Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Wyoming County

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
Connecting Youth to Nature

After a successful year in 2014 Camp Wyomoco was once again able to host urban youth and connect them to a variety of programs including ecology, nature, archery, outdoor skills and aquatics. This year 75 campers attended camp, up from 50 in 2014. These campers learned about nature, leadership and conservation. A film crew from the Disney Conservation Fund was onsite for several days documenting the program and the youth attending.

International Camp Staff

In 2015, camp was able to bring 7 international staff members to camp through our partnership with Camp America. These staff members came from Australia, Scotland and the United Kingdom. They brought a variety of skills and great cultural exchange opportunities for the Wyomoco campers. International staff taught outdoor skills, horsemanship, boating, sports and visual arts classes in addition to adding new ideas to our evening programs.

Friends & Family Camp

In September Camp hosted its 2nd annual Friends and Family Camp Weekend. Families from all over Western New York spent the weekend at camp enjoying boating, archery, hiking, fishing, campfires, family game night and much more. The weekend was open to any family that wanted to experience camp including families of Wyomoco campers. Even though the weather was not picture perfect, 10 families enjoyed the activities, hospitality and home cooking making this a fun and relaxing weekend.

Style Engineers

Style engineers came to Camp Wyomoco in 2015. 15 middle school girls came to camp to learn all about clothing design, fabrics, wearable electronics and technology in clothing design. Professors from Cornell University's Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design (FSAD) and volunteers teamed up to make the week at camp an eventful and exciting adventure. The program was capped off with a fashion show put on by the kids, displaying their unique creations.

AmeriCorps

Once again in 2015, Camp Wyomoco has partnered with AmeriCorps to bring healthy futures and environmental stewardship programs to camp. The healthy futures outreach teaches campers that regular physical activity helps maintain a healthy body while the environmental stewardship program helps campers understand their connection to the world around them and how they can help preserve our environment. Campers also participated in the Color-a-Smile community service project. AmeriCorps members brought coloring sheets to camp for our campers to complete. These Color-a-Smile sheets were then distributed to nursing homes and meals-on-wheels drivers to give to shut-ins to brighten their day. Over 200 smiles were sent out into the community.

Camp Enrollment

Our camp enrollment was up in 2015! Camp Wyomoco saw an overall increase of 7% from 2014. In addition to our normal summer resident camp program, camp also hosted campers through Camp-Get-A-Way, Genesee Valley Migrant Education Centers Out on a Limb and Career Quest programs, Style Engineers and 4-H Connecting Youth to Nature.
Teens Step Up!

2015 Was a great year for 4-H Teens in Wyoming County. Our teens got to participate in a wide variety of activities ranging from government and civic engagement to personal financial management. On more than one occasion, 4-H staff were blown away by what the teens were able to achieve this year. The Teen Press Corps at the Fair was, once again, a huge success and the teens also participated in volunteerism efforts that contributed to both the 4-H community as well as the greater Wyoming County community!

Clothing Revue

One of the highlights of the Clothing & Textiles project area is sewing a garment to be worn at the annual Clothing Revue. This year, 66 Wyoming County 4-H members had clothing garments evaluated on all aspects of clothing construction including choice of fabric, sewing and finishing details, as well as fit in April. Then, 64 members participated in the revue held on May 1st at the Warsaw High School where 4-Hers modeled an array of garments including aprons, shirts, shorts, sweatpants, and more. This year’s theme was “Spring Into Fashion”. In addition to participating in the county clothing revue, eight 4-Hers represented Wyoming County at the Western District 4-H Clothing Revue and eight Wyoming County 4-Hers participated in the State Fair Fashion Revue.

It’s Electric

During the winter of 2015 4-H members learned about electrical wiring. The four part workshop focused on the basics of circuits, electrical code and home wiring. The 12 youth who participated, learned how to wire a simple switch, 3-way switch and switch, light and outlet on the same circuit. In addition, they all completed a final project making a lamp/outlet/switch all in one. The workshop was a great way for youth to get a small taste of a professional trade, in addition to using tools and being in a completely hands on setting.

Creative Programs

This past year 4-H poultry members got creative when Ag & Markets placed a ban on live animal exhibits at fair, as part of efforts made to minimize the spread of avian influenza. Market poultry project members were still able to raise broiler chickens and sell processed birds during the fair auction. Those members also participated in a modified showmanship contest at fair, using stuffed animal chickens as their show birds. This was a fun way to still allow youth to participate in fair contests that focus on knowledge of the poultry industry. In addition, youth used their creative sides, filling the small animal barn walls with educational posters and pictures of their animals decked out for the first ever “Best Dressed Poultry” photo contest.

Wyoming County 4-H hit a major milestone this year, topping 1,000 youth members and finishing out the year with 1,012 total enrolled youth!
Ag Day at Arcade Elementary

The partnership between the Arcade Elementary School and the Wyoming County CCE Ag in the Classroom program teamed up to provide a full day of learning focused on Agriculture in June. As an end of the year celebration the two entities teamed up to provide a well-rounded agricultural experience to all of the students in the school. Presenters from CCE, local businesses, local farmers and Farm Bureau members taught the students about everything from potatoes to Christmas trees. Along with classroom lessons there was also farm machinery, farm animals and a lunch of NY food products. This was a great capstone event for a wonderful year of ag in the classroom activities at the Arcade School.

Cheese Making

This is an introduction to the science behind the art of cheese making. Students experience acidification, renneting, stirring, and cutting curds, preparing the curds, separating the curds from whey and pressing. Students observe chemical reactions and learn rich vocabulary related to cheese and cheese making. During the lesson, students must also follow a complex multistep procedure when taking measurements and performing technical tasks.

More Than a Breeze

This year students explored wind energy, with an emphasis placed on wind energies efficiency, the importance wind energy has in the area, and construction of the turbine. Each lesson concluded with students constructing pin wheels, allowing them to further understand the science behind wind energy. They were then able to test out the different kinds of blade shape to understand which designs were the most efficient at producing electricity.

School Gardens at Holland

This year the school garden projects were extended, with the addition of gardens at the Holland Elementary School. The gardens consisted of six raised salad garden beds. The entire garden project was led by the classrooms that participated. The three 4th grade classroom filled the beds with soil donated from a local farm. Classrooms where in charge of planting, watering and weeding. The gardens began with a lesson on plants and plant needs followed by a planting lesson. Each classroom watered once a week and had two weeks during the project where they were in charge of weeding. The project finished with a salad party in each of the classrooms. In total, ten classrooms in three grade levels participated in the first year of the project. This fall another grade level joined the project to plant tulip bulbs to provide flowers in the beds for the beginning of spring. We look forward to continuing the garden project at Holland Elementary School.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM

2015 IMPACT

15,206 Students Reached

612 Classroom Lessons
Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners sold late blight resistant tomato varieties and shared information about prevention of the fungal disease at their 2015 Garden Day. They focused their Garden Bounty workshop on season extension and new crops by bringing together a panel of growers who grow season extended greens, micro-greens, hydroponic strawberries and mushroom using wood bolts.

Local Foods

The “Wyoming County Eat Fresh Buy Local Guide” grew by 13 businesses in 2015 to a total of 97. Prepared in cooperation with Senator Gallivan's 59th NYS Senate District, over 4,000 copies of the guide are distributed. Cornell Cooperative Extension assisted with development of market guidelines and a marketing plan for Warsaw's new farmer's market – The Market at the Villa. For 19 weeks, four to six vendors marketed produce at this downtown Warsaw location.

Beekeepers

Beekeepers recruited 30 new interested people at the Wyoming County Fair. During a tour at Honey Hill Apiary in Rock Glenn, they learned first-hand about bear damage. The diversity of honey varietals offered continues to grow and consumers are buying more local honey and honey products.

High Tunnel Project

With grant funding from Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority, a high tunnel erected at the site of the new Wyoming County Agriculture and Business Center in Warsaw will become a living classroom. The first project, in process, is growing Marigolds out of season for harvest in mid-November to serve a niche market for the Diwali Festival celebrated by the Bhutanese community, numbering 17,000, in Rochester. The flowers are made into necklaces and used to decorate people's homes for celebration of East Asian culture.

Solar Energy

The Brighter Wyoming Initiative captured a wide audience of agriculture, business and residential populations to the more than 6 information sessions held over a 5 month period. Over 80 people participated in these information sessions, and a majority of participants were interested in having their properties evaluated for solar installation.

Maple

Remote monitoring helps a growing maple industry to more closely manage sap and equipment during the busy maple season. The fall maple workshop was attended by 28 people and focused on monitoring. It was also a subject of discussion at the WNY Maple School, attended by over 120 producers in January.
Advanced Transition Cow Skills Training

The Transition Cow Module of Wyoming County Dairy Institute brought together twenty-two participants stretching from Strykersville to Palmyra who attended modules at either Wyoming (15) or Ontario (7) County Cornell Cooperative Extension offices. These individuals represented 19 different dairy farms and dairy industry businesses. Participants learned about the ideal environment for a pre-fresh cow from Ohio State University's internationally renowned Dr. Kathryn Proudfoot. Cornell University Veterinary Medicine graduate students shared research findings and assisted with on-farm instruction on topics including post-partum infectious and immunological diseases, post calving metabolic disorders, monitoring and treatment for transition cow disorders, records protocols and tracking tools for assessing and improving transition cow performance.

Refugee Milker Training & Micro-Enterprise

Micro-enterprise training assisted Bhutanese refugee families with learning the skills required to grow vegetables and chickens in the Wyoming County climate and sell them. They raised dragon tongue beans, several varieties of peppers, cilantro, 25 laying hens and 50 broilers. Participants marketed eggs, broilers and vegetables. Milker training, another aspect of the project, prepared eleven workers for jobs at local dairies. Several family members of milkers' families filled a workforce gap and are employed at American Classic Outfitters in Perry. Open house helped new neighbors to learn about each other by sharing foods prepared to different cultural tastes from the chicken, eggs and vegetables grown. Through watching the project, two Wyoming County residents are preparing to raise laying hens to sell eggs locally in 2016. The project funded through the New York State Consolidated funding process with a Community Services Block Grant from the Department of State was conducted in cooperation with Wyoming County Community Action. They assist participants with relocating to Wyoming County and gaining skills, like driving, to be able to live independently in our rural

Calf Care Management

Wyoming County Dairy Institute expanded its partnership with Pro-Dairy and the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team in 2015. Working together, the calf management course was offered in October and again in January at 12 sites in total to meet the demand across New York. 139 participants completed the course statewide. 22 of them in the NWNY region. One participant commented, “I learned things I never even thought of. I learned techniques I can carry on a daily basis”. Technology connectivity is allowing the Wyoming County Dairy Institute impact to reach statewide.
Wyoming County is a member of the ten-county team that emphasizes farm business management, sustainable resource management and workforce development education for dairy, livestock and field crops farmers.

Calf & Heifer Conference

NWNY Team specialists and staff organized the event and hosted over 180 attendees at all or part of the day and one half “Calf & Heifer Congress” in December 2014. “Birth to Breeding” was emphasized with a blend of university and industry speakers from the US and Canada. Dairy owners, calf care employees, students, extension personnel and agri-service reps were in the audience. A wide spectrum of health, growth, environmental and new technology topics of interest to any size dairy were presented. Conference feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, encouraging more similar events in the future.

Assessing Ag Properties

23 assessors, who value properties in over 30 towns in WNY, attended a 2-day workshop hosted and organized by CCE of Wyoming County and Wyoming County Office of Real Property Services. Evaluations by participants indicate a 30% increase in knowledge of assessing agricultural properties and administering agriculturally related exemptions. 23 of the towns report a collective full value of agricultural properties of $895 million.

Harvest NY Report - Tim Terry

Harvest NY continues to provide technical assistance to farms in Wyoming and surrounding counties. Case in point, for the farm pictured below, Harvest NY efforts last summer provided site surveys and topographic data to supplement FEMA flood maps which expedited the securing of a loan for a new freestall barn and milking center. This fall, in a cost control effort, the owners are trying to do as much of the work themselves as possible. To that end, Harvest NY has been working one-on-one with the family to stake-out the project boundaries, measure the excavation, and to provide understanding between the contractor and the family members.

Temple Grandin Visits NWNY

World-renowned animal behavior expert Dr. Temple Grandin spoke at Lawnhurst Farm on September 17, 2015. An ardent advocate for the humane treatment of animals and one of the most widely-recognized autistic professionals in the country, Grandin spoke to a packed house when the NWNY Team hosted an Animal Handling Seminar at the Jensen family’s Lawnhurst Farms in Stanley, NY. The subject was fear stress, and how it can negatively affect both dairy production and meat quality in beef animals. Grandin praised the Lawnhurst dairy handling methods; ‘Tame dairy cows give more milk. Stockmanship is crucial!’ She also went on to stress that ‘beef animals must be handled regularly, but quietly. Rough handling increases the stress hormone’ resulting in dark cutters. One hundred people registered to attend and learn how they might improve livestock handling on their farms.

Fortunately, this level of involvement is the exception rather than the rule. In most cases the development plans and survey data are forwarded to licensed Professional Engineers (PE’s) for the creation of specific facility designs. However, when it is advantageous to keeping a project moving forward, Harvest NY has worked closely with the project PE’s to perform minor activities such as the logging of soil test pits. Data is collected, photos are taken, and then all this information is transmitted to the PE for design consideration.
These charts are a visual representation of the sources from which the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County has gained financial support.

2015 EXTENSION STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Neal Cox, President
Keith Kibler, Vice President
Cindy Parker, Secretary, 4-H Rep.
Michele Klein, Treasurer

Sue Meyer
Steve Sondricker
Chad Meyer
Jim Kirsch
Doug Wolcott
Jim Brick, Board of Supervisors Rep.
Vanessa Dunning, 4-H Committee Rep.
Jim Youngers, Ag Committee Rep.
Peter Landre, Cornell Rep.

EXTENSION STAFF
Shawn Tiede, Executive Director
Donna James, Finance Manager
Debbie Spink, Finance Associate

EXTENSION 4-H STAFF
Holly Harwood, Community Educator
Roxanne Dueppengiesser, Community Educator
Tanya Nickerson, Community Educator
Jessica Nickerson, Community Educator
Nathan Smith, Community Educator
Collin Hedges, Program Assistant
Linda Grisewood, Administrative Assistant

AG IN THE CLASSROOM
Katherine Marusarz, Classroom Educator

4-H CAMP WYOMOCO
Marie Wixner, Camp Director
Melissa Youngers, Administrative Assistant

EXTENSION AGRICULTURE STAFF
Joan Petzen, Program Leader
Don Gasiiewicz, Community Educator
Debra Welch, Program Educator
Zachary Amey, Administrative Assistant

WYOMING COUNTY DAIRY INSTITUTE
Sarah Carlson, Community Educator
Manoj Rai, Key Community Leader

NWWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND FIELD CROPS TEAM
Nancy Glazier, Small Farms Specialist
Joan Petzen, Farm Business Specialist
Cathy Wallace, Administrative Assistant
Jerry Bertoldo, Dairy Specialist
John Hanchar, Farm Business Specialist
Mike Stanyard, Field Crops Specialist
Libby Eiholzer, Bilingual Dairy Specialist

HARVEST NY
Tim Terry, Farm Strategic Planning Specialist
Elizabeth Newbold, Local Food Distribution & Marketing Specialist
Cheryl Thayer, Local Food Distribution & Marketing Specialist
Judson Reid, Extension Vegetable Specialist

WESTERN NEW YORK SHARED BUSINESS NETWORK
Shawn Tiede, Lead Executive Director
Donna James, Finance Lead
Kimberly Amey, HR Lead
Jennifer Davis, IT Lead
Melissa Youngers, HR Staff
Harold Coller, Finance Staff
Leigh Hamilton, Finance Staff

2015 BUDGET

BUDGET TOTAL $2,130,227.45

COUNTY 21% $455,500.00
STATE 29% $622,018.22
FEDERAL 4% $88,569.95
GRANT/OTHER 46% $964,139.28

“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”