Our Volunteers
As has been said, “Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.” ~ Author Unknown

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County would like to recognize our wonderful corps of volunteers who work tirelessly to help educate our youth and work throughout our communities on a wide variety of programming endeavors. Through their tireless efforts the association is able to reach a 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 total more than 1,990.

Highlights of the 4-H Fair Week

Saratoga County 4-H was able to forge new partnerships with local community organizations in 2018 through the Saratoga County Fair. These groups spent time in the 4-H Exhibit Building and the 4-H Small Animal Building delivering hands-on programming during the fair. They not only created a more diverse learning experience for fairgoers in the building, but were able to promote their own programs and services. The groups participating with 4-H this year were the North Country Wild Care (Wildlife Rehabilitation Service), Saratoga Children’s Museum, Saratoga Spa State Park (Environmental Education) and we can’t forget Terry Hutchinson with Bacon Bits and Albert Einswine the potbelly pigs. We hope to expand these partnerships for upcoming years and develop relationships with other community partners who can help us deliver the best experience for fairgoers in the 4-H buildings.
Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Board of Directors and staff of Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Saratoga County proudly present our 2018 Annual Report. Founded in the early 1900’s the fundamental goal has been to deliver high quality programs based on the research of Cornell and other land grant universities. The Association’s foundation is strong and visionary leadership and the financial ability to deliver programs. The Annual Meeting is a time to celebrate the successes of the past year, to renew friendships, to recognize accomplishments and to elect our 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 Ed Kinowski 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 Consumer Science. 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 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 Kristopher Williams began a new five-year grant to deliver invasive species training. 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. Your Executive Director, Bill Schwerd, serves as the Director for the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program that reached 38,464 youth through the efforts of 265 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. The challenges ahead are many as the county is rapidly growing and diversifying.

We thank you for your support and look forward to working to better the lives and livelihood of our friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Tom Armer

William M. Schwerd

Tom Armer, 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/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Agriculture Program

Little change has occurred in farm ownership in Saratoga County over the last year with statistics remaining at 583 farms (excluding horse farms). Agriculture continues to be a top contributor to the local economy.

Educational programs cover topics of concern for the producer including: business management, labor regulations, land use issues, crop and soil health, field crop and pasture management, production highlights and precision feed management.

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 Cooperative Extension.

Our regional programs both saw an expansion for this year. The Central NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team hired a new business management specialist to work with our producers; while the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Team was able to secure an additional field technician to work with the team members and assist with on-going field research projects.

First Annual Twilight Tour

Sundae on the Farm took a break in 2018 and in lieu, the first annual Twilight Tour took place at Wm. H. Buckley farm on August 14. There was not an extra seat available with a total number of 60 guests.

The event kicked off with a tour of Wm. H. Buckley Farm followed by a locally catered light supper featuring Cabot cheeses, chocolate milk and lemonade from King Brothers Dairy. Smith’s Pies and Stewart’s Ice Cream served by the Saratoga County Dairy Princess provided dessert. The discussion covered a range of topics and highlighted the diversity of farms in Saratoga County. The group of attendees included State and National lawmakers, local leaders, community and business leaders.

Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardeners

Over 30 programs related to gardening basics, container gardening, soil health, home lawn care, home composting and invasive species identification, as well as other 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 2018 graduating class of Master Gardener volunteers totaled fifteen (15). These trainees are added to our active volunteers bringing this year’s number to 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, gardening projects, educational sessions and manning booths at local farmers’ markets, and the Saratoga County fair.

“Thank you so very much for the plant identification. I’m excited to finally know how best to care for it.”

- Melissa
In February, twenty-five residents and producers attended a workshop presented by the AED program and PRISM team on how to identify and manage invasive plants on their property. Follow-up sessions are in the works for the coming year.

CCE Saratoga’s AED program was included in Saratoga PLAN’s Land Trust Grants Program for Farmland Access Outreach Activities. This grant has helped fund farmland access workshops, farm and farmland succession workshops and mailings for agriculture promotion.

Fifty Federal Judges attended local farm tours in June while in Saratoga Springs for their Annual Judicial Conference. They spent the afternoon focused on local agriculture, touring both the Wm. H. Buckley Farm in Ballston Spa and McMahon Thoroughbreds in Saratoga Springs.

Highlights from Saratoga County Fair

The 2018 Saratoga Horse Farm Tour was held on August 11th. This year farms in the Stillwater area were featured. More than 600 braved the weather to visit the farms. Among the participating farms were Stark Racing Farm, Mill Creek Farm, Saratoga Glen, Rood & Riddle and Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga.

The Saratoga Horse Symposium held in May offered workshops on Demystifying Equine Colic, Equine Podiatry, Draft Horse Hitching and Driving, Riding Bitless, Horse supplements, Equine Essential Oils, and Practical Steps to Take Before Calling a Veterinarian to 60 attendees.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Equine program hosted the 9th Annual Horseman’s Social at Longfellow’s Restaurant in Saratoga Springs in late February with around 90 in attendance. This evening provides an opportunity for folks to network while enjoying light refreshments, in addition to providing an opportunity to raise some funds to enhance our educational programs.
4-H Youth Development

4-H enrolled 598 club members and 432 special interest participants in all aspects of the programs including STEM, Nutrition and Citizenship.

1,750 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 75 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.

32 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.

3 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.

90% of 4-H clubs completed a community service project allowing the young people an opportunity to demonstrate generosity and realize they are an important part of their community.

Capital-Mohawk PRISM

All eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM’s) participated in the 5th annual Invasive Species Awareness Week from July 9th-14th. The Capital Mohawk PRISM hosted 25 events with the DEC Education Committee and partners. A Hike for Hemlocks HWA Training at Moreau State Park and Science on Tap at the Albany Pump Station were among the many successful events in our region that week.

This summer, the PRISM launched a widespread scouting project to identify invasive species in ecologically significant areas. Three staff members visited over 50 parks, preserves, and other public spaces and collected data on IS occurrences in order to fill gaps in statewide data. The terrestrial team also undertook Rapid Response removals of Japanese Stiltgrass, Himalayan Balsam, Mile-a-

Minute Vine, and Giant Hogweed in the PRISM region, as well as managing widespread invasive species through volunteer workdays. Five endangered and threatened native species were surveyed this summer as well.

The PRISM oversaw three watercraft launch stewards, up from two the previous year, who educated boaters on invasive species prevention and helped inspect their boats for ‘aquatic hitchhikers.’ The launches inspections took place at were Round Lake, Cossayuna Lake, the Hudson River (Spier Falls Boat Ramp), Schoharie Crossing, and Canajoharie. A total of 1,674 boats were inspected, 3,291 people were reached, and 220 AIS were prevented from entering our waterbodies.

In addition, 4 aquatic plant identification workshops were held by the AIS coordinator for lake associations across the region (~70 attendees), one water chestnut pull was attended (~36 attendees), lake association meetings were attended, and early detection surveys for invasive European frogbit were implemented.

The PRISM was able to reach out directly to 1584 participants in educational programs, workshops, stewardship days and iMapInvasive training events. Indirectly over 88,612 capital region residents have been reached through county fairs, social media, and various programs.
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 from dedicated Master Gardener volunteers.

Participants help educate local elementary aged youth by providing demonstrations for ongoing CCE programs such as Ag Field Day.

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 interaction the garden provides fosters the garden’s motto of “Where Abilities Grow.”

Nutrition

The CCE Nutrition Program delivered the Hudson River Fish Advisory “Go Fish” school program to 27 classrooms in Saratoga County including: 4th grade: Clifton Park – 4 classrooms, Schuylerville – 6 classrooms, Mechanicville – 2 classrooms, and 5th grade: Clifton Park – 4 classrooms, Schuylerville – 6 classrooms, Mechanicville – 5 classrooms Reaching a total of 536 students; 235 4th graders and 301 5th graders.

A pre and post questionnaire was given to determine if students knew it was wrong to eat fish from the Hudson River. Results showed that prior to the Go Fish presentation 28% of students knew it was wrong to fish from the Hudson River and basically knew the correct reason why. After the presentation 79% of students knew it was wrong to eat fish from the river and correctly indicated the reason why.

Our educator coordinated and co-taught statewide Master Food Preserver Workshops at 4 CCE offices, plus Hudson Valley Community College reaching 100 residents with this 3 day intensive train-the-trainer program; along with reaching 52 Saratoga County residents through an additional 6 preservation classes, as well as 8 nutrition and cooking classes done in partnership with the CDPHP health insurance plan.

In July she coordinated activities and judging for the Culinary Department at the Saratoga County Fair, which included sampling of local cheese, wine and hard cider.

Once again this year she had three Sage College dietetic interns to mentor during their Community Nutrition rotation, plus three volunteers.

Partnering with the Lions Clubs 30 residents were taught through the Dining with Diabetes program in Hadley and Saratoga Springs.

The program participated in the Prediabetes Coalition along with Saratoga County Public Health and Saratoga Hospital to develop an on-line survey used to encourage self-assessment of diabetes risk. This on-line tool was used by Saratoga County employees and Ballston Spa School District employees.

Additional nutrition education is provided through the farmers’ markets in Saratoga Springs and Waterford in coordination with the Cornell Farmers’ Market Nutrition Education program.
Inter-municipal Stormwater Management Program

Stormwater pollution affects us all whether we are residents, business owners, contractors or local municipalities. The focus of this program is to find real solutions to address stormwater management and protect our water resources.

The program’s goal is to educate affected communities and municipal government about the most recent Federal Regulations while meeting the challenge of protecting our water resources.

In 2018 the Inter-municipal Stormwater Management Program (ISWM) has conducted and/or facilitated a total of 1,987.5 hours of training delivered to 451 attendees (public, professionals, and ISWM Program personnel). In addition, the ISWM Program has also continued to work with various stakeholder groups around Saratoga County to advance the causes of water quality, stormwater and watershed management. Those groups include: Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Saratoga County Water Quality Committee, Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District, Saratoga Lake Association, Ballston Lake Watershed Protection Committee, Ballston Lake Improvement Association, The Friends of the Kayaderosseras, the Center for Lifelong Learning at Empire State College, Skidmore College Environmental Studies Program, Saratoga Farm Homeowners Association, NYSDEC Division of Water, NYSDEC WAVE Program, NYSDEC MS4 Permit Work group, Cornell Local Roads Program, Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District and also answered 12 residents’ requests for technical assistance regarding stormwater management.

Occupant Protection Education

CCE administers car seat fitting stations for the Ballston Spa Police Department (PD), Mechanicville PD, Saratoga County Sheriffs, Clifton Park—Halfmoon EMS, Wilton EMS and Saratoga Springs PD. A total of 442 car seats were checked for correct installation and safety. The families received education and left with new knowledge and safe child passengers.

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

673 new, free bike helmets were properly fitted and given at special events: Bike A Toga Christmas, First Responder Appreciation Day, Mechanicville Family Day, and the Saratoga County Fair.

Over 5,000 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, Ballston Spa High School, and New Country Toyota of Clifton Park (includes Shenendehowa High School, Mechanicville High School, Waterford/Halfmoon High School, and Stillwater High School). Our educator was also invited to bring this program to Illion High School.

CCE Saratoga debuted new Broken Heart Panels to be used at various community events, bringing home the message of safe driving to all.

We continued to offer Distracted Driving Classes to 127 court mandated drivers ages 16-80. 367 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 taught with our own instructor and local law enforcement personnel.
2018 Funding and Support

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<th>Source</th>
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<th>State**</th>
<th>County***</th>
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<td>Revenue ($)</td>
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Total Revenue $2,662,209

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

In addition, Cornell University estimated support equals $684,125
The value of our Master Gardener volunteers equals $203,181
The value of all CCE volunteers equals $1,670,666

Who We Are

Board of Directors

- Tom Armer, President
- Ed Hersh, Vice President
- Craig DeVoe
- John Mishoe, Secretary
- John Cromie
- Diane Hodge
- Paul Laskey, Jr.

Agriculture

- Mike Smith, Supervisor’s Rep.
- Danielle Hautaniemi, State Ext. Specialist
- Craig DeVoe
- Leland Bramer
- John Mishoe
- Laurie Kruppenbacher

4-H Youth Development/Human Ecology

- Meg Soden
- Paul Ruger
- Paul Laskey, Jr.
- Dave Felano
- Eileen Lindeman
- James Holbrook
- Donna Ringwall
- Lorelei Meidenbauer

CCE Staff Members

- William Schwed
- Susan Beebe
- Greg Stevens
- Sharon Bellamy
- Ariane Tanski
- Blue Neils
- Ashley Keatley
- Julie Curren
- Carol Whitelaw
- Bud South
- Gwendolyn Temple
- Judy Price
- Eleanor Hackett
- Diane Whitten
- Cynthia Dort
- Kelly Hurley
- Jennifer Koval
- Marilyn Preissler
- Wendy McConkey
- Jessica Holmes
- Mona Clear
- Leland Bunting
- Kristopher Williams
- Spencer Barrett

Agriculture

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

Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

- Crystal Stewart
- Amy Ivy
- Elizabeth Higgins
- Jim Meyers
- Teresa Rusinek
- Dan Donahue
- Erik Schellenberg
- Maire Ullrich
- Ethan Grundberg
- Chuck Born
- Mike Basedow
- Laura McDermott

GC-SBN Leads

- Kevin Gano
- David Balbian
- Ashley McFarland
- Nicole Tommell

Central NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops

Laura McDermott hosted workshops throughout the region to present current research methods to help growers begin to combat Spotted Wing Drosophila infestations in small fruit plantings.

4-H leaders and youth visit with Congressman Paul Tonka as he enjoys an ice cream shake at the 4-H Snack Bar at the Saratoga County Fair.