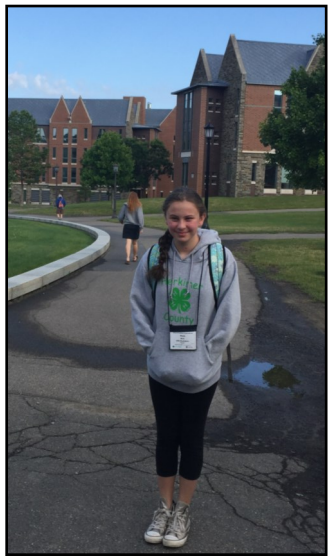
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County



2017 Annual Report ~ 2018 Calendar

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

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Dear Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension,

As you peruse our 2017 Annual report, you will see the names and photos of our staff members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their excellent work on behalf of the Association. These include Linda Robbins, our nutrition specialist and nutrition grants coordinator; Jenn Collins, our 4-H Youth Development animal science educator and 4-H senior staff member. Wendy Richardson is our 4-H program aide and has done a great job in implementing yearly activities and special 4-H projects along with the 4-H Government Intern Program. Rounding out the program staff are nutrition educators Lorrie Serow and Valerie Gay. Of course, Herkimer is a member of the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Regional Team. We are home to Kevin Ganoe, field crops specialist and Ashley McFarland, regional livestock educator. The people who enable our programs to be effective are our support team which includes Veronique Stormes as finance manager, Barb Johnson, our IT specialist and office work coordinator; and Ashley Sommer, our newest employee. Ashley is our receptionist and hers is the first voice you will hear when calling the office and the first person you will most likely see if you stop by. Each of our people is highly regarded by not only our own Herkimer County clients but also by neighboring counties and on the state level. Take a look at their program efforts and accomplishments in this report.

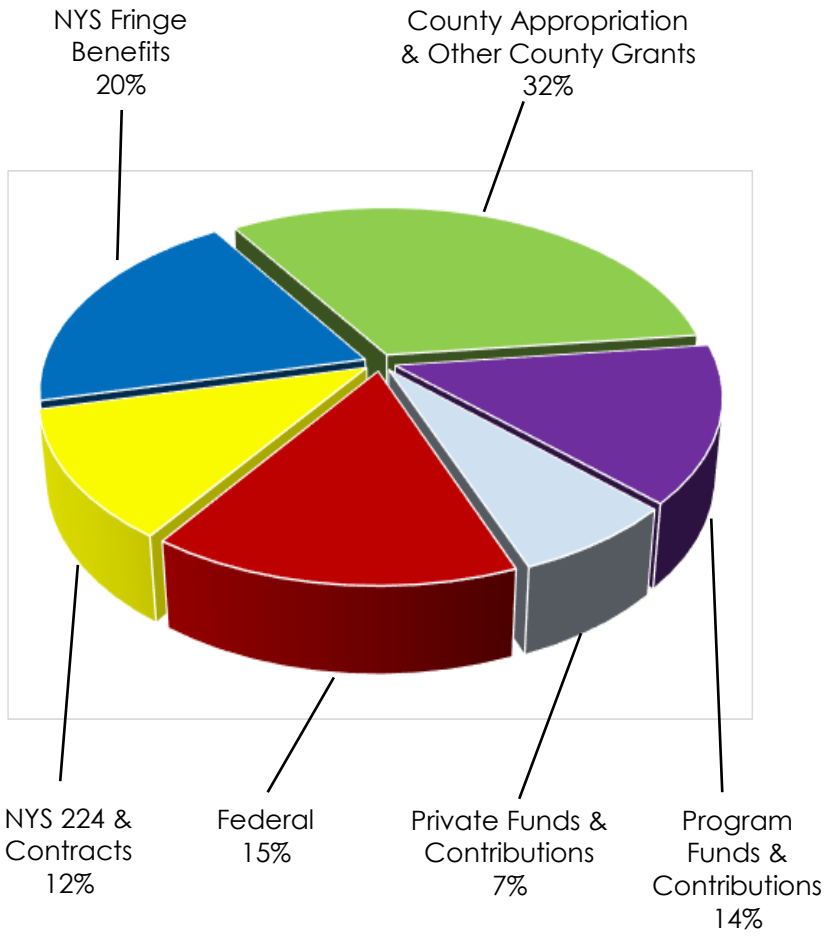
Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all,

Bernard M. Armata
Executive Director

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

2017
Financial Support



2017 Board of Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

Steven Entwistle, Sr., President
Alana Connolly, Vice President
Donna Salamone, Treasurer
Nikki Bick*, Secretary
Bernie Peplinski, Legislative Rep.
Amanda Aiello*
Patricia Bunnelle*
Robert Drummond*
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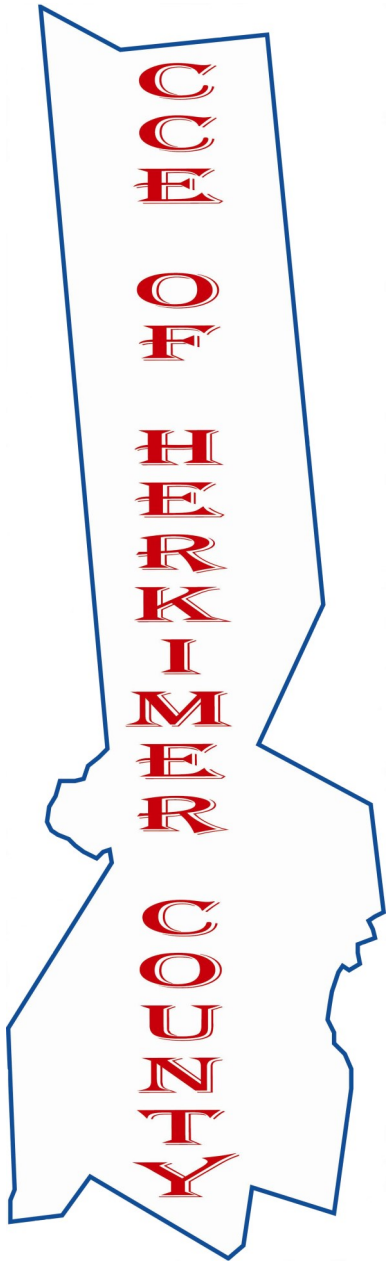
Sarah Hardy*
Crystal Hein*
Ray Hulten
Robert Pescatore
Maureen Petrie
Jordan Purinton
Deb Windecker

Agricultural Program Committee

Melanie Brewer
Patricia Bunnelle*
Robert Drummond*
Kathy Smith
Ted Teletnick



Human Ecology Program Committee

Amanda Aiello*
Cory Cooley
Crystal Hein*
Linda Lamb
Robert Maxwell
Jessica Murphy-Armstrong
Diane Ward

4-H Program Committee

Nikki Bick*
Kim Creater
Cathy Eysaman
Sarah Hardy*
Jennifer Hartsig
Ashley McFarland
Brian Young

**Committee Representative to Board of Directors*

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. Eighteen students from five school districts participated in the spring and fall sessions this year.

Fifteen students from four Herkimer County school districts visited Albany in May as a culmination of the Government Intern Program. The trip was chaperoned by teachers Karen Guidi (CVA), Tim Leach (Town of Webb), Herkimer County Legislator Peter Manno and Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Program Educator Wendy Richardson.

The students had a tour of the Capitol, visited the Court of Appeals and were welcomed by Senator James Seward and Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi. After having dialogue regarding current issues confronting Herkimer County and New York State, the group then visited the NYS Museum.

DECEMBER 2017

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

FEBRUARY

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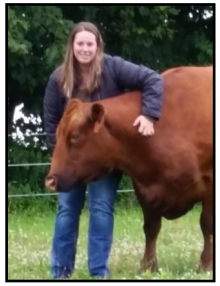
CNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team



Livestock Specialist Added to the Team

Ashley McFarland was hired as the Regional Livestock Specialist in April. She has since spent a lot of time going to beef, sheep, swine and goat farms to meet livestock producers and responding to requests for information. She held twilight beef meetings, focusing on how to market this year's calves, what producers can do to get through times of low prices and finishing animals.

Central New York Dairy Day

Dairy reproduction was the main focus of this year's Dairy Day held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in March. Featured speakers were Dr. Julio Giordano and Dr. Tom Overton, both from Cornell University. The over 100 in attendance were also able to interact with vendors at a trade show.

Winter Dairy Management

This year's Winter Dairy Management focused on lameness in dairy cattle with a meeting in Richfield Springs and a second date at Ballston Spa with a WebEx version of this program. This is part of a road show series that PRO-Dairy coordinates and Dave Balbian serves on the planning committee. Approximately fifty attended.

Dairy Acceleration Program-waiting for udate

The Dairy Acceleration Program, under Governor Cuomo's leadership, and in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation looks to assist farms with planning for the future. Since the program began, the team has provided facilitation for 19 dairy farms that received funding. This past year 5 farms have done business plans and four of the five are working on environmental improvement plans. Three of these five farms are now building new barns.

New York Farm Viability Institute Income Over Feed Cost Grant-waiting for update

Dave Balbian continues to lead this grant with three groups of seven producers focusing on improving dairy farm profitability. Each farm provides information so a series of benchmarks can be calculated to show the feeding performance on their farm. The producer groups then meet and use their own info on feeding performance and costs in the same format as other participants allowing for easier and more useful discussions.

JANUARY

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

MARCH

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February 2018

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Agriculture/Horticulture/ Home Grounds

By any standard 2017 was a late and wet year in every respect. In the fields, hay was mowed and baled in only brief windows of good weather. Only a two week dry spell in August allowed farmers to salvage a second or third cutting. Other crops fared similarly with corn also chopped late. In the homes and gardens arena, some vegetables seemed to be affected more than others with many calls about potatoes and tomatoes not growing well enough to harvest, while other reports had beans and squash doing quite well.

This year CCE experienced some new agricultural highlights with the youth program instituted by Herkimer and adjoining BOCES called "Farming Your Future". This collaborative event featured over 50 exhibitor agricultural occupations at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in May. Over 1,100 youth from nearby schools learned about animal husbandry, tractor mechanics, horticulture, beekeeping, hops production, maple syrup, construction and even drone piloting. We look forward to more "FYF" coming in 2018.

Another landmark for Herkimer County agriculture was reached when the Mt. Markham school district introduced an agricultural curriculum in the high school. This will make Mt. Markham the only school in Herkimer County with a NYS FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter. The students started right off with several learning experiences including woodworking, soil composition and hydroponics. Under the guidance of Eric Bugbee we expect to see more great things from the students in the future.

The outlook for agriculture in Herkimer County is very good. People are more interested than ever before in growing their own food and learning more about food production and safety and the addition to the CCE Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops team of Ashley McFarland, a livestock specialist, adds to the CCE resources our county farmers and landowners can count on.

FEBRUARY

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

APRIL

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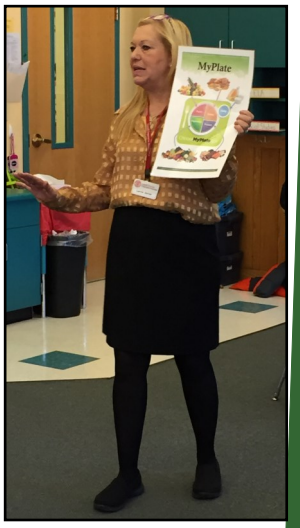
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

During 2017, 136 families representing 568 family members participated in a 6-8 session series of nutrition education through EFNEP. 92% improved in at least one behavior construct. 68% showed improvement in one or more food resource management practice (i.e. plan meals, compare prices, does not run out of food, or uses a grocery list). 82% showed improvement in one or more nutrition practices (i.e. make healthy food choices, prepares food without adding salt, reads nutrition labels, or has children eat breakfast).



Comments from graduates about what they learned from EFNEP include: "Better eating habits, less fast food, more fruits and vegetables, less soda and more water"; "Saving more money, eating healthy, more active"; "Trying new recipes, preparing better meals for the week, reading labels, budgeting monthly food spending, active more"; "I loved the program…it has taught me more about food choices"; "I try to use a grocery list every time I go shopping"; "Started eating healthier and spending less on junk food".

Staff also worked with 103 youth in 6 groups with the 6-session "Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness" curriculum at Dolgeville Summer School Program, Benton Hall Academy Grade 5 science classes and Jarvis Middle School Grade 6 Health Class.

Networking with County Departments and community agencies continues as a high priority for visibility and marketing of EFNEP efforts. Referral networks have been established with DSS (including Herkimer County Employment and Training Employment Readiness Program), Herkimer County WIC Program, Catholic Charities of Herkimer County (including all the food pantries in the county), Herkimer County BOCES (including the Family Literacy Zone), Public Health (including Healthy Families Program), Arc Herkimer (including Valley Commons program), Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central NY (Herkimer office), and Bassett Healthcare Herkimer.

MARCH

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

MAY

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4-H Youth Development

There are eleven active 4-H clubs with 219 members and 41 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 parades, caroling, bake sales for fire departments and scholarship funds. Members also cleaned up watersheds, read for Ag Literacy week, sewed Christmas stockings for HomeLife at Folts-Claxton, cleaned up cemeteries, donated food & supplies to the Herkimer County Humane Society, and raised money for the Feed our Vets program.

Several 4-H members participated in the smoothie challenge in the youth building at the Herkimer County Fair. Teams competed against each other to create a great tasting and nutritious smoothie that was then judged by their peers. There were demonstrations and make-and-takes each day of the county fair.

4-H'ers showed their creative side at a canvas painting workshop, learning to create a birch trees scene; and a cake decorating workshop where they learned the basics of working with fondant. Many items on display at the fairs were a result of these workshops. 4-H members also improved their horticulture knowledge with a seed starter workshop, a composting workshop and participation in the Utica Zoo Garden Project.

APRIL

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

JUNE

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Local Foods in Herkimer County

CCE of Herkimer County continues to promote local foods through the "Herkimer County Local Foods Map." In 2017, 58 farms were listed on the map along with nine farmers' markets. Five thousand copies were distributed at over 80 organizations and businesses in Herkimer County. Funding for this map was provided in part through a grant from Herkimer County Mental Health through the Farm Family Assistance Project and the Herkimer County Office for Aging.

Eating locally grown and raised foods increases awareness of where your food comes from, local growing seasons, and the importance of supporting local agriculture. Local foods are fresher and more nutritious than foods that have traveled many miles and days to get to your table.

When you buy direct from local farmers, your dollars stay within your community and strengthens the local economy. This helps preserve farming as a livelihood and rural landscapes as farmland in Herkimer County.

To view an online version of this map, please visit http://blogs.cornell.edu/cceherkimer/programs/nutrition-programs/herkimer-county-local-foods-map/

CCE also coordinated pre- and post-season meetings for Herkimer County Farmers' Market Managers who shared market plans, successes, and challenges for the 2017 season and discussed ideas for the 2018 season.

MAY

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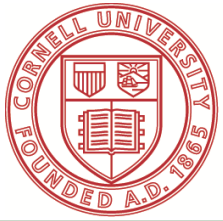

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

JULY

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June 2018

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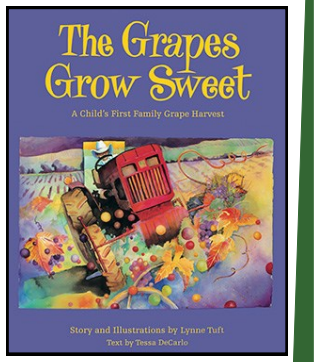
4-H Youth Development

Throughout the year, 4-H members participate in horse, dairy cattle, sheep, beef cattle, dairy goat, swine, poultry and rabbit 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.



To celebrate New York "Ag Literacy Day 2017," the book "The Grapes Grow Sweet" by Lynne Tuft and illustrated by Tessa DeCarlo, was read to second grade classes in Herkimer County and then donated to the school library. This was made possible by the Herkimer County Farm Bureau. After reading the book, the children sampled grape juice.

4-H clubs celebrated National 4-H Week by constructing displays in their communities. The theme for 2017 was "4-H Grows Sustainable Communities."

Seventy-two members participated in Public Presentation events throughout the 4-H year. Four Herkimer County members went on to the District Public Presentation event in Oriskany and all four received blue ribbons.

Forty-three Herkimer County 4-H members exhibited dairy cattle, beef, swine, dairy goats, and sheep at the 70th 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.

JUNE

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

AUGUST

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July 2018

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CNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

Pre-Harvest Corn Silage Meetings

Corn silage makes up 30 to 70 percent of the forage fed on most dairy farms. It is a valuable feed stuff that must be harvested and stored properly to maintain its quality. Dave Balbian & Kevin Ganoe put on a series of clinics with 35 people attending. These hands-on sessions demonstrated to growers how to assess: dry matter content for proper storage, desired particle size and effective kernel processing.

Corn Day

The Corn Day was held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in February. Keynote speaker of this year's program was Dr. Margaret Smith, Professor of Plant Breeding, Cornell University, whose talk "Genetically Engineered Crops & Pest Management: Silver Bullet or Just Another Tool in the Toolbox?" was well received. The over 100 in attendance learned more about perennial weed control, choosing corn silage hybrids based on Cornell's corn silage hybrid testing program and western bean cutworm control.

Spring Forage Quality

For the past 14 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. Alfalfa height is a good indicator of alfalfa and grass quality. The 2017 haycrop was ahead of the 2016 first cutting.

Field Crop Pest Management Meetings

Kevin Ganoe conducted meetings at all of the CCE offices in the region to review pest management problems from 2016 and highlight areas of pest control field crop growers need to consider in the future. Ken Wise, Eastern New York State Extension Livestock and Field Crops IPM Specialist, added his expertise dicussing insect pest problems found in Central NY. The ninety-six in attendance also received DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits which are needed to maintain their licenses.

Scouting Program for Soybean Producers

The team worked with nine soybean growers to scout soybean fields for insects and disease. Summer intern Danielle Ricci, from Cazenovia Collage, besides monitoring fields for pests, took soil tests and estimated plant populations and residue cover. The field data will be summarized and presented to the growers in December at a follow-up meeting.

JULY

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

SEPTEMBER

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Mohawk Valley 4-H Livestock Show and Sale

Ten 4-H members from Herkimer and Oneida Counties participated in the 4th Annual Mohawk Valley 4-H Livestock Show and Sale in September at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. Participants exhibited their beef cattle, hogs and lamb 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, three beef steers, four market hogs, one lamb and five lots of meat chickens were sold at the auction. Revenues totaled almost $14,000 with $4,600 of that being from second time sales which will be used to support this annual event. 4-H members will use their revenues in various ways including purchasing new market animals for next year's auction, college tuition, and donations to various charities.

AUGUST

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

OCTOBER

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Farm Family Assistance Project

2017 marked the eighteenth 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.

Two farmers interested in offering a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Fair in Herkimer County approached Cornell Cooperative Extension for help in planning the Fair. CCE recruited additional farmers to help; coordinated planning meetings and assisted with publicity to recruit CSA farms to participate in the Fair along with interested consumers to attend the Fair. From this evolved the first Herkimer County CSA Fair that was held on Saturday March 18 from 11 am – 1 pm at the Travelodge in Little Falls. Five CSA farms shared information on their CSA shares available with over 30 consumers in attendance.

Funds from this project also helped support the printing of the "2017 Herkimer County Local Foods Map". Five thousand copies were distributed at over 70 organizations and businesses in Herkimer County. See "Local Foods" page in June for more details.

In September, NY FarmNet had a booth at the Central NY Farm Progress Show where over 6,000 people attended the two-day event, showcasing a variety of farm services and programs (nearly 100 exhibitors this year). Staff from Herkimer County Catholic Charities Mediation and Dispute Resolution Program and the NYS Agricultural Mediation office assisted with the booth reaching over 100 farm familes.

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. Website is www.nyfarmnet.org

NY FarmNet
Moving your farm & family forward

SEPTEMBER

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

NOVEMBER

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October 2018

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4-H Youth Development

In 2017, the CCE Herkimer County 4-H Program reached over 2,000 youth throughout the county. These youth were served through the traditional 4-H Club program, day camps, special interest, indepenent study and 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). The 4-H program is able to operate with the help of over 350 dedicated volunteers.

Over 50 youth from across the state participated in the Agri-Business Career Conference. This is a two-day conference held in Cobleskill 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.

Herkimer County 4-H'ers teamed up with the Utica Zoo to grow vegetables for the zoo animals. 4-H members and volunteers built two more raised bed gardens, planted, weeded and maintained them all season. The six gardens yielded catnip, sunflowers, lettuce, kale, squash, green beans, pumpkins and sweet potatoes that were fed to the zoo animals. Participants harvested the produce throughout the summer and fall, and are planning for next season!

OCTOBER

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

DECEMBER

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November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Holiday greetings from all of us!

Bernard Armata
Executive Director/Agriculture

Linda Robbins
Assistant Director/Nutrition

Jennifer Collins
Wendy Richardson
4-H Program

Lorrie Serow & Valerie Gay
EFNEP Nutrition Staff

David Balbian, *Dairy Management*
Ashley McFarland, *Livestock*
Kevin Ganoe, *Field Crop*
CNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

Sue Elliott
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Staff

Veronique Stormes
Finance Administrator
Ashley Sommer
Barbara Johnson
Administrative Assistants

NOVEMBER

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County

JANUARY

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December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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.