Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is a dynamic educational system by which research at Cornell University is translated and placed into the hands of New York State citizens in order to enhance their lives and well-being.

Highly committed campus faculty and extension associates, agriculture teams, and local educators in a variety of fields, working together with community partners, are uniquely positioned to help apply Cornell’s world class research to meaningful programming.

CCE programs are available in every county and the five boroughs of New York City, engaging NYS citizens, providing educational experiences and helping them ask the right questions.

A Unique Partnership
Cornell Cooperative Extension has a unique partnership with Cornell University; other land-grant institutions; federal, state and county governments; and the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Our Purpose is Education
Cornell Cooperative Extension produces positive community change through education. Our objective is to help people put knowledge to work through the extension of timely, research-based information from Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Human Ecology. Our educational programs support decision makers, children, families, business owners, and homeowners from all walks of life throughout their life span.
Volunteers Are The Heart Of Cornell Cooperative Extension

Volunteer leadership is a vital force of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Washington County. The loyalty and hard work of volunteers greatly expands available programming. Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the enrollees and are responsible for determining our local mission, setting program direction, ensuring adequate resources, and enhancing Cornell Cooperative Extension’s public standing.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development program develops citizenship, leadership, and life skills in youth through hands on learning. The essential elements of 4-H are the opportunities to experience independence, belonging, generosity, and mastery.

The 4-H youth development program is unique among youth-serving organizations because it combines the strength of community based youth organization with the knowledge gleaned from university research to provide positive youth development opportunities.

4-H Youth Development Programs in Washington County are delivered using the traditional 4-H Club Model, special interest programs such as 4-h Shooting Sports, Tractor Safety, Camp Sew For You, and a variety of afterschool enrichment programs.

Over 400 youth are enrolled in almost 50 4-H Clubs supported by over 150 adult volunteers. And additional 500 youth were reached through special interest programs.
Ag and Food Systems Education:
Engaging Youth & Communities In Their Ag and Food Systems

**School-Based Agriculture Education**
*Goal: Educate students on agriculture and strengthen their connection to the agriculture present in their community.*

- All students will experience hands-on activities designed to cultivate their knowledge and interest in agriculture to be future informed consumers.
- Agriculture is integrated into local school curriculum and meets Common Core standards.
- Youth learn how the food they eat and the fibers they wear get from farm to table/closet.

**Experiential Learning**
*Goal: Through hands-on opportunities youth and adults learn about working farms and food businesses.*

- Offer or partner with existing programs to coordinate internships in agriculture, food systems and nutrition education for students.
- Youth will learn how to grow and prepare their own food.
- Youth learn for themselves, and teach others, about the relationship between food, health, their community, and the environment.

**Jobs and the Economy – Workforce Development Programs**
*Goal: Help youth and adult learners develop the skills and knowledge they need to build sustainable local food systems.*

- Youth and adults work together to grow vegetables for donation to local food pantries and for sale throughout the county in partnership with food community leaders.
- Workshops and discussions about nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems, leadership, diversity and service will be developed and delivered to the general public.

**Outcomes**
- Every Pre-K – 2nd grade class was reached in every Washington County School District.
- Nearly 900 youth received Ag and Food Systems Education along with participating in hands-on activities.
- Youth topics included apples, pumpkins, peas, broccoli, Christmas trees and greens, maple sugaring, and fiber.
- Four Lecture Series topics were created to be delivered to the general public and covered GMO’s, local grains, climate change and agriculture, and craft beverages.
Ag and Food Systems Education

“Encouraging youth to join 4-H and become the food and fiber producers of tomorrow”

CCE recognizes that if youth are given the opportunity to experience agriculture through hands on learning, they are more likely to become engaged in agriculture and food systems. To promote 4-H opportunities in agriculture, a series of 9 panels were created depicting youth engaged in various forms of agriculture including poultry, maple, dairy, livestock, fiber and fruits and vegetables. These panels were displayed at the Washington County Fair and various location throughout the county during CCE/4-H Week. The panels also served to promote the work and contributions that 4-H Youth were already making in our local food and fiber system.
Capital Area Agriculture & Horticulture Program

Providing agricultural and horticultural education through workshops, newsletters and consultations, the Capital Area Agriculture & Horticulture Program (CAAHP) serves Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, & Washington Counties.

Specialists focus on market development, business & farm management, soils & field crops, nursery & greenhouse crop production, pasture management, applied research, pesticide certification & beginning & small farmer programs.

Team members provide guidance to beginning farmers, including how to evaluate their current position & make strategic plans. The ornamentals industry is served by the team, including greenhouse, nursery, landscape & turf grass professionals.

CAAHP also:

- Assists producers & growers with planning & decision making in the areas of labor management, finance & business planning
- Guides new and seasoned producers on livestock production, natural resource management, animal health, processing & marketing
- Advises on the production of field crops for human & animal feed, including guidance on insect, disease & weed management & crop storage
- Helps farmers develop better pricing strategies for their products, exploring value-added agricultural products
- Educates producers about regulation & marketing options
EASTERN NY COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture (ENYCH) program serves a large multi-county area in the Champlain Valley, Capital/Mohawk Region and Hudson Valley. The team’s specialists have many decades of experience and work together with Cornell faculty and Extension educators statewide to address the issues impacting the area’s vegetable, tree fruit, small fruit and grape producers.

Through educational programming and on-farm trials, the ENYCH team arms growers and agribusiness professionals with the knowledge to profitably produce and market safe and healthful horticultural crops, contributing to the farm viability and the region’s economic well-being. The team focuses on food safety, variety evaluation, market development, pest management and cultural practices. ENYCH activities include:

* Facilitating demonstrations of modern apple tree pruning techniques
* Researching high tunnel best practices and communicating them to growers
* Conducting fruit and vegetable trials that provide growers with information on variety performance and marketability
* Working with Cornell Integrated Pest Management specialists to conduct annual monitoring
* Supporting the $4 million garlic industry in NYS through efforts of a specialist who works on cultural and pest management issues specific to this crop
* Conducting farm to fork events, hosting traveling vegetable schools
* Promoting soil health and cover cropping techniques to improve productivity and protect environment
* Assisting new growers become established and profitable in Eastern New York