On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are proud to present the Annual Report Calendar for 2016. Though it goes without saying, the Board of Directors is extremely grateful to Cornell Cooperative Extension’s educators, staff, and volunteers for their continued dedication to delivering educational programs to the community during this year.

As you may know, this December concludes my final year as Board President. Cornell Cooperative Extension has been a large part of my life, from participating in 4-H clubs in my youth, cheering my daughters on as they participated in local and state-wide 4-H events, to serving six years on the board. When I was nominated for the position of president three years ago, I initially found the experience humbling. But, I was also honored by the idea that the board was confident enough in my ability to lead them.

One lesson I have learned from being board president is that being surrounded by good people makes the job easier. During my time on the board, we have been faced with many challenges. Whether they were staffing changes, financial concerns, or issues within the community, one element that has stuck with me is through it all, the board of directors has always worked together as a team to better serve the community. One thing I have always believed about CCE is that it makes Cornell research education available to all walks of life. It’s not just “cows and cooking.”

Speaking of being surrounded by good people, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the fact I am not the only one whose tenure is ending this year. Vice President Lew Ann Giles and Treasurer Robert Corcoran have been indispensable in their roles on the board as well. But, I think I speak for everyone when I affirm my belief that we are leaving the board in good hands. To the newly elected board members, the only advice I can offer is to come in with an open mind. Each member of the Board has that one thing they want to get done or wants to offer up their own expertise and background. While this is part of what makes the board exciting to be a part of, it’s important to work cohesively as a group and listen to each other. Given the quality of the candidates, I don’t think they will have any trouble fitting in.

I also want to offer my sincerest thanks to Arlene Wilson, our Executive Director. One highlight as Board President was not only how the team handled the process of searching for a new director, but how the association has thrived since then. One year after being hired, Arlene continues her commitment to CCE in the face of changes and challenges. I would also like to thank the CCE-Yates educators and staff for their continued dedication and expertise, the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network for their never waverin support, and the volunteers from the Yates County community for all the work that they do. It’s not acknowledged enough, but none of these programs would be possible without the volunteers who give tireless numbers of hours to ensure quality programming associated with CCE.

In closing, I am honored to have served on the board as both a member and president. Being termed out has its mixed bag of emotions, but I am very proud of all the work we accomplished together, and I look forward to remaining a dedicated citizen in the community. Thank you to everyone, and here is to another successful year in 2017.

Sincerely,

Donald "Skip" Jensen, President
Board of Directors
Mission Statement

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County 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 local Yates County families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.
We are now heading into our fourth year of having Regional Lead positions in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology. The Leads continue to provide strategic guidance, best practices, and problem-solving to the seven Associations in the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network: Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates.

**Highlights of 2016 include:**

- Guiding Executive Director searches for 3 counties
- Assisting with the hiring and training of finance staff in 4 counties
- Facilitating the change in Human Resource recruiting systems
- Providing information, guidance, and support through the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) transition
- Guiding Operating System upgrades and ensuring compliance with Cornell University encryption requirements
- Attending and leading meetings in their respective areas to allow for ongoing conversations and professional development.
2016 CCE Revenue Sources

- Subscriptions/Fees: $21,300 (3%)
- Interest: $15,000 (2%)
- Grants/Contracts: $45,550 (6%)
- Yates Co. in Kind: $76,212 (10%)
- State Fringe/Benefits: $189,839 (23%)
- Federal Formula: $99,523 (12%)
- Yates Co. Appropriations: $240,153 (30%)
- Regional Ag. Support: $113,000 (14%)
This has been a year of change and challenges. Changes in financial systems, human resources and federal legislation [Fair Labor Standard Act, Family Medical Leave Act] have kept CCE Yates Management Team, Board members and myself busy in the background. In spite of all of this, CCE staff and volunteers have flown steady and true, to ensure the continuation of agricultural education and youth programming in Yates County.

Yates CCE has expanded university collaborations and brought interns to Yates County in 2016 from: Cornell University [heifer artificial insemination project], Finger Lakes Community College [wine making project], Keuka College [Yates CCE History project] and Clarkson University [Dresden retaining wall project]. Extension has also partnered with Cornell University for the following research project: Department of Communications [smoking warning labels survey] mobile lab to Penn Yan, Institute for Public Affairs evaluation design project [MFO program]; Department of Horticulture [warming climate education pilot project].

Yates CCE continued community collaborations in 2016: working with SCOPE and the Yates County Sheriff’s Office on firearm safety training, working with the Keuka Lake Association on the Watercraft Steward training program, co-chairing the Yates County Farmland Protection Board. We also have had a successful partnership with Finger Lakes Eat Smart New York, resulting in: a summer Nutrition Outreach Staffer; a how-to recipe video series for kids and a community gardening video documentary.

Yates CCE has also expanded communications in 2016: updating our website with events/trainings; multiple weekly posting to our Twitter/Facebook pages; partnering on a series of TV educational spots on WENY [an over the air TV station in the southern part of Yates county]; having interviews on WFLR radio; publishing articles in the Dundee Observer, the Finger Lakes Times and a weekly Extension Corner in the Chronicle Express. We have also implemented a thematic display board by our entrance, highlighting programming or educational outreach.

This year will also see a change in board composition and leadership. I would like to recognize three board members whose terms are ending December 2016: Board President Skip Jensen, Vice President Lew Ann Giles, and Board Treasurer Robert Corcoran.

Robert Corcoran has served our community well, ensuring the financial management of a complex organization. CCE is a combination of local government, university and not for profit. The fiscal oversight and reporting requirements are challenging, but Robert took the time, and due diligence to leave the organization with a stronger financial structure. His legacy includes a financial management policy manual and a clean [good] 2016 audit from Cornell University.

Lew Ann Giles has been a champion for the southern communities of Yates County, holding CCE accountable and making sure activities and programming planning and strategies always include Dundee, Starkey, and Barrington. She has been ‘the ram in the bush’ taking on board leadership duties when needed while demonstrating caring, commitment, patience and serving as the moral compass of our board.

Donald “Skip” Jensen has been a stalwart champion of Cooperative Extension for many years and is always available with advice on how to communicate the value, mission and activities of extension. His presence and clarity of thought have helped me assert and champion the programs and staff of extension; he has truly been a help in times of trouble. Skip always has a cheerful word, a funny story [usually involving animals]...and some good advice.

The leadership of a board is the wind beneath the wings of myself, the staff and volunteers of this organization.

Thanks for all you have done for CCE Yates!
January 2017

Notes:

The Academy for Dairy Executives Jan. 31-Feb. 1
Try these tips to help assess your own saving status and increase your possibilities for saving.

- Are you looking for an effective way to establish a budget? Beginning on the first day of every month, get and keep receipts for everything you purchase. Stack and review receipts at the end of the month, and you will clearly be able to see where your money is going.

- Most people don’t track what they spend and may not realize when expenses add up to more than their budget can handle. To help track what you spend, put the amount you spend for the month on transportation, food, entertainment, etc., into envelopes. This strategy will help you avoid buying things you don’t need, and what’s left over can go into saving.

- Aim for short-term savings goals, such as setting aside $20 a week or month rather than long term savings goals, such as $200 over a year. Make your saving goal what works for you. People save more successfully when they keep the short-term goal in sight.

Check out [www.americasaves.org](http://www.americasaves.org) for a complete detailed list and more terrific information.
## Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

### February 2017

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**Important Dates:**
- **America Saves Week February 27-March 4, 2017**
- **March '17**
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Every year in March, the Yates County Master Gardener Volunteers host Yard N’ Garden Day in the County Building Auditorium. This year, attendees learned about defense against herbivory, benefits of insect diversity, bat house installation and care, and planting and maintenance of strawberries.

Speakers included:

- Shane Phillip Bornheimer, JacopilleBornheimer LLC (Preferred Wildlife Services),
- Jason J. Dombroski, PhD, Collection Manager, Cornell University Insect Collection and Coordinator of the Insect Diagnostic Lab,
- Maria Gannett, Graduate Teaching Assistant at Cornell University.

Pictured: Shane Phillip “The Batman” Bornheimer giving a demonstration of proper bat house installation

This year Yard ‘N Garden Day will be on March 11th. Registration starts 8:30am, Program 9:00am – 12:30pm. Registration fee is $15, which includes free vegetable seed packet, refreshments, and tickets for door prizes.

Pre-registration with payment is required.
# Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

## March 2017

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### Notes:

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**Daylight Savings Time begins**

**Spring begins**

**Master Gardener’s Yard ‘N Garden Day**
Many members of the local grape industry and general public use the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard to learn new skills and strategies. With 16 different grape varieties, four different vine training systems, and a range of trellising, irrigation, bird deterrent, cover-cropping and vigor management techniques in place, growers can check out viticulture methods they might use in person before implementing them on their own farms. Those considering starting a vineyard are introduced to the trade in workshops and consultations with FLCC staff held at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard.

The Finger Lakes Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard is a collaboration between the Finger Lakes Grape Program and Finger Lakes Community College to provide an interactive, hands-on space for learning how to grow grapes on a commercial scale. It acts as a link between CCE and industry for on-the-ground education, putting research into context and reinforcing relationships between farmers, extension educators, and students.

Many members of the local grape industry and general public use the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard to learn new skills and strategies. With 16 different grape varieties, four different vine training systems, and a range of trellising, irrigation, bird deterrent, cover-cropping and vigor management techniques in place, growers can check out viticulture methods they might use in person before implementing them on their own farms. Those considering starting a vineyard are introduced to the trade in workshops and consultations with FLCC staff held at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard.

The partnership between FLGP, FLCC and Anthony Road to maintain the vineyard strengthens our educational programming’s industry focus. For many FLCC students, their work in the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard is a launching point for future internships and full-time employment in the Finger Lakes grape industry; having the vineyard at a working commercial farm provides students with a grounded, real-world understanding of what growing grapes involves.

The high quality grapes grown at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard give local producers the opportunity to try unusual varieties and winemaking strategies. In 2016, production of Lemberger, Grüner Veltliner, NY 81, Marquette, Corot Noir, Cabernet Franc, Cayuga White and Vidal that exceeded FLCC teaching needs were sold to local wineries. In addition, Jupiter, Marquis, and Catawba grapes were sold to Cornell Orchards for consumers to try as table grapes, helping to develop new markets. These sales help to support the costs of maintaining the vineyard.
Water bodies in NYS are under attack by invading aquatic invasive species (AIS). Invasive species are organisms that are non-native and have the potential to harm the environment, economy and/or human health. Watercraft steward programs are a powerful tool for preventing the spread of AIS. Watercraft stewards work at boat launches around the state and offer voluntary inspections to boaters to check for any organic material that might be caught on watercraft and trailers. They educate boaters about AIS and steps boaters can take to “Clean, Drain, Dry” their watercraft to help reduce the spread of AIS.

In 2015 the KLA worked with CCE Yates to implement a Watercraft Steward Program for Keuka Lake that relied on unpaid volunteer stewards and a paid program coordinator. The program ran from June through Labor Day weekend and resulted in 625 watercraft inspections and 1,434 boaters provided education and outreach.

In 2016 the KLA worked with CCE Yates to apply for a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to enhance the watercraft steward program. The KLA was awarded the full $100,000 to be used over a three-year period with a 25% match. This funding allowed the KLA to hire three full-time stewards who were on-duty Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, Fridays-Mondays. A Steward was also on-duty on weekends in September. This funding paired with funding provided by the Finger Lakes Institute also allowed the KLA to rehire the watercraft steward program coordinator full-time during the summer and part-time through the fall. The KLA will use the grant funds to pay for the watercraft steward program for the summers of 2017 and 2018.

Volunteer stewards worked alongside paid stewards to help during busy shifts and to provide volunteer hours to help meet the 25% match requirement for the grant. Stewards were on-duty at launches at the Penn Yan Village, Keuka Lake State Park, Town of Urbana, and Severne Point on Seneca Lake (the grant encouraged protecting multiple water bodies). They also provided education and outreach at the Finger Lakes Museum kayak launch. From May 27 through September 30 stewards inspected 8,924 watercraft and interacted with 20,944 boaters. We look forward to even greater success in 2017!
## Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

### May 2017

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How Green Are You?

Take this quiz annually to improve your gardening skills in a warming world!

This quiz was generated from Gardening in a Warming World: A Guide for Garden Based Educators and Volunteers, a publication of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
Season extension: the use of technology to protect crops from adverse weather, has become an important part of the local fruit and vegetable industry. New York State is now the national leader in number of winter farmers markets, and high tunnels are credited for this success in a recent USDA report. With over 40 operations, Yates County is #1 in New York State!

The Cornell Vegetable Program has been at the forefront of high tunnel/greenhouse research and extension in New York, receiving over $250,000 in funding over the last 12 months alone to work on nutrient management, disease control, grafting and economics.

High tunnels reduce common diseases of tomatoes by eliminating leaf moisture from rain and splashing soils. However, other diseases are favored by the tunnel environment. Leaf Mold, caused by the fungus *Passalora fulva* can drastically reduce tomato yields. The CVP has conducted resistance trials and published 3 peer-reviewed papers on varietal disease susceptibility to Leaf Mold. To further research on management of the disease a collaboration was established with Professor Chris Smart at the New York State Experiment Station and funded by the New York Farm Viability Institute for $108,977.

Growers are finding that long term soil health and fertility management in high tunnels is different than field growing. Sound research based information, coupled with education on Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure long term sustainability, resulting from improved nutrient management and higher profitability. The CVP recently completed a project where 15 farms increased net high tunnel income by an average of $4,931.88, or 46%. Tunnel area increased by 16%, representing new capital investment of $32,050 during the project period. In 2016 a collaboration with NOFA-NY was funded for $116,126 to continue this research.
# Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

## July 2017

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- **Independence Day**

- **Yates County Fair July 11-15, 2017**

**Notes:**

________________________________________________________________________
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CCE of Yates County continues to serve all residents, businesses, and communities. CCE’s programs touch the lives of many in our community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the grants received by the organizations and foundations, on the right. We would like to thank the individuals, families, and businesses listed below that support us through the Friend of Cornell Cooperative Extension fundraising efforts. To date, we have raised nearly $4,000 through this campaign. Our gratitude goes out to the following contributors*

David & Veronica Baum  Peter & Kathy Gerbic  Edwin L. Moberg
James Bedient  Bruce & Judy Habbenfield  Karl Mortensen
Kirk Brooks  James Hicks  David Orzel
Terry Button  Amy & David Hoffman  Richard & Janet Osgood
Bev Cerow  Wilmer & Susan Hoover  Doug & Joan Paddock
Charles Coney  Rodney Jensen  Thomas & Joyce Pearson
Rob & Sharon Corcoran  Skip & Jennifer Jensen  Gene Pierce
Tim & Dawn Dennis  Bill & Mary-Ellen Laffin  Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Seus
Martin R. Devinney  J. Robert & Madeleine Lawrence  Jeremiah Smith
Wendy Disbrow  Larry J. Lewis  Sarah & Charles Stackhouse
Paul H. Enos  Lilyea Farms  Joe Sheehy
Bob Evans  Malcolm & Doug MacKenzie  Seneca Shore Wine Cellars
Ken & Eileen Farnan  Larry Martin  Christopher Verrill
Adam Folts  Margo & Fletch McTaggart  Len Wiltberger
Harlan Fulkerson  Ron Merritt  Lowell Zimmerman

* As of 11/28/16

Many thanks as well to those contributors not wishing to have their names published.
The hot, dry summer of 2016 challenged farmers’ abilities to produce adequate quality forages. Farm business owners sought information regarding best management practices for harvesting, storing and feeding forages, and other best management practices that might help them achieve farm business objectives over the next several months.

For the September 2016 issue of AgFocus titled, “Working through the Drought of 2016,” team members researched and wrote on a variety of topics focusing on best management practices for conserving every ton of forage that could be harvested. Writers also addressed opportunities for producing additional forages.

Approximately 645 readers of the September 2016 issue of AgFocus learned about the following.

- Ways to tighten up management of harvest, storage and feed out to minimize feed shrink, including the possibility of covering trucks.
- Best management practices including: tips for assessing where you are now and expect to be with respect to forage inventories; suggestions for maintaining quality, including proper cutting heights; and others.
- Balancing livestock numbers with available feed supply.
- Growing winter cereals, for example, triticale, for spring harvest as forage.
- Fall 2016 corn silage price estimates that reflect scarcity of production relative to demand.

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

## September 2017

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NYS 4-H Mission—4-H connects youth to hands-on learning opportunities that help them grow into competent, caring, contributing members of society.

Yates County Delivery Methods—Traditional 4-H club programming, Independent 4-H membership, afterschool and in-school programming, summer youth workshops, and special interest youth programming.

Yates County Community Partners—Penn Yan Central School District, Dundee Central School District, Penn Yan, Dundee, and Branchport Libraries, Kids Adventure Time, Rainbow Junction, and Workforce Development.


Hours of Direct 4-H Programming—199

Number of non-4-H Youth Development Programs—39

Hours of Direct non 4-H Youth Programming—69

Total Number of Youth Reached—1,093
## Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

### October 2017

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Recipe: Baked Squash and Apple Casserole

Ingredients:
- 1 Small Butternut Squash
- 2 Apples, cored, peeled, sliced
- 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar
- 2 TB Cold Margarine
- 1 TB flour
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1/4 tsp Cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp Nutmeg

Directions:
1. Pare, seed and cut squash into small slices.
2. Place squash and apple slices in oblong baking dish, 7x11".
3. Blend rest of ingredients until crumbly.
4. Distribute over squash and apple. Prepare to this point until ready to bake.
5. Cover and bake in 350 degree oven for 45-50 minutes.

Adapted from Applehood and Motherpie, JLR Publications

Reasons to eat fruits and vegetables of all colors every day:
- Make meals colorful & appealing
- Provide much needed fiber (need 14 g fiber/1000 calories consumed)
- Boost our nutritional health with important phytochemicals (compounds with powerful antiviral, anti-inflammatory, cytotoxic, antimicrobial, and antioxidant effects)
- Supply vitamins & minerals such as A, C, potassium, folate, & magnesium that most Americans don’t get enough of
- Associated with decreased risk of some chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, heart attack, stroke, and some types of cancer
- Nutrient dense (supply many nutrients with little calories when prepared without added fats or sugars)

This past year, participants in CCE’s food & nutrition programs had hands-on practice:
- Preparing healthy foods from scratch in after-school and summer rec programs,
- Preserving some of our local produce by canning and/or freezing tomatoes, applesauce and jam
- Learning about healthy living choices

Depending on a person’s daily caloric intake, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2015-2020 recommend 2 to 6 1/2 cups of fruits & veggies daily! Check out www.dietaryguidelines.gov for specifics.
### Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

#### November 2017

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**Notes:**

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If you would like to arrange for a MFO visit to your property, or if you would like to become a MFO, contact Emily Staychock at ecs268@cornell.edu or 315-536-5123 x4127.

Over 14 million acres (over ¾) of woodlands in NYS are privately owned, and many private woodland owners do not have the resources or knowledge necessary to sustainably manage their forests. In Yates County there are 100,500 acres of forested land of which 97,800 (97%) is privately owned. A forest that is left unmanaged can become unhealthy due to invasive species, insects and disease, and lack of forest regeneration. In some cases woodland owners are taken advantage of and their forests are harmed by bad logging contractors. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Forest Owner (MFO) Program is a statewide Cornell-run program that empowers woodland owners to protect and care for their forests.

Steps to become an MFO volunteer

- Woodland owners who would like to learn more about sustainably managing their forests can contact CCE Yates to get connected with a MFO who will walk their property with them and provide information and contacts for further resources.

- MFOs participate in a 4-day training provided by Cornell and CCE staff when they first join the program, as well as annual refresher trainings every year.

- The Yates County MFOs meet every month with CCE staff and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation foresters to discuss woodland visits, wildlife reports, events, and other forest management information and issues.

The Yates County MFOs host a public workshop and a public woods walk every spring. In 2016 they worked with the Cornell Small Farms Program to host a “Cultivating Forest Mushrooms” workshop on 5/17/16. On 6/11/16 they hosted a woods walk on MFO John Hammer’s property in Italy, NY and were joined by DEC foresters and a private consulting forester.
December 2017

Winter Begins

Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

New Year's Eve

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report
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