2018 Annual Report

100 years of service, innovation, and education

2019 Calendar
### Federal Holidays 2019

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Pictured (Front Cover): The First CCE-Yates County Office, located at 214 Liberty Street
Greetings!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are proud to present the Annual Report for 2018. 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 our community.

As I reflect on the whirlwind that was 2018, one highlight I am extremely proud of is the development of the first-ever CCE-Yates County Strategic Plan. I was excited to be part of and work with the team that put this together. Also, I would like to once again acknowledge the continued success of the Yates County 4-H program. The accomplishments at the County Fair, the after-school program, and shooting sports demonstrate that this program has once again proven to be a vital part of our association. It is a testament to the 4-H staff and educators who continue to grow our programs. Additionally, in 2018, the Life Skills Program has become a critical component to the Yates County community, especially during the current economic times. I am very proud of what is being done to raise awareness for the program, whether it is through social media, the local paper, or word of mouth.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not mention our 100-year celebration. In collaboration with New York Farm Bureau and the Yates County History Center, our association celebrated by putting up a wonderful display at the Oliver House, commemorating one-hundred years of agriculture and innovation in Yates County. Partnerships are integral to our vitality and, as always, CCE-Yates County's continued collaboration with the Keuka Lake Association remains a significant highlight as well as the continued success of this year's Legislative Luncheon.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Arlene Wilson and the CCE-Yates County staff and educators, who do excellent work and continue to strive to make Yates County better in all aspects. Additionally, I am grateful for our countless volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to improve the lives of our community. And, of course, many thanks for the continued support from our County Legislators, as well as the KLA. Your endorsement of our mission and vision is truly appreciated.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Malcolm MacKenzie. After serving on the Board of Directors for two terms, Malcolm will be retiring from his position in 2019. Thank you for your many years of service and dedication, and your valued input to our board. We will miss his presence and vast knowledge. Though I am looking forward to the arrival of new board member Catrina Oswald, and the new perspective she will bring.

Looking ahead to 2019, I am eager for Yates CCE to begin following the roadmap of our strategic plan. I am very excited to see where it will take us. I am also looking forward to our continued collaborations within our community, watching how they strengthen our association. There is also the exciting prospect of the revitalization grant, and I am hopeful that we can play a part in the planning process. And, as always, I look forward to more continued success of our programs, and outreach into our community.

Here's to doing it all again (and more) in not just 2019, but for the next one hundred years!

[Signature]
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 sixth year of having Regional Lead positions in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology. The Leads continue to provide high level strategic guidance, best practices, advice and problem-solving to the seven Associations in the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates.

**Highlights of 2018 include:**

- The Finance Leads team has conducted intensive research into various financial systems to replace the current system, and the Blackbaud Financial Edge NXT software is being tested by the finance leads to see if it meets the needs of the CCE Associations.

- A new inventory and maintenance system has been put in place, allowing the IT Lead to track issues and potential trends, and to provide up to date information to Executive Directors and others about the equipment in their Association.

- A new time tracking software, Workday Time Tracking, was implemented on January 4, 2018 replacing the current Kronos program. It is a much easier system to navigate and integrates with the Workday records. It provides more usable and accessible reports allowing up front review to minimize errors.
Farm Bureau & Extension Centennial

- Yates History Center Exhibit
- Legislative Luncheon
- Legislator Museum Tour
MISSION
The mission of Cooperative Extension is to enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. Our ability to match university resources with community needs helps us play a vital role in the lives of individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout Yates County.

2045 VISION
Yates County will be seen as a thriving and extremely important agricultural region to the nation, and CCE Yates will be at the heart of it. CCE Yates will be a leading change agent in the county, serving as a bridge between diverse communities and helping us all leave a better community for those that live, work, and play in Yates County.

CCE Yates is strong – a sought out partner and employer, seen as integral to a thriving Yates County.

Stabilize & Diversify Funding
1. Secure higher level funding
   Yr 1: Identify opportunities; Yr 2: Build capacity/ internal processes; Yr 3: NYS/ Federal grant success
2. Grow annual campaign
   Yr 1: Assess past 5 yrs. of giving; Yr 2: Targeted mailing and email campaign based on assessment findings; Yr 3: Evaluate, tweak as needed, repeat
3. Identify new & expanded contract opportunities to enhance financial stability
   Yr 1: Identify opportunities; Yr 2-3: Implement
4. Utilize research-based information & projects to enhance grant funding success
5. Participate in research-based opportunities that align with potential funding sources

Grow Impact Through Partnerships
6. Annual review of existing partnerships & identification of new partnerships (ex: tourism, econ. dev., Chamber of Comm., history center, schools, etc.)
7. Improve organizational efficiencies & contribute to community workplace readiness through student engagement
   Yr 1: Build relationships with schools; Yr 2-3: Host interns at CCE
8. Explore strategic partnership opportunities with Mennonite community
   Yr 1: Identify areas CCE could benefit Mennonite community; Yr 2-3: Implement plan
9. Deepen relationships with nearby colleges for program enhancements
   Yr 1: Build relationships with college faculty/ staff that may be potential board candidates; Yr 2-3: Add 1 college rep to the board

Proactive Outreach to All CCE Auds.
10. Develop an innovative communications plan that includes traditional & non-traditional forms of outreach
    Yr 2: Establish regularly scheduled e-newsletter; Yr 3: Develop plan for regular communication with the Mennonite and Amish communities
11. Continually assess community needs related to CCE’s programs/services
    Yr 1: Add question to program evaluations; Yr 2: Identify process for getting quality input from diverse community members; Yr 3: Implement and repeat

Enhance Staff Retention & Skill Sets
12. Develop robust onboarding & retention plan
    Yr 1: Survey of current and former staff; Yr 2: Tap into Regional Shared Business Network/ FL Farm Country to assist in evaluation of and recommended changes to CCE processes; Yr 2-3: Implement and evaluate
13. Prioritize funding to make strategic prof dev opportunities available to staff to enhance programming efforts
    Yr 1: Identify funding for prof dev; Yr 2: Staff self-identify opportunities that enhance their program area; Yr 3: Participation in trainings by all staff; learnings are presented to org/comm
14. Assess the org’s capacity gaps & strategically recruit volunteers to fill gaps
    Yr 1: Assessment; Yr 2: Develop recruiting strategy; Yr 3: Implement and evaluate
15. Build staff capacity to manage grants with higher level reporting/ oversight requirements
Pictured: The CCE-Yates County Office located at 110 Court Street (circa 1970)
Executive Director’s Corner

2018 has been a year of reflection and planning. In preparation for the one-hundredth year of Cooperative Extension in Yates County I have spent hours in the Yates History Center [Oliver and Underwood houses], the Yates County Government History archives and Yates CCE’s Library room [near the front door for those who were not aware]. I have gotten to know my predecessors well: people who were willing to step forward, deliberate then advocate to move agriculture, youth development, and the rural economy forward. Gilbert Smith was our first full-time Extension Agent, Grape Specialist, and demonstrated the agricultural proficiency and expertise of Yates County through various leadership roles in the New York State Agricultural system and Yates County Legislature. Joe Dunshoe was the Extension Agent made Director who made sure the Yates County Extension model of best practices, consciousness, industry, and meticulous was better understood throughout the halls of government and Cornell University. Peter Landreth brought community wakefulness around critical land use and watershed issues, the right to farm movement and agricultural district planning, facilitating public forums, professional training for governmental officials that continue as best practices today. All of which could not have happened without the visionary leadership of the New York Farm Bureau, Broome County government officials, the Lackawanna Railroad, and Cornell University. [Make sure to visit the Extension Farm Bureau Centennial Exhibit at the Oliver House to learn more. It will be on exhibit through Spring 2019.]

This research and reflection provide a strong launch pad as we chart a direction for 2019—the beginning of the next one hundred years. We are unveiling our first ever CCE Yates Strategic Plan 2019-2021. Based upon a vision of Extension in 2045, “Yates County will be seen as a thriving and extremely important agricultural region of the nation, and CCE Yates will be at the heart of it...CCE Yates is a sought out partner and employee, seen as integral to a thriving Yates County.” Our Strategic Plan will focus on four areas: 1. Grow impact through partnerships, 2. Proactive outreach to all CCE audiences, 3. Enhance staff retention and skill sets and 4. Stabilize and diversify funding. This provides a blueprint for the work that we will undertake agriculture, natural resources preservation, and youth leadership development.

Yates County Cooperative Extension Board of Directors has also decided to establish a planned giving program. This will provide an avenue for residents and community members who are developing trusts, wills, and estates to ensure the rural quality of life continues through the work of Cooperative Extension. [Come see me for more information. Brochures are available from the front office staff.]

While we remember the past and pave a path to the future, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and appreciation for our Board Member Malecyn MacKenzie, whose second term ends this year. A strong champion of the Western towns of Yates County, he is an analytical discerning public servant, who held the Board to the highest standards of public service; and knows his Roberts Rules of Order!

Our staff member has transitioned to a new career—Emily Steckhol, former Natural Resources Educator is now a 6th-grade science teacher in the Genesee School District. They are getting a gem!

I would also like to welcome Laura Bailey, our new Natural Resources Educator. She has adapted quickly, taking on her role as our hands-on-the-ground expert in all things land/water, invasive species, trees, regional and statewide environmental collaboratives. Welcome aboard!

While we remember the past and pave a path to the future, be assured we will continue our daily work. Our Master Gardener volunteers will provide horticulture education and do great community projects. Our 4-H staff will continue to host 4-H clubs, 4-H trips, and 4-H Public Presentations, summer programming and be active parts of the Yates County Fair and the NYS Fair. CCE Yates agriculture educators host workshops on best practices, business management, and pesticide credits training. Our natural resources educator will keep you up to date on any watershed issues, invasive species, and the latest research on how to eradicate/minimize their impact. Our CCE Yates Life Skills staff will continue to provide financial literacy and budgeting education. Our office in the Yates County Office Building will continue to be a place to drop by, ask lots of questions, get printouts, get answers and find out the latest on our social media/website pages or in person that will help to improve your life in Yates County.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

**July 2019**

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**Notes:**

Yates County Fair July 9 - 13th, 2019

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4-H Public Presentations is an annual event allowing youth as young as 5 years old to gain experience developing a presentation and speaking in front of an audience. Youth receive constructive feedback from volunteer judges, with the opportunity to advance from the county to district, state, and even national levels of completion as skills develop and improve. Many 4-H alum credit 4-H Public Presentations to successes in high school, college, and beyond – successfully preparing them for a variety of experiences beyond their 4-H careers.

**Skills Learned**
- Organization
- Time Management
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Discipline
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Poise
- Creativity
- Professionalism
- Sportsmanship

**District**

**County**

**State & National**

4-H Grows Here
## Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

### February 2019

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Since this past Spring, Master Gardeners Jan Barrett and Susan Baxter have worked with the staff of the Homestead on a very special project to revitalize an overgrown landscape in need of some TLC.

The Homestead at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital in Penn Yan provides skilled nursing care and services to live-in residents. The Homestead consists of four units, including two Skilled Nursing units, a neurobehavioral unit, and a secure unit where skilled nursing and special needs care for cognitively-impaired residents are provided. Short-term rehabilitation services also are provided on the Skilled Nursing units for those needing rehabilitation services. In the center of the facility is the North Garden. The North Garden—an outdoor interior courtyard that provides accessible green space to Homestead residents, staff, and guests—is a small oasis of lush vegetation interspersed with walkways, colorful flowers, and amenities such as benches, a waterfall, and a gazebo.

Also in 2018, The Master Gardeners harvested and donated over 92 pounds of food from the Cornell Vegetable Variety Trials to the Keuka Food Pantry and the Hope House.

“When I go out into the garden and look at all the beautiful flowers, it makes me appreciate the time and effort the people who took care of the garden generously put into it. So many people are enjoying it and are thankful for the people who have made it possible.”
Family, Budget, & Lifeskills

Martha Mae

It’s April and almost a quarter of 2019 has passed! Are you satisfied with your financial spending? Does your current spending plan reflect and meet your needs? It is never too late to review and adjust your budget as needed.

• What steps are you taking to work toward achieving financial security?
• Have you set specific goals?
• Do you track and review your Spending?
• Is your spending plan developed?
• Do you know what community resources can help you maximize resources?
• And does your spending need to be adjusted to meet goals and if so, how will you do that?

How do you Track and Review your spending?

• Save all your receipts (big and small) and if you didn’t get a receipt for a purchase, write down the amount and the purchased item. Do you have goals in place for the current financial year? Setting specific goals and tracking your money is integral to developing your spending plan.

Remember: small changes do add up!

Here are some financial tips to assist you with stretching your money.

• Create your budget and track your spending. Where does your money go? There are many ways to create your budget from apps on your phone to the envelope system.
• Do I need this (purchase)? Think about each purchase.
• Make realistic saving goals. What can you really afford to save based on your income and expenses? Does it make sense to set a smaller amount, but still be able to save for an emergency fund or a goal of your choice?
• See how much you can save if you eat out one less time per month and use that money to add to your savings.
• Meal planning and the use of a shopping list will save you money. How much can you save?
• Comparison price and use unit pricing to help.
• Each time you have extra money (i.e. overtime wages and tax refunds), put part into your savings account.
• Save loose change. $.50 every day for a year is $182.50, 40 percent of the way to a $500 emergency fund. It all adds up!
• Your local library has a wealth of information and programs to offer. Be sure to check out your local library out to learn how you may use its many resources.
• Are you stumped by the costs of giving family gifts at special times and holidays? What about creating a family gift purchasing limit?

• Plan ahead for purchasing gifts. This allows time to comparison shop and check out sales.
• Check out America Saves website (www.americasaves.org) for a variety of useful financial tips and information.

If you haven’t completed your tax information, consider contacting the Yates County Office for the Aging for a tax appointment. This office and the AARP Taxaide Program offer free income tax services to taxpayers with an emphasis for taxpayers aged 60 and older. Call the 211 helpline, 1-800-346-2211 to make an appointment.
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KLA Watercraft Steward Program - CCE Yates has supported KLA’s watercraft steward program since 2015 by providing AIS technical expertise, training, and program management support. In 2015, CCE assisted KLA with its volunteer supported steward program and in 2016, CCE helped KLA apply for a NYSDEC grant which they were awarded in the full amount to fund a watercraft steward program. Stewards assist visitors with watercraft inspections and share AIS educational information and literature at launch sites. From 2015-2018, KLA stewards performed over 22,000 inspections and shared information with more than 50,000 individuals.

Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC) and Starry Stonewort (SSW) - In 2017, CCE Yates and KLA assisted KWIC in securing a NYSDEC grant to fund management of the invasive macroalgae, starry stonewort, found in Keuka Outlet at the Penn Yan Village launch and along the banks of Sugar Creek in Branchport. KWIC contracted an aquatic mechanical weed harvester to cut the infestation in an effort to prevent it from getting caught on boat motors and spreading into Keuka Lake. Additionally, KLA installed an informational buoy where the outlet and lake meet, asking boaters to “STOP, REVERSE PROPS, PROCEED” to help dislodge any collected plant vegetation. KWIC, KLA, CCE, Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium (FLM&A) and several other partners have collaborated to hand pull SSW growing along the creek banks.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) – In September 2018, a confirmed finding of SLF was reported in Yates County. CCE Yates provided the public with educational information, informative videos, and visited several wineries, breweries, greenhouses, and farm and forest owners to provide education and resources needed to help identify SLF. It’s important that everyone be on the lookout for SLF!

What is SLF? The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect from Asia. It primarily feeds on the tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima) but can also feed on a wide variety of other host plants including grapevines, hops, apples, maples, walnuts, and several others. The insect may also change host plant species as it goes through its different developmental stages throughout the year (see picture above).

How Do SLF Damage Plants? Nymphs and adults suck sap from stems and leaves, stressing the plant and making them more vulnerable to disease and attacks from other insects. As they feed, SLF excrete sticky “honeydew” which attracts sooty molds that interfere with photosynthesis, affecting growth and fruit yields.

How Does SLF Spread? SLF are planthoppers – they can jump and fly short distances to other plants, but long-distance spread is facilitated by human activities. SLF hitch ride to new areas by laying eggs on vehicles, firewood, rocks, outdoor furniture and other smooth, vertical surfaces. Inspect outdoor furniture, vehicles, boats, firewood and other smooth vertical surfaces for egg masses. Check vehicles and all equipment and gear before leaving a state with SLF (PA, NJ, DE, VA).

Terrestrial Invasive Species

Figure 1: Development Stages of SLF (L. Barringer, PA Dept. of Agriculture, Bugwood.org)

Figure 2: Egg Masses (PA Dept. of Agriculture, Bugwood.org, left); (K.Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org, right)
It is always hard when experienced team members call it a career and retire. The NWNY Team lost two very valuable members this summer. Cathy Wallace, our team administrative assistant, and Jerry Bertoldo, our senior dairy specialist, decided to move on to the next stages of their lives after illustrious careers serving the farmers and agribusinesses of NWNY. We all wish them well!

We have been fortunate to fill these two positions with excellent professionals in their field. Linda Risewick is our new team administrative assistant and Margaret Quaassdorff is our new dairy specialist. Both are based in the Genesee CCE office in Batavia.

Linda brings with her an excellent background of working within the agricultural community. She has worked for Farm Credit, Upstate Farms, and for the past 11 years, as the office manager for Carolina Eastern-Crocker in Stafford. Margaret has her dairy training from the University of Vermont and the University of Wisconsin – Madison. After graduate school, Margaret used her dairy nutrition skills as a consultant for Vita Plus in Wisconsin. Most recently, Margaret was the herd manager of the 300-cow robot/parlor teaching dairy at the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation.

Please join us in welcoming the new members of the NWNY Team!

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program
# Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

## June 2019

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*Summer Begins*
HARVEST NY PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR DAIRY PROCESSING SAFETY

The overall economic impact of dairy processing in New York is $13.95 billion. NYS is the #1 ranked state for yogurt, cream cheese, sour cream and cottage cheese production. To maintain this valuable industry, food safety plans and workforce compliance are critical.

Dairy Processing Specialists Barb Williams (Northern New York) and Anika Zuber (Western New York) work alongside Cornell Dairy Foods Extension to assist New York dairy plants review and improve their food safety plans. This effort helps minimize food safety issues and prevent recalls. This not only ensures consumers are protected but also helps dairy processors maintain their relationships with their business customers since more and more retailers and wholesale businesses are requiring robust food safety and quality plans from their suppliers. Small and large dairy processors alike need to be consistently updating and adapting their food safety plans in order to retain their markets.

In addition to assisting dairy plants with food safety and food quality plans, it is imperative that the dairy processing workforce understands key food safety practices. Each year, the Harvest NY Dairy Processing Specialists conduct workshops for dairy processors regarding a variety of food safety topics including:

1. Dairy Science and Sanitation
2. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)/Food Safety Plans
3. Preventive Controls for Human Food
4. Internal Auditing
5. Pathogen Environmental Monitoring
6. Safe Quality Food (SQF) Implementation
7. SQF Quality Plans
8. High Temperature/Short Time (HTST)/Ultra Pasteurization
9. Food Defense

Harvest NY Dairy Processing Specialists make food safety training and outreach a priority so that New York remains a leader in high quality dairy production. These workshops ensure that all employees, at all levels, understand their role in creating a safe, wholesome product for consumers.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

July 2019

Yates County Fair July 9 - 13th, 2019

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 thank the individuals, families, businesses listed below that support us through the Friend of Cornell Cooperative Extension fundraising efforts. We would also like to acknowledge our gratitude of the grants received from the organizations and foundations. To date, we have raised nearly $3,000 through this campaign. Our gratitude goes out to the following contributors*

David & Susan Andersen
Barbara Bailey
David & Veronica Baum
Nancy Cole
Julie Collier (Certis USA)
Roger Dick (Green Acres Farms)
George & Wendy Disbrow
Dana & Susan Gibson
Donald “Skip” & Jennifer Jensen
John & Anita Kriese
Bill Laffin
J. Robert & Madeline Lawrence
Lilyea Farms, LLC
Long’s Cards & Books
Laurie Mitchell
Lawrence E. Martin
Scott Osborn (Fox Run Vineyards)
Thomas A. Pearson
Edward Seus
Seneca Shore Wine Cellars
William Smith (Serenity Vineyards)
Donald Tones (Clearview Farms)

Many thanks as well to those contributors not wishing to have their names published.

* As of 12/1/2018

Foundation Support

S.C.O.P.E.
The National Hay Association
The Tripp Foundation
The Ellen and Guido Palma Foundation
CauseWave
Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes
NYS Institute for Invasive Species Management
## Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Report

### August 2019

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The Penn Yan Elementary School Garden Club continues to blossom. This year, themes were decided by the students and staff were provided with lots of produce and food for thought in the fall.

The Made-in-the-Americas Bed highlighted crop plants that originated on the American continent such as sunflowers, amaranth, tomatoes, beans and peppers.

Dovetailing into this theme was the Three Sisters bed, which demonstrated a widespread Native American planting technique of companion planting three crops together. Though the three crops and methods varied based on location, we chose corn, beans and winter squash to highlight the crops most utilized in our area.

A Pick-Your-Own-Bouquet Bed was planted in response to previous garden clubs’ enthusiasm for picking and bringing home bouquets for family and friends. Zinnias, statice and snapdragons made up the majority of the bed along with a few beautiful squirrel-planted sunflowers. These flowers were used fresh for bouquets as well as for crafts and drying.

Our Fiber and Dye beds focused on plants which produce much of our clothes such as flax (linen), cotton, jute, and fiber banana (used for natural rayon and vegan silk). Coreopsis, purple cabbage and calendula were grown and used for dyeing natural fibers.

The very popular Believe-it-or-Not vegetable bed featured vegetable varieties that were way outside of what you can find at most grocery stores. These included stevia (sweet-herb) plants, goose-egg eggplant and other weird and wonderful delights.

Many of the seed and plants were generously donated by Fruition Seeds, Hornings Greenhouse, and Seedway. We truly appreciate their investment in this upcoming generation of gardeners!
September 2019

Notes:

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Research has shown that using under-vine cover crops (UVCC) instead of herbicides to suppress weed growth under grapevine trellises can have multiple environmental benefits including reducing soil erosion and chemical and nutrient leaching, and improving soil structure, while also reducing farming costs. For growers to realize these benefits, however, a mechanical method of applying cover crop seed directly under the trellis had to be developed so it could be done on a commercial scale.

To address this need, the Finger Lakes Grape Program received a two-year grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute to develop a relatively simple and inexpensive mechanical system that could apply cover crop seeds to the area under the trellis in vineyards. We identified two possibilities that could meet this criterion – either purchasing an inexpensive spreader and modify it to discharge seed just to the sides, or to use a standard fertilizer spreader with a banding attachment, which many growers already own. Each of these methods has their advantages and disadvantages, and growers are given guidance on making their decision depending on their farm operation. We also developed a spreadsheet tool to help growers assess the potential economic benefits of using UVCC compared to the use of herbicides for weed control. Based on our calculations, growers could save $25-40 per acre using UVCC compared to a standard herbicide program.

The idea of using UVCC in New York vineyards is still very new, but there are increasing numbers of growers who are interested in using them. The ability to mechanically seed UVCC will make adoption of this practice a more practical option for them.
National 4-H Week, October 6th - October 12th
Managing Soil Health in High Tunnels

In 2018 CVP completed a project that educated farmers and students on managing soil health in high tunnels for long term productivity. The program included workshops, presentations, and intensive learning experiences both on-farm and during the 2018 NOFA-NY annual Winter Conference and the 2018 Empire Producers Expo, technical assistance via articles on-line and in print publications, email, and farm visits. We developed and published a widely applicable set of best management practices for long term high tunnel soil health and fertility, while continuing to provide soil, water and amendment analysis to organic and conventional farmers involved in implementation. This project represents a second year of funding from the Towards Sustainability Foundation for $10,000. This funding supplemented additional funding streams that allowed the project team to work with a total of 29 high tunnel growers.

Cooperating growers provided input and yield data via baseline and fall/winter surveys and interviews. This data tracked changes in management practices, trends in soil and foliar nutrient levels and allowed us to correlate changes in yield and quality with management practices. The individual data from each farm was shared with the growers in real time to provide opportunity for the growers to react and shift fertility practices throughout the season to maximize yield.

100% of the cooperating growers adopted at least 3 management practices that support long term soil health and fertility, with a median adoption rate of 9 (out of 18) practices. Of the cooperating growers:

- 88% intend to test high tunnel soil annually after participating in this project.
- 71% switched from a “broad spectrum” fertility approach (using compost or general purpose fertilizers) to a fertility program targeting specific nutrients based on soil conditions and plant needs.
- 63% are avoiding fertility amendments containing phosphorus.
- 71% plan to regularly test irrigation water pH and alkalinity.
- 54% plan to incorporate organic matter in their high tunnel soils.
- 58% intend to continue foliar testing, while others reported that it had value as an educational tool but they do not plan to continue testing in the future.

The cooperators operated an average of 8,740 square feet of high tunnels per enterprise. The nineteen farms that provided complete economic data reported an average net annual high tunnel income of $17,569.51 in 2017. This represents an average net high tunnel income increase of $4307.49, a 47% increase from the baseline data provided by the growers.

These economic gains were due to: increased yields, improved quality reported by 29% of operations (with the remaining 71% reporting similar quality each year), reduced inputs and labor costs due to a shift in management style from labor intensive bulky amendments and general purpose fertility to a targeted, minimal input approach tailored to the soil and plant conditions in each tunnel. These changes also contribute to the sustainability of individual farm operations with phosphorus levels decreasing by 100 lbs/acre, indicating that growers responded to excess phosphorus levels by avoiding additional applications. This improves both the sustainability of the high tunnels, as excessive phosphorus levels are limiting factor to long term high tunnel productivity, and the environmental sustainability as excess phosphorus applications pose an environmental threat to waterways.

Cornell Cooperative Extension  Cornell Vegetable Program
### November 2019

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#### Notes:

- Daylight Savings Ends
- Veteran’s Day
- Thanksgiving
The MFO program provides NY forest owners with information and support to help manage their woodlands. MFO volunteers are trained by Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension faculty and staff and their knowledge and skills are kept up-to-date with current and emerging issues and practices. Over 150 experienced MFO volunteers are available across NYS to share information and resources with neighbor forest owners.

- Most counties have MFOs who are coordinated by MFO Program Regional Directors. CCE Yates Natural Resources Educator, Laura Bailey, coordinates the program for 11 counties in the Finger Lakes and WNY.

- Yates County MFO volunteers meet monthly with CCE and NYS DEC foresters to discuss their forest visits and general forest health and management practices.

- MFO volunteers of Yates County host a workshop and woods walk each spring. In 2018, they hosted a “Wildlife and Your Woods” workshop in March and a woods walk at High Tor in Naples during June.

Are you interested in joining the MFO team? Think that you need to own forested land to become a MFO volunteer? To join the team, all you need is an interest in woodlands and volunteering to help others.

Do you have questions or need more information about your woodlands? MFO volunteers offer free educational assistance and connect you to a network of professionals. At your request, an MFO will arrange for a visit at your property.

If you would like to arrange a MFO visit to your property or if you are interested in becoming a MFO volunteer, contact Laura Bailey at lb698@cornell.edu or 315-536-5123 x 4127.