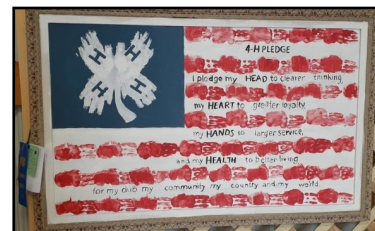
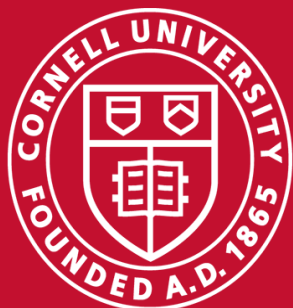


Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County



Fall Newsletter



Mission Statement:

"The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work."

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October 2021

Fall is in the air, with leaves turning their seasonal shades of red and yellow and then floating to the ground. Youth education is an important part of our mission and this is the season when CCE's educators are busy planning the year's educational activities to engage learners throughout Herkimer County. Our youth education programs serve learners from children through college students to learn a variety of practical skills to help support individual well-being and community vitality.

- 4-H is the largest national positive youth development and youth mentoring organization. Here in Herkimer County it involves both community 4-H groups, school based programs and individual 4-H members pursuing interests in livestock management and showmanship. 4-H activities this Fall vary from growing and harvesting vegetables at the Utica Zoo for the animals to exploring agricultural careers with other regional 4-Hers at SUNY Cobleskill.
- Agriculture in the Classroom brings important lessons in science, math and history to school children while learning about the importance of farming to Herkimer County schools. As part of this initiative we are hosting a Teacher Education Workshop on April 29th, 2022, as well as Ag Literacy week in March 2022.
- College internships. Each year we host students from colleges in our office to help support our mission-based activities while they learn from practicing professionals. The internships vary according to the interest of the student but tend to focus on agriculture, nutrition and youth services. Herkimer College, Cornell University and Russell Sage College are amongst the home institutions of some of our interns.

Our educational programs exist only with community support that includes the 4-H volunteers who donate many hours of their time to the program. Partial financial support comes from a variety of sources including Slocum Dickson Foundation, Stewart's Shops, and Tractor Supply Company.

Sincerely,

Garet D. Livermore
Executive Director

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Thirteen Herkimer County 4-H members participated in the 73rd Annual Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show held in Cooperstown in July. The show looked a little different this year but was still able to test the handlers' ability to present their animals to their fullest potential. Herkimer County youth had an amazing three days at the show. Kudos to all of the participants on a job well done. Herkimer County took home some top honors with the Master Beef Showman, Champion Steer, and Champion Heifer which was also named Supreme Beef and ultimately won the F. Ambrose Livestock Cup, the highest livestock honor at the show!



EFNEP Staff participated in several community events with educational displays at the Wellness Fair for Kids at the Arc Park in Herkimer, Local Fresh Thursday Market in Little Falls, and the Ilion Food Truck Frenzy in August. They also attended Open Houses at Jarvis Middle School and Dolgeville Elementary School in September.

EFNEP staff completed the Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) certification training course (52 hour on-line training) and are part of the workgroup updating the Cornell EFNEP breastfeeding curriculum for statewide use.

This summer CCE Herkimer County worked with Cornell University's Natural Resources Department and non-profit partner, Trout Power to promote the conservation of the Adirondack cold water fisheries of Northern Herkimer County. We held public information sessions at the Adirondack Experience Museum, the WILD Center, and the Old Forge Farmers' Market. The presentations were based on the work of Cornell's Little Moose Lake Field Station in the Adirondacks that has researched the influences of pollution and climate change on Brook Trout and other species for over 75 years.



4-H was at the Beaversprite Nature Center, the conservation education center of the Utica Zoo, for workshops including building a stomp rocket, geocaching, string art and painting clovers for the planter boxes that were built as a collaboration between Herkimer County 4-H and Mt. Markham FFA. The planter boxes were used at the Herkimer County Fair as a community service project to help beautify the fair.

Twenty-five 4-H members from six 4-H clubs entered 108 non-animal exhibits in this year's Herkimer County Fair. Thirteen 4-H exhibitors had items selected to go on to the New York State Fair for the Virtual NYS Fair.



Six free Food Preservation Webinars from CCE Saratoga County were promoted locally throughout the season. Topics ranged from *'Canning Salsa and Tomatoes'* and *'Pickling'* to *'Pressure Canning Vegetables, Meats, and Soup'* to *'Making Meat Jerky'* and *'Fermenting Kombucha and Jun'* to *'Preserving Apples'*. Staff also participated in the Eastern Region Home Food Preservation Workgroup which provided opportunities to share information with other states along with updates from the National Center for Home Food Preservation. CCE purchased a Presto Testing Unit this year to test pressure canners with dial-type gauges free of charge for area consumers.





Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) staff have returned to in-person programming in homes along with groups through Arc Herkimer Valley Commons and Employment Readiness Training through the Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center with DSS clients.

The Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops (CNYDLFC) Team began holding in-person events, as well as offered virtual choices this summer, reaching over 100 farmers. Offerings included: Pigweeds & Soybean Cyst Nematodes ID & Management; Ventilation & Heat Abatement; FAMACHA Training; Hemp Grain & Fiber; No-Till Cover Crop Interseeding for Soil Health; Corn Silage Pre-Harvest; and pasture walks, farm tours.



Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County (CCE) was recently awarded a grant by the American Farmland Trust to be a Regional Navigator. CCE will dedicate staff time and share specialized local expertise to assist farmers and landowners keep farms in production by serving as advisors who apply local knowledge of regional conditions and resources to help new farmers find land and aid farmland owners or current farmers in finding someone to continue farming on their land. The grant will also support agricultural programs for the Spring of 2022 including: "Farm Real Estate Trends in the Mohawk Valley," "Evaluating Agricultural Properties" and "Co-siting of Farms with Solar Power Installations."



Herkimer County 4-H continued their work with the Utica Zoo to grow vegetables to harvest for the zoo animals. Herkimer County 4-H'ers maintained and harvested produce throughout the summer months. In turn, the volunteers receive free admission to the zoo.



Herkimer County 4-H Youth had a great week exhibiting their animals at the Herkimer County Fair, exhibiting Supreme Junior and Senior dairy cattle as well as taking home top honors in the beef and goat shows.

A Sage College Dietetic Intern completed an 80 hour Community Nutrition rotation at CCE as she works towards becoming a Registered Dietician.

4-H Youth Development Program has an intern from the Human Services Program at Herkimer College who will be completing 60 hours during the fall semester.



Upcoming Programs

The next Facebook Live series with Clinton and Broome County EFNEP starts in October with a “Fall into Healthy Eating” theme. Details are on our website at <http://bit.ly/HCEFNEP> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CCEHerkimerCounty/>

The Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team joins Farm Business Management Specialists from across the state for their virtual Farmer Tax School, beginning October 13, 2021 through January 2022. This educational series offers courses designed to inform and empower farm managers to better understand their tax obligations, management strategies, and improve farm profitability.

The 44th annual New York State 4-H Agribusiness Career Conference will be a one-day conference held on October 22 at SUNY Cobleskill. The conference is co-sponsored by NYS 4-H, the NYS Farm Bureau, and the State University at Cobleskill.

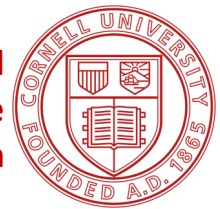
Navigating Solar Lease Agreements and the Solar Development Process: A Program for NY Farmers and Rural Landowners will be held virtually on October 26. This program will feature several live webinars presented by industry experts to help you navigate the solar development process, make informed decisions, and negotiate solar lease agreements.

To help NYS farm families start their succession planning process, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators will be utilizing a new interactive program designed by North Dakota State University Extension: Design Your Succession Plan. This program provides tools and resources for producers who want to begin the succession planning process. Thanks to support from the Herkimer County Mental Health Grant Farm Family Assistance Program, this program is offered to Herkimer County residents at a discount. This series of six webinars will begin November 2.

The 4-H Member/Volunteer Recognition Event will be held on November 3 at the German Flatts Community Center. In addition to annual awards ceremony, nutrition and craft stations will also be available.

In preparation for increased use of sheep to graze on solar farms, the CNYDLFC Team will be offering an “Introduction to Sheep Production” series and a sheep shearing workshop.

The 109th Annual Meeting of CCE of Herkimer County will be held Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, as part of the Board of Director’s meeting. Elections for 2022 Board and Program Committee vacancies will be held as part of this meeting.



Contact CCE Herkimer County if you are interested in attending this meeting.