Don Wild, CCE of Cattaraugus County Board President

If you are looking for knowledge and dedication to all things agriculture, look no further than Don Wild. Don Wild, the current President of CCE of Cattaraugus County, has been involved with CCE, in many different counties for over 50 years.

He had the opportunity to work for USDA's "Soil Conservation Service", which in 1992 became the "Natural Resource Conservation Service” (NRCS) for 40 years. While he had many different position titles, his focus was always on assisting rural landowners in Western New York on their land and family goals.

Following that service, his specialty, after retirement, was grazing, forage management and livestock. At this time, he was appointed to the CCE Board of Directors, which at that time was merged with Allegany County as a two county association. After 6 plus years on that board representing Cattaraugus Counties' interest, the organizations split back into separate associations where he was again appointed by peers to serve on the new board. Currently, CCE of Cattaraugus County is completing its fourth year as a new association. Wild was appointed president of the board this past February after the sudden death of his long-time friend Butch George.

Aside from his service with CCE, he also, upon retirement, took on a seed dealership that allows him to remain in contact with farm families he served years before in both Cattaraugus and neighboring counties. In addition to all this, he continues to grow and produce vegetable crops, small fruits and small livestock for direct sale to regular customers and at the Olean Farm Market. Wild Acres Family Farm is the last chartered farm associated with the REAP group that sells Saturdays in Olean.

Without a doubt, his favorite memory of CCE was when he was stationed in Essex County way back in 1974. He read a bio of a new home economist Essex County CCE had recently hired. His excuse to visit that office was to obtain "information" for the large garden he had planted that year. That home economist was his future wife, Sharon. They were married four years after meeting and have been married for the past 41 years.

His vision for CCE in the future is to continue to move forward serving neighbors with the tools and information they need. The youth programs continue to grow and the new agricultural team is off to a great start. In closing, he noted: "As we grow, we need to constantly keep our sponsors and cooperating agencies aware of our activities. I can't thank enough all our volunteers we have in all departments. CCE continues to be what our volunteers make it to be.”

Thank you, Don, for your dedication and many years of service to the CCE organization and to the agricultural community!

The objectives of this Association are: To provide for a subordinate governmental agency consisting of an unincorporated organization of residents of Cattaraugus County in cooperation with Cornell University and the United States Department of Agriculture; an in accordance with Subdivision 8(b) of Section 224 of the County Law as amended. Also, to extend the educational resources of Cornell University and the New York State Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Ecology and Veterinary Medicine, the Land Grant University system and other educational institutions, to the people of Cattaraugus County to foster economic, social and environmental improvement of its individuals, families and communities.
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.
It has been an honor to represent Cattaraugus County CCE as Board President for the past 3 years. We would not be where we are today without the assistance of the Cattaraugus County Legislators who provide funding and continuous support to help our CCE youth programs grow. Our success is thanks to the staff and volunteers of the program. We have numerous volunteers donating their time and sharing their knowledge to help the youth in our programs. This amounts to thousands of valuable hours of service to the youth and residents of Cattaraugus County. They do this not for monetary compensation but simply for the opportunity to give back to their community, to make Cattaraugus County a better place for our youth to learn and grow. I have truly enjoyed working with the staff here at Cornell Cooperative Extension and oversee the many programs offered by CCE. As President, I have learned a great deal about the Non Profit world and how vital it is to have experienced staff who work hand in hand with dedicated volunteer groups and committees in order to be successful.

The Cattaraugus County Fair is the highlight and culmination of the 4-H year for many 4-Hers. The 2018 Cattaraugus County Fair Youth Development Building was home to over 1,000 exhibits. 4-H member’s project work was evaluated and awarded based on their own level of accomplishment and displayed in the Youth Development Building. Our Livestock program has also grown, in 2016 our amazing 4-H families worked hard and together exhibited over 415 animals at the Cattaraugus County Fair. At our 2017 Fair our 4-H families came back strong and entered over 465 animals. In 2018 we continued growing, our 4-H families entered over 500 animals. 4-H enrollments have continuously grown in Cattaraugus County. In 2016, 280 youth were enrolled in our 4-H program. Currently we have over 400 youth enrolled in our Cattaraugus County 4-H Program! I’m very fortunate to have had this experience and I trust that the programs will continue to grow within Cattaraugus County.

Sincerely,

Diane Clayson

Diane Clayson, Board President

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Marcia Stang, Sheep/Horse Secretary
Linda Murphy, Poultry/Rabbit
Brian & Melissa Schrantz, Sheep

2019 Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS Committee)

Laura Land
Sharon Wild
Priscilla Snider
Nancy Olejniczak

2018 Shooting Sports

Herb Buffum
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.

For the 2018-2019 4-H Program Year, Cattaraugus County had 422 enrolled youth participating in a wide variety of hands-on projects.

Cloverbuds

“The 4-H Cloverbud Program is a special part of Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program. Tailored to the developmental needs of five to eight year olds, it provides an exciting introduction to the 4-H club experience. The educational component of a Cloverbud club meeting consists of activities rather than projects. A Cloverbud activity focuses on developing a single concept and/or skill. Cloverbud clubs do not conduct nor participate in competitive events. Five to eight year olds are sensitive to criticism and do not accept failure well. Cloverbud clubs follow a set of program guidelines based on developmental appropriateness. While Cloverbud activities relate to the same set of program areas, as do projects for older members, they are designed to suit the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of children within this age group.”


Cattaraugus County had 81 Cloverbuds registered last year

I love 4-H

I pledge... my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.
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 16 active 4-H Clubs. Of our enrolled youth, about half are enrolled as a Club member, while the remaining half elect to participate as Individual members.

Volunteers
Cattaraugus County is extremely proud to have over 66 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 the 2019 we had 154 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 16 beef steers, 12 dairy steers, 17 goats, 27 lambs, 92 hogs, 15 turkeys, and 31 pairs of chickens were shown and sold. Support from the local business community and residents helped our young farmers to bring in $192,418.20. 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 educational clinics and workshops, and chaperone activities and trips. A great deal of effort is put forth to grow and enhance the overall 4-H program. Our Livestock, Horse, Dairy, and Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS) Committees meet regularly to reflect on the past year and look ahead to plan for the current 4-H year. 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 for our youth.
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 opportunities, cooperation with and support of their peers, interaction with people from all walks of life, and dealing with finances and budgeting. These are just a few of the major life skills that have helped shaped our 4-H members into the young people they strive to be. 279 children exhibited 620 animals and 800+ other Ag, Family and Consumer Science and/or STEM related projects, in the Youth Building.

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.

Cattaraugus County was proud to send 13 representatives this year. 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 79 Cattaraugus County youth participated at our county level and of those, 8 were selected to participate in the Western District Competition in Erie County and 6 were selected to participate in the Regional Horse Communications Competition in Allegany County.
**Pheasant Raise and Release Program**

Pheasant hunting has a long tradition as one of 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. 1,070 pheasants were distributed to 16 Cattaraugus County 4-H families and community members. This is up from 660 chicks, but still remained at 16 families from 2018.

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.

**Safe at Home Safe Alone**

Cattaraugus-Little Valley Elementary once again participated in this program. 64 youth and 5 adult volunteers participated in the program. The children receive a youth book at school and instruction by persons trained in the program which is filled with real life situations that could occur when home alone, along with information on life skills that enable a child to cope with these situations. After about 6 hours of instruction time at school is complete, the children will be able to access the workbook at home as a resource. There is a Parent Guide that is available through PDF format that parallels the youth book that many parents find helpful in making the decision whether their child is ready for self-care. This is always a family decision and depends on many factors. Every child develops differently and it is recommended to start with small blocks of time.

**Incubation Project**

For the third year in a row, we have successfully incubated and hatched chicks during the county fair. About 25 chicks and 8 ducklings hatched towards the end of the 2019 fair week out of 50 eggs, yielding a 66% successful hatch rate. 4-H members in the poultry program then take the chicks home and raise them as their own. In 2018 we were just shy of a 70% success hatch rate. This has helped grow interest in the poultry program for our youth and has been a good education tool for the general public.
**Ag Literacy**
Ag in the Classroom is a hands-on learning opportunity for elementary age students in grades 3rd – 5th to learn new things about the Agricultural Industry. Each March, volunteers across the state read to students during Ag Literacy Week. This year’s book was *On the Farm at the Market*, written & illustrated by G. Brian Karas. This book took students on an interactive journey of how food gets from the farm to the market. CCE of Cattaraugus County partners with Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau each year to reach as many youth as possible to spread the joys of Ag! Together with great cooperation from 11 schools, 46 classrooms, and 14 volunteer readers a total of 907 youth were able to actively learn and participate in hands-on activities to get a better sense of where their food comes from and how it ends up on their table.

**New York State Fair Participation**
Dairy: 2 youth  
Goat: 2 youth  
Horse: 23 horse/youth combo  
Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, and Livestock Skillathon: 12 youth  
Sheep: 1 youth  
Youth Building: 32 youth with 182 projects

**New Programming**

**Ag in the Classroom**
In February 2019 we received a $5000 grant that allowed us to host a Teacher In-Service for 15 educators on the Agriculture in the Classroom Curriculum. Towards the end of the program year, we formed relationships with 7 schools in the county that will allow us to expand on future programming such as embryology, lending libraries for curriculum and supplies for lessons, and Ag Literacy Week.
CCE – Master Gardener Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County is looking for new volunteers to enroll in the Master Gardener Core Training this spring at Jamestown Community College.

Enrollment is open to residents of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Erie counties.

Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 664-9502 or email Emily Reynolds at eck47@cornell.edu.

Cornell Cooperative Extension makes agriculture and horticulture knowledge work in pursuit of economic viability, ecological sustainability and social well-being for a rapidly changing world.
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Nutrition insecurity is a significant national health concern, especially among low-income populations that disproportionately experience poor health. Often associated with food insecurity, nutrition insecurity is characterized by poor nutrition, limited physical activity, and unsafe food practices. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is the nation’s first nutrition education program for low-income populations and remains at the forefront of nutrition education efforts to reduce nutrition insecurity of low-income families and youth today. The EFNEP Program provides nutrition education to low-income families and children in counties throughout New York State. A series of eight classes is offered to adults in a variety of settings. Workshop series include:

- Easting Smart Being Active
- Family Nutrition Education Curriculum
- Finding a Balance Diabetes
- Healthy Children, Health Families
- Healthy Cents

If you or your organization are interested in scheduling classes, please call your local nutrition educator: Gayle Patterson at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County @ 716-699-2377 ext. 109 or at gsp72@cornell.edu
SNAP-Ed is a nutrition education and obesity prevention program for low-income youth, adults, and seniors living in Western New York. Western New Yorkers eligible to receive SNAP or other means-based programs like Medicaid or TANF. SNAP-Ed participants learn fun and easy ways to eat more fruits and vegetables, drink fewer sweetened beverages, and be more physically active. Free workshops, cooking classes, grocery store tours, and community events support these messages throughout the year.

SNAP-Ed engages partnerships to maximize impact on the environments where people learn, live, eat, play, shop, work and worship. SNAP-Ed also facilitates trainings and assessments for Smarter Lunchrooms; a movement to create lunchroom environments that make healthy food choices the easy choice for students. Healthy corner store initiatives; which bring healthy food options into convenience store settings, are also conducted via the SNAP-Ed program.

SNAP-Ed provides educational materials for youth, adults and senior citizens. These workshops are conducted at multiple locations throughout Cattaraugus County. Lead Nutritionist Melinda Drabant could be found teaching in schools, grocery stores, libraries, low income housing sites, food pantries, soup kitchens, community centers, Job Readiness Training Centers, churches, the YMCA, and at the Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services. Melinda regularly provides displays, recipes, and food tastings, along with education, at farmers markets, wellness fairs, and other community events. As a goal of the SNAP-Ed program, Melinda is always using simple recipes with ingredients that are low cost, easy to find, and seasonal.

While the SNAP-Ed target audience is low income families and individuals who qualify for or receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), all of the people who engaged in SNAP-Ed educational programming provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) learned easy new ways to make healthier food and beverage choices, stretch their food dollars, and to become more physically active.

During the 2019 fiscal year, SNAP-Ed emphasized a regional marketing campaign to promote “Small Changes Make a Big Difference” highlighting that a healthy lifestyle is built one small healthy decision at a time. This campaign utilized television, bill boards, and other types of media to reach the target population and share programmatic resources. SNAP-Ed is funded by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) which is committed to reducing food insecurity and hunger, fostering self-sufficiency, and improving health outcomes for low-income New Yorkers.
Farm to School

Farm to School in Cattaraugus County currently operates in Franklinville Central School District and Hinsdale Central School District, which are partnering on a state grant to fund the project. CCE is working with the staff, faculty, and students in these districts to develop a Farm to School program that fits the needs and organization of each school.

Elements of Farm to School include assisting districts in identifying and procuring locally grown and produced food products for the cafeteria, promoting local food and healthy eating in the lunchroom and throughout the school, classroom activities and presentations, and other educational opportunities such as field trips, farmer visits, and gardening projects for students. Many of these initiatives are either being planned or have already been implemented.

In this school year alone, over 40 classroom visits featured Farm to School lessons and activities, on topics such as agriculture, school gardening, taste testing foods, nutrition, and food systems. Schools have implemented programs featuring local food in the cafeteria such as NY Thursdays, Try It Tuesdays, and Harvest of the Month, with much more being organized for the months ahead.

Serving local food from area farms in schools is a win for the region economically, as money spent in WNY largely remains invested in local businesses here in our communities. Additionally, districts that purchase at least 30% of their food from local farms receive reimbursement from the state for doing so. The youth of our county stand to benefit as well, as students who participate in school lunch receive the benefit of fresher, healthier ingredients in their cafeteria. When paired with educational opportunities about nutrition and agriculture, students will be better equipped to make informed choices regarding food for the rest of their lives.

CCE Cattaraugus is excited about the growth of this program, and the possibility of creating stronger connections between farms, farmers, schools, and the families and communities of WNY.
Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben.

Contact Our Specialists

Business Management
Katelyn Walley-Stoll
3542 Turner Road
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-640-0522
kaw249@cornell.edu
- Farm Business Summaries
- Financial Management
- Production Economics
- Risk Management
- Business Planning
- Market Analysis
- Employee Management

Field Crops and Forage
Josh Putman
28 Parkside Drive
Ellicottville, NY 14731
716-490-5572
jap473@cornell.edu
- Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management
- Forage & Grain Production
- Variety Selection
- Soil Analysis
- Fertility Recommendations
- Pest & Disease Management

Dairy Management
Alycia Drwencke
20 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
517-416-0386
amd453@cornell.edu
- Calf and Heifer Management
- Dairy Records Analysis
- Herd Health
- Animal Nutrition
- Facilities Planning
- Reproductive Management

Livestock and Small Farms
Amy Barkley
21 South Grove Street
East Aurora, NY 14052
Phone Number Forthcoming
amb544@cornell.edu
- Beef, Sheep, Goat, and Poultry Production
- Beginning Farmer Support
- Pasture and Grazing Management
- Meat Quality Trainings
- Product Consistency and Marketing
In light of the October 9th, 2019 Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Requirement for all NY employers, SWNYDLFC Farm Business Management Specialist, Katelyn Walley-Stoll, decided to offer a series of informal discussions and presentations across the region with a goal of raising awareness, in addition to newsletter articles and printed resources. These event advertisements have been connecting people with the Business Management Specialist position as a resource for navigating these new requirements and managing employees. The team’s discussions had representation from farms with a total of over 350 employees. Farms have continued to reach out for resources and clarification. Discussions on labor regulations will become even more important as the new Farm Labor Laws go into effect in 2020. Walley-Stoll will be prepared to offer trainings and support to farm owners and managers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

Early Successes – Sexual Harassment Prevention for Farm Owners

Needs Assessment: With a goal to visit more than 100 farms in the first 6 months of the program, the Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program will develop an understanding of the specific needs in our region. This needs assessment will inform future programming and research. The team is working to network with farms and agribusinesses to build valuable relationships across the region and direct connections to Cornell University.

Future Programming: Be on the look out for future programming from SWNYDLFC that will include Pesticide Trainings, Information on New Labor Laws, Updates on Practical Applications of Dairy Herd Research, and support to people interested in starting or growing their farm.
Executive Director’s Report

We have been very busy during 2019 and are very proud of our accomplishments. Thanks to the Cattaraugus County Legislature, the Southwest Regional Agriculture Team was establish and CCE is a part of the 5 county region. The Legislature committed to support our share for five years. There are 4 Specialists that will cover areas of Business Management, Field Crops, Dairy and Livestock. Josh Putnam, the Field Crops Specialist, is housed at our CCE in Ellicottville.

A Farm to School program was created with Franklinville and Hinsdale Schools. Jesse Meeder is the coordinator and works closely with the school cafeteria managers to insure that locally produced products are used in their school cafeterias. Meeder has also been instrumental in working with teachers and students promoting good health and nutrition.

A Regional Navigators grant through the American Farmland Trust allowed us to sponsor nine workshops in the county to aid those interested in agriculture and farming.

Our 4-H, EFNEP and Eat Smart NYS programs continue to grow. This year at the County Fair we had a record number of entries in both animals and projects. A Youth Market Sale grossed a record $191,000.

All this would not be possible without a tremendous staff, many volunteers and a great Board of Directors.

Dick Rivers