Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County,

Is Cooperative Extension Worth the Investment?

Since the collapse of the financial markets in 2008, it seems everyone is a bit skeptical about making investments or at least there is less certainty about what makes a good investment. Before investing money, we all need to do our homework and decide if the expected return on investment is worth the risk. The same is true of investing in Cooperative Extension. Is it a good investment?

As a unique, sub-governmental nonprofit organization, we have many individuals and organizations that invest money and time each year. Our organization receives annual funding from the county, state, and federal government, contributions of cash and time from local supporters, and funds from various grantors. In return, we provide research and community based educational programs, including 4-H Youth Development, Youth Employment, Agriculture, Master Gardener, Regional Dairy Team, Family Development, and Community Energy. How do we measure the return on the investments made in these programs and is it worth it?

We measure the direct returns for each program by the benefits that each participant gets from participating in a workshop, a 4-H club, a consultation, and/or from reading a newsletter. This includes reporting the numbers of people who participated and when possible, reporting the impact of what that participation meant to each person. This is often difficult to gather and results may take several years to observe. So, when we have the information and consent of the person, we will tell their story, a story of how they applied the knowledge they learned in their lives. It is their success and their gratitude we receive in return, and that is how we measure the outcome of our work. The success stories help us get a clearer picture of the true value of investing in Cooperative Extension.

In addition to the direct benefits to CCE program participants there are other indirect benefits to the greater community. These benefits include: youth growing into competent and caring adults; having young adults gaining the skills to become employable; farmers applying best practices to increase profits and reduce environmental degradation; families learning how to grow and maintain gardens; dairy farmers monitoring and managing their field crops to maximize quality and yield; parents learning and applying best parenting skills to reduce the chance of child abuse; and individuals accessing information and resources to increase home energy efficiency. Each of these, help to improve overall quality of life and reduce costs.

There is also a direct financial benefit to the county for maintaining a Cooperative Extension Association. For each dollar allocated to CCE Tioga by the county through our annual allocation and contracts, the association brings in an additional $2.5 from the federal and state governments as well as additional grants, contributions, and fundraising. This amounts to more than $750,000 annually. With these funds, CCE Tioga hires staff and purchases local goods and services, which adds to the overall financial benefit. For the nearly 21 years that I have served as Executive Director, we can conservatively say that CCE Tioga has brought in more than $12 million to the county. This is a great accomplishment since our state allocation has been flat since 1998 and our county allocation is just 3% more than it was in 1999.

As you look through the pages of this annual report, read about the program outcomes, and reflect on this message, I hope you conclude that Cooperative Extension is truly a wise investment.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Fagan, Executive Director

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and that provides equal program and employment opportunities.
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CCE Tioga Financial Support
(Based on 2018 numbers)

2018 FUNDING SOURCES
FEDERAL - INCLUDES SMITH LEVER & VARIOUS GRANTS 247,225
STATE - INCLUDES STATE 224 & VARIOUS GRANTS AND VALUE OF BENEFITS 370,171
COUNTY - INCLUDES APPROPRIATION & PUBLIC WORKS 272,027
OTHER - DIVIDENDS, ENROLLMENT, PROGRAM PART, & CONTRIBUTIONS 122,623
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES 1,012,045

2018 EXPENSES
PROGRAM SERVICES 864,470
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL 175,415
FUNDRAISING 20,044
1,059,929

DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (47,884)
Program Goals: To support the economic viability of farms in Tioga County by providing research-based technical assistance, workshops and trainings, and coordination among local organizations and agencies serving agriculture.

Our Team: Barb Neal with help from South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team

Program Impacts

- Worked with over 90 farmers to address their questions about production, regulations, and marketing (an increase of 80 percent from 2018, including new farmers and hemp growers).
- Worked to provide up to the minute information on the emerging hemp industry and worked with farmers to apply for permits and grow and harvest their crop.
- Assisted the new Amish farm families in their quest to begin farming in Tioga County. Services include assistance in permitting bakeries, soil map interpretation and new avenues for farm production.
- Part of a regional team to promote agritourism and support farmers to become visitor ready as part of Finger Lakes Farm Country. This fall marks the soft launch of the Finger Lakes Farm Country website.
- Provided support for farmers in the spring and fall Tri-County Farm Tour and the spring Tioga Arts and Agriculture Trail.
- Continued to lead and strengthen the Agriculture Resource Group by having focused topics at each meeting that informs the attending service providers on agricultural issues and provides a vehicle for inter-agency support.
- Continued to grow the contact list of farmers with updated information and enhanced capabilities to reach out to farmers in times of need. The email list called Farm Minute helped to keep farmers informed using short, information dense emails.
- Provided a presence and planning assistance for Sundaes at the Farm.
Program Goals: To provide the public with unbiased, research-based information and sustainable management practices in horticulture suitable for home gardens, local landscapes, urban environments and the community.

Our Team: Barb Neal and our Master Gardener Volunteers

Program Impacts

• Served as the coordinator of the Master Gardener Volunteer program, which currently has over 40 active Master Gardeners, who volunteer nearly a thousand hours of community beautification and education each year.

• Trained six new Master Gardeners through a flipped classroom method.

• Addressed the concerns of over 150 county residents in the proper management of pests and plant diseases in and around the home.

• Taught numerous workshops on gardening for the public, garden clubs, and environmental groups.

• Engaged 894 children and 1160 adults in garden or farm-related programming, ranging from cooking classes to crafts and gardening.

• Organized the PLANTstny Education Day for professional landscapers and property managers.

• Continued to help develop and build Tiger Farm, the farm school of Tioga Central School District. Planned and participated in the third annual Harvest Festival for the elementary and middle schools.

• Worked with teachers at Apalachin Elementary School in the planning and planting of their new school garden.

• Most popular programs included Seed A Rama, the plant sale, and Sundaes at the Farm

FARM & GARDEN
NEWS AND NOTES FOR FARMERS & GARDENERS IN CHEMUNG AND TIOGA COUNTIES

Farm and Garden Newsletter is an informative monthly publication with interesting articles and news for the farmers and gardeners of Tioga and Chemung counties. It is distributed to 893 people each month. It includes pest information, helpful growing tips, and notices of workshops, among other things. To subscribe to this free newsletter, email Barb at ban1@cornell.edu
Program Goal: Provide opportunities for youth to have fun, learn life skills, and work with caring adults to foster the 5 C’s of positive youth development -- competence, confidence, character, connection, and caring.

Our Team: Melissa Watkins, Jody Tatich, and April Leonard
Summer Asst: Erin Fagan

Thank you to all of our 4-H club leaders and volunteers.

Program Impacts:

4-H Youth Participate in Hands-on Projects that allow them to develop important skills that help them in becoming successful, competent leaders that will contribute to the Community and Industry.

- Youth Members- 130 youth and 40 Volunteers enrolled
- Tractor Safety - 15 youth
- STEAM Summer Programming - 200 youth
- STEAM programs in After-school - 100 youth reached
- Public Presentations - 60 Youth participants
  Presentations are cited as the top skill that 4-H Alumni utilize in the career world; using public speaking, research, and organization to create their presentation. This builds confidence to share their learning with others in places such as community events, school, meetings, and the fair.
- Giant Pumpkin Project - 35 youth participants
- Animal Science Projects - over 100 youth participants
  * Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Goat, Sheep, Poultry, Swine, Rabbit, and Horse
  * Market Animal Programs/Livestock Auction
  * Education Events - Horse Bowl, Hippology, Livestock Skill-a-thon, and Judging
- Career Exploration - 4-H Youth engage in Hands-on learning and are engaged in career education through experiential learning
  * 4-H Agri-Business Conference at SUNY Cobleskill
  * 4-H State Teen Action Rep. Retreat (STARR)
  * 4-H Career Explorations at Cornell-3 youth attended
  * Animal Crackers-10 youth attended
  * State Fair Teen Leader Work Experiences- 5 youth participated
Market Animal Program Grows!

In 2019, Tioga County 4-H saw growth in the Market Animal Program. The Program saw notable milestones, including 36 Market Hogs and the re-introduction of the Market Turkey Program! Twelve Turkeys joined the Auction Lineup, marking a year of learning for our 4-H Youth and utilizing some great strategies for marketing their birds. In total, 67 animals were sold in the Livestock Auction, the culmination of months of planning, feeding, keeping healthy and keeping records on their animals. A successful auction marks a job well done on behalf of our 4-H Youth and brings excitement for another year of learning and growing! This effort is made possible by Goodrich Auction Services, who generously provide Auctioneering services.

Animal Science knowledge grows here!

In 2019, our Animal Science knowledge programs grew in Tioga County! The Horse Bowl, Hippology, Livestock Skillathon and Livestock Judging wowed through their hard work, learning, study and practice. It has been exciting to see these areas grow, along with the confidence of the youth participating!

While learning to raise an animal is important, it is also important to know more about the animal, the industry and the veterinary science associated with the species.

Youth that participated in the Livestock Skillathon and Judging spent hours studying material related to livestock; things like cuts of meat, diseases, best practices, breeds, and more! They took some field trips to gain knowledge including farm visits, tours and a trip to SUNY Cobleskill. Their first year’s hard work yielded a Third Place Team for the Junior Skillathon Team, consisting of Kyle Jantz, Cheyanne Moyers, Jason Jantz and Brody Hines. In addition, there was Fourth Place for Junior Judging Team and the Seniors placed Fifth in Judging. Seniors included Rosie Hines and Mason Card.

Individual placements included:

- **Brody Hines**- 7th place, Jr Skillathon
- **Jason Jantz**- 9th Place, Jr Skillathon
- **Rosie Hines** 10th Place, Sr Judging

In the Equine areas, youth studied for and excelled in Horse Bowl, Hippology, and Horse Judging Contests. Youth devoted many hours to reading, studying and practicing in areas such as anatomy, parasitology, vet science, equipment and more. These contests are a way for youth to apply their learning in different ways. Horse Bowl uses a Question and Answer format that is team based to share learning, where Hippology uses a multitude of methods to test knowledge, and Horse Judging focuses on the reasons why a horse and rider might be judged in a specific way. Youth that participated in these events in 2019 include: Staci Greene, Emma Smith, Katie Greene, Tess Bergfjord, Kylie Estrella, Fenton Bergfjord, Novalei Marcey, Collin Marcey, and Collin Dunbar.

**Congratulations to the youth that achieved the following:**

- **Tess Bergfjord**, State Hipplogy, 2nd Place, Horse Judging 2nd Place
- **Emma Smith**, State Horse Judging, 5th Place, NYS Team member for Horse Judging
- **Kylie Estrella**, State Horse Judging, placed 5th

4-H Takes Youth places!

For **Katie**, it has taken her to Horse Bowl, Public Presentations, Teen Leadership, and her first College Experience at 4-H Career Explorations

For **Emma**, it has taken her to State Fair and to Louisville, KY as a part of the NYS Horse Judging Team!

For **Dylan**, it was a blue ribbon at the County Fair that took him to the State Fair with his Dairy calf.

For **Rosie**, it took her to STARR Teen Leadership weekend, 4-H Agri-business Conference, 4-H Career Explorations Focus Assistant, and led Tioga County 4-H into the Livestock Skillathon and judging contest at the NYS Fair.

For **Alison**, it was achieving “Best of Fair” with her pencil drawing at the NYS Fair!

For **Brody**, it was Teen Leadership at the State Fair, participating in Skillathon and Judging, showing his sheep at the State Fair, and growing a Champion Giant Pumpkin!

4-H Youth Development brings IL Skills to 10 youth

The Independent Living Program is a 4-H Program that helps youth in the foster care system develop skills based upon their individual needs, interests and goals. Skills include cooking and healthy decisions, career building, hygiene, acquiring identification, and more. This year, one youth in the program successfully applied to college, completed FAFSA Financial Aid, and started her first semester of college with the help of this program and the focused educational opportunities. She is currently in college fulltime, working, and is doing great things.
Program Goals: To support the 5 Protective Factors known to prevent child abuse and neglect: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Supports in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children.

Program Staff: Jackie Spencer, Erin Evans, Joan Shultz, and Donna Gibson

Advisory Committee Members: Sarah DiNunzio, Liz Lynch, Sonja Foote, Stephanie Ferraro, Beth Harrington and Lauryn Maleski

Program Impacts:

- 165 adults and 170 children participated in Family Resource Center activities such as drop in play, parent-child activities and parenting workshops
- 43 adults referred by Tioga County Child Protective Services participated in the Home Based Parenting Education program
- 14 adults completed PS...It Works! Parenting skills workshop series
- 9 parents of children in Foster Care participated in monthly Reunification group classes
- 4 adults completed the Family Development Credential course offered in partnership with Tioga Opportunities Inc.
- 34 Adults participated in Tioga Strong Families Coalition activities

FRC partners with Berkshire Free Library to offer playtimes in conjunction with weekly story hour.
A Change for the Family Resource Centers

In 2019 the Family Resource Centers transitioned to offer programming in more locations throughout the county. Core drop in hours are maintained at “hub” sites located at 56 Main Street in Owego and within the Waverly Free Library. Additional programming is offered at various locations across the county. FRC programming is designed to support the overall health, well-being and optimal development of families early and flexibly.

Tioga Strong Families Coalition

The Tioga Strong Families coalition formed in the Spring of 2019 with the support of a Community Collaborations mini-grant awarded by New York State Parenting Education Partnership. CCE Tioga provides leadership for this effort engage the wider community in supporting the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. These protective factors are Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and the Social and Emotional Competence of Children. Coalition members include local departments, family serving agencies and parents themselves.

Families Exploring Food Together

In 2019 CCE Tioga was awarded a mini grant from the Community Foundation of the Twin Tiers to provide educational programs for families to explore growing and preparing nutritious foods. A total of 44 children and 20 adults participated in age paced, family centered program offerings including Kids in the Kitchen series, Nutrition Exploration sessions, Seed Starting activities and Container Gardening workshops. Offering this type of programming to parents and children together helps to support the transfer of new information and skills to the home setting. Parents reported that they learned important information about nutrition/food safety and their children became excited about trying new recipes featuring fruits and vegetables. Families shared that as a result of participating, they are spending more time preparing meals together.

2019 Family Development Credential Graduates: Megan Weed, Allison Cummings, Christine Freyvogel, and Katie Frisbie
**Program Goal:** Strengthening the dairy industry, enhancing farm profitability, and helping producers meet their goals.

Our professional team of educators provide technical information, management expertise and training for producers and agri-serve, as well as encourage a better understanding of agriculture by community residents.

**Team Members:** Janice Degni, Betsy Hicks, Mary Kate Wheeler, Melanie Palmer, and Fay Benson

**2018-19: Program Impacts:**

- 54 meetings & workshops with 1285 participants including skill building workshops addressing herd management calf care, dairy management, feeds & feeding, and herd health
- Individual Farm Consultations
- Profit Team Facilitation & Business Planning
- Extensive Outreach including newsletter reaching 600 farms; social media posts reaching 2,796 people.
- New Team Blog with 525 subscribers and 1,010 unique visitors.
- 10 public awareness events with 3,453 contacts.
- Soil health trailer (a traveling teaching lab) – 3,239 contacts

**Crop Management Education Supports Profitability & Sustainability**

Forage quality remains a key driver of production and profitability on dairy farms, and it can often be improved with low- or no-cost solutions. Our team delivers training and support for dairies to produce adequate forage quantity and quality. Through workshops and individual consultations, our Field Crops Specialist educates producers on current trends and technologies, Integrated Pest Management, and nutrient management, all within a broader framework of economic viability and environmental stewardship.

Our field crops program also covers industrial hemp, NY’s newest crop. We provide technical expertise to help producers cultivate hemp and navigate the permitting process.
Dairy Management Education Targets Herd Health & Performance

98% of US dairy farms participate in the FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) Program. These producers must meet animal welfare standards and ensure that employees receive animal care training. Our team helps farmers keep up with industry standards by organizing herd health and management trainings. On-farm workshops provide hands-on opportunities for farm operators and their employees to learn and practice key skills.

Our Dairy Specialist also works one-on-one with individual farms to improve facilities and procedures. Benchmarking facility measurements and other animal welfare indicators helps farmers to identify opportunities for improvement.

Business Management Education Builds Planning & HR Skills

Farmers need accurate information about business performance to make good decisions. We educate and support producers to improve record keeping systems, and we facilitate participation in financial benchmarking programs. Access to financial data helps producers make sound financial decisions and plan for the future.

Farmers are scrambling to keep up with new labor laws as employees are becoming harder to find. Our Business Management Specialist trains farms to implement employee onboarding and other HR best practices, including compliance with new sexual harassment prevention regulations. Improving labor management on farms has potential to boost employee performance while reducing exposure to liability.

Public Outreach Enhances Consumer Perceptions of Agriculture

Community relations are a growing concern for farmers, who face increasing public scrutiny. Public perception of agriculture shapes consumer preferences, regulations, and evolving industry standards. These, in turn, may affect production practices and requirements for market entry.

Our team supports outreach events that bring consumers onto dairy farms to learn about the industry. We also provide public relations training for farmers, and teach them how to be “ag-vocates” for themselves and their industry.
Program Goals: To provide out of school young adults (17½ to 24) assistance in career exploration, building basic reading, math, and soft skills, obtain diploma, vocational training, Provide Apprenticeships, build Work Readiness and financial literacy skills. As well as enlist local businesses to assist in strengthening the skill base of the emerging Tioga County workforce. The Work Readiness class builds jobs search, interview and soft skills.

Our Educator: Lisa Weston-Bialy

Program Impacts:
Program Year 2018 Runs from July 2018-June 2019

- Recruitment: Enrolled 35 young adults
- 40 young adults received Follow up services
- 7 Young adults were provided Work Experiences, 6 successfully completed the experience
- 19 Young Adults were enrolled in TASC class, 11 graduated
- 20 Young Adults Increased Literacy or Math skills that were Basic Skills Deficient
- 25 Completed Work Readiness Class
- 17 Completed Financial Literacy
- 10 Enrolled or completed Vocational Education or certification course including Job Corp
- 8 Young Adults enrolled in Post Secondary Education
- 39 Young adults in Active status and in follow-up were employed at the end of the Program Year
- Price Chopper has been a strong partner to the program, hosting several young adults with interests in customer service, retail, stocking, cooking and baking. Price Chopper has also referred employees to the Youth Employment Program. We look forward to the continued partnership to build work skills in young adults.

Tyler Came to the WIOA Youth Employment Program seeking help to obtain a High School Equivalency diploma and to enroll in Oneonta Job Corp.

The WIOA Program assisted Tyler to attend TASC classes in preparation for the High School Equivalency Exam. He Aced it! We were all so proud of him. From there we attended an open house at Job Corps. This solidified his Vocational Education Path.

Tyler is currently enrolled at Oneonta Job Corp learning the Electrical trade. He will attend Advanced Vocational career training at Glenmont Job Corp Center where he will study Renewable Resources and Energy.
Collin was referred to the WIOA Youth Employment program by Probation as a last-ditch effort. His first goals were hygiene and employment. He surpassed all expectations by obtaining, maintaining and being promoted at work from a Dishwasher to a Dietary Aide in three months’ time. In addition, Collin has decided to give college another try after being academically discharged in 2016. He has applied and been accepted in the Liberal Arts Program with an emphasis in Culinary Arts. To do this, Collin took the initiative to apply and meet with multiple departments to regain the ability to enroll, set up supports for academic success and determine how to regain financial assistance. He didn’t stop there. Collin has taken the initiative to co-found a gaming club through the Student Life Department at TC3 and is actively seeking out internship opportunities. All individuals involved in his case are very impressed with how far he has come in such a short time.

Thomas enrolled in the WIOA Youth Employment Program in August 2019. He was referred by his employer. His employer wanted him to have a job coach, we assisted him to obtain a job coach. He started back to work in August.

Thomas’ goal is to enlist in the Army. The WIOA Youth Employment program worked with him and his recruiter to improve his ASVAB score from a 5 to a 42 to a 67!

By setting him up to attend the TEL Tutoring lab weekly. Thomas has completed the Work Readiness class and is in process of completing the Financial literacy class.
Community, Health, and Wellness:

Our EatSmartNY program provides nutrition education to help low income individuals improve eating habits and increase physical activity. We also work to support and/or bring leaders together to help address community needs, including Community Energy and the Tioga County Nonprofit Network.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County Makes a Difference!

Staff:
Andy Fagan, Executive Director
Eileen Hanrahan, Community Energy Educator

Outcomes:
• Through our regional NYSERDA supported “Smart Energy Choices” program, Tioga County residents learned new ways to save money on heating and cooling costs/the impact heating and cooling has on the environment and low cost energy saving tips, with 85 residents signing up for home energy assessments and 53 home energy audits.
• CCE Tioga was included in the regional SNAP-Ed/ Southern Finger Lakes Eat Smart NY proposal. The proposal has been funded. This will allow CCE Tioga to hire a full-time nutrition educator in 2020 who will serve primarily SNAP recipients and eligible.
• CCE Tioga coordinated the Tioga County Nonprofit Network which met in Nov 28th, 2018, and Jan 30th, March 25th, May 29th, Oct. 2nd, and Dec. 4th, 2019. Average attendance of 12 individuals representing nonprofit organizations and county departments. Topics discussed included sexual harassment training requirements, financial reporting, and funding.
• On Dec 4th, 2019, Senior Extension Associate, David Kay of Cornell University’s Community and Regional Development Institute presented to TCCN on a study conducted in Rockland County on the economic value of not-for-profits.

Run for Funds

The “Run for Funds” is a fundraising drive for all of the programs in Cooperative Extension Tioga County. It runs from August until the Annual Meeting in December including a special presentation at the Taste of Tioga-Farm to Feast Event. Board members took the lead and “raced” around the room at the event to collect donations from attendees. In total, $1045 was collected. Thank you donors!!
Planning Team: Tina Murphy, Andy Fagan, Mena LaClair, Barb Neal, and Meg Ward.

Our 18th Annual event was a success with 193 people attending in the banquet room at Tioga Downs.

Fresh produce and meats were obtained from 36 Tioga County farmers/growers and made into a wonderful buffet by Tioga Downs dining staff under the direction of Chef Ed Van Barringer.

8 local restaurants made 11 delicious desserts. Local flowers adorned the tables from the Tioga County Master Gardeners and others.

The Tioga County Dairy court was in attendance and served milk punch.

Local wines and craft brews were available for tasting and Mountain Top Wranglers provided the music.

Thank you to our primary funders Tioga Downs and WEBO.

Our CCE TIOGA Staff for 2018 - 2019
Andrew Fagan, Executive Director
Tina Murphy, Operations Coordinator
Filomena LaClair, Finance Coordinator
Meg Ward, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Mary Kate Wheeler, Agriculture Business Development, South Central Dairy Team Member
Barb Neal, Community Horticulture & Agriculture
Lisa Weston-Bialy, Community Youth Employment
Melissa Watkins, 4-H Youth Development
Jody Tatich, 4-H Coordinator, retired in June
April Leonard, 4-H Activities Coordinator
Jackie Spencer, Family Dev. Program Leader
Erin Evans, Parenting Community Educator
Joan Shultz, Waverly FRC Site Coordinator
Donna Gibson, Owego FRC Site Coordinator
Eileen Hanrahan, Smart Energy Choices

Our Board of Directors:
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