2016 Funding and Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Federal*</th>
<th>State**</th>
<th>County***</th>
<th>Generated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue ($)</td>
<td>241,588</td>
<td>302,630</td>
<td>1,082,762</td>
<td>1,017,558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>9.14%</td>
<td>11.44%</td>
<td>40.94%</td>
<td>38.48%</td>
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Total Revenue $2,644,538

* Includes Smith Lever, Safety Education Program, DEC Program, and OMK
** Includes State 224 Funds, DEC Stormwater Management, Empower, and Capital-Mohawk PRISM
*** Includes County appropriation, Saratoga County Planning Stormwater, DFY

In addition, Cornell University estimated support equals $610,961

The value of our Master Gardener volunteers equals $188,362

The value of all CCE volunteers equals $1,533,709

Who We Are

Board of Directors
- Steven Ropitzky, President
- Tom Armer, Vice President
- Kevin Shaughnessy, Treasurer
- James Pettis, Jr., Secretary
- John Cromie
- Diane Hodge
- Ed Hersh
- John Mihsoe
- Paul Laskey, Jr.
- James Holbrook

CCE Staff Members
- William Schward, Eastern NY Horticulture
- Sharon Bellamy
- Susan Beebe, Diane Whitten
- Cynthia Dort, East Central NY Dairy & Field Crops
- Jennifer Koval
- Greg Stevens, Greg Stevens
- Marilyn Pessler
- Wendy Conkey
- Melissa Bailey
- Mina Clear
- Carter Older

Agriculture
- Matthew Luke
- Amanda Benson
- Craig Devoe
- Laurel Guilor

4-H Youth Development/Human Ecology
- Kim Racaza, Noah Anman
- Paul Laskey, Jr., Duve Felano
- Alex Singer, James Holbrook
- Eileen Gendes, Eileen Lindeman

Livestock Education

24 adults were certified in FAMACHA Sheep and Goat Parasitology with Dr. Tatiana Stanton of Cornell University. The parasite clinic was hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County and focused primarily on parasite infestations in sheep and goats, life cycles of common parasites, how to analyze fecal samples, and how to treat flock infestations. Saratoga County was the only county in this area to offer the certification course.

A Backyard Poultry Ownership seminar with 99 participants was held for small farms and new poultry owners. This was especially important and informative this year as owning your own chickens and producing your own feed is growing in popularity. Richard Kennedy of Cargill Nutrition spoke to participants about breed selection, housing, feed, caring for chickens, nutrition, and disease.

18 youth participated in the Veterinary Science project. This 8 week course included interaction and tours with two veterinary hospitals, and four local veterinarians with varied interests including ambulatory work, equine, and small animal care. Students learned about different career paths to pursue in the veterinary world and what steps to take to get there.
Dear Friends of Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension:
The Cornell Cooperative Extension Leadership Team, Staff and Lay Leaders proudly presents the Association’s 2016 Annual Report. A strong CCE Association is based on two key elements. Those elements are financial partners who value CCE and trust in their ability to design, implement and evaluate programs in a financially conservative environment and strong administrative management teams and professionals who believe in and support flexible visionary leadership that is willing to implement new ideas and technology that appropriately serve the people of their county.

A strong financial base is an integral part of our success. Chairman of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, Mo Wright, created a 2016 county budget that funded the CCE budget and included an Agriculture Economic Development Initiative that brought “The Agriculture and Forestry Guide” into print as well as making it available in an on-line version that will be updated twice yearly. This project, under the creative leadership of CCE Educator, Jen Koval, laid the groundwork for the new “Culinary and Spirit Trails” project that will feature specialized farms and beverage products throughout the county and beyond. Saratoga County is home to a beautiful natural environment, industrious agriculturalists with many opportunities both within and beyond our county borders.

Financial strength is also found in the size and quality of the grants the Association receives. This year, we received and implemented three special grants from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The first of these grants went to Laurel Gailor as the Capital Mohawk PRISM Coordinator and leader of one of the most dynamic PRISM programs in the state that was also the least funded. The second grant went to Blue Neils, Storm Water Coordinator, who is responsible for a DEC funded Storm Water Management Program that serves 19 municipalities within Saratoga County. The third grant funded the statewide Range Grant/National Archery in the Schools Program, under the Association Director’s leadership, that is identified as one of the best in the nation with over 30,000 youth participated in programs in 2016. Our Board of Directors, management team, staff and their lay committees work closely together in the development, implementation and evaluation of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Saratoga County. Working with regional staff members from the Central New York Dairy & Cattle Crops Team, the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program and the Shared Business Network, helps us to further implement our programs and focus on local needs.

By identifying and responding to the needs and issues impacting our stakeholders, our emphasis this year has been on further expanding high quality research based programs through collaborative efforts within Saratoga County and with our regional CCE partners. Logic models, community relations and sound principles founded on experience and programming excellence are the backbone of a strong Association. Successes of the past and visioning for the future will enable us to present a Comprehensive Plan in 2017 and a corresponding Plan of Work for 2018 – 2022 that will meet the future needs of our Association and the community.

Sincerely,

Steven Ropitzky, President
Board of Directors

William M. Schwert
Association Executive Director

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EOE, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

The Unlimited Garden

2016 was a tremendous year of agencies working together for the safety of Saratoga County Residents. CCE remained the lead agency for Child Passenger Safety administering 14 fitting stations, 50 nationally certified technicians and 1 nationally certified instructor. With these partnering agencies, AAA Northway, Ballston Spa Police Department, CCE, Clifton Park Halfmoon EMS, Mechanicville Police Department, New York State Park Police, Saratoga County Sheriff’s Office, Saratoga Springs Police Department and Wilton EMS we were able to install 1,322 car seats, gave away a new, free seat, correctly installed to seat to an additional 350 families that met federal low income guidelines and gave away a free, correctly installed seat to 77 families that came with a seat that was damaged, recalled, been in a crash or was used. CCE’s child passenger safety program served 1,754 Saratoga County families. CCE’s CPS Instructor lead 2 certifying CPS 4 day classes and graduated 36 nationally certified CPS technicians, taught 2 continuing education classes for technicians to remain nationally certified and taught 10 child passenger safety awareness classes at Saratoga Hospital to Pre-Natal families. CCE is working diligently to reduce injuries and save lives of children in Saratoga County.

The NY State approved Defensive Driving Course was brought to Saratoga County. CCE brought their 3 day “Good Choices” programs to Ballston Spa HS, Mechanicville HS, Waterford/Halfmoon HS and this year we were invited to Shenendehowa. We partnered with Saratoga County Sheriffs, New York State Police, Saratoga County Automobile Museum, WRGB-CBS 6, Finkenstein and Partners, local fire departments in each school district, and our victim speaker, Emma O’Rourke. Emma is a 14 year old girl from Schuylerville whose life was turned upside down when her father was hit from a speeding 43 year old driver. Her father suffered TBI, lost his job as a Naval Engineer Consultant and her family lost everything because of the crash. High school students learned from this young girl, life can change in an instant.

Eleven Alive at 25 classes were held, which are court mandated for drivers 16-25 that have any traffic violation. These classes work specifically to change their driving behaviors before they do not have a second chance. Classes are team taught with our own instructor, Chief of Police from Mechanicville, Executive Director of CPHM EMS, a retired New York State Trooper, a Saratoga County Sheriff Deputy and the Traffic Sergeant from Saratoga Springs PD. CCE knows it takes a village to change driving cultures and save lives, so working together is hope to change decisions made behind the wheel.

Highlights for participants at The Unlimited Garden continued to blossom this year as they worked with CCE staff and volunteers. They participated in the “Field Day” with a microgreens seed starting demonstration and a busy family of elderly aged children. Everyone was very excited for the new learning experiences.

Field trips to local garden centers and the farmers’ market also enhance the therapeutic experience throughout the year.

Our annual entry into the county fair this year centered on creating a Kokedama and a display detailing its history and how to prepare one.

Occupant Protection Education

The Unlimited Garden sign.

The NY State approved Defensive Driving Course was brought to Saratoga County through CCE in 2016 with our own certified instructor. CCE has hosted 2 classes so far and has several locked in for next year. This is a great class that many need for insurance reductions as well as possible point reductions. CCE is able to work with drivers of all ages to promote safe, defensive driving habits for life.

Valerie Halvorson, 6 year old from Greenwich who was hit by a car while riding her scooter on the side of the road. Valerie is a great example of what can happen to a child who is not wearing a seat belt. Valerie is very fortunate to have survived the accident.

Engineer Consultant and her family lost everything because of the crash. High school students learned from this young girl, life can change in an instant.

Above: Jim Aesch, husband of one of the participants, lends a hand redoing the garden sign.
**4-H Youth Development...continued**

Two awards were given to Saratoga County 4-H from the National 4-H Council for their participation in the Paper Clover Campaign in correlation with Tractor Supply Company. Saratoga County hosted 4-H Clubs at the two Tractor Supply Stores in Saratoga County and received awards for having over 20% of purchases include paper clovers for $1 at check-out, as well as having the highest sales in the region. The money raised benefits local, state, and national 4-H programming.

12 youth from Saratoga County participated in the Hippology Project (the study of horses). Youth attended weekly practices with coaches for 12 weeks and participated in the Hippology Project (the study of horses). Youth attended weekly practices with coaches for 12 weeks and then continued on to compete at the Regional and State level. Youth who successfully competed in the Region and State level received a certificate of completion.

**Nutrition**

Several youth continued on to compete at the State Level and placed 4th as a team out of 15 teams. 7 youth from Saratoga County attended the Agri-Business Careers Conference at SUNY Cobleskill. Youth explored different career paths and college majors including Fisheries and Wildlife, Dairy and Equine Management, Horticulture, Livestock Production, and more. Students toured successful businesses and spoke with their owners, and also attended college classes and met with professors in the tracks they were interested in.

**Agriculture Program**

The updated Saratoga County Farm and Forest Map was completed in July and includes over 50 farm listings across a majority of towns in the county. The map includes a graphic of land cover of the county graciously lent from Saratoga PLAN and farm locations were placed with the help of the GIS department in the Planning Office. The map also includes links to many local organizations and resources so that visitors and residents can use the map as a “one stop shop” for information about the land and other resources in the region.

45 farmers and local residents came to hear from legal experts Fiona Farrell and Chris Denton about many of the concerns they had regarding the recent explosion of solar lease requests. Discussion followed on how it may affect several things for land owners including land use, taxes, environmental impacts, farm income. They detailed what may be in a good solar leasing contract, terms for leases, what questions land owners need to ask, what red flags they should look for, and areas of concern for the future.

Bo Somette of Ag & Markets outlined how a solar array can affect your property values, taxes, land use, long-term impact and how it could affect federal and local government programs.

23 attendees learned how to manage their hay fields for the best yields and quality of hay possible. Managing the soil, inputs, and harvesting are all valuable tools to increase production and cut down on weeds. Kevin Gano discussed identification and control of different weed species as well as plants that work best for hay under dry and wet conditions. Aaron Gabriel discussed the best way to make quality hay, harvesting times, equipment and handling of hay. Managing your fields and harvesting correctly are the best options for a quality product.

**Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program**

On August 31, 2016 growers from around the region gathered at the Farm Hub in Kingston to see how the resistant varieties developed by Dr. Mutschler of Cornell performed this growing season. Dr. Margaret McGrath from the Cornell Long Island Research Lab in Riverhead and Teresa Rusinek led groups through the trial and answered questions. Afterwards, growers enjoyed a tomato tasting that featured several new Brunello Hybrids with disease resistance.

Crystal Stewart was asked to host over 50 NRCs service providers from across NY in Schoharie County to help them understand how vegetable farms can create management plans. These management plans, along with GAPS certification, will allow growers to qualify for promotion through a new state program highlighting the quality of New York farms as safe and environmentally friendly. With this training, more NRCs members will reach out to vegetable and fruit growers, two traditionally underserved sectors of agriculture for NRCs because of their relatively small size for negative environmental impact compared to animal agriculture.

**Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardeners**

Over 40 programs on a wide range of topics suggested by the consumer audience were held at our office and throughout the county, in addition to several speaking engagements for local garden clubs and civic groups. This year Cornell Cooperative Extension graduated 14 Master Gardener trainees to bring the total of active volunteers to 124. These volunteers provide research-based answers to questions of local residents after attending a full 14 week training program. Master Gardener volunteers have contributed an estimated 7,795 non-paid hours to the local communities through direct contact, community gardening projects, educational sessions and booths at local farmers’ markets, health fairs, and the Saratoga County fair.

“I want to thank you and your staff for sharing your knowledge, verbal and written information and for providing direction on how to address my plant problems.”

-Kelly

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Nutrition**

Twenty-one people, including both CCE educators and community members attended the 3 day Master Food Preserver (MFP) training in Ballston Spa where they received a certificate of completion, the first step to becoming a Certified Master Food Preserver. They learned about all types of food preservation including making jams & jellies, pickling, fermenting, drying and freezing foods, canning salsa in a boiling water bath canner and pressure canning meats and vegetables. Participants came from Georgia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and several counties in NY including Dutchess, Clinton, Wayne, Cayuga, Seneca, Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington. We also coordinated the MFP training in Sullivan and Schenectady counties.

In addition to this, ninety-five residents attended evening food preservation workshops offered this summer. Preserving food safely is the number one objective of these classes, plus improving individuals’ self-confidence in home food preservation. Through a $15,000 annual NYS Dept. of Health grant we were able to educate communities along the Hudson River regarding the Hudson River Fish Advisory. The second year was completed and the third year began in July. Thousands of residents were reached with educational displays at the Saratoga County Fair and other community events, as well as a radio marketing and Facebook campaign.

This summer four nutrition students from Sage Colleges volunteered to offer education at Saratoga County farmers’ markets in Ballston Spa, Saratoga Springs and Waterford. Recipes and samples were offered to encourage shoppers to buy local produce.

This year a new series of articles, Know Your Farmer Know Your Food, has been published in the Saratogian and Troy Record since May. The goals are to promote locally and regionally produced foods; cultivate an appreciation for the diversity of farms and farm products available locally; demonstrate the economic value of agriculture in our region; emphasize that agriculture in our community is a family business, and encourage consumers to eat healthy, locally produced foods. Farms featured include Winney’s Farm and Bacon Hill Blueberries, Saratoga Apple, Koval Brothers Dairy and King Brothers Dairy.

Nutrition and cooking classes have been offered at community locations around Saratoga County, including Strong Women Healthy Hearts, Dining with Diabetes, Healthy Mediterranean Cooking, plus more offered through a partnership with the Capital District Physicians Health Plan.

Through a relationship with the NYS Energy Resource and Development Authority we also offer energy savings programs that give residents low or no cost actions they can take to save energy in their homes.

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-Kelly

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**
Saratoga County successfully presented its 21st event ‘Sundae on the Farm’ on June 12th hosted by Marty and Pat Hanahan and their families at Turning Point Dairy, LLC in the Town of Saratoga. The event organized by the Saratoga County Agricultural Promotion Committee remains a premier Ag event in the northeast. Attendance despite a cold blustery day remained high. With the help of over 150 volunteers and countless sponsors, the day was educational, fun, and rewarding for all who attended.

Highlights from Saratoga County Fair

The 2016 Saratoga Horse Farm Tour was held in August and generated more than 800 farm visits to local horse farms in Saratoga County. Among the participating farms were Rood and Riddle Veterinary Hospital, McMahon Thoroughbreds, Saratoga Glen Farm, Heading for Home Racehorse Retraining, and Nipper Knolls Equine facility. The Saratoga Horseman’s Social offered close to 100 local horse enthusiasts the opportunity to meet and mingle with each other as well as local equine veterinarians and business owners. Mayor Joanne Yepsen made an appearance at the event and expressed her concern for the retired racehorses in the community.

4-H Youth Development

2015-2016 was an exciting year for 4-H in Saratoga County. There were two significant highlights at the Saratoga County Fair. The Small Animal Building was moved to a new location which provided more space and exposure for 4-H Small Animals. The second involved the use of the industrial kitchen for the new home of the 4-H Snack Bar. Our youth and adult volunteers adapted well the their “new” home and as a result saw at least a 5-year high in profits. This money goes directly back into the program to support youth and adult leadership opportunities.

1,520 students engaged in hands-on STEM activities.
1,992 youth focused on a healthy lifestyle through food and nutrition, physical activity, healthy and safety projects.

Capital-Mohawk PRISM

The Capital Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CapMo PRISM) is completing its fourth year of a five year grant received through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

The CapMo PRISM continues to work with its working group committees (Agriculture, Aquatics, Terrestrial, and Conservation) to develop priority lists for each of the areas to help determine the focus and concentration needed for both early detection, as well as rapid response.

Over 12,000 individuals have been reached through various educational presentations including Master Gardener Trainings (seven counties), garden clubs, forest owner groups, nature preserve associations, and 4-H clubs.

1,221 watercraft were inspected during the 4-H year.

Molly Pokrzewka, intern from SUNY Potsdam, created a new retractable banner for use at displays along with coloring sheets for youth. She also created a “life-size” model of a Giant Hogweed plant which made its debut at the county fair.

April Brun, intern from SUNY ESF, conducted the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Steward Program at both Round Lake and Freeman’s Bridge. In total 1,221 watercraft were inspected with 35% and 25% respectfully having AIS intercepted. Species included Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, European Naiad, Brazilian Elodea, Parrot Feather, Water Chestnut, and Zebra Mussels.