Cornell Cooperative Extension
Steuben County

Building Strong and Vibrant Communities in Steuben County since 1918!
As I reflect on 2017, my first full year as the Executive Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County, I am so proud of the work our staff and volunteers have done to change lives in Steuben County. CCE Steuben has now been extending the research, education, and expertise of Cornell University to our local community for 99 years, and we couldn’t do it without the relationships and collaborations that sustain us. We are grateful for our partnerships with Steuben County, Cornell University, and other organizational partners throughout the county. We are also grateful to the residents of Steuben County who volunteer their time, donate, and come to us for programming and expertise, because Cooperative Extension’s mission is based on input from county residents.

As part of our Strategic Planning process for 2018-2022, we are clarifying and strengthening our role in the community, identifying more opportunities for collaboration, and focusing on the best ways that we can meet the needs of Steuben County residents with unbiased, research-based information. I’m looking forward to unveiling our new Strategic Plan in early 2018.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County, it is my pleasure to present the 2017 Annual Report. Please join us in 2018 to celebrate 100 years of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County - “The Future Is What We Make It.”

Larkin Podsiedlik, Executive Director

In 1918 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County began operations to assist residents with information, tools and education to live their best lives possible.

Our world has transformed and changed numerous times since 1918, and CCE Steuben has continued to reevaluate its programs, services and collaborations that are available which is evidenced by the Strategic Planning Initiative that is currently underway. The goal is to continue to provide programs and services including Farm City Day, Financial Literacy, 4H, Ag and Soil.

2018 will bring a year-long celebration of our 100th anniversary of serving the residents of Steuben County. I invite you to attend some of these events that our employees and volunteers will be putting together which you can learn more about at PutKnowledgeToWork.org.

I hope that you enjoy reading the 2017 Annual Report and the accomplishments of our staff, volunteers and program participants.

Pamela L. Colomaio, CCE-Steuben Board President

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.
2017 CCE Steuben Staff

**ADMINISTRATION**
- Larkin Podsiedlik
  Executive Director
- Robert W. Shirley III
  Deputy Director/ Director Finance/Operations

**AGRICULTURE**
- Bambi Caron
  Administrative Assistant
- Stephanie Mehlenschacher
  Horticulture Educator

**4-H/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
- Jenny Groen
  4-H Youth Development Educator
- Loree Symonds
  4-H Youth Development Educator

**NUTRITION**
- Justine Cobb
  Senior Nutritionist Eat Smart New York
- Sarah Hess
  Environmental Nutritionist Eat Smart New York
- Patricia Lampthier
  Nutrition Educator Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

**FINANCE**
- Nancy Reigelsperger
  Financial/Energy Educator

**2017 Board of Directors**
- President: Pamela Colomaio
- Vice President: Ken Ward
- Secretary: Nicole Luckenbach
- Treasurer: Drew Heisey

**Steuben County Legislature**
- Representatives:
  - Hilda Lando
  - Robert Nichols

**State Extension Specialist**
- Charles J. Fausold

**Human Ecology Advisory Committee Rep:**
- Pam Colomaio

**Agriculture/Natural Resources Advisory Committee Rep:**
- Drew Heisey

**4-H/Youth Development Advisory Committee Rep:**
- Nicole Luckenbach

**CCE Steuben Sources of Financial Support in 2017**

Where does Cooperative Extension get money to operate in Steuben County?

**FEDERAL - 16%**
- Smith-Lever $11,456
- Special Projects (grants/contracts federally funded through Cornell University) $42,053
- University Resources $200,095
- TOTAL FEDERAL SUPPORT $253,604

**STATE - 40%**
- County Law 224 Formula $63,968
- State Fringe Benefits $254,188
- University Resources $306,640
- TOTAL STATE SUPPORT $624,796

**COUNTY - 32%**
- Appropriation $407,200
- Other County Support $83,002
- TOTAL COUNTY SUPPORT $490,202

**OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT - 12%**
- Enrollment and Program Fees $24,247
- Sale of Equip; new, 4-H camp, rent, dividend/interest, misc income, fundraising $73,297
- Contributions (restricted/unrestricted) $20,676
- Special projects (grants/contracts, funded through Cornell University) $25,567
- Special projects (grants/contracts, funded by local agency/other sources) $38,318
- TOTAL OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT $182,105

**TOTAL SUPPORT - 100%**
- $1,550,707
This year’s Farm City Day was held at Karr Dairy Farm in Hornell. Brothers Russ and Rodney Karr own the farm which started in 1950 when their grandfather purchased approximately 174 acres and 30 cows. Today the farm consists of nearly 720 total acres and houses 750 milking cows and another 630 young stock.

CCE-Steuben welcomed over 1,000 2nd and 3rd grade students from school districts across Steuben County to give them insight into how a working dairy farm operates on a day-to-day basis. Teachers loved how the event complements their curriculum and gives students a new experience.

One teacher shared,

“The tour guides were understanding of young children and their ability to understand the workings on a farm and used words and examples that were age appropriate. Seeing the animals, tractors and manure pit were my students' favorites!”

A couple days later, the farm opened up to the general public. Over 1,800 community members came out to the farm to pet baby calves, pick a pumpkin, get lost in a corn maze, milk a cow by hand, dig for potatoes, and play in a giant pile of corn. Local farmers and farm businesses were on hand to answer questions, and local growers had fresh farm products to sample and sell.

In February, CCE-Steuben and Meatsuite.com partnered to host the 2017 Locally Grown Food Festival in Corning. The event has become quite popular during the past five years, and over 350 people attended this year. They enjoyed local food and drink samples, meeting farms, and making connections to purchase locally produced meat cheese, produce, baked goods and so much more.

The 27 producers who set up displays and sold products were pleased with the sales and connections they made, where 87% of attendees made purchases from local farms, and 62% made connections for future purchases. One producer even sold out of their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares that evening. CCE is proud to provide additional winter outlets for local producers to sell products during the slower months.

Bath opened its Winter Farmers’ Market in February at the Bath Fire Hall at 50 East Morris St. The public was invited to enjoy some local foods and products during the cold winter months.

CCE-Steuben continues to promote the Corning Meat Locker, where individuals and restaurants can rent freezer space to store large amounts of local meat. Educators hosted a “Fill Your Freezer Local Meat Event,” where attendees in Corning learned about the benefits of local meat, how to purchase it in bulk, and about the Corning Meat Locker.
Throughout the year, especially during the growing season, CCE’s Agriculture Team is hard at work providing farmers with the research-based information they need to improve their practices and profitability. During the summer, our educators sometimes receive, research, and answer 15 or more questions a day!

At the Potato Grower Meetings & Potato Variety Trials, potato growers learned about cutting-edge technology and new varieties of potatoes to improve yields, network with potato buyers, and learn about Cornell’s research.

The Spring Crop Symposium, held in March, brought in experts on field crops, pest and weed management, and changes to pesticide laws. Programs like this, along with Regional Vegetable Producer Meetings, provide farmers with valuable continuing education credits to maintain their New York State Pesticide License.

CCE Steuben and CCE Allegany collaborated with the Region 4 NY Beef Producers Association (NYBPA) for a Pre-Conditioned Feeder-Calf and Replacement Sale hosted by Empire Livestock in Bath. Overall, sales were bringing in market average prices. There was good turnout for the first year of the sale.

A summer Small Grains meeting held on-farm in Wayland focused on oats and spring malted barley. Gary Bergstrom, a plant pathologist from Cornell University, discussed variety yield and diseases associated with the crops.

Many more workshops, meetings, and one-on-one visits from CCE have helped farmers throughout Steuben County improve their growing practices, try innovative techniques, and increase their profitability.

By promoting agritourism, Farm to Cafeteria, Farm to Restaurant, and other new marketing opportunities, CCE helps farmers scale up production and find new markets to sell their product in and out of Steuben County.

The Cooperative Extension Associations and Tourism Promotion Agencies in Tioga, Chemung, Yates, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties are collaborating to help farmers learn about agritourism by promoting the region as “Finger Lakes Farm Country.”

CCE Steuben also hosted a networking event to connect farms and restaurants, and is working in collaboration with organizations like GST BOCES and the S2AY Rural Health Network to bring more local farm products to local schools.

The Weekly Field Crop Update continued for the second summer as an online means for farmers to receive current conditions. The email included weekly precipitation amounts, growing degree days, and Western Bean Cutworm updates. Other points offered awareness of what pests and diseases had been found in New York State and could affect our region.

A new summer series entitled Agriculture University offered expert information on the legalities of a farm business and farming finances. The sessions took advantage of two professionals often tapped in our Financial Education classes, Patrick J. Roth, a Corning attorney, and Amy Irvine, a Corning financial advisor.

Two new agriculture educators joined the CCE-Stuben team during 2017. Mark Hammond started as a temporary program assistant just prior to the Locally Grown Food Fest and Ag Literacy Week. He jumped right in with a PTO safety session which was the most successful turnout to date and caught the attention of a local news station who aired it on the nightly news.

Ariel Kirk started in September and jumped in to the final preparation of Farm City Day. She grew up as a 4-H’er in Livingston County and worked on a family dairy farm. She worked as an Alaska Department of Fish and Game Marine Biologist monitoring fishing efforts and safety regulations to ensure a sustainable commercial fishing industry and was assigned to many boats that are featured on the hit show Deadliest Catch.

CCE developed a network of insect traps throughout the county to help farmers manage pest pressures on their farms through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Mark Hammond, Ag Program Assistant, assembled and monitored three Western Bean Cutworm traps this summer in Wayland, Wallace, and Kanona. Working with Marion Zueflue (NYS Integrated Pest Management at Cornell University), he reported information to the IPM team.

The local trap sites did not go over threshold amounts of pest pressure, which was encouraging to farmers, and added to the ongoing IPM research.
This summer, Steuben County 4-H participated in Cornell University’s research project, Building a Community Legacy Together (BCLT). BCLT is based on the success of the Cornell Legacy Project in which more than 1,000 Americans over the age of 65 were interviewed to seek their practical advice on issues such as education, work and career, dating and marriage, raising children, finding happiness, and avoiding regrets.

In Steuben the BCLT program trained youth to interview elders ages 65 and over about their general advice for living a happy and successful life. In addition to learning about older people’s life lessons and engaging in a community service experience, the program exposed the youth to social science methods, including interviewing skills and techniques to interpret and analyze interview data. The program gathers the wisdom of older Americans so their advice for living can be passed down to future generations. allows youth to create respect for the wisdom of age and combat ageism, and helps youth develop skills sets in interviewing and research.

Ten 4-H’ers were trained and partnered with seniors from across Steuben County for the interviews. They identified the life lessons learned and developed a presentation of their findings for family and the public.

One youth said he learned some valuable advice from his senior that he is now putting into practice in his life. When asked about maintaining health, one senior said, “The best thing to happen health wise for me was when they came out with those gummy vitamins!”

In another campus connection in 2017, two CCE Steuben staff members completed the Cornell Garden Based Learning Leadership Certificate. There were four counties from across the state selected to participate following a competitive application process. Staff were able to self-direct the specific program within our county, and we saw an opportunity to contribute more to the community through gardening. Our goal was to create a sense of community and compassion for inter-generational diversity and to instill a passion for the outdoors and gardening by utilizing garden-based learning activities.

The program was open to youth 8-12 years of age. Some of the accomplishments of this group included building raised garden beds that are ADA compliant, plant reproduction & transplanting, companion planting, soil testing, harvesting and utilization and preservation. It was our hope to teach the kids start-to-finish gardening in a group setting and let them take those lessons home to implement them in their own gardens.

Several of our lessons took place at the Bath VA where the youth were able to interact directly with some veteran residents. Some self-reported lessons the youth learned from participating in this program were the importance of community service, volunteerism, empathy, reliability and well-being and professionalism.

In addition to the Bath VA, other community partners we worked with in this project included the Steuben County Master Gardeners and the Bath Episcopal Church.
Bryce Warriner, a ninth year member of the Dairy Dreamers 4-H Club, placed 12th overall with his two-day combined scores at the New York State Fair 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. This accomplishment earned him a spot on the New York State 4-H Dairy Judging Team which placed eighth at the Pennsylvania All-American National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Harrisburg, PA. Bryce placed 21st individually at the contest.

CCE-Steuben and the Greater Southern Tier BOCES hosted the 2017 Outdoor Education Field Day event at Wildwood BOCES Campus. Over 450 sixth grade students, teachers and chaperones attended the event, making it a huge success!

The mission of this program is to connect and educate sixth grade students on natural resources, outdoor education and natural resource-based industries and careers in our county. The format for the day was a series of several stations with groups of students rotating through each station. Stations had just 20 minutes to offer fun interactive and informative programming from a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and professionals.

Three Steuben County teams participated in the NYS State Fair Robotics Challenge and won the High Point Award in both Level A & B Divisions. This program incorporates problem solving skills, group interviews, community service knowledge, and demonstrates what they have learned in a friendly competitive event.

The first two groups of 4-H members completed the 4-H Shooting Sports Archery Classes in 2017. These classes were held at the Bath Rod and Gun Club in June and July. We had 14 youth participants and one youth Jr. Instructor complete their respective classes.

Outdoor Field Days

Excelling in Robotics

4-H Shooting Sports

Community Service

Community Service has always been one of the major areas of focus for the 4-H Program. In 2017, we had more than 300 4-H community service projects completed – talk about impact!

There are several reasons why 4-H, the largest youth organization in the country, views Community Service as a very important piece of Youth Development. When participating in Community Service Projects it has been found that youth develop an increased sense of social responsibility or a global view of society and a heart for "giving back" and helping others. It also exposes youth to diversity, provides an opportunity to apply academic learning to real human needs, helps build relationships with peers, adults, and activists sharing a cause, and improves communication and critical thinking skills.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Steuben County 4-H Staff worked with three local schools (Addison, Hornell, and Bath) through the Extended School Day Program to connect kids with their community through 4-H Community Service Projects.

In the Extended School Day series in the Bath School District, we offered a full six-week program filled with various activities to benefit the local community. From pet toys and bandanas to fleece tie pillows, in total the group made over 200 items! Everything was delivered and donated on behalf of the group to the Finger Lakes SPCA as well as to residents at the Steuben Center.

Even our Cloverbud members, ages 5-7, participated in helping out. In March we had a dozen Cloverbuds create pin wheels for Child Abuse Awareness.
A record crowd of 80 women attended the 4th annual Southern Tier Women’s Financial Conference in November. On attendee said, “Each year gets better...this was the best!”

The event moved to the Corning Community College campus this year to provide more space for the popular women’s financial day out. Another change for 2017 was breaking the presentations into shorter segments, so the interest level remained high and the day moved along quickly.

The event is organized by CCE Steuben’s Financial Educator, Nancy Reigelsperger, along with her program partners, Amy Irvine, of Irvine Wealth Planning Strategies, and Nancy Williamson, CEO of ServU Credit Union, both in Corning. They added other female presenters from Piper Insurance Agency and Guthrie Medical to present topics such as correlating physical and financial health, how to buy a car, understanding your homeowner’s policy, budgeting and credit scores.

The morning was opened by a national financial educator, Tiffany “The Budgetnista” Aliche, followed by a motivational keynote delivered by Life Coach Lisa Rustici.

Participants said it was an “awesome experience”, “so much great information,” “well done—so glad to see this offered for women,” “real stories-real people,” “women teaching women—top notch info!” and “do the same again!” One woman commented, “Very helpful! I was unsure at first, but so glad I attended this conference. What an amazing event and resource for women young professionals, etc.” Another gained “real takeaways that I can implement to improve my life and financial health.”

Empowering Women

Consumer Action is a non-profit organization that has championed the rights of underrepresented consumers nationwide since 1971. The organization has dedicated its resources to promoting financial and consumer literacy and advocating for consumer rights both in the media and before lawmakers to promote economic justice for all. With the resources and infrastructure to reach millions of consumers, Consumer Action is one of the most recognized, effective and trusted consumer organizations in the nation.

This year CCE Steuben’s Family Economics and Resource Management Program was one of two spotlights in the national Consumer Action Annual Report. The feature included a photo of local educator Nancy Reigelsperger using Consumer Action’s educational materials. Nancy provides financial management education via public workshops and one-on-one coaching, on topics ranging from goal setting, budgeting and saving to building and maintaining good credit and avoiding hazards such as identity theft. Nancy has attended Consumer Action’s annual Empowerment Conference which brings together consumer educators, counselors and advocates from around the country to address critical consumer issues, learn from subject matter experts and agency representatives, and share best practices in consumer and financial education.

Educating Consumers
The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is gearing up to celebrate 50 years of service in 2019. The program’s connections with faculty and academic staff at Cornell University provide expertise in nutrition education, program delivery and evaluation.

EFNEP has been shown to be cost-effective, saving about $10 in health costs for every EFNEP dollar invested in the community. Additionally, participants save about $5 in food costs for every EFNEP dollar invested, while still making healthful choices. Studies of behavior change indicate that these changes are maintained at least six months post-education.

In 2017 CCE Steuben Educator Pat Lamphier enrolled 100 and graduated 71 adults for a 71% graduation rate! Pat worked side by side with regional coordinators and campus staff and nutrition educators during a fall training designed to provide skills and tools for food preparation to help Steuben’s EFNEP families and to gain new recipes. The group experimented with recipes using limited ingredients and high-impact nutrition. They also learned about ingredients that could be substituted to enhance flavor without adding calories.

Solar was introduced to the public in a two-pronged effort during 2017. The Going Solar Steuben County campaign, part of an initiative funded by NYSERDA’s Cleaner, Greener Communities program, provided education and knowledge that allowed residents to decide whether solar is the right decision for their household. Solar is a great option for anyone interested in reducing their personal emissions, saving money on future energy bills, or who would like to become energy independent and not worry about fluctuating energy prices.

Several workshops across the county shared basic concepts about solar with three vetted installers on site to answer questions and explain pricing and available government incentives. The Solarize campaigns can reduce the cost of installations for consumers by 10-15% by utilizing group purchasing and saving on administrative and transactions costs.

The second phase of the program was a Community Shared Solar campaign. Since not everyone has a suitable location for solar panels or owns a home, this campaign offered a subscription model option or a purchase model where the panels live on a community solar farm and the consumer owns a section of the panels. In either model, solar energy gets credited to your energy bills through two qualified solar companies, Nexam and Renovus.

Residents who signed up for a free assessment were able to get more information and a site assessment to determine if solar might work for their home or business. There was no commitment or obligation to go solar with an assessment. CCE Steuben’s goal was to educate and offer professional knowledge to residents of Steuben County regarding solar energy.

The Financial Management program through Cornell Cooperative Extension provides financial coaching to people of all income levels, ages and needs through client referrals from a multitude of programs across the county. One woman in her early 80’s, who was recently widowed, was about to lose her home of 50 years and ran up a credit card. We created a budget, contacted creditors and strategized how to maintain groceries. In a recent follow up call, the woman had turned things around and thanked CCE profusely for being so helpful to her. Our goal is to help them strategize wise choices, to be able to look at their financial situations with a different set of eyes and to find their path to a financially successful life.
Over the summer the youth at Conable House in Bath helped replant a set of raised beds behind their group home. FLESNY Nutritionist Jon Sterlace assisted the staff to oversee planting, watering, and weeding the vegetable seeds.

Four of the youth began pulling weeds by hand and learned how to loosen the soil with a garden rake and other garden hand tools to prepare the ground for planting. Staff member Ashley shared, “I was happy to see the kids work together and help work on a garden that will benefit their knowledge about growing their own food. I enjoyed seeing the youth work and learn about the garden.” Once the soil was prepared, the kids learned how to create rows in the soil as they followed a gardening plan developed by Conable House’s Recreation Specialist Jason Van Zile in collaboration with Josh Dolan, School and Community Garden Specialist.

They took turns distributing the vegetable seeds in rows, covered them up with soil, and helped water the garden. The youth liked looking at the different shapes and sizes of the seeds as they opened each packet. They saw the differences from green leaf and iceberg lettuces, spinach, carrots, cucumbers, zucchini, and broccoli.

Through the spring and summer, FLESNY was an integral part of developing and using a new community garden on the grounds of the Hornell YMCA. After several months of planning meetings with YMCA staff, FLESNY staff, and garden coordinator Katherine Griffis, a total of nine raised beds were built as well as an additional bed that is wheelchair accessible. This building project began under the direction of Josh Dolan during a spring day of service with students from Alfred State plus a dozen staff and community members who pitched in.

Josh led two spring gardening sessions with afterschool participants in addition to work done by volunteers under Katherine’s direction. Two additional major garden improvements were completed over the summer including a 15’x15’ pavilion (Lowes donation) with picnic tables and a 8’x8’ tool shed (Lions Club donation).
Hornell Salvation Army Social staff member Gary Miles shared how much senior citizens appreciated the locally grown produce donations, “They know how to use fresh vegetables, and were pleased to see them available at the food pantry.” Hornell Turning Point Catholic Charities Food Pantry Manager Colleen Eldridge added, “We never had any trouble getting the fresh produce distributed to families once it got to us at the pantry. The pantry clients would take all that was available.”

Josh Dolan joined Jon during two additional visits to the YMCA to show the youth group how to select ripe tomatoes, lettuce, and kale for picking. One nutrition lesson included a taste test comparison of fresh picked, vine-ripened tomatoes to those that were bought from the grocery store. The youth commented on how the garden tomatoes looked different and tasted different, and were a brighter red. There were two varieties of kale picked, including a deep purple variety that was not readily available at local grocery stores.

**Kids’ Farmers’ Market**

The Addison Youth Center and Corning Salvation Army hosted a weekly Kids’ Farmers’ Market, sponsored by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, each week in July during their free summer meal site programs. Roughly 80 youth at each site location had the opportunity to receive a bag of different fruits and vegetables at no cost to take home to their families.

FLESNY Nutritionists Jon and Ireland visited each site several times, offering recipe samples using some of the fruits and vegetables that were being distributed. Using the “GO-SLOW-WHOA” concept from CATCH they helped kids identify healthy choices. More than one child shared, “We drink lots of water every day. They have it for us here at the summer program.”

Staff members said the kids liked trying vegetables that were new to them, such as eggplant fries. “Once the kids tried them, they just ate them up!” They were also willing to try a number of different recipes that included fruits and vegetables, such as parsnip bread, zucchini and summer squash salad, strawberry-cantaloupe infused water, and shamrock shakes.

**Agriculture Literacy**

Agriculture Literacy Week was tied into a CATCH lesson focusing on GO, SLOW, and WHOA foods and beverages as kids at Tuscarora Elementary School taste tested three different grape varieties and two different 100% grape juices. A total of 73 students learned what makes grapes a GO food while a similar product like 100% grape juice would be a SLOW beverage. The kids also reasoned that items like grape soda or grape pie would fit into the WHOA group. One participant offered that he preferred the green grapes and white grape juice out of the samples he tried; this participant also commented on having apple trees in his back yard, which he enjoyed as a source of fresh fruit. As we discussed the importance of making half your plate fruits and veggies, this participant shared that his favorite fruit is kiwi and veggie is broccoli – both of these items were offered at the Kids Farmers Market that day!

**ReThink Your Drink**

Families at the Glen Curtiss Elementary School in Hammondsport learned about healthy drink choices, sugar levels in a range of common beverages, and a method for computing sugar content from the grams of sugar listed on the nutrition facts label. A total of 175 participants sampled a cranberry spritzer recipe made of 100% juice and carbonated water and commented on how they liked the taste and would be willing to drink this in place of soda. Both kids and adults were surprised to discover the sugar content of some of their favorite beverages by visualizing this amount in sugar packets.

In addition to the vegetable nutrition lessons and taste testing, FLESNY staff shared information about healthy beverage choices. The kids learned more about healthy bones and teeth from drinking low-fat milk, and learned how easy it is to make smoothies that contain low-fat yogurt.

During other visits, Jon and Josh shared positive nutrition messages from the CATCH Kids Club curriculum about GO-SLOW-WHOA drinks, and encouraged healthy low and no sugar drink choices. The youth shared their favorite ways to flavor water naturally by adding fresh chunks of fruit, herbs like mint, or even slices of vegetable like cucumbers.

Support for the Hornell YMCA garden will continue in 2018. Planned are construction of two additional raised beds, fruit planting along the fence line and around the shed, and expanding the garden and nutrition program to afterschool participants and summer camp youth. The end goal will be creating a sustainability plan in 2018.
CCE Steuben switched up their annual gala event this year into an old fashioned backyard barbecue aimed at the entire family and held at the Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes. The **Backyard BBQ Fundraiser** paired berries and a barbecue for a fun, family evening. A highlight of the night featured a pie contest which followed the berry theme and drew a number of youth and adult entries.

Jerry Keeler, owner of family blueberry farm near Bath since 1999, gave the keynote presentation inside the 1878 Brownstown Schoolhouse. With over 2,000 plants on his farm today, he supplies blueberries in season to local stores. He also engineered a hydroponic growing system for the farm which he currently markets. Jerry spoke about how to get started as a new grower and create a quality product. He brought along a pre-K/Kindergarten book that he wrote, entitled *Are You A Blueberry*, which promotes both healthy food choices and giggles.

The evening was topped off with a fun pie auction, delicious barbecue meal, and music by Pat Kane.

**Exploring the Outdoors**

The **11th annual Southern Tier Outdoor Show**, managed by CCE-Steuben made a move to the Steuben County Fairgrounds this year where it now has plenty of room for continued growth. The popular event encourages sportsmen and families to explore the outdoors through wildlife shows, seminars, exhibitors and interactive activities. Local businesses and organizations can share their products and services to encourage participation in outdoor activities, promote environmental stewardship and offer outdoor awareness and education. And the participation is amazing - over 7,000 people attend from across the Finger Lakes region.

The 2017 features included a Paralympian champion, a presenter on coyote behavior, a Retriever Challenge for those who brought their dogs, and a kids’ camp for ice fishing. A sanctioned turkey calling contest drew people from as far away as Washington D.C. and Massachusetts.