

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Jefferson County



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County

Helping Improve Lives and Grow Businesses

2016 in Review

Thoughts from the President...

Community-based organizations like Cooperative Extension must constantly adapt to changes in technology, available resources, government regulations, and the needs of their constituents. Increasingly, effective service delivery in this changing environment requires the use of collaborative partnerships—with other agencies and across the Extension system itself. Let me cite a few examples.

Regionally, collaboration between the county Extension offices across the North Country is resulting in administrative cost savings and improved technical assistance. Administratively, the offices are sharing resources for personnel administration, financial management, and information technology. CCE of Jefferson County plays a key leadership role in this Shared Business Network and has become a model success story for the statewide Extension system. Programmatically, the six CCE

Board President David J. Zembiec

offices across the North Country have pooled resources to better leverage State and Federal funds to create a new NNY Regional Agriculture Team consisting of highly qualified Regional Agriculture Specialists. In turn, the Agriculture Team often partners with other agriculture-related agencies and programs. The creation of the Regional Agriculture Team represents a significant return on investment for participating counties and a tremendous transformation of how Extension deploys resources to better serve the North Country agricultural community.

Community partnerships are equally important in our program delivery. CCE of Jefferson County has partnered for several years with the United Way in providing parenting skill programs. We partner with several area school districts in offering afterschool programs that provide valuable life and career skills to student participants. Based on the 4-H model, these fun and engaging programs help youth to develop lifelong skills such as leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking. The programs also incorporate a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focused curriculum to help reinforce what our youth are learning in school.

Within our own office, collaboration across program areas is also essential. Take the promotion of healthy living, for example. Our agricultural specialists provide technical assistance to local farmers not only in growing their produce, but also in getting that produce to market. Our nutrition, family, and youth programs promote healthy eating and food preparation, and where to find fresh, locally grown produce. They also work with local schools to promote the utilization of locally grown produce. We're encouraging healthy eating on one hand while helping to expand opportunities for local producers at the same time.

As skilled and committed as they are, our Extension team could not accomplish what they do if it were not for our unique relationship with Jefferson County, Cornell University, USDA, New York State and all of the other partners we work with on a daily basis. Nor would we be as effective without the support of countless volunteers serving in various capacities. To all of you I send a big *"THANK YOU!"*



Mission Statement:

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County educates youth, families, farmers, and communities using research-based knowledge for practical application and lifelong learning.

PARTNERSHIPS

Gr**owing** Local Investment into Funding for Programs that Improve Lives and Grow Businesses



Creating New Partnerships:

CCE is often able to multiply resources by connecting local partners for tandem growth. For example:

Connecting local producers with local consumers through MeatSuite's online marketing and the newly formed multi-county meat CSA, where local producers are collaborating across three counties to sell meat together.

Enhancing Community Partnerships:

CCE is involved in numerous partnerships with local agencies and organizations which provide a vehicle to reach and educate local residents in ways that benefit everyone involved. For example:

Budgeting can be fun and entertaining as 200 students in five school districts, as well as dozens of adult volunteers, participating in Mad City Money are finding thanks to additional funding from Northern Credit Union.

Leveraging Unique Partnerships:

CCE has the skills and initiative to bring non-traditional partners together to form unique alliances that can yield unprecedented results. For example:

Working with the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) at Fort Drum and the Cornell Small Farms Program has brought the Army and Agriculture together in ways that will provide career development for soldiers and veterans through 'Farm Ops' for Veterans in Agriculture.

Some of our Current Partners

American Red Cross AmeriCU Credit Union **Belleville-Henderson Central School District** Carthage Central School District Cheney Tire Community Action Planning Council Cornell Small Farms Program Fort Drum Great Lakes Cheese Indian River Central School District Lyme Central School District New York Air Brake NYS Office of Children & Family Services North Country Prenatal Perinatal Council Northern Credit Union Northern New York Agricultural Development Program NNY Community Foundation Scott Phelps General Contracting, LLC The Pratt-Northam Foundation Stewart's Shops Stone Mills Agricultural Museum Sweetgrass Foundation Tops Friendly Markets Tractor Supply US Environmental Protection Agency United Way of Northern New York Volunteer Transportation Center Watertown City School District Watertown Savings Bank White's Lumber



Northern Credit Union presents check to support Mad City Money. (l to r) David Zembiec, Rochelle Runge, Alexa Bennett, and Kevin Jordan

EDUCATION = Impact

By implementing better packing procedures and increasing bunk density, a farm our size realized a feed cost savings of \$200,000. This does not take into consideration improved cow health and production. "In my thirty years in education there has not been a better program that served the essential needs of the students and their parents.

Rick T. Moore Superintendent Belleville Henderson Central School District *Our evaluation team has been blown away by the success of the program . . . project participants were very committed to making a difference for the environment at their*

Kim Hall Syracuse University

Ron Robbins North Harbor Dairy



Bunk Silo Density program helped farmers reduce bunk waste from as high as 25% down to as low as 8%. That means real savings in feed costs, especially in a year when milk prices are low and crop yields are down.

Bunk Silo Density Program



4-H Afterschool Programs are improving our students' lives. At Belleville-Henderson and Lyme Central Schools, **98%** of the students who attended our program performed above ELA standards. Even more dramatic, obesity rates of students have dropped from **50%** and **75%**, respectively, for these schools to **10%** and **19%** since our program began.

4-H Afterschool Programs



Composting and Recycling reduced waste at three children's summer camps in the North Country, including 4-H Camp Wabasso. By teaching campers, with the help of an EPA grant, we diverted **1.5 tons** of waste from our local landfills.

Composting and Recycling

RESEARCH = Answers

"I would found an institution where any person could find instruction in any study." Ezra Cornell

Through Cooperative Extension, Research is Happening Here!

Research to enhance understanding:

Team the wisdom and experience of seniors with the energy and ability of youth to learn, and you have the *Building a Community Legacy* research project. The project is studying ageism and how to live a successful life.

Research helping farmers improve farm water quality:

While recent research shows farm water sources are generally of good quality for our livestock, our farm water systems are becoming stressed with farm growth. Additional work will follow on livestock drinking water space, water system delivery and water supply.

Research to improve the future:

Nature's tiny workers put food on our tables. Bees are a vital part of our food systems, yet they are disappearing at alarming rates. This project is helping encourage new beekeepers in our region and improve the practices of existing beekeepers.

Adopting Healthy Habits research changing lives:

Adopting Healthy Habits research is demonstrating that people are more likely to engage in healthy behaviors when communities are supportive; have convenient, low cost access to nutritious foods; and have safe, fun ways to be active. The Adopting Healthy Habits Community Coalition is using this research to change the way Jefferson County residents live their lives.

Livestock projects putting current research to practical use:

From calf ventilation projects, to sheep breeding, to livestock grazing research, Extension staff are currently working on a farm near you to bring cutting-edge information directly to North Country farmers.

Today's Research Provides Answers for Residents and Businesses **Tomorrow**.











Supporters of Extension

We would like to thank the following individuals, families, businesses, and organizations for their contributions to our fundraising events, annual support campaign, and programming in 2016.

Development Authority of the

Susan Abrams Jennie M. Adsit Agway, LaFargeville Tammy Albro Nicole Alman Marie Ambrose American Legion 61, Watertown American Legion 588, Brownville American Legion 821, Clayton American Legion 916, Antwerp American Legion 1788, LaFargeville American Legion Auxiliary 204, Medina American Legion Auxiliary 588, Brownville American Legion Auxiliary 916, Antwerp American Legion Sons 61, Watertown American Legion Sons 586, Adams American Legion Sons 588, Brownville American Legion Sons 789, Carthage AmeriCU Credit Union John & Kirsten Anderson, Lake Effect Hoof Trimming Lori Arreola Darrel Aubertine Gary Babcock, DVM Sue & Art Baderman Bechaz Riverdale Cheese Dani Baker & Dave Belding Janet Baker Rita Barker Sally Bartlett Belleville-Henderson Central School Rachel Bernat Donna Bibbins Bimbo Bakeries USA

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Together we are supporting our kids, our families, our troops, and our businesses.

North Country Eileen Ditch Mary Ann Dobmeier Michael Docteur Verna Docteur Doctor's Landscaping, Dexter Anthony Doldo Jamie Dollahite Alissa Donnell Helen Dorr Laura Dorr Allen Drake Katrina Ellis Sarah Esplin Tricia Eveleigh Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Farm Credit East Etosha Farmer Valerie Farr Jane Feldman Cathy Ferran Robert Ferris FFA Advisors Fidelis Care Kathy Finnerty Rose Fitzgerald Jim & Carolyn Fitzpatrick Five Corners Greenhouse, Theresa Patti Forbes Fort Drum Army Community Services Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization Dori-Ann Froelich Anne Garno Linda Garrett Brigitte Gates Jane Gendron Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Nancy Girard Amanda Gonzalez Allison Gorham Robert Gorman Karen Gracey Walter & Stephanie Graf Michelle Graham Ian Grant Mary Grant Scott A. Gray Great Lakes Cheese, Adams Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce Christine Greene Rick Hafemann Bob Hagemann III Linda Hall-Elcsisin Kelly Hamilton Donald Hanson Bruce & Marilyn Hazen David & Barbara Heasley "Herb" Philipson's Day Hills

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2016 Funding Sources

The total budget for Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County for 2016 was \$4,875,815. The sources of income and distribution of expenses are shown below.



2016 Budgeted Expenditure Profile



2016 Educational Programs

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Agricultural Outreach Dairy and Livestock Farm Business Management Field Crops Horticulture

Military Programs:

4-H Military Partnership Army Emergency Relief Army Volunteer Corps Employment Readiness Family Advocacy Financial Readiness Military Youth Camps Mobilization & Deployment Outreach Services Relocation

Nutrition and Health:

Adopting Healthy Habits Breastfeeding Education Community Environment and Health Nutrition Education

Community Development:

College Financial Education Energy Conservation Programs Local Foods Programs

Youth and Family Development:

4-H Animal Science and Club Support
4-H Camp Wabasso
Belleville-Henderson Extended School Day Program
Carthage High School STEM Program
Indian River School District Family Liaisons
Lyme Extended School Day Program
Parenting Education
Watertown Wiley Afterschool Programs



Ribbon-cutting event for new covered deck at 4-H Camp Wabasso. Thank you to all our donors who helped make this project possible!

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