Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to bring you our 2017 Annual Report. We have been able to meet the needs of our community through a great year of programming in 2017. These accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated staff, volunteers and participants. Our staff goes above and beyond to bring programs to our community throughout Cayuga County.

CCE Cayuga continues to work diligently to meet the needs of the community through our programs and services. We work collectively with Cornell University to bring research-based knowledge to help the residents of Cayuga County improve the quality of life in our communities, promote positive youth development and sustain farming and agribusinesses. These programs are highlighted throughout this report.

My first year as president has been a humbling experience. Growing up in the agricultural industry, I always knew Cooperative Extension was an important player in the agricultural community but my position on the board has shown me just how far CCE reaches. The programs of CCE Cayuga play a vital role in the improvement of the lives of our broad and diverse county population. Leadership skills are taught to children through 4-H, farmers have the opportunity to learn best management practices, and low income residents and senior citizens have the ability to learn about ways to feed their families healthy and nutritious food on a budget.

The community support continues to make CCE Cayuga strong. As our program needs have grown so has the funding required to meet those needs. We now ask you for your support so we can continue to expand these programs and services in Cayuga County. Become a Friend of Extension and your local donation to CCE Cayuga is money well invested. If you have not already donated, please fill out and return the enclosed envelope today.

Sincerely,

Emily Robertson, Board President
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cayuga County

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW Friends of Extension…

Marian Brown
Paul & Barb Cady
Gary & Karen Gulliver
Bob & Sharon Horsford
Oakwood Dairy
Mark & Elizabeth Perry
Keith Severson
Ververs Family

Donald & Evelyn Waterman
Christie Waters
Dr. Donald & Suzanne Westee
Andrew & Joyce White
Judy Wright
In Memoriam
Walter Wasserman
Marjorie White

Their donations have helped us continue to deliver high-quality innovative programs that are vital to our local agriculture producers, families and community. Their support will help us to continue our mission of Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities. For more information on becoming a Friend of Extension, go to our website and Show Your Support!

http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceccayuga

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
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**Meet the Staff**

**Executive Director**
Douglas Ververs

**Agriculture Senior Resource Educator & Educator Team Leader**
Judy Wright

**Agriculture Program Educator**
Keith Severson

**4-H Youth Development Program Educator**
Dorothy Slegle

**4-H Youth STEM Program Educator**
Emma Foster

**Nutrition Program Educator**
Becky Crawford

**Office Coordinator**
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### Public Funding Partners

**County of Cayuga**
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Chairman, Cayuga County Legislature

**Cornell University**
Dr. Christopher B. Watkins
Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

**United States Department of Agriculture**
National Institute of Food & Agriculture
Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy
Director, USDA/NIFA

### Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County
Financial Support for 2017

- **County Appropriation**
  $249,675 (40.5%)

- **Federal Grants**
  $51,884 (8.5%)

- **State Grants**
  $64,659 (10.5%)

- **Other Grants & Contracts**
  $26,662 (4.3%)

- **Program & Operating Income**
  $42,110 (6.8%)

- **Employee Benefits from Cornell**
  $180,815 (29.4%)

**Total Revenue for 2017**
$615,805
The Community Nutrition Educator position is partially funded by the eleven county regional Fingerlakes Eat Smart New York (FLESNY) grant. Nutrition education is delivered through several methods – one time workshops, static displays, educational series, food demonstrations at local farmers markets and social media.

This year, the Booker T Washington Community Center in Auburn received a FLESNY gardening grant to expand their existing garden to six new raised beds and added an eight-foot fence to keep out wildlife. Partnering with the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, we installed the new garden and planted it with help from many volunteers. The children have been harvesting and enjoying the fruits of their labor and will be planning what to grow for next year. Over the summer, the students took a field trip to the Auburn Farmers Market to ask how they grow their veggies and learn what is involved in getting all that produce to market. They sampled plums, ground cherries, and peaches and received a sunflower to take home.

CCE Cayuga worked with kindergarten, second and sixth grade students at Genesee Elementary School, delivering gardening education. The sixth and second grades took a walking field trip to the Auburn Permaculture Park, up the street from the school, to plant the three sisters (corn, beans and squash).

**2017 PARTNERSHIP FOR RESULTS (PFR) AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS:**

Once again, nutrition educator Becky Crawford was partially funded by PFR to deliver nutrition education to children enrolled in afterschool programs at Genesee, Seward and Casey Park Elementary Schools, and the Junior and Senior High Schools. In the fall of 2017, Booker T Washington (BTW) Community Center took over the afterschool programming and is continuing to partner with CCE Cayuga. Over 500 students learned how to stay healthy and worked in the school’s gardens.

**TEAMING UP WITH THE CAYUGA COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK (CCHN)**

This year CCHN provided funding to deliver two food demonstrations at the Aurora Farmers Market. The first demo in August, brought in more visitors than the market had seen that season. CCHN also partnered in the spring with CCE Cayuga nutrition educator Becky Crawford to deliver two gardening workshops to patients of Summit Pediatrics in Auburn. In the first workshop, participants were able to pick out and plant several culinary herbs, and received information on how to use them in their cooking. The second workshop covered vegetable container gardens, where participants selected and planted vegetable plants and seeds in a container to take home along with information on how to care for and use the vegetables.

CCE Cayuga, the Cayuga Community Health Network, WIC and the Auburn Farmers Market worked together in the fall to provide farmers market tours for WIC moms. We offered tours every half hour for two hours and saw ten moms who learned about who the farmers are, where their farms are and what programs the market has to offer them. Many of them said they would be back and use their WIC Farmers Market checks.
PARTNERING FOR IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

Water is required by all life as we know it to survive. Efforts to maintain or improve water quality continued through various partnerships with CCE Cayuga offering outreach, education, and links to Cornell University faculty resources to address issues and concerns.

Much of the focus on water quality has been divided between working with the County Water Quality Management Agency’s (WQMA) Nutrient Workgroup and the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC). The Nutrient Workgroup completed and presented the 14-point manure guidelines which was formally adopted in February 2017. Followed by aiding the Maxwell School’s Capstone project to develop recommendations for implementing the 14-point plan during May and June. Attendance at the monthly OLWMC meetings as a non-voting member offered opportunities to clarify water quality concerns and take concerns to Cornell researchers.

By assisting the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program in securing Dr. Rebecca Schneider of the Cornell Local Roads Program for a presentation on road ditch maintenance and practices for local highway superintendents, interest and awareness was created. This allowed the WQMA’s Nutrient Workgroup to develop Guidelines for Municipal Maintenance of Road Ditches which are being presented to the WQMA in November.

In addition, CCE Cayuga assisted Partners for Healthy Watersheds as a technical resource for their newspaper advertorials and farmer forums held at the Ward O’Hara Agricultural Museum. This created a dialog between the farm and non-farm community for a better understanding of agricultural conservation practices.

The community outreach that CCE Cayuga has implemented for Owasco Lake and water quality concerns was used as a case study at Cornell University. Eighteen summer animal science undergraduate interns evaluated and offered improvements to the Maxwell School’s recommendations.

It is estimated that over 21 days or 157 hours of Agriculture Educator’s time has been devoted to water quality during 2017.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

2017 offered a cold and wet spring which delayed many garden activities and didn’t provide the early amounts of disease and insect pressure except for diseases on trees which included apple scab, anthracnose, and tar spot on street and yard trees. As the season progressed inquiries about powdery mildew on both vegetables and ornamentals became prevalent.

CCE Cayuga Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Chris Zippel identified Holcus Leaf Spot on a sample of sweet corn brought in by a local gardener. Normally our well trained MGVs and CCE Educators are able to identify most garden pests but this sample’s identity was so different a second opinion was sought through the Plant Pathology Lab at Cornell. Chris was familiar with this disease on ornamentals, but this was the first time a gardener observed it on sweet corn. Fortunately, this has not become a pest to commercial sweet corn or field corn but now everyone is aware to look for it.

Insects were normal with very little reporting of the Lillie Leaf Beetle that was so stunning in 2015. Many of the insect identifications included box elder beetles and marmorated stink bugs around residences.

The over 730 requests for identification and control were addressed by Master Gardener Volunteers, Cindy Stevenson, Suanne Bowers-Hodson and Chris Zippel. This level of involvement equates to 262 hours of dedicated volunteer time for this important educational effort. CCE Cayuga wishes to thank them for their outstanding efforts!

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Spring and fall 2017 Electronics Recycling Events had over 1,200 households responsibly disposing of over 100,000 pounds of old electronic equipment which included computers, video game systems & televisions. Included in the collection were other hard to dispose of items such as propane tanks, toner & ink cartridges and fluorescent tube light bulbs. Along with the electronics recycling, document shredding and textile collection were also available.
Commercial Agriculture Production

LONG TERM STUDIES ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE EFFECTIVE RATE OF NITROGEN FERTILIZER ON CORN

For the past 5 years, CCE Cayuga has supported applied research on Adapt-N to help farmers predict the most effective rate of nitrogen fertilizer to grow corn for grain. A $30 per acre savings has been calculated using Adapt-N for nitrogen fertilizer management. Cayuga County grows approximately 68,800 acres of corn annually.

Another layer of research was added in 2017. The utilization of Green Seeker software as a means to analyze the depth of color of corn leaves at a number of growth stages to determine the adequacy of current nitrogen fertilizer application for optimum yield.

The Green Seeker program utilizes aerial infrared photos, taken by a drone, to determine if weather has impacted the amount of nitrogen available for the corn crop. Both Adapt-N and Green Seeker programs could be utilized as a predication and verification process to increase the effectiveness of nitrogen application especially since adapted nitrogen application equipment available to the farmer has increased because of taller side dress equipment.

This year’s research on nitrogen for corn represents the benefit that can be attained when a student intern can become part of applied research while working with farmers, CCE educators and a large agricultural service and supply businesses. These projects provide opportunities for Cornell University to advance beyond the laboratory onto farm fields that provides real time environmental conditions for growing crops.

In 2017 CCE Cayuga provided both oversight and recommendations within the specific research test plots on 140 acres of corn on five farms that grow 2600 acres of corn annually. Typical of the multiplier effect; neighboring farmers become aware of the response and risk aversion that new techniques provide in their environment. These small plots become the nucleus of change especially when they partner with a major supplier in the industry.

CORNELL FIELD CROP PATHOLOGY PROGRAM

The growing season of 2017 saw the continuation of a small grains research project partnership between Cornell University’s Field Crop Pathology Program and CCE Cayuga. Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a serious disease of small grains, particularly wheat in New York and the Northeast.

Cayuga County ranks 6th in New York with 7,000 acres of wheat grown on 73 farms that sell $2,967,000 annually. This accounts for 10% of the State’s production. Any potential threat to this important cash crop demands attention. Employing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies for a number of years, this disease continues to cause decreases in grain yield and quality ultimately impacting profitability on cash grain farms.

In addition, FHB can result in severe loss of crop value through the production of toxic compounds which are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and can sicken livestock that may be fed infected grain.

Results from this ongoing research partnership on two cooperating Cayuga County farms was presented at statewide grower meetings and at national scientific conferences. Cayuga County is the focal point of this project which is part of broader goals that Cornell University Field Crop Pathology Program pursues in collaboration with CCE across New York.

SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE

Soybeans are a significant cash crop in Cayuga County and New York State contributing over $22 million dollars to our economy annually. Cayuga County along with other counties high in soybean acreage and Cornell University have been conducting surveys for the presence of this pest since 2013. In 2016 its presence was first confirmed in New York state in Cayuga County. Research on SCN continues in 2017 to determine if the pest has increased and to develop methods of control.

Soybean Cyst Nematode Survey

Counties highlighted in green indicate they were surveyed and found NOT to have SCN. Cayuga County is currently the only county where SCN was identified AND confirmed.
Sixty-five 4-H youth from Cayuga County participated in the State Fair this year. Youth participated in a variety of areas including: Horse, Dairy, Beef, Rabbits and Cavies, Poultry, Photography, Nutrition, GIS, Project Evaluation, Fine Arts, Shooting Sports, Cynology (Dog) and varying activity zones in the Youth Building. Youth who performed exceptionally at the County level were sent to State Fair to participate in events, this is a great way for youth to meet new people, learn new skills and have fun. Cayuga County had youth place in the top of their classes in Horse, Dairy, Dog, as well as Horticulture and Communication projects in the Youth Building. Cayuga County also sent 4 youth to participate in Produced in New York, this is a silent cooking demonstration that encourages youth to cook with locally sourced foods, be aware of nutrition, and learn new skills. Cayuga had one youth who received a rosette for an outstanding job! This year there were 8 youth who worked as Teen Leaders in the Youth Building. Cayuga County’s teen leaders worked 4 days in varying areas; the teen leaders deal directly with the visitors to the Youth Building presenting them with new and exciting projects they can participate in. This is a great opportunity for teens to work with the public and provide informal education through hands-on activities. In addition to their work hours, youth stay overnight in the dorm where they are able to participate in activities and go out to enjoy the Fair!

4-H spent 3 days at Freedom Camp, a day camp for youth with special needs and their siblings. Youth participated in 3 different STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities relating to plant science. Youth were able learn and taste the different parts of the plant we eat, label plant parts, and eventually compost what was left over! Youth were able to learn about how to make healthier choices, as well as try new things. Youth also learned a way to better their environment by composting instead of throwing plants in the garbage. Additionally, two 4-H youth volunteered and assisted with this program—we are very thankful for their help!

The Cayuga County 4-H Youth Fair & Remember the Big 6 events, held at the Ward O’Hara Agricultural and Country Living Museum & Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center in Auburn, proved to be another great success in July 2017! The 4-H Youth Fair is a capstone event for youth to show off skills they have learned throughout the 4-H year. Overall, 100+ Cayuga County 4-H youth exhibited projects in the following areas: rabbits and cavies, poultry, dogs, dairy cattle, beef cattle and youth building (non-animal) projects. In addition to exhibiting their projects, there are several youth who also volunteer to help with various activities such as: setting up fair, tear-down of fair, assisting with animal shows, assisting with project judging and more. Without the youth, adults and their families the success of this event would not be possible!

During the 3-day event, over 5,100 community members attended a variety of activities. We are working on expansions and improvements every year, and we are looking forward to next July. Anyone interested in joining our programming efforts, please feel free to contact our office. We are always looking for more 4-H and fair volunteers!

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Combined Cayuga County Fair & Remember the Big 6**

Scheduled for last weekend in July 2018!
4-H Youth Development

4-H Standardbred Day Clinic

The Cayuga County 4-H program successfully received funding from the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund to provide a clinic on Standardbred and Harness Racing Education. Twenty-two youth and thirteen adults from Cayuga and Onondaga counties gathered at Sunshine Horses facility in Central Square for a fun-filled day of learning about the Standardbred breed, and how they can be “re-purposed” once retired from the race track. Sunshine Horses is a non-profit agency and rescue facility for horses that focuses on retraining and rehoming retired Standardbred racehorses. The facility hosts in-depth about the Standardbred breed, uses, attributes of the breed and their suitability to be “re-purposed” as a 4-H project horse.

Live demonstrations of two horses, “Duke” and “Coyle” were provided to the program participants. Since many of the participants were unfamiliar with harness driving equipment, this was a very beneficial and educational component for them. Extremely helpful for those members who participate in horse knowledge events such as Hippology and/or Horse Bowl contests! Part two of our day at Sunshine Horses was a community service project. Youth and adult volunteers assisted the facility with maintenance projects of re-surfacing stalls, re-laying mats, cleaning out water buckets, mucking stalls and more.

Conservation Field Days

4-H Educators participated in Soil and Water Conservation District’s Conservation Field Days, a field trip for 6th grade students at Emerson Park. The students were able to rotate through a variety of stations. 4-H hosted two stations. First, “Do you eat like a cow?” a nutrition exercise highlighting the similarities and differences of cattle and human nutrition. Students were able to make a trail mix with different ingredients which represented different nutrients. The second station was a “Decay Buffet,” a composting activity. Students were able to make their own compost out of materials surrounding them at the park. Students learned that compost is an alternative to throwing away food scraps that helps their environment and allows them to create nutrient rich soil!

4-H Horse Show

Cayuga County 4-H members participated in our qualifying 4-H Horse Show which was held on one day this year, Sunday, July 17th, at Rose-Lan Farms in Aurelius. Due to lack of infrastructure; the horse show cannot take place in conjunction with the 4-H Youth Fair and Remember the Big Six events. We are very thankful and appreciative to Rose-Lan Farms and the owners, Rose Ann and Lance Winter, for their hospitality. In total, there were 19 youth who participated in the show. Of those 19 youth, there were 9 who qualified to participate in the 2017 NYS Fair 4-H Horse Shows. Congratulations to all participants!

Youth Tractor Safety Certification

Tractor Safety Certification for Youths (ages 14—16) continues to be offered by CCE Cayuga each spring. Doug LaFave is an ongoing instructor of the program. This past spring, his daughter Kelsey, along with 10 other students, completed her Tractor Safety Certification for Youth and is now certified to safely operate ag equipment on her family’s farm, or use her certificate to obtain work off the farm.
Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
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AG LITERACY WEEK
Almost 500 elementary school students from eight schools throughout Cayuga County were introduced to agriculture during March’s 2017 Ag Literacy Week. Volunteers throughout Cayuga County read this year’s selection, The Grapes Grow Sweet: A Child’s First Family Grape Harvest written by Lynne Tuft and Illustrated by Tessa DeCarlo to school children from kindergarten up to third grade. Books were then donated to the school library.

Thank you to the Cayuga County Farm Bureau who has been a generous benefactor for the Ag Literacy Program in Cayuga County for purchasing and donating the books for Ag Literacy Week.

This project is in cooperation with Cayuga County Farm Bureau and our volunteers.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS
Agriculture and Food Policy Council
Auburn Enlarged School District
Auburn Housing Authority
Booker T. Washington Community Center
Cayuga Community Health Network
Cayuga County Dept. of Planning & Economic Development
Cayuga County Farm Bureau
Cayuga County Parks Department
Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program
Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES
Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange Incorporated
Finger Lakes Eat Smart New York
New York State Dept. of Ag & Markets
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
New York Sea Grant
NUCOR Steel
Remember the Big 6 Picnic & Country Youth Fair
Tractor Supply Co. Auburn
Ward W. O’Hara Agriculture & Country Living Museum & Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center
Water Quality Management Agency
Willman Fund