pertaining to tree care and maintenance and also stay up-to-date on new diseases, invasive pests and control methods. The ISA Certified Arborist designation is also a way for green industry professionals to distinguish their business from other businesses. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess and Putnam Counties presented an intensive (18-hours) ISA Certification Training and provided an opportunity for 35 Hudson Valley green industry professionals to apply and take the ISA certification exam.

CCE Educators Stephanie Radin (Dutchess) and Jen Stengle (Putnam) coordinated this 4-session training that covered tree biology and identification; nutrition/fertilization, diagnostics/plant health; tree risk assessment/pruning; soil and water relations, installation/establishment, cabling/bracing/safety/climbing/tree preservation. Speakers included Cornell’s Nina Bassuk of the Urban Horticulture Institute and respected industry professionals.

Left: CCE Putnam Educator Jennifer Stengle, Davis Scholars Suparna Das and Lea Fuentes, and Cultural Arts Coalition Vice President Judy Marano pose for a picture after building the “Seed to Supper” garden beds at Studio Around the Corner in the Village of Brewster.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Volunteers invest their time and talents to make Putnam County a better place to live.

In 2016, 338 volunteers, including Board of Directors, Advisory Committees, Master Gardeners, 4-H leaders, 4-H Fair Committee and special project and event volunteers along with 518 4-H Fair community volunteers provided educational programs and services valued at $534,572.

4-H Youth give back to the community!
4-H members engaged in service learning and developed a sense of social responsibility by participating in community service projects such as: collecting food for Putnam CAP’s food pantry; coordinating the Giving Tree Project for Putnam Family & Community Services; filming community events for cable television viewing in partnership with Comcast; presenting puppet shows at local libraries; face painting at community events; community and stream–side clean-up’s in Philipstown and volunteering at the Putnam County Children’s Expo & Public Safety Day and the Putnam County 4-H Fair.

Master Gardener Volunteers — Class of 2016
A warm welcome to the Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) class of 2016! After an 11-week training with Cooperative Extension educators, Cornell University faculty and green industry professionals and leaders, our new class of MGVs graduated in December. They are an energetic group who have jumped into the MGV experience feet first! They are ready to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty! These 13 volunteers come from all over the County with diverse professional backgrounds and interests. Our corps of 82 Master Gardeners bring their skills and an enthusiasm for natural resources and horticulture to our communities. They are integral to the successes of our Environment Horticulture & Natural Resources program.
Enhancing the Environment

Extension Educators and Master Gardener Volunteers connect with the people of Putnam County:

Natural Resources and the Environment: Forests, Wetlands, Biodiversity • Invasive Species • Agroforestry • Water Quality • Climate Change • Model Forest

Community Horticulture: Home Gardening, Landscaping and the Environment • Gardening for Health • Family and Youth Gardening • Garden-to-Table: Grow Your Way to Better Health

Master Gardener Volunteers: Master Gardener Plant Sale • Speakers Bureau • Cold Spring Farmers Market • Brewster Farmers Market • Demonstration Gardens: Native Plants, Vegetable Gardening and Composting • Rain Barrel and Composting Classes

Commercial Horticulture: International Society of Arboriculture Arborist Training • Webinars for Landscape and Lawn Care Professionals • Monthly e-newsletter

Agriculture: Small Farms • Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program • Putnam County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

Garden to Table’s Pumpkin-Palooza

Putnam County’s obesity status is similar to the rest of NY state: more than 24% of children and adults can be considered obese. The Putnam County Health Department’s Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) listed obesity, a chronic disease, as one of its top priorities. A coalition of agencies and individuals (Live Healthy Putnam) approached this goal, bringing multidisciplinary expertise together to reach younger children, with a coordinated campaign designed for licensed childcare providers, school aged children and elementary afterschool programs.

Partnering with Kris Boyle, Nutrition Educator from the Putnam County Department of Health and Jessica Vanacoro, Program Director from Camp Herrlich, we visited the Matthew Paterson and Kent Elementary schools to reach 68 elementary school-aged children. We started with a casual conversation about pumpkins and a poll (by show of hands) about their preconceptions and experiences with eating pumpkin. Beyond the familiar Jack-o-Lantern, their experience with pumpkins seems to revolve around sweets, including; pie, muffins, lattes, donuts, crisps and cookies.

As Jen Stengle, CCE Educator, showed the children how to make pumpkin soup, Kris Boyle handed out baked pumpkin seeds to try. As the soup simmered, we broke the kids up into three groups for a pumpkin seed-saving activity. Children were asked to reach into the fresh pumpkin and pull out 3 seeds. This engaged all of their senses and they responded with enthusiastic curiosity. Older children helped younger children as they cleaned the seeds and packaged them to take home along with instructions on how to cure, store and plant next year. While the children sipped their soup, Kris read the kids a wonderful story (Ready for Pumpkins by Kate Duke). We ended the event with another poll mirroring the questions we asked at the start of pumpkin-palooza. We found that 38 of the 68 participating children had tried the soup, 25 of the 35 who tried the roasted pumpkin seeds liked them and would eat them again and 31 of 68 were willing to try pumpkin again. It’s hard to get children to taste something new, but making the experience fun and engaging their senses made a pumpkin-licious impression.
Teaching Bee-Friendly Backyard Landscape Practices

Addressing Needs: Pollinators are in the news: honeybee hive losses, threatened native bees, and the impacts on our food supply have become a worldwide concern. In 2015, Governor Cuomo established an interagency task force on Pollinators, with several goals, including public education and engagement, and pollinator habitat enhancement. Research confirms what gardeners know: our flower and vegetable gardens provide diverse nutrition sources, structural refuge and nesting sites, offering a rich and varied habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. Managed landscapes that include both native and non-native plant species with a deliberate sequence of bloom help to extend the growing season in both spring and fall, providing a longer season of forage for pollinators. We needed to get the message out that home landscapes that are managed for pollinators can provide vital habitat for these important allies.

Peer-to-Peer Education: Harnessing the multiplying factor of peer-to-peer education, CCE Educator Jen Stengle organized a six-county Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training (attended by 46 MGVs) which brought experts on native and managed pollinators to one venue. Emma Mullen of Cornell University, Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann of NYS IPM and native bee expert, Tim Stanley, delivered the program. MGVs attending identified action steps for their county and reflected on barriers to adopting pollinator-friendly practices in the home landscape.

The Multiplying Effect: From there, MGVs and CCE Educators who attended this program went back to their counties and taught 14 hands-on or lecture style programs reaching more than 530 attendees. Tabling events (6) at farmer’s markets, community days and county fairs provided excellent opportunities for one-on-one conversations (250 contacts). These trained MGVs were also inspired to write several articles about pollinators that ran in 3 local newspapers and 3 association newsletters (indirect contacts estimated at 250,000). They also created garden signage that reached many more: MGVs added “bee-informed” signage to 3 existing demonstration gardens in two counties, with two additional pollinator gardens being started from scratch.

Developing Shared Resources: MGVs and CCE educators identified “bee-friendly” outreach needs like peer-reviewed ready-to-use articles and fact sheets, power point presentations, stand-up displays and well-designed garden signage. Online file sharing allowed CCE educators throughout the state to post or download resources on a regional and statewide level. Collaborating with Cornell Botanic Gardens (previously Cornell Plantations), Interpretation Coordinator Sarah Fiorello and Jen Stengle created interpretive garden signs that reflected questions, concerns and important pollinator facts identified by MGVs and CCE educators. An October 13th webinar rollout for CCE Educators announced these pollinator resources, file sharing location and use instructions. View these at putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/create-a-pollinator-paradise (under resources for educators) and on the CCE horticulture resource sharing library (available to CCE Horticulture and Natural Resources educators with a Cornell net ID).

Making a Difference in Putnam County

Above: Native bumble bee on catmint in our CCE Pollinator Demonstration Garden. (Which is next to the DMV in Brewster.)

Right: Interpretive signage in the garden reflects important themes identified by program evaluations.
Collaborating on Invasive Species Surveying

Blockbuster Survey Trainings The lower Hudson Valley is a gateway for movement of invasive plants, animals, insects and pathogens. Highways, waterways and train corridors provide a superhighway for invasive organisms. In order to track the introduction, spread or absence of invasive species, researchers need baseline data. While there was some data to start with in the lower Hudson Valley, there were more questions than answers. Identifying a need to fill in these blanks, Lower Hudson PRISM partners divided the map into blocks and solicited partners to deliver trainings to Blockbuster Survey volunteers. CCE Educator Jen Stengle hosted two of these trainings in Putnam County, and developed a field guide for the focal species. (Resources and maps can be viewed at lhprism.org/blockbuster2016.) Other CCE partners offered blockbuster trainings throughout the 8 county, Lower Hudson PRISM region.

Volunteers were asked to adopt a block to survey for the presence or absence of key plant species. With a partner, volunteers visited their block and surveyed several areas within their block. Region-wide, 117 people attended the trainings, adopting 97 blocks. Data has been received on 44 plots (as of 12/31/2016).

The data gathered will provide scientists with a baseline and help them better understand pathways of introduction in the region, and thus where we focus our efforts to prevent further invasion. Data will help define Invasive Species Prevention Zones in areas of highest concern and help land managers decide where treatment or removal might be a successful option.

Thinking Proactively In the Face of Climate Change: Early Detection and Rapid Response

Many of us know Kudzu as the “vine that ate the south.” But you might be surprised to hear that in 2016 this invasive vine made its debut in Putnam County, NY! While this unwelcome guest was intentionally introduced, it has thus far, not been able to set seed this far north because of our shorter growing season. But as winters become more mild, land managers fear that the plant will successfully produce seed, accelerating the invasive vine’s spread.

As part of a state-wide effort, CCE educators and volunteers report sightings of invasive species in the iMap Invasives database which is managed by the New York Natural Heritage Program. When CCE Educator Jen Stengle reported the Putnam County Kudzu, a series of alerts were set in motion. The iMap Invasives report and infestation photos were confirmed and an Early Detection, Rapid Response warning went out to agencies and PRISM partners. Within a day CCE Putnam received a phone call to confirm the details. Within a week, the infestation was removed! Rapid response like this depends upon a successful chain of communication and the dedication of volunteers and professionals along the chain. The Putnam County Kudzu site is scheduled to be monitored again next year. If we catch invasion early enough, we have a chance to “nip it in the bud.”
Education is part of our May Plant Sale

Master Gardener Volunteers really stepped up to the plate as we strove to make education a part of each sales area at our May Plant Sale. This included sharing their know how choosing unusual varieties, providing fact sheets on emerging disease issues, and increasing awareness of the vital role of pollinators.

The Beauty and the Bees section area highlighted native plants and the pollinators they support. Each volunteer on the team was asked to become an expert on one of these pollinator/plant relationships. Not only do our volunteers become self-directed students, but they become educators as well, ready to share what they know with genuine enthusiasm. The people who visit our sale stick around to have their soil pH checked, ask questions and engage with their peers. We want them to see Cornell Cooperative Extension and our Master Gardener Volunteers as a trusted resource, and clearly they do. We are grateful to all of our amazing volunteers and board members who give their time to make the Plant Sale a great day!

Asian Tiger Mosquito Citizen Science Project

With concerns and rumors about Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases in the news, research efforts turned to surveying for the presence of the mosquitos that vector them. Master Gardener Volunteers Lynne Bernstein and Anita Conway participated in the Asian Tiger Mosquito Citizen Science Project run by Talya Shragai, a Cornell University PhD student. The MGVs attended a training program hosted by Westchester CCE and built mosquito traps. Mosquitos lay their eggs in the trap then the project participants send the contents of their traps to Cornell University where Ms. Shragai checks for the presence of Asian Tiger Mosquito. The project resulted in a map of the spread of the Asian Tiger Mosquito in New York State, a resource that will help public health professionals make informed decisions.

Left: The Master Gardeners who attended this program are ready to teach in their communities, sharing research based facts about the mosquitos that vector diseases.

MGVs Lead by Example at Tilly Foster Community Garden

The CCE of Putnam County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) plot at the Tilly Foster Community Garden is staffed by MGVs every weekday evening between 4pm-6pm as well as Saturday morning from 10am to 12pm. The plot focuses on demonstrating evidence-based best management gardening practices for vegetables, brambles and herbs. A section of the garden is dedicated to pollinator awareness. MGVs and CCE Educators use the space to teach hands-on community classes ranging from insect identification to no-till gardening. Since the garden is organic we focus on teaching the patrons of the garden integrated pest management to help reduce insect and disease pressure. The produce from our demonstration plot is donated to a local food pantry weekly during peak harvest season. Community gardeners (18) have adopted evidence-based best management practices shown in the MGV demonstration bed including watering, disease management, harvesting, transplanting, mulching, pest management, planting for pollinators and soil amendments.

Above: Master Gardener Volunteers help teach class participants how to mulch and why mulch is a great tool.

Above: Master Gardener Volunteer and CCE Putnam Board of Director Member Ed Iliano’s spirits are not dampened by a little rain.
**Strengthening Youth & Families**

4-H helps youth make healthy choices, excel in science and become leaders in their communities:
Leadership ▪ Agriculture ▪ Video Production ▪ Community Service ▪ Generosity ▪ Environmental Education ▪ Belonging ▪ Hands-on ▪ Life Skills ▪ Science, Engineering & Technology ▪ Mastery ▪ Citizenship ▪ Public Speaking ▪ Theater ▪ Healthy Lifestyles ▪ Valuing Diversity ▪ Connected to research at Cornell University ▪ Career Exploration ▪ Independence

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**4-H Teaches Children and Families the Importance of Safety about Firearms**

More than a dozen children participated in a Free Safety Information Program about Firearms in September 2016. NYS Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors Laura Johnson and Tom Hall led the two-hour safety program, held at the Paladin Center in Carmel. The Putnam County District Attorney also took part in the program and spoke to parents about the laws pertaining to safe storage of firearms.

The primary objective of the program was to educate young people what to do if they see or find a gun at home, at a friend’s house or in the community. There was no use of or handling of firearms during the program, rather an opportunity to discuss the dangers of firearms and being safe. Many people can safely enjoy a variety of shooting sports including target shooting and hunting so long as safety and responsible gun ownership are the first priority.

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**NYS 4-H Career Explorations at Cornell University**

In June, fourteen Putnam County youth took part in the NYS 4-H Career Explorations program at Cornell University.

Career Explorations is a three-day event for youth on the Cornell University campus. The purpose of this conference is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration to 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 program tracts: University U for youth entering grades 8-9 and Focus for Teens for youth entering grades 10-12.

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Left: 4-H Member Courtney S., learning about the digestive system of a cow during the Vet Science program at Career Explorations.

Above: 4-H Putnam participants at Cornell University.
Regional 4-H Family Overnight at The Intrepid: Sea, Air & Space Museum

Approximately 50 4-H youth and families from a 5 county region, took part in a 4-H Family Sleepover onboard the Intrepid: Sea, Air & Space Museum.

Participants took part in a variety of activities including learning about the Space Shuttle, a tour of the flight deck, the history of the Intrepid and the role the ship played in WWII, as well as a ride on a flight simulator. In addition, 4-H members explored the Growler; which offers visitors a firsthand look at life aboard a submarine and a close-up inspection of the once "top-secret" missile command center.

4-H Members also took part in hands-on STEM related activities learning about aviation, water conservation, civic duty and engineering. Finally, participants learned about the star and solar system from the Earth's night sky in the onboard Planetarium.

Above: 4-H Members touring the Space Shuttle Pod.

45th Annual Putnam County 4-H Fair

Cornell Cooperative Extension hosted the 45th Annual Putnam County 4-H Fair. More than 20,000 youth, families and individuals attended the event. Aside from being one of the County’s largest community service event, the 4-H Fair serves as the culmination of a year’s worth of 4-H club activities. 4-H members showcase their projects, animals and the valuable leadership skills they have developed during the past year.

Making a Difference in Putnam County

Above: 2016 Putnam County 4-H Fair photos.

4-H Fair Youth Leaders

22 Youth, ages 11-18, served as 4-H Youth Leaders during the 2016 Putnam County 4-H Fair; contributing more than 2,000 service hours. Youth Leaders take on specific leadership roles during the fair including inventory, registration, supplies and set-up.

Above: 2016 Putnam County 4-H Fair photos.
4-H Clubs—the Core of the 4-H Youth Development Program

The 4-H Youth Development Program serves youth from all backgrounds throughout Putnam County. Boys and girls, ages 5-19, can take part in 4-H clubs, special-interest programs, short-term projects, individual and family learning opportunities and school enrichment programs.

The primary goal of 4-H is to develop citizenship, leadership and life skills in youth through experiential learning opportunities and a positive youth development approach. Today’s 4-H program has three primary initiatives:

- Citizenship
- Healthy living
- Science, engineering, math & technology

In 2016, our 4-H Youth Development Program:
- Served 3,651 Putnam youth.
- Sponsored or participated in over 30 community events and special interest programs including the 4-H Jr. Vet Series, The Putnam County Youth Forum and Ag Literacy Week.
- 458 adults served as 4-H volunteers.
- 242 adults and 289 youth volunteered at the Putnam County 4-H Fair.
- Supported 14 active (year round) 4-H Clubs including the Explorers 4-H Club, Tall Oaks 4-H Horse Club, 4-H Media Productions Crew and 4-H Puppeteer Players.

This unique learn-by-doing model teaches our youth essential and transferrable skills that they’ll use throughout their lives, such as problem solving, decision making, coping, communicating and responding to the needs of others. In addition to mastering a variety of important life skills, 4-H members connect with caring adults in their community and make friendships that last a lifetime.

4-H Jr. Veterinarian Job Shadowing Program

Approximately 30 Putnam County youth are given the opportunity annually to explore the broad scope of veterinary medicine and animal science by shadowing a local veterinarian. This six part series studies basic pet care, animal biology and physiology, as well as what veterinarians actually do in their day-to-day profession. Participants of this program acquire insights that contribute directly to their education and career planning. Furthermore, this unique program offers opportunities for youth to explore STEM related occupations and connects them to mentors in the veterinary field. 4-H Jr. Vet participants leave the program with an increased passion for pursuing their aspirations of working with animals. The series culminates with a field trip to a local horse farm where participants learn basic equine veterinary care including grooming, feeding and how to take the temperature of a horse. By offering this program to youth who might otherwise not have become involved with 4-H, we have increased general 4-H enrollment in Putnam County.

Above: Jr. Vet participants learn about horse care and equine science.
4-H is a positive youth development program that empowers young people to reach their full potential. Putnam County 4-H'ers are becoming leaders in our community today. Through hands-on learning, research-based 4-H youth programs and adult mentorship, the Putnam County 4-H members in 4-H clubs, classroom clubs and after school programs are committed to their extra curricular educational experience, benefitting all of us in Putnam County.

4-H Teen Action Groups Members Coordinate the 4-H Giving Tree

For the past five years, the 4-H Teen Action Groups has coordinated an annual Giving Tree program to help those in our community who need a little support during the holiday season.

Working in partnership with Putnam Family and Community Services, holiday wish lists are placed on the trees so that the community can help if they choose. Gifts are purchased and brought to Putnam Family who distributes the items to the families.

For the past several years, Giving Trees have been placed at the Mahopac Library, the Putnam DMV and George's Restaurant in Carmel. In 2017, we hope to expand the program and have trees up in Cold Spring and Putnam Valley.

4-H Media Productions

4-H Media Productions is a 4-H Club, open to Putnam youth ages 11-19. Participants of the club are introduced to all phases of communication media.

Older youth members serve in leadership roles by shaping the program for younger members. All youth involved in the 4-H Media Productions Club are expected to participate in learning communities, determine goals for their own hands-on learning, engage in and develop leadership skills and perform community service. In addition, the club members also perform, write scripts, handle all aspects of filming, audio recording and editing.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County is funded by annual appropriations from County, State and Federal governments. Grants, contracts, program participation fees and private contributions leverage our core government funding.

This funding partnership provides an educational system that links our County residents, businesses, and communities with Cornell University and the nationwide land-grant university system of research and education.

Our Putnam County funding is essential to maintaining this unique Cooperative Extension partnership between the County, State, and Federal governments and Cornell University, which is New York’s land-grant university.

Our core governmental funding is further leveraged by the loyalty and hard work of a dedicated corps of skilled volunteers helping to make Putnam County a better place to live and work.

2016 Estimate of Support

Putnam County provided 30.7% of the Funding, and receives 100% of the programming.

Federal Government
8.5%
Direct aid, fringe benefits & university resources

Other Sources
15.5%
Grants, fees & contributions

Putnam County
30.7%
Direct aid

New York State
45.3%
Direct aid, fringe benefits & university resources

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County is a subordinate government agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
# Collaboration and Partnerships

| Alice Curtis Desmond and Hamilton Fish Library | NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets |
| Arts Around the Corner | NYS Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| Brewster-Carmel Garden Club | 4-H Educators |
| Brewster Central School District | NYS Department of Environmental Conservation |
| Brewster Elks Lodge #2101 | NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program |
| Brewster Public Library | NYS Agriculture in the Classroom |
| Brook Farm Veterinary Center | NYS Office of Children and Family Services |
| Camp Herrlich | NYS Turf and Landscape Association |
| Carmel Central School District | Northfork Stables |
| Carmel Fire Department | Oasis Sportsmen’s Club |
| Childcare Council of Dutchess & Putnam | Paladin Center |
| Cold Spring Farmers’ Market | Patterson Library |
| Comcast | Philipstown Garden Club |
| Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in the Hudson Valley | Pied Piper Pony Rides & Petting Zoo |
| Cornell University - Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research | Putnam ARC |
| Cornell University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences | Putnam Community Action Program |
| Department of Natural Resources | Putnam County |
| Department of Horticulture | Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board |
| Garden Based Learning @ Cornell University | Bureau of Emergency Services |
| Lab of Ornithology | Child Advocacy Center |
| NYS Integrated Pest Management Program | Department of Consumer Affairs |
| Urban Horticulture Institute | Department of Health |
| Eastern NY Commercial Horticultural Program | Employee Wellness Committee |
| Drug Crisis in Your Backyard | Highways & Facilities |
| Eat Smart NY | Mental Health Services |
| Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce | Office for People with Disabilities |
| Green Chimneys Children’s Services | Office for Senior Resources |
| Green Chimneys Clearpool Campus | Sherriff’s Department |
| Green Chimneys Clearpool Campus Model Forest | Veterans Memorial Park |
| Haldane Central School District | Youth Bureau |
| Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association | Putnam County Chamber of Commerce |
| Highlands Garden Club | Putnam County Economic Development Corporation |
| Hudson Highlands Land Trust | Putnam County Federation of Sportsmen’s |
| Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union | Putnam County Housing Corporation |
| iMap Invasives | Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District |
| IBM Volunteers | Putnam Family and Community Services |
| International Society of Arboriculture | Putnam Horse Council |
| Jack Stewart Jr. Memorial Fund | Putnam Hospital Center |
| Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library | Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center |
| Kent Public Library | Putnam Valley Central School District |
| Lake Peekskill Garden Club | Putnam Valley Grange |
| Live Healthy Putnam Coalition | Putnam Valley Free Library |
| Lower Hudson PRISM | Rotary Club of Carmel |
| Mahopac Central School District | South Putnam Animal Hospital |
| Mahopac Garden Club | The Longview School |
| Mahopac Public Library | Town of Kent Highway Department |
| National Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies | Tractor Supply Company |
| New York/New Jersey Trail Conference | Trained by Teresa |
| NYC Department of Environment Protection | United States Department of Justice |
| NYS 4-H Lego Robotics Program | United Way of Westchester and Putnam |
| Putnam County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board | United Way-Pace University Not-For-Profit Management Center |
| Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services | Watershed Agricultural Council |
The Association

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The Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Putnam County is part of the national Cooperative Extension system, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal Governments.

As New York's land grant university Cornell administers the Cooperative Extension system in this state. Each Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer that is governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell University. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located as well as state and national goals.