Outstanding Photography Exhibit Cattaraugus County Fair 2017 - Madelynn Bierfeldt -
Dear Friends,

As we look back over the success Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County has seen in 2017, we must take a moment to express our gratitude to all those who have helped to contribute to this success. Our sincere thanks go out to our staff, the County Legislature, elected officials from across the county, our Board of Directors, volunteers, parents, program participants, partner organizations, individuals, schools and the many local businesses who have all contributed to our programs being successfully delivered in Cattaraugus County.

During 2017 we continued to experience change and growth. As with any organization, there will always be challenges to face as we strive to meet the needs of our participants and the community. The dedication we see, on a daily basis, to the Extension Program, is something we are very proud of.

Our staff expanded by 2 positions in 2017; an additional 4-H Educator and a fulltime EFNEP Nutrition Educator. The addition of a 4-H position allowed us to focus our efforts into animal and non-animal programing. This change allowed both programs to grow and allowed us to focus on some afterschool activities, shooting sports, Ag Literacy, horticulture, fiber science, dog obedience and chick hatching. We celebrated a new partnership with Dr. Anthony Evans at the Cattaraugus Youth Bureau to grow an afterschool 4-H Program and bring additional 4-H programing and character development opportunities to the youth in our community. Our new EFNEP Educator greatly expanded the reach of the nutritional programs we offer to families in the county.

A new focus of our family nutritional programs in 2017 was on grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

Our beautiful town of Ellicottville was selected as the location to host the New York State 4-H Conference in October. We were thrilled to welcome fellow 4-H Educators from across New York State to Cattaraugus County and have our Legislative Chairwoman Paula Stockman present the opening remarks.

Agricultural efforts continue to grow in Cattaraugus County with Harvest NY and our Cornell Vegetable and Lake Erie Regional Grape Program.

This report will provide you an overview of the many things that took place this year. We look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to continue to market and expand our programs and opportunities to the residents of our community.

We are very proud to represent Cornell Cooperative Extension in Cattaraugus County and remain committed to our “Mission” of helping the residents of our county to improve their quality of life by providing the tools and opportunities to put knowledge to work.

Suzann Tighe
Executive Director

Diane Clayson
Board President

Cover Photo— Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County began a new tradition in 2016. In trying to select the perfect cover photo for our annual report we realized the many beautiful photographs we had from our local 4-H children that were shown at the Cattaraugus County Fair and the New York State Fair. We felt it was a wonderful way to honor the hard work and talent we see every day from our 4-H members. We are proud to present the 2017 Cattaraugus County Annual Report Cover Photo taken by Madelynn Bierfeldt. Madelynn is 11 and from Allegany, NY she has been a 4-H member for 3 years.
**Our Mission:**
Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

**Our Partnerships:**
Supported by a federal, state, and local government partnership, the national land grant system, and Cornell University, CCE's professional staff engages New Yorkers in research, outreach and educational programs that transform communities. These resources are distributed through our local Cattaraugus County Extension Program.

---

### Cattaraugus County Financial Support 2017

#### COUNTY
- County Appropriation: $178,000.00
- County Youth Bureau Agreement: $48,000.00
- County Agreements/Contracts: $400.00
- Total County: $226,400.00

#### FEDERAL
- Federal SNAP-Ed Grant: $61,835.00
- EFNEP: $89,500.00
- Smith/Lever: $9,450.00
- Total Federal: $160,785.00

#### STATE
- State 224: $39,385.00
- Fringe Benefits: $157,801.00
- Total State: $197,186.00

#### OTHER SOURCES
- Other Grants/Contracts: $500.00
- Contributions: $12,800.35
- Program Fees: $11,500.00
- Advertising/Subscription Income: $4,140.00
- Enterprises and interest: $2,078.27
- Sales - Fund Raising/Market Sale: $128,000.00
- Sales - Fund Raising/Other: $41,950.00
- Total Other: $200,968.62

**Total Operations Funding:** $785,339.62
4-H Youth Development

4-H is the largest youth development organization in the nation. The 4-H program provides youth the opportunity to develop essential life skills that help them build self confidence and the leadership skills needed for success.

With the countless opportunities that this organization offers, youth involved in the program can build life skills to be used as they become the makers, doers, and leaders of tomorrow.

Essential to the development of our youth, Cattaraugus County has a strong club and volunteer base, as well as communication tools. With our quarterly Clover Minder Newsletter, Facebook page, and email list serve we are able to spread news and information, quickly, throughout the county.

October 1st is the beginning of our enrollment period for the 4-H year. Anyone interested in having their child join 4-H, can call our office for more information regarding local clubs, upcoming events, or any questions at 716-699-2377 ext. 130.

Clubs

Being a part of a club, members learn the 4-H pledge and are encouraged to use the 4 “H’s”, their Heads, Hearts, Hands, and Health in all disciplines that can benefit their community. Cattaraugus County, currently has 17 active 4-H Clubs.

Volunteers

Cattaraugus County is extremely proud to have over 71 registered volunteers who work with the young people in our 4-H Program. Many of our volunteers are home grown 4-Hers that have gone through the program and have returned to give back to our community. Volunteers provide an encouraging atmosphere for our 4-Hers, they lead workshops, act as mentors, and help guide our 4-H members with the many animal, leadership, STEM and life skills projects we offer.
Youth Market Sale

In 2016 we had 112 4-Her’s participate in the Youth Market Sale at the Cattaraugus County Fair. This program teaches young farmers all aspects of raising an animal, preparing it for market, budgeting their funds and marketing their animal to prospective buyers who must come to the fair to view and bid. A total of 14 beef steers, 9 dairy steers, 14 goats, 23 lambs, 69 hogs, 5 turkeys, and 23 pairs of chickens were shown and sold. Support from the local business community and residents helped our young farmers to bring in over $127,000. These funds are returned to the 4-H members to allow them to hopefully see a profit and repay their expenditures for the care and food for their animal. Most participants immediately begin setting their plans for the purchase of an animal for the next years’ Market Animal Program.

Committees

Volunteers from across the county make up the various committees that meet regularly to plan for upcoming events, problem solve, assist with education clinics, and chaperone activities and trips. A great deal of effort is put forth to grow and enhance the overall 4-H program. Our Livestock and Horse Committees meet monthly to reflect on the past year and look ahead to plan for the current 4-H year. With such a large interest in our Alpaca Program, we were able to form an Alpaca Committee shortly after county fair to begin discussion on the growing program. All of these committees are under the guidance of our Youth Development Committee. This committee works to provide insight on the programs our county offers and work together to recommend new programs, such as Shooting Sports and Clothing Review.
Cattaraugus County Fair

The Cattaraugus County Fair is the end of year showcase for our 4-H youth and their annual projects. It is also a wealth of learning and teaching moments for our 4-H participants and the general public. In addition to showing animals and other projects, our 4-H children had countless opportunities for public speaking, leadership moments, cooperation with and support of their peers, interaction with people from all walks of life, dealing with finances and budgeting and last but not least, the responsibility for the safe keeping of their animals and supplies at a new location. Over 200 children exhibited 400 animals and 400 other Ag, Family and Consumer Science and/or STEM related projects.

Animal/Youth Building Project Participation

- Beef: 21 youth
- Dog: 20 youth
- Cat: 3 youth
- Poultry: 49 youth

- Hog: 83 youth
- Sheep: 28 youth
- Horse: 62 youth
- Alpaca: 17 youth

- Dairy: 46 youth
- Dairy Steer: 19 youth
- Rabbit/Cavy: 33 youth
- Goat: 24 youth

Youth Building: 84 youth with over 400 projects

4-H Members Are:

- 4X more likely to make contributions to their communities (Grades 7-12)
- 2X more likely to be civically active (Grades 8-12)
- 2X more likely to make healthier choices (Grade 7)
- 2X more likely to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs during out-of-school time (Grades 10-12)
- Girls in 4-H are 2X more likely (Grade 10) and 3X more likely (Grade 12) to take part in science programs compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.
4-H Career Explorations

Career Explorations is a three-day event for youth on the Cornell University campus. The purpose of this program is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration, to develop leadership skills, to provide hands-on experience in a college setting and to introduce you to Cornell University. The event is made up of two grade specific tracts: University U for youth entering grades 8 - 9 and Focus for Teens for youth entering grades 10-12. University U exposes youth to a variety of program areas. Focus for Teens allows participants to select a specific interest area. Topics included Women in Science, Where Life and Engineering Meet, Astronomy and Environmental Engineering.

The theme for this year’s conference was CONNECTIONS. Cattaraugus County was proud to send 23 representatives and be hailed as the 3rd largest delegation in the State. The hands on learning opportunities, as well as the leadership and team work that was fostered created an atmosphere where youth were able to broaden their horizons and gain many important life skills. The ability to interact and share this experience with other young people from across our County and State was invaluable.

Public Presentations

Public Presentations are perhaps one of the most beneficial and rewarding experiences that 4-H has to offer. They allow young people to develop strong communication skills, as well as gaining invaluable experience presenting and speaking to a large group. Participants do research, learn to organize and present their information and respond to questions. Presentations can be demonstrations, illustrated talks, formal speech, recitation or dramatic interpretation. This year a total of 59 Cattaraugus County youth participated at our county level and of those, 6 were selected and participated in the Western District Competition in Erie County.
Pheasant hunting has a long tradition as one the most popular small game hunting activities in New York. DEC's Small Game Hunter Survey indicates that about 23,000 hunters harvest over 50,000 pheasants statewide, while spending almost 106,000 days afield annually. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, small game hunters spent approximately $600 per person per year on trip and equipment related expenses in 2006, contributing millions of dollars to the state economy.

The DEC, in cooperation with Cattaraugus County Cooperative Extension, held an educational workshop last winter for all those interested in the Pheasant raise and release program. Over 590 pheasants were distributed to Cattaraugus County program participants. This represents nearly a 50 percent increase in this important hunting program in our county.

DEC has a long history of propagating pheasants to help meet the demand for pheasant hunting opportunity. Wild populations of this introduced species have reached all-time lows. Without propagation and release programs by DEC and private entities, pheasant hunting opportunities would not exist in New York State.
Our year in pictures
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017, this collaborative effort involving Cornell and Penn State Universities, County Extension Associations (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara Counties in New York and Erie County in Pennsylvania) and Grape Processors; National Grape Cooperative, Constellation Wine and Walker’s Fruit Basket, conducts extension education programming, as well as applied research and demonstration projects throughout the 30,000 acres of grapes located in the Lake Erie Region of New York and Pennsylvania.

Major Activities in Cattaraugus County

Coffee Pot meetings. Coffee Pot meetings were held at growers venues during the 2017 growing season and provided the opportunity for growers to have an informal “give and take” with fellow growers and members of the LERGP extension team. Attendees also receive one DEC pesticide recertification credit for participating. Coffee Pot meetings have been identified by growers as the preferred method of receiving information from the LERGP grape team.

Efficient Vineyard USDA/NIFA SCRI project. A Cattaraugus County grape grower is a key cooperator in the variable rate shoot thinning research of this $6 million multistate Specialty Crop Research Initiative project. Having commercial vineyards to compare the research method, in this case variable rate shoot thinning, with a grower’s standard way of doing things is key to determining whether or not a research-based practice is going to be useful in a commercial setting.

Educational Programming. Grape growers in Cattaraugus County were able to keep up with the latest in research-based information through a variety of information transfer methods including, but not limited to, winter and summer grower conferences, twilight meetings, workshops, newsletters, weekly email updates, podcasts, http://lergp.com/podcasts/ and individual consultations.

Hops. Hops production has been identified as a potential crop for diversification for Concord grape growers and the LERGP has responded with educational opportunities and the creation of two research/demonstration hopyards at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY.

Contacts:
Tim Weigle, LERGP Team Leader, Grape and Hops IPM Specialist, thw4@cornell.edu
Kevin Martin, Business Management Educator, kmm52@psu.edu
LERGP Office: 716-792-2800
Cornell Vegetable Program

The Cornell Vegetable Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Agriculture Team that serves the commercial vegetable, greenhouse, potato and dry bean industries in a 13-county region of Western, NY. As a participating county in the Cornell Vegetable Program, farms in Cattaraugus Co. have access to the five vegetable specialists and their support staff. Growers can take advantage of more than 100 educational meetings and presentations offered throughout the Cornell Vegetable Program region yearly. Farms that enroll in the program receive 25 issues of the award-winning VegEdge newsletter, packed full of useful pest management and other cutting edge information to help growers reach the maximum potential on their farms. Our vegetable specialists conduct on-farm research throughout the region. Some activities and projects in Cattaraugus Co. over the past year include:

- The 2017 WNY Fresh Market Winter Vegetable Meeting, held at CCE-Cattaraugus on February 9th. Program topics included an update on wildlife management, high tunnel nutrient management update, vegetable disease updates including the new iPIPE Program in vegetables, new Climate Smart Farming Tools, cover crops and soil health, an update on Food Safety and Modernization Act and what you need to do for your farm, and other regional research and program updates.

- Sweet corn insect trap site, as part of the statewide trapping network. Informs growers of pest threats as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program on their farm.

- Cattaraugus research site for a project to manage swede midge, a tiny insect pest of broccoli and related crops. Larvae of this insect eat the growing tips of the plant, causing brown scars, twisted growth and unmarketable heads.

- High tunnel greenhouse site as part of a statewide project to determine Best Management Practices for soil health and nutrient management. Vegetable growers participating in this project have improved their ability to manage soil and nutrients through reduced and more targeted fertility inputs and incorporation of practices like cover cropping to scavenge nutrients and increase soil organic matter. In the first year of the project, growers reported an average increase in net high tunnel income of 13.3% over the previous growing season.

- Vegetable crop scouting for insects and diseases such as late blight in tomato and potato. Our vegetable specialists are on top of what is happening in the field and report the information in the VegEdge newsletter weekly and in a national database called the IPIPE project.
A brief overview of: Eat Smart New York SNAP

Eat Smart New York (ESNY), a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (SNAP-Ed), is funded by USDA and administered by FNS. The purpose of the ESNY program is to assist and encourage SNAP recipients and eligible to choose healthy diets and active lifestyles through the provision of behaviorally-focused nutrition education and obesity prevention services. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County is a member of the ESNY Western Region team, which provides programming in 8 counties in Western New York. ESNY Western Region utilizes a multi-level approach combining direct education, social marketing, and environmental change to empower low-income Western New Yorkers to make nourishing choices with their SNAP benefits, and to facilitate sustainable policy, systematic, and environmental changes that make healthful choices not only possible, but the norm. The program's goals are to:

Increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

Exercises more and balance calories eaten as part of a healthy lifestyle."
The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a federally funded program through the United States Department of Agriculture and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) offering nutrition education to limited income families and youth in all 50 states, as well as, U.S. Territories. Cornell Cooperative Extension delivers this program to the residents of Cattaraugus County.

Our EFNEP team consists of 2 fulltime Nutrition Educators

In the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year, 135 adults were enrolled into our program.

Participants receive a series of 8 to 10 free sessions, where they learn to make nutritious food choices. Through these interactive lessons, they are able to improve the nutritional quality of meals and snacks served to their families. Safety, preparation, storage, sanitation and managing of food budget (including resources from federal, state and local agencies and organizations) are skills that are also learned. Physical activity and overall health are also addressed in a learn-by-doing approach.

Partners throughout the county include, but are not limited to: WIC, STRAWWs, Jefferson House, Zafron House, Cattaraugus Community Action, Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities/Kinship Caregivers.

Our EFENP Team participated in many community events such as the Farmers Markets, the Food Pantries, Health Fairs at our Local Schools and the County Fair, to name a few, allowing us to interact with residents and make them aware of our services.

Staff also participated in additional training opportunities including honing our food preparation skills and experimenting with foods from other cultures that some of our participants are accustomed to.

A new focus of our EFENP Program this year was on grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Services for this growing segment of our population are vital in Cattaraugus County. We have experienced success in working with the grandparents, while 4-H has focused on working with the children. A Win-Win for all involved. This will be a focus 2018.
2017 Board of Directors

Diane Clayson, President
Nathan Blesy, Vice President
Kelly Reed, Treasurer
Stephanie Carter, Secretary

Carl George
Susan LaBuhn, Legislator
Joseph Piliittere
Don Wild

Extension Specialist
Holly Lemke
Norm Marsh
Don Telaak

Agriculture Program

Don Wild
Carl George

4-H Program Committee

Rebecca Austin
Diane Clayson
Laura Land

Herb Buffum
Sandy Goddard
Priscilla Snider

Cattaraugus County Animal Project Chairs

Eric Clayson, Livestock Chair
Dean/Amy Hayes, Swine
Karla Hanft, Beef
Amanda Elscholz, Dairy Steer
Marcia Stang, Sheep
Michele Conhisier, Goat
Alisha Hurlburt, Goat
Patti Dechow, Rabbit
Lynn Telaak, Dog

Sherry Charlesworth, Livestock Secretary
Becky Visnesky, Swine
Bryan Bailey, Dairy
Kerri Martin, Dairy
Cheri Stady, Horse
Kristen Dunham, Horse
Linda Murphy, Poultry
Rebecca Austin, Alpaca
Ardyth Van Scoy, Dog
2017 Youth Development Committee
Herb Buffum
Priscilla Snider
Laura Land

2017 Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Committee
Laura Land
Priscilla Snider
Sharon Wild
Nancy Olejniczak
Sandra Goddard

2017 Shooting Sports
Herb Buffum, Chair
Matt Lee, Certified Archery Instructor
James Snider, Certified Archery Instructor
Katherine Benatovich, Certified Archery Instructor

2017 Cattaraugus County Staff
Suzann Tighe-Cushman, Executive Director
Abigail Luzier, 4-H Educator
Christine Terhune, EFNEP Educator
Gayle Patterson, EFNEP Educator
Aaron Dominesy, SNAP Educator
Tamara Bacho, Office Administrator
**Cornell Vegetable Program**
Dr. Julie Kikkert, Team Leader
Christy Hoepting, Onions/Cabbage
Judson Reid, Small Farms/Greenhouse
Robert Hadad, Fresh Market
Carol MacNeil, Soil Health
Darcy Telenko, Western Region/Fresh Market/Veg/Weed Management

**Lake Erie Regional Grape Program**
Tim Weigle, IPM-Team Leader
Kevin Martin, Business Management
Luke Haggerty, Viticulture
Putting knowledge to work in Cattaraugus County