Our Volunteers
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County would like to take this occasion to recognize our wonderful corps of volunteers who work tirelessly to help educate our youth and work throughout our community on a variety of programming endeavors. Through their efforts the association is able to reach a greater number of county residents. It would be impossible to thank each one individually as the current number involved throughout all our programming efforts totals 2,121.

4-H Dairy Program
Regional Dairy Bowl competition was held at Tamarac High School in March at which Saratoga County had the first place junior team and first place senior team. Additionally Grace Hanehan was the top senior individual and is moving on to the National Competition in November.

Numbers increased this year with 33 4-H Dairy Exhibitors participating in the 4-H Dairy Show at the Saratoga County Fair.

Libby Swatling was recognized this year for her dedication to the dairy industry as the 2017 recipient of the 4-H Fred Sanders Award.
Dear Friends:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County proudly presents the Association’s 2017 Annual Report. For over 100 years, CCE Saratoga has delivered high quality, research-based, educational programs to county residents. The Association’s foundation is a strong and visionary leadership at all levels and has the financial ability to deliver program objectives. This year the Annual Meeting is a celebration as we reflect on the programs and people who made them happen and accept the challenges that will enable us to meet the future needs of our Association and the community.

The strong financial support that Saratoga receives from the County Board of Supervisors enables the Association to maintain programs and to develop new initiatives. Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Ed Kinowski and Supervisor Paul Lent, representative to the CCE Board of Directors, delivered a budget that is responsible to taxpayers and to the needs of Extension for the continued delivery of fundamental programs in Agriculture, 4-H Youth Development, Human Ecology, and Family Living. Working with regional staff members, including those from the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program, and the Shared Business Network (SBN), enable us to cost effectively deliver significant agricultural programs that may not have the large participation numbers, but are important to county farmers. The SBN supports the personnel, financial and technology components with high quality staff economically.

Cooperative Extension staff are leaders in the county, regionally and nationally. The Capital Mohawk PRISM under the leadership of Laurel Gailor was recently awarded a new five-year grant to deliver invasive species training across their region. Blue Neils, Storm Water Coordinator has become an invaluable resource to 19 municipalities and working to expand needed services to these and additional municipalities. This a DEC supported program made possible by “seed” funding from the county. Water quality and invasive species are two of the most pressing issues that continue to be under the radar of public awareness. Leadership continued, Assistant Director Susan K. Beebe was recently elected Chairperson of the National Junior Horticulture Foundation. Through Sue’s leadership, New York youth and especially those from Saratoga have enjoyed unparalleled opportunities. Diane Whitten and her “team” travel statewide offering Master Food Preservation workshops for home businesses and families. This truly is a statewide initiative originating from the offices of CCE Saratoga. Your Executive Director, Bill Schwerd, continues to serve as the State Director for the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program that reached 31,963 youth through the efforts of 697 certified volunteer instructors. At all levels, Saratoga staff provide the leadership and expertise to serve the residents of Saratoga County and beyond.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County is part of a dynamic educational system by which research at Cornell University is translated and placed in the hands of NYS citizens in order to enhance their lives and well-being.

CCE Saratoga County is growing and diversifying as we work to meet our mission to serve all the residents of Saratoga County.

Sincerely,

Steven Ropitzky
Steven Ropitzky, President
Board of Directors

William M. Schwerd
William M. Schwerd
Association 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.
Agriculture Program

Saratoga County statistics remain at 583 farms (excluding horse farms) with the market value of all agricultural crops sold in the county valued at $79.9 million dollars.

Educational programs cover topics of concern for the producer including: farm law, land use issues, crop and soil conditions, tax schools, field crop and pasture management and production highlights.

Staff continues to work with prospective farm owners who are looking to make their land more profitable. Individuals are encouraged to participate in the Beginner Farming webinars that are available through Cooperative Extension.

Our regional programs both saw an expansion for this year. The Central NY Dairy Team hired a new livestock specialist to work with our producers; while the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Team hired a grape specialist in addition to replacing our tree fruit specialist. This increases our total regional staff to fifteen (15) specialists.

The new Saratoga Farms website got a full make over and update in June with current information, more farms, and an interactive map for users to locate farms easier. We now have a Farmers’ Market list with over ten area markets and more resources for local buying.

Annual Sundae on the Farm

The 22nd Annual Sundae on the Farm was held on June 18th. The King families hosted the event at their family dairy farm, King Brothers Dairy in the Town of Northumberland. The event was organized by the Agriculture Promotions Committee as a premier Ag event in the northeast. Approximately 4,500 people attended for a fun and educational day. The weather was perfect for a farm tour of the dairy and their brand new bottling facility.

Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardeners

Over 35 programs on a wide range of topics suggested by the consumer audience were held at locations throughout the county, in addition to several speaking engagements for local garden clubs and civic groups.

Our 2017 graduating class of Master Gardener volunteers totaled fifteen (15). These trainees are added to our active volunteers bringing this years number to 110. These volunteers provide research-based answers to questions of local residents after attending a full fourteen (14) week training program.

Master Gardener volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to the local community through direct contacts, gardening projects, educational sessions and booths at local farmers’ markets, health fairs, and the Saratoga County fair.

As volunteers they also enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Berkshire Botanical Garden and The Mount.

“Thank you so very much for the rapid response. You have provided an extraordinary amount of useful information”

- Dave
Farm to institution (FINYS) market readiness training workshop was completed in March with 20 farmers and approximately 10 people from area school districts in attendance. The training was held at Capital Roots in Troy. Each participant received a market readiness training binder with the goals to increase farm sales directly to local institutions. Post training there was a farmer-buyer mixer for attendees to connect with additional local buyers. This workshop was in collaboration with Baskets to Pallets Farmer Training Program sponsored by the Cornell Small Farms Program.

Forgotten Farms Film Screening was held in September at Skidmore College. Approximately 50 attended the film and panel discussion after the screening. Attendees gathered for a pre-film reception for networking. The film focused on the struggle for New England’s dairy farmers in an age of artisan cheeses and kale.

The 2017 Saratoga Horse Farm Tour was held in August and generated more than 1,000 farm visits to local horse farms in Saratoga County. Among the participating farms were Birsh Family Farm, Stormy View Stables, Avanti Stables, Old Friends at Cabin Creek, and Sandhill Farm.

The Saratoga Horse Symposium held in May had close to 80 attendees who were offered workshops on Saddle Fitting, Lyme Disease, Desensitizing, Acupuncture, Natural Horses Remedies, Using Essential Oils on Horses, Equine Liability, and Retraining Thoroughbreds.

A partnership with Skidmore College enabled CCE Equine to offer an information session with Elaine Larsen, PhD and a group of students who spent a week in Nevada and California studying wild horses. Informational posters and the opportunity to talk to the students about their observations and what they have learned about the history, present, and future of mustangs were featured.
4-H enrolled 570 club members and 349 special interest participants in all aspects of the programs including STEM, Nutrition and Citizenship.

1,527 students engaged in hands-on STEM activities.

2,670 youth focused on a healthy lifestyle through food and nutrition, physical activity, health and safety projects.

Over 80 classrooms participated in the Incubation and Embryology project and saw the transition of egg to chick over a 28-day period. Students got to watch eggs hatch and raise chicks through their first few weeks of life. More than 1,000 eggs were given out to local schools.

60 youth and adults participated in dog obedience programs this year. Several students advanced to compete at the county and then state Level. A second annual Meet the Breeds event was held for educational purposes and over 200 people attended.

18 youth participated in the Veterinary Science project. This 6-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.

12 youth from Saratoga County participated in the Hippology Project (the study of horses). Youth attended weekly practices with coaches for 12 weeks before competing in a regional competition with 4 other counties. Several youth continued on to compete at the State Level and placed 2nd as a team out of 15 teams. One member will compete in the National Competition in November.

13 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.

Capital-Mohawk PRISM

This summer the aquatic invasive species (AIS) program oversaw two watercraft launch stewards who educated boaters on invasive species prevention and helped inspect their boats for ‘aquatic hitchhikers.’ They covered launches at Round Lake, the Mohawk River (Lock 7 Park, Niskayuna), and the Hudson River (Schodack Island State Park and the City of Hudson). A total of 2,145 boats were inspected, 3,518 people were reached, and 362 AIS were intercepted.

Additionally, aquatic plant identification workshops were held by the AIS coordinator for 4 lake associations across the region (~10-20 attendees), water chestnut pulls were attended (~15-30 attendees), tabling events were held (4 county fairs, Grafton Lakes State Park, Integrated Pest Management Conference), lake association meetings were attended, early detection surveys for invasive spiny waterflea were implemented, and new educational material was developed.

Invasive Species Awareness Week was held July 9-15 and it was the fourth annual ISAW event statewide. All eight Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) teams were involved, conducting 151 events and providing educational information to over 6,000 participants. Examples of events that the Capital/Mohawk PRISM were involved in: “Natives in your Landscape” program at Brookside Nursery as well as an educational display, Grafton Lake State Park, Science on Tap at the Albany Pump Station, Empire State Plaza Farmers’ Market, NYS IPM Conference at Siena College, and Sleepy Hollow Lake presentation and educational display. Overall there were about 185 people who attended events or interacted with our staff.

Additionally, throughout the year, nearly 70,000 individuals have been reached through educational programs, workshops, events, and county fairs.
Nutrition and cooking classes have been offered at community locations throughout Saratoga County, including Dining with Diabetes, Healthy Mediterranean Cooking, food preservation, pickling, jams and jellies, plus more offered through a partnership with the Capital District Physicians Health Plan.

This year along with the usual recordings done for The Jockey, 101.3 and Moon Radio, 900 AM several additional pieces were written for various publications, including Healthy Saratoga, the Mechanicville Express and the Saratogian.

Additionally our nutritionist participated in the Prediabetes Coalition along with Saratoga County Public Health and Saratoga Hospital to develop awareness and assist physicians with patient communication.

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4-H Youth Development...continued

4-H Dairy Visions Program is a no cost, district wide program for 4-H youth ages 14-16 who wish to pursue a career in the dairy industry. 12 youth from 5 counties participated, including Washington, Rensselaer, Montgomery, Columbia and Saratoga (5 youth from Saratoga Co.).

While in this program, youth are exposed to many different types of dairy farms, dairy practices and professions. This program is also to prepare youth for the Junior Dairy Leaders Program at Cornell University. Monthly meetings consisted of at least 3 farm visits specific to a county or region. Youth were responsible for getting sponsorships from local agribusinesses to keep the program viable for the following year. The year concluded with a graduation dinner in which 65 people attended and the program participants gave a formal presentation on their learning and experience in the program.

4-H Teen Council is a county wide group open to any Saratoga County 4-H member 13 and older. The main focus of the group is to provide educational programming for teens, provide teen leadership opportunities, participate in community service, and run the 4-H Snack Bar at the Saratoga County Fair. The group had a record breaking year at the 4-H Snack Bar at the Saratoga County Fair. Teen Council gave back to many Saratoga 4-H members by sponsoring them on trips to both state and national competitions, along with a group camping trip to Massachusetts.

Occupant Protection Education

2017 was a year of change with the federal government cutting the car seat budget by 95%, luckily we have received word that we were restored 75% for the year ahead. With this in mind we were still able to provide 199 new, free, correctly installed seats to those families who met the federal guidelines for low income status. Additionally 752 car seats were checked, correctly installed and education provided to parents on car seat safety.

The NY State approved Defensive Driving Course that was started in 2016 continued this year with educational instruction provided to 75 residents. 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.

The Saratoga County 4-H Fashion Revue is an opportunity for 4-H youth of all ages to create a clothing or textiles project and have it evaluated by judges and then showcase their project at the annual Fashion Revue. This year’s theme was the Wild West in which we had 32 4-H’ers of all ages showcase their projects to over 70 spectators!

CCE continues to bring their 3 day “Good Choices” programs to area high schools. We partnered with Saratoga County Sheriffs, New York State Police, Saratoga County Automobile Museum, WRGB-CBS 6, Finklestein and Partners, and local fire departments in each school district. This hands-on teen driver safety education was provided to 5,000 parent and teens utilizing golf carts and fatal vision goggles, texting simulator, texting pledge banners and many more activities.

Over 600 helmets were properly fitted and given to low income families in need, or youth without helmets here in Saratoga County. These families are provided with proper helmet fit education and a brand new helmet at no cost.

We continue to offer Distracted Driving Classes to 210 court mandated drivers ages 16-80. 540 youth participated in the Alive at 25 classes, which are court mandated for drivers 16-25 that have any traffic violations. 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 and local law enforcement personnel.
2017 Funding and Support

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>FEDERAL*</th>
<th>STATE**</th>
<th>COUNTY***</th>
<th>PRIVATE****</th>
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<td>Revenue ($)</td>
<td>161,817</td>
<td>289,132</td>
<td>1,087,762</td>
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<td>11.0%</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Revenue $2,632,041

* Includes Smith Lever, Safety Ed.Program, DEC Program, MFO and US Fish & Wildlife
** Includes State 224 Funds, DEC Stormwater Management, Empower, and Capital-Mohawk PRISM
*** Includes County appropriation, Saratoga County Planning Stormwater, DFY
**** Cornell, State Farm, Health Research Institute, Saratoga Racing, Stewarts

In addition, Cornell University estimated support equals $649,627

The value of our Master Gardener volunteers equals $195,920

The value of all CCE volunteers equals $1,726,202

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 Mishoe
- Paul Laskey, Jr.
- James Holbrook

**Agriculture**

- Craig DeVoe
- Mark Sacco
- James Pettis, Jr.
- John Mishoe
- Kim Smith
- Laurie Kruppenbacher

**4-H Youth Development/Human Ecology**

- Kim Racaza
- Alex Singer
- Paul Laskey, Jr.
- Dave Felano
- Eileen Lindeman
- James Holbrook
- Eileen Gerdes
- Lorelei Meidenbauer

**CCE Staff Members**

- William Schwerd
- Susan Beebe
- Eleanor Hackett
- Jennifer Koval
- Ariane Tanski
- Blue Neils
- Ashley Keatley
- Julie Curren
- Carol Whitelaw
- Richard Johnson
- Leah Gorman
- Sharon Bellamy
- Diane Whitten
- Cynthia Dort
- Kelly Hurley
- Greg Stevens
- Marilyn Preissler
- Wendy McConkey
- Jessica Holmes
- Mona Clear
- Carter Older
- Catherine Martini
- Amanda Benson
- Laurel Gailor

**Eastern NY Horticulture**

- Crystal Stewart
- Amy Ivy
- Elizabeth Higgins
- Jim Meyers
- Teresa Rusinek
- Dan Donahue
- Erik Schellenberg
- Maire Ullrich
- Ethan Grundberg
- Chuck Bornt

**Central NY Dairy & Field Crops**

- Jim McNaughton
- Michael Bartholomew
- Mike Ryan
- Erik Yager
- Kevin Gano
e
- David Balbian

**GC-SBN Leads**

- Jim McNaughton
- Michael Bartholomew
- Mike Ryan
- Erik Yager

**4-H Youth Development/Human Ecology**

- Kim Racaza
- Alex Singer
- Paul Laskey, Jr.
- Dave Felano
- Eileen Lindeman
- James Holbrook
- Eileen Gerdes
- Lorelei Meidenbauer

With the launch of the New York Grown and Certified campaign consumers can now find more local produce at their local supermarket.