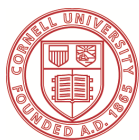


Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

2014 Annual Report 2015 Calendar





Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

Education Center
5657 State Route 5
Herkimer, NY 13350-3516
t. 315 866-7920
f. 315 866-0870
e. herkimer@cornell.edu
www.cce.cornell.edu/herkimer

Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension,

It seems like only yesterday when I began here as Executive Director at CCE Herkimer County. Just that quickly 13 years have elapsed. After having worked in three New York counties in Cornell Cooperative Extension, I would like to say that I have never worked with a better staff, Board of Directors, county officials and our great group of volunteers. Take a look at our programs this past year. They are numerous, diverse and meaningful to our county citizens, both youth and adults. The results speak for themselves.

As we enter yet another year of Extension programming, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the staff on their work and I hope you take the time to peruse our annual report and call us if you have any questions. On behalf of the staff and our CCE Herkimer Board of Directors, we wish you a happy and healthy 2015.

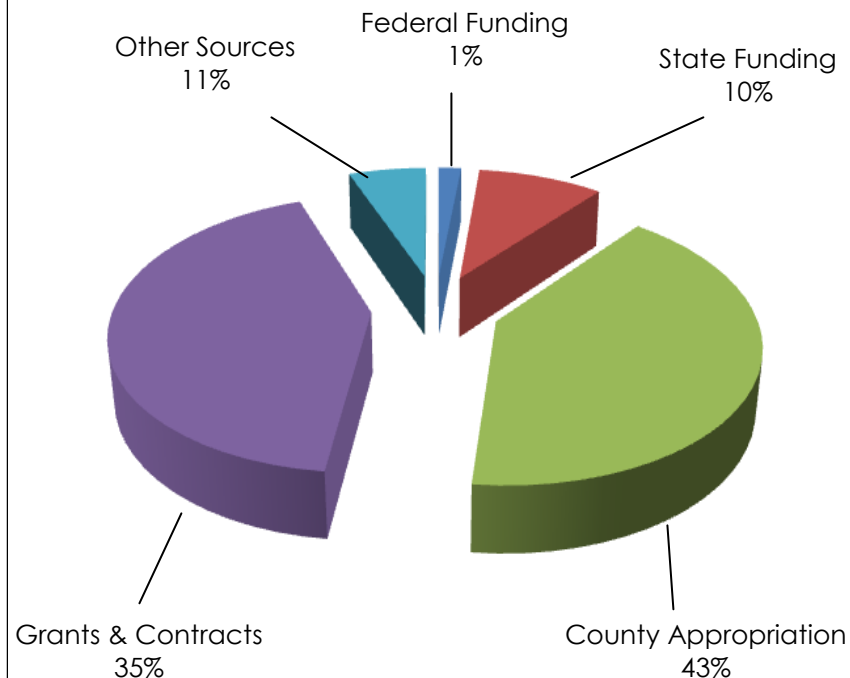
Sincerely,

Bernard M. Armata
Executive Director

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

2014 Financial Support

Federal:	7,200
State:	49,626
County:	221,556
Grants & Contracts:	181,538
Other Sources:	54,671
Total Financial Support:	514,591



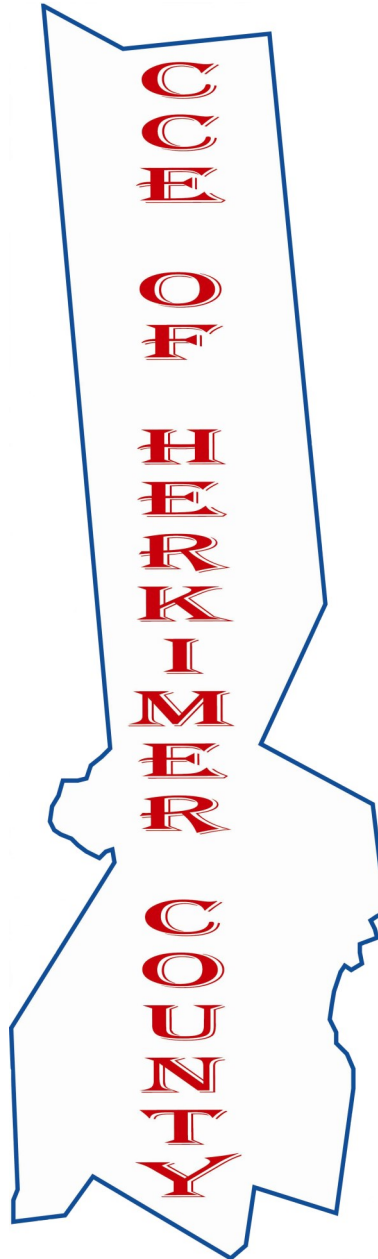
2014 Board of Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

Michael Cunningham, President
Anthony Lucenti, Vice President
Mollie Pulver*, Treasurer
Michele Florian*, Secretary
Bernie Peplinski, Legislative Rep.
Doug Bowne*
Dan Casale
Alana Connolly
Steven Entwistle, Sr.
Sarah Hardy*
Walt Lallier*
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Kim Salm*
Juli Webster

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Karen Bouchard
Doug Bowne*
Melanie Brewer
Robert Drummond
Mollie Pulver*
Kathy Smith



Human Ecology Program Committee

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William McDonald

4-H Program Committee

Nikki Bick
Suzanne Culver
Cathy Eysaman
Sarah Hardy*
Jennifer Hartsig
Elizabeth Mosher
Kim Salm*
Pat Wright

**Committee Representative
to Board of Directors*

Mohawk Valley 4-H Dairy & Livestock Show and Sale



Forty two 4-H members from Herkimer and Oneida Counties participated in the 1st Annual Mohawk Valley 4-H Dairy & Livestock Show & Sale in September at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. Participants exhibited their dairy cattle, beef cattle, dairy steers, sheep and hogs at the one day, no-fit show designed to give the 4-H members one last "fun" show of the season. Shows began with a showmanship division for each species.

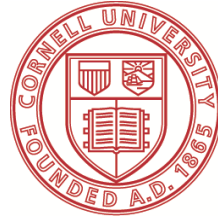


At the conclusion of the shows, seven 4-H members sold eight head of livestock including beef steers, hogs and dairy steers at the sale. Auction revenue totaled almost \$19,000 with \$5,500 of that being from second time sales which will be used to support this annual event. 4-H members will use their monies in various ways including purchasing new market animals for next year's auction, college tuition, and donations to various charities.



December

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Creating Healthy Places

CCE of Herkimer County continues as a partner in the "Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play" (CHP) grant from the NYS Department of Health through Herkimer County HealthNet. In year five, the "Herkimer County Local Foods Map" was updated with 62 farms listed along with nine Farmers Markets. Five thousand copies were distributed at 71 locations.

2014
Herkimer County
Local Foods
Map



The Country Store in Salisbury Center and Norway General Store in Newport, local convenience stores in rural areas of Herkimer County, continued with the project to increase the amount of vegetables they sell in their stores. Each store chose three vegetables to feature during specific months of the year. While a vegetable was featured in each store, the information on the CHP store displays matched the featured vegetable. CHP store displays were improved this year with large, brightly colored and attractive photos of vegetables. Herkimer County Produce Cycle brochures were placed on the display monthly to educate shoppers, along with healthy recipe cards that included the featured vegetable.

Herkimer County Farmers' Market Managers and local food vendors of the markets attended an end-of-season workshop presented by CCE. Market Managers had an opportunity to share market successes and challenges for the 2014 season and learn new ideas to

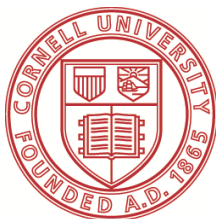
try in the future. Local food vendors from the markets joined the workshop to learn about a variety of successful marketing ideas and practices. Response from Market Managers and vendors was positive. Managers noted the importance of meeting with other Market Managers to get new ideas.



Creating Healthy Places (CHP) summer intern, Shae-Leigh Paparella-Voorhees interviewed Farmers Market Managers and local food farmers/vendors to prepare a report to summarize farmers' market accomplishments, identify gaps, and plan sustainability projects after the CHP grant ends in 2015.

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Herkimer County

March

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February 2015

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4-H Government Intern Program

The 4-H Government Intern Program is sponsored by the Herkimer County Legislature and administered by the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Twelfth grade students from all Herkimer County school districts are invited to participate each semester in exploring current issues confronting county government and learning more about the functions of county government through its committee system. Numerous county employees and elected officials assist in delivering insights, which enhance this educational opportunity. Forty-five students from seven school districts participated in the spring and fall sessions this year.

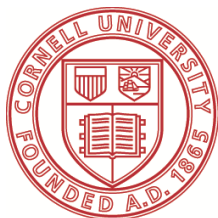
Forty students from seven Herkimer County school districts visited Albany in April as a culmination of the Government Intern Program. The trip was chaperoned by CVA teacher Karen Guidi, Town of Webb teacher Tim Leach, and Cornell Cooperative Extension staff.

Upon arrival at the State Capital, the students visited the Court of Appeals, had a tour of the Capitol, and were welcomed by Senator James Seward, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Senator Hugh Farley and Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi. After having dialogue regarding current issues confronting Herkimer County and New York State, the group then visited the Corning Tower and the New York State Museum.



February

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April

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Agriculture

Although the weather cooperated this past year, we still received dozens of calls from Herkimer County homeowners inquiring about garden safety after last years' flooding. For the most part, we recommended raised-bed gardens if there was a doubt about ground contamination.

Once again, educator Bernie Armata spent the summer scouting for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), an important insect pest of ripe fruit. The scouting locations of West Winfield, Higby Hill and Herkimer produced no positive specimens this year. However, we did learn that the SWD had spread to neighboring counties. On a statewide level, this insect has been found nearly everywhere.



2014 was a year for the four-county Master Gardener classes held at the Presbyterian Church in Cooperstown. We had 28 potential Master Gardeners take the intensive 10 week course taught by local gardeners and CCE staff. Our segment of the course included pesticides and nuisance animal control. The Master Gardeners then are able to assist CCE staff in handling phone calls and participating in horticultural events within their respective counties.

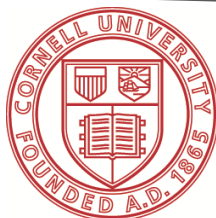


Fortunately, the weather held for our "Family Day at the Farm" event in Manheim. An estimated 2000 attendees saw demonstrations on horseshoeing, dairy cattle, and natural resources. Fun events included horse-drawn wagon rides and contests for the youngsters.

It was a different story for the Garlic and Herb Festival in September as the rain moved in, but it nevertheless drew an excellent crowd of over 2000 with over 70 vendors and performances by local entertainers. This event has become a genuine staple of the Mohawk Valley with growth that may soon exceed the space available at Canal Place in Little Falls.

March

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May

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4-H Youth Development

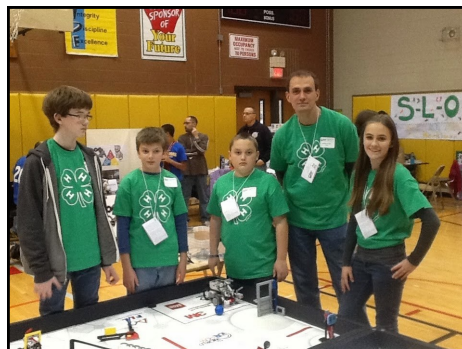
In 2014, the CCE Herkimer County 4-H Program reached over 4,500 youth throughout the county. These youth were served through the traditional 4-H Club program, school enrichment, day camps, special interest and independent study. The 4-H program is only able to operate because of the help of over 350 dedicated volunteers.



There are 18 4-H clubs with 204 members and 44 independent 4-H members located throughout Herkimer County. All 4-H members are encouraged to take part in community service activities in various ways. These include participating in the Kids Heart Run and Walk, volunteering at the Herkimer County Humane Society, bake sales to benefit Strides Against Breast Cancer, visiting nursing homes.

Workshops were offered for sewing and gardening. Members learned to use a sewing machine, follow a pattern and use their creativity. Ten children's blankets were made by 4-H members at the sewing clinic and donated to the Project Linus Herkimer County Chapter to be distributed to hospitals and shelters.

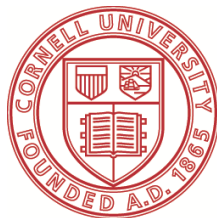
Several 4-H members performed cooking demonstrations and helped fair-goers make star charts and constellations in the Youth Building during the Herkimer County Fair.



A new robotics 4-H club was formed this year and participated in demonstrations at the Herkimer County Fair and were awarded a blue ribbon in the New York State Fair 4-H Robotics' Challenge. Named Club S.T.E.M. (short for science, technology, engineering and mathematics), they are catering to three different age groups and are expanding robotics in Herkimer County.

April

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CNY Dairy & Field Crops Team

Education Emphasize Modernizing Dairy Facilities

As dairy farms look to the future, they need to find cost-effective ways they can grow their businesses and increase efficiency. Dr. David Kammel, Professor of Agricultural Building Design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was the featured speaker at both the 2014 Dairy Day (Cooperstown) and also the regional Dairy Winter Management School at Ballston Spa. Kammel discussed options for low cost milking parlors and how to economically budget the transitions from tie-stall to free-stall with a low-cost parlor. Dave Balbian covered the low cost pit milking parlors topic at Morrisville and Middletown Winter Dairy Management Schools.

The 2014 Dairy Day also emphasized how profitable dairy farms make money and the economics and farm experiences of robotic milkers. This annual event attracted nearly 120 people and included a trade show.

For many smaller dairy farms to continue operation by the next generation, additional income is frequently needed. Often the value of the farm makes up a substantial portion of the older generation's retirement. To buy the farm and to have their own income, this most often means that the farm needs to grow in size.

Smaller herds have historically been housed in tie-stall barns, while farms with larger herds have invested in free stall housing along with a milking parlor for the increased labor efficiency. Making the transition from tie-stall to a free stall/parlor can be difficult. It's not a change for everyone.

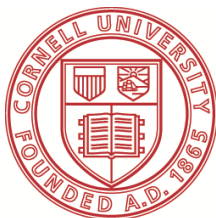
Some farms have done the transition in stages. Others have made the change via a low cost approach by using welding shop parlors, used equipment, and by placing the parlor in the old tie-stall barn building. Some have built totally new complexes.

To highlight how others have made this change work for them, team dairy management specialist, Dave Balbian, organized an "open house/drive-it-yourself tour" of twelve dairy farms in the team region. It was a day that was open to farmers, their advisors, and their families to talk to others who have made this change.



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4-H Youth Development



Throughout the year, 4-H members participate in horse, dairy cattle, sheep, beef cattle, dairy goat, rabbit and poultry projects by attending clinics and various shows on the county, regional, state, and national levels. 4-H members also participate in animal quiz bowls, challenges and judging contests. Twenty members from Herkimer, Oneida, and Madison Counties participated in a regional clinic where they learned how to prepare their chickens and rabbits for show and how to present them to the judge.



4-H clubs celebrated National 4-H Week by constructing displays in their communities. The theme for 2014 was “#iam4-H.”

To celebrate New York “Ag Literacy Day 2014,” the book “Who Grew My Soup” by Tom Darbyshire was read to every second grade class in Herkimer County and then donated to the school library. This was made possible by Herkimer County Farm Bureau. After reading the book the children discussed where food for their soup comes from.



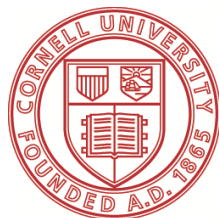
Thirty-three Herkimer County 4-H members exhibited dairy cattle, beef, swine, dairy goats, and sheep at the 67th Annual Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show in Cooperstown. 4-H members also exhibited projects and animals at both the Herkimer County Fair and the New York State Fair.

Many of our club members participated in Public Presentation events throughout the 4-H year. Three Herkimer County members went on to the District Public Presentation event in Rome.



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CNY Dairy & Field Crops Team

Spring Forage Quality Monitoring

For the past 11 years, the Central New York Dairy and Field Crops team has monitored the quality of first-cutting hay crop in the field to give producers a better idea of when they should begin harvest. Producers are emailed the results within the day of measuring so they can make important management decisions. Each year we receive more requests to be emailed the results of this monitoring. This year we tracked 67 fields in the teams region, and worked with Madison County CCE staff as well. In 2014 there was a 7-day difference between locations when first cutting should begin.



Malting barley for a growing local brewing industry

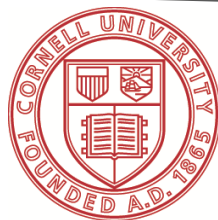
Recent legislation creating a farm brewery license that requires locally produced ingredients has been behind an increased interest in malting barley. The CNY Dairy and Field Crops Team has partnered with the Cornell Small Grains Project to conduct variety testing on 20 spring barley varieties and 20 winter barley varieties for two locations for two years with funding provided by the NY Farm Viability Institute.



This summer a field day was held in Sprout Brook at Inverness Farm that hosted one of the variety trial locations. The 35 attendees got to see winter and spring varieties plus learn more about diseases that affect malting barley.

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Farm Family Assistance Project



2014 marked the sixteenth year of a unique partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Herkimer County, NY FarmNet, and Herkimer County Mental Health. The purpose of the collaboration has been to provide improved support and assistance to the Herkimer County farm community affected by the stresses of operating a farm business and farm life.

In February, over 40 area farm families from nine counties attended the “So You Bought the Farm...Now What?” workshop which featured an overview of how to maintain land value and assess potential for agricultural production. Breakout sessions on starting your agricultural enterprise included small and large livestock, horses, fruits and vegetables, greenhouse and nursery operations and various aspects of forestry.

In September, NY FarmNet had a booth at the Central NY Farm Progress Show where over 8,000 people attended the two-day event, showcasing a variety of farm services and programs (over 100 exhibitors this year). Staff from the Dispute Resolution Center of Herkimer County Agricultural Mediation Program at Catholic Charities assisted with the booth reaching over 150 farm families.



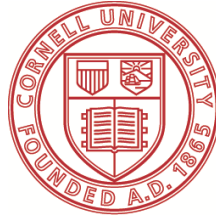
In November, 30 farm families attended “Basic Life Planning for Farm Families” in Little Falls. Lorraine Lewandrowski, Esq. Agricultural and Food Law Attorney, shared information on “getting your affairs in order” to keep your farm in business. Discussion and examples included wills, living wills, health care proxy, power of attorney, along with title considerations for your farm, important documents to have including abstract of title, satisfaction of mortgage documents, and more. Information on health insurance options was shared by Health Insurance Navigators from Bassett Healthcare Network as part of the NY State of Health Marketplace.



NY FarmNet is available at 1-800-547-FARM (3276). A 24-hour, 7 day a week answering service is available and is free and confidential. Their website is www.nyfarmnet.org

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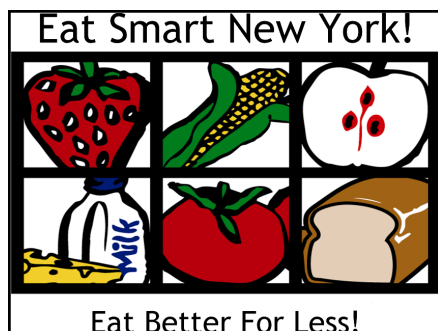
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Eat Smart NY



A continuing nutrition education effort this year through “Eat Smart NY” involved working with local grocery stores that redeem at least \$50,000 per month in SNAP benefits (Food Stamps). Informational displays highlighting increasing vegetable and fruit consumption, reducing sugary beverages, and stretching food dollars were

shared at Herkimer Walmart, Dolgeville Big M, and Ilion Aldi's each month. Tasting samples and recipes were shared with consumers. Over 250 consumers were reached each month through these efforts.

.....

“Rethink Your Drink” presentations were shared at Morning Programs in Little Falls, Mount Markham, and Dolgeville Elementary Schools; After-School Programs in Little Falls, Mohawk and Ilion, and ten Physical



Education classes K – 7 in Poland. Over 1200 children, staff, and parents have been reached with information on ways to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages.

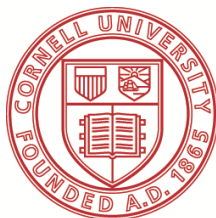
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“Rethink Your Drink” programs were also presented by nutrition staff at 8 summer youth programs in Little Falls, Ilion, Poland, Cold Brook, Mohawk, Herkimer and West Winfield reaching 279 youth and staff.



September

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Cornell University
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November

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4-H Youth Development

Capital Days is a two-day event where two delegates from each NYS county meet in Albany for a government awareness program. The goals of this program are to achieve a better understanding of the scope of NYS government; to gain a better understanding of our county as it relates to NYS; and to provide the opportunity for delegates to meet with their NY State Legislators.

Youth from across the state participated in the Agri-Business Career Conference. This is a two-day conference held in Cobleskill is sponsored by 4-H, New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education, and SUNY Cobleskill. In Herkimer County, the Central New York Farm Progress Show helps offset the cost by donating money for Herkimer County youth to attend.

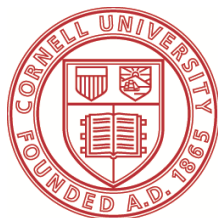


The 4-H Earn-a-Calf Program, which is also sponsored by the CNY Farm Progress Show, provides one youth with \$500 toward the purchase of a calf to give them an opportunity to own and show a purebred dairy animal.

The 4-H program reached over 2,000 youth through school enrichment programs such as, Farm/Home Safety Day Camp (for 5th grade students), Conservation Field Day (for 6th grade students), the Government Intern Program (for high school seniors), and Ag Literacy Day (2nd grade students).

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Cornell University
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December

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November 2015

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Holiday Greetings from the Staff at CCE



Bernard Armata
Executive Director/Agriculture



Linda Robbins
Assistant Director/Nutrition



Jill Turner
Creating Healthy Places



Kevin Gano, *Field Crop Management*
David Balbian, *Dairy Management*
CNY Dairy & Field Crops Team



Jennifer Collins & Wendy Richardson
4-H Program



Barbara Johnson
Rachel Shaver
Administrative Assistants

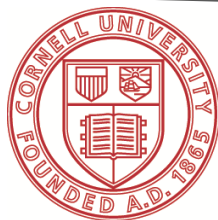
Veronique Stormes
Finance Administrator



Lorrie Serow & Valerie Gay
Nutrition Staff

November

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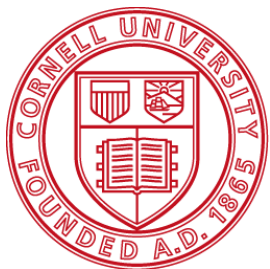
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January

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December 2015

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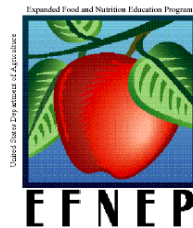


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Mission Statement

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.