Cornell Cooperative Extension
Saratoga County

Our Volunteers

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they’re priceless.”

Author: Sherry Anderson

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful corps of volunteers who work tirelessly to help educate our youth, and work throughout our communities. Through their tireless efforts the association is able to reach a much greater number of county residents.

It would be impossible for us to take the time to thank each and every one individually as the current number involved totals more than 1,900.

4-H Community Partnerships

2019 was a year for Community Partnership for the Saratoga County 4-H Program. Between participating with the Village of Ballston Spa in their Birdhouse and Holiday programs, partnering with the Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs Public Library for our Holiday Mitten Tree, and inviting community organizations such as “Buddy Blankets and Bears” to participate with us at the Saratoga County Fair, 4-H was able to bring a lot of community involvement into the program in 2019. We hope to maintain and grow these partnerships in 2020 to better reach youth and families in our community. They say that you “meet them where they are at”, and by pushing further into our community, we are trying to have 4-H present where it is needed most.
Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Saratoga County proudly presents our 2019 Annual Report. Founded in the early 1900’s, the fundamental goal has been to deliver high quality educational programs based on the research of Cornell and other land grant universities. The Association’s foundation is strong and with visionary leadership and the financial ability to deliver educational programs. The Annual Meeting is a time to celebrate the successes of the past year, to renew friendships, to recognize accomplishments and to elect future leaders. We recognize those who make a difference through personal leadership, excellence as educators and those who provide the resources needed for high quality educational programs.

The financial support that CCE receives from the County Board of Supervisors enables the Association to maintain programs and to develop new initiatives. Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Kevin Tollisen and Supervisor Mike Smith, Representative to the Board of Directors, delivered a budget that is responsible to taxpayers and to the needs of the association for CCE programs in Agriculture, 4-H Youth Development, and Family and Consumer Science. Working with regional staff, including 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 programs that are important to county residents. The SBN supports the personnel, financial and technology components with high quality staff economically.

CCE Saratoga Staff are recognized leaders locally, regionally and nationally for their leadership and visionary approach to the future. The Capital Mohawk PRISM under the leadership of Kristopher Williams delivers invasive species training across large regions. Water quality and invasive species are pressing issues that are under the radar of public awareness. Blue Neils, Stormwater Coordinator, is an invaluable resource to 19 municipalities and working to expand needed services to these and additional municipalities. This is a Saratoga County DEC supported program made possible by strong funding from the county. Assistant Director Susan K. Beebe is the Chairperson of the National Junior Horticulture Foundation. Through Sue’s leadership, New York youth and especially those from Saratoga have enjoyed unparalleled opportunities and successes. Diane Whitten and her “team” travels statewide offering Master Food Preservation workshops for home businesses and families. This is a statewide initiative originating from the offices of CCE Saratoga. Greg Stevens is expanding his role developing a team of community leaders to develop a plan for expansion of the 4-H Training Center and the financial resources to complete the project. Your Executive Director, Bill Schwerd, serves as the Director for the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program that reached 37,464 youth through the efforts of 380 certified volunteer instructors. At all levels, Saratoga staff provide the expertise to serve the residents of Saratoga County and beyond.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County is part of a dynamic educational system. Cornell University research is translated and delivered to NYS citizens to enhance their lives and well-being. The challenges ahead are many as the county is rapidly growing and diversifying.

We thank you, the stakeholders, elected officials, and partners for your support and look forward to working to better the lives and livelihood of our residents.

Sincerely,

Ed Hersh, President
Board of Directors

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/EO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Changes in Department of Transportation laws make it essential for farmers to stay up to date on the rules of the road. Our 2019 Truck Clinic was a big success as we partnered with Saratoga Farm Bureau.

Educational programs to cover a wide variety of topics of concern for the producer were held throughout the region. Along with general production practices other areas such as business management, labor regulations, land use issues, crop and soil health, field crop and pasture management, and produce safety were offered.

Local county 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 Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Our regional programs, the Central NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team and the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Teams continue to provide expertise to our producers along with conducting field research on a wide variety of crops and management strategies, including new biological controls.

Farm to School Program

The CCE of Saratoga County was awarded a farm to school grant from New York State Agriculture and Markets. We have partnered up with Pitney Meadows Community Farm and The Saratoga Springs City School District. With the school year in full swing, so is the Farm to School program. The opportunity to get students to Pitney Meadows Community farm was a success. Over 200 students have made their way through the community gardens and into the hoop house, speaking with Pitney Meadows farmer Aliza. The students have had an enjoyable experience tasting first hand the fresh produce from Pitney Meadows at the harvest of the Month. As for our Ag In the Classroom side, the students are amazed and intrigued by agriculture in NY and within our county. We have had the opportunity to bring agriculture into history, environmental, and nutrition classes, with many more to come.

Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardeners

Over 25 programs related to garden preparation, soil health, home lawn care, home composting and invasive species identification, as well as other topics suggested by the consumer audience were held at various locations throughout the county.

Our 2019 graduating class of Master Gardener volunteers totaled twelve (12). These trainees are added to our active volunteers maintaining our number at 115. As volunteers they provide research-based answers to questions of local residents after attending a full fourteen (14) week training program.

Master Gardener volunteers contribute thousands of hours to the local community through direct contacts, community and school gardening projects, educational sessions and manning information tables at farmers’ markets, and the Saratoga County fair.

They also assist in planting the many flower baskets and window boxes enjoyed by Saratoga County Fair goers.

“Thanks so much for the info. I believe we will be able to save the trees thanks to your quick response.” - Joseph
4-H enrolled 685 club members and 2,025 special interest participants in all aspects of the program including STEM, Nutrition and Citizenship. 1,864 students were educated and engaged in hands-on STEM activities.
3,902 youth focused on a healthy lifestyle through food and nutrition, physical activity, health and safety projects.
Over 1330 youth participated in the Incubation and Embryology project and saw the transition of egg to chick over a 28-day period. They were able to watch eggs hatch and raise chicks through their first few weeks of life.
25 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.

Many youth showed dairy cattle at county fair and state fair, Saratoga County had two youth represent the state at Dairy Judging competitions, with a second dairy club in the development stages.
Over 200 people attended our meet the breeds event held at the Training Center.
4-H members with horse projects have seen a slight increase, the 4-H Jumping and Horsemanship Clinic was a huge success and anticipated to be coming back next spring. This program is under reconstruction, and will be looking to incorporate new stake holders as well as reestablish relationships with community members that have stepped back.
Over 60 dog and handler pairs participated in this year’s obedience course. A new canine club is in the process of developing for the coming year.

4-H School Outreach reached 9,347 elementary school children in Saratoga County last year. The addition of a new Educator, Andrea Love Smith, has allowed us to add new programs while still continuing with the old favorites. Over 600 children were reached in 2 new programs that were introduced last year; Making it Work, about simple machines and Rockets Away, introducing basics of flight.
This summer the monarch butterfly house that supports the big fall program of Monarchs in the Classroom was rebuilt. Healthy larva are harvested from the wild and fostered through their lifecycle. At the beginning of the school year, larva and pupa are given to classrooms for observation and tagging before release. We had a great year with over 350 caterpillars/butterflies coming through the butterfly house in August-September before they left for Mexico! Annually this program reaches about 1,000 children.

4-H Camp Wild was run as a pilot program this summer with 2 different days of outdoor fun at the 4-H Training Center. Fun was had by all. We are looking forward to making summer enrichment programming at the 4-H Training Center a regular part of meeting the needs of local youth and families in Saratoga County.

CCE Equine

The 2019 Saratoga Horse Farm Tour was held on August 18th with over 600 in attendance. This year’s featured farms included Avanti Stable, Cross Timbers Ranch, Mill Creek Farm and McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds.
The Saratoga Horse Symposium held in May offered workshops on Demystifying Horse Nutrition, Equine Liability, Natural Horsemanship Techniques for Success, Saddle Fitting, Driving Demonstration and more. Good weather helped to bring in several to enjoy the day.
The Cornell Cooperative Extension Equine program hosted the 10th Annual Horseman’s Social at Longfellow’s Restaurant in Saratoga Springs. This evening continues to provide a great opportunity for folks to network while providing an opportunity to raise some funds to enhance our educational programs.
This program is in the process of developing a “horse development committee” in order to re-evaluate the needs of the horse people in the county and establish relationships with new and returning stake holders.
The Capital Mohawk PRISM, a Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, delivered on its contract with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation in many areas. In particular the PRISM would like to share a few short synopses regarding our education and outreach efforts as well as our early identification and rapid response programming.

In the 2019 calendar year, the PRISM procured just under a $1 million contract with the Department of Environmental Conservation to place 26 watercraft inspection stewards at 29 launch sites along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers from 2019 - 2021. The PRISM hired 18 seasonal watercraft inspection stewards to cover these locations from May through September. Stewards provide education and outreach regarding clean, drain, dry practices to the general public and perform surveys of watercraft in order to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. In total, our watercraft inspection stewards performed 6,304 surveys at 22 of the specified launch locations covered under our contract.

In addition, the aquatics program attended 4 conferences/tableing events focused on aquatic invasive species, participated in 2 aquatic invasive species training modules with local elementary/middle school groups, assisted in 2 water chestnut pulls with Saratoga PLAN and Cossayuna Lake, and performed 21 technical trainings for lake associations across the Capital Region.

“The terrestrial field season was spent surveying 28 high priority sites of ecological significance for emerging invasive species. Prevention through education with early identification is key in containing high threat and harmful invasive species.

The field season also included rapid response and eradication efforts at 17 locations across the 11-county region in the Capital District. The PRISM focuses on environmentally friendly manual and mechanical removals while training park managers, land-trusts, and preserves vested in protecting high priority sites to protected endangered species.

Together, the Capital Mohawk PRISM team conducted 79 education and training events across the Capital Region and reached 3,493 direct contacts including 530 youths. The PRISM was successful in reaching out to the communities we serve with the addition of two part time educators for the summer season.”
The Unlimited Garden

Specially designed raised beds are plentiful at our Unlimited Garden. Our enabling garden activities are taught by our horticultural therapist with the support of dedicated Master Gardener volunteers.

Participants help educate local elementary aged youth by providing demonstrations for ongoing CCE programs such as Ag Field Day. Each year the garden also hosts tours for local garden groups and Master Gardeners from surrounding counties.

County residents enjoy educational exhibits provided each year for visitors to the Saratoga County Fair. Everyone involved enjoys new learning experiences no matter what the age.

Additionally, community volunteers may assist and provide additional support for the garden with hands-on help, plant materials and routine garden maintenance.

The inter-action the garden provides fosters the garden’s motto of “Where Abilities Grow.”

Nutrition

In April sixty-five (65) individuals attended a workshop for current or prospective food entrepreneurs who sell a processed food product to a retail or wholesale market. Speakers from Cornell University Food Venture Center, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NY Kitchen Company (food business consultant), Healthy Living Market Purchasing Department, SCORE Business Marketing and Counseling, plus local small scale food entrepreneurs shared their expertise and experience. The Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership helped to promote this program.

The Dining with Diabetes program continues to be offered throughout Saratoga County in partnership with county Lions Clubs that offer financial support. Libraries have also been great partners for this educational effort.

A grant from the NYS Dept. of Health enables us to provide Saratoga and Washington County residents information about DOH advisories regarding not eating fish from the Hudson River. The public is reached at community events, including county fairs, as well as in print media and on the radio.

Food safety is an issue in home food preservation. Our educator offered 6 workshops in the spring, summer and fall on a variety of food preservation topics. The three day Master Food Preserver Workshop was also offered this June. Volunteers help to enhance the quality of these workshops.

In July we took in over 75 food entries to be judged, and offered cooking demonstrations using local food products. Three well attended Taste of Saratoga County events in the Fair Culinary Department highlighted Saratoga County food and beverages.

Working with Cornell University’s Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program our educator provided education at area farmers’ markets, along with a weekly Farmers’ Market recipe on Facebook.

Each year Sage College dietetic interns have the opportunity to get practical, hands-on experience educating the public on nutrition issues. This year our intern planned and taught classes, plus wrote newspaper and magazine articles.
Inter-municipal Stormwater Management Program

Thus far, in 2019, the Saratoga County/CCE Intermunicipal Stormwater Management (ISWM) Program has conducted and/or facilitated over 2,000 hours of professional development and training delivered to more than 500 attendees (public, professionals, ISWM Program personnel/officials, business owners and students). The ISWM Program continues to work with all of our community partners on a variety of topics and projects throughout the County; including: SC-SWCD, SLPID, SLA, FOK, Saratoga PLAN, BLIA, Empire State College, Skidmore College, Capital District Regional Planning Commission, NYSDEC, CLRP, the LC-LGRPB, Warren Co. SWCD and, of course, our 19 local Saratoga County Municipal Governments in the program.

We also added a new team member – Alexandra “Allie” Eustis (pictured below at the 2019 Great Saratoga County Fair). Allie is a St. Lawrence University graduate with experience in administration of various environmental programs; her most-recent experience before joining the ISWM Program was with National Audubon, helping to administer a stewardship program certification for golf courses throughout the U.S.

Allie has been a tremendous addition to the team and has helped to really accelerate several program components that will serve Saratoga County for many years to come.

Safety Education Program

CCE administers 6 car seat fitting stations, 27 certified car seat technicians and 3 instructors. A total of 648 car seats were checked for correct installation and safety.

163 car seats were given to low income families. These families received safety education about their child and for all who ride in the vehicle.

56 new, free car seats were given to families that had a seat that expired, been recalled or in a crash.

430 new, free bike helmets were properly fitted and given at special events: Bike-A-Toga, Mechanicville Family Day, Jefferson Terrace Meet Law Enforcement Day, and the Saratoga County Fair.

Over 5,500 teens (9th to 12th grades) were given the opportunity to experience the License To Live Program. Locations provided with this experience include Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake High School, Shenendehowa High School, and New Country Toyota of Clifton Park (includes Mechanicville High School, and Stillwater High School).

Our Safety Educator Cynthia Dort spoke at 10 DWI victim Impact Panels for Saratoga County that reached over 1,100 court mandated DWI offenders. One-third of all attendees were there for repeat offenses.

Four Defensive Driving classes were offered throughout the year, including one class offered at the Saratoga Automobile Museum and with 1 class given for the entire staff of Well Spring.

We continued to offer Distracted Driving classes to 165 court mandated drivers ages 16-80 with the average age of distracted drivers being 38.

438 youth participated in the Alive at 25 classes, which are court mandated for young 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.
2019 Funding and Support

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Federal*</th>
<th>State**</th>
<th>County***</th>
<th>Private****</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue ($)</td>
<td>124,313</td>
<td>805,052</td>
<td>1,264,424</td>
<td>22,250</td>
<td>1,199,845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
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Total Revenue $3,415,884

* Includes Smith Lever, Safety Edu. Program, DEC Program, MFO and Farm to School

** Includes State 224 Funds, DEC Stormwater Management, and Capital-Mohawk PRISM, Hudson-Mohawk Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

*** Includes County appropriation, Saratoga County Planning Stormwater, DFY

**** Cornell, Health Research Institute, Saratoga Racing, Stewarts, Saratoga Planning Land Access Outreach Program

In addition, Cornell University estimated support equals $880,031

The value of all CCE volunteers equals $1,742,843

Congressman Paul Tonka enjoys an ice cream shake at the 4-H Snack Bar at the Saratoga County Fair while visiting with 4-H Leaders.

Who We Are

Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>4-H Youth Development/Human Ecology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Hersh, President</td>
<td>Mike Smith,</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Cromie, Vice President</td>
<td>Supervisor’s Rep.</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Wood, Treasurer</td>
<td>Danielle Hautaniemi,</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Mishoe, Secretary</td>
<td>State Ext. Specialist</td>
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<td>John Barnes</td>
<td>Laurie Kruppenbacher</td>
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<td>Stacy Simmons</td>
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<td>Diane Hodge</td>
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<td>James Holbrook</td>
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<td>Craig DeVoe</td>
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<td>Paul Laskey, Jr.</td>
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Agriculture

Craig DeVoe

4-H Youth Development/Human Ecology

Dave Felano

John Mancini

Paul Laskey, Jr.

Meg Soden

Eileen Lindeman

James Holbrook

Donna Ringwall

Izzy Fantauzzi

Charles Bornt, regional vegetable specialist, in collaboration with Cornell Entomologist Elson Shields is monitoring a study for long-term control for Colorado Potato Beetle using entomopathogenic nematodes.

CCE Staff Members

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Higgins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elisabeth Hodgdon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Basedow</td>
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GC-SBN Leads

Central NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops

Ethan Grundberg

Chuck Bornt

Laura McDermott

William Schwerd

Eleanor Hackett

Lia Palermo-Sershan

Susan Beebe

Diane Whitten

Brienna Hughes

Greg Stevens

Cynthia Dort

Alexandra Eustis

David Balbian

Ashley Keatley

Wendy McConkey

Mike Ryan

Julie Curren

Jessica Holmes

Erik Yager

Carol Whitelaw

Mona Clear

Jim McNaughton

Bud South

Leland Bunting

Central NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops

Kevin Ganoe

Gwendolyn Temple

Kristopher Williams

Ashley Mc Farland

Judy Price

Spencer Barrett

Nicola Foti

Nicole Tommell

Blue Neils

Marilyn Preissler

Central NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops

Ethan Grundberg

Chuck Bornt

Judy Price

Spencer Barrett

Kevin Ganoe