Disney Worldwide Conservation Grant

During 2014, through a grant from Disney Worldwide Conservation, Camp Wyomoco was able to offer scholarships to fifty campers from urban schools. These campers were focused on Ecology, Nature and Outdoor Skills programing. 25 campers attended during each of two weeks. The response was wonderful, and Wyomoco was happy to offer this opportunity to these campers.

International Staff

This year, Camp Wyomoco, once again, partnered with Camp America to bring six international staff members to camp. The international staff included counselors from England, France, Scotland, and Australia. As well as the cultural benefits of having them with us, they brought with them skills such as Fencing, Photography, Outdoor Skills, Sports & Leadership. The campers benefitted from their energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the future.

Friends & Family Weekend

In September, Camp Wyomoco hosted a “Friends and Family” weekend. Families arrived on Friday night, and stayed until Sunday morning. These families enjoyed activities, crafts, sports, fishing, and meals together while staying in a private cabin of their own. We plan to continue the Fall family weekend in the future.

Day Camp

In 2014, Camp Wyomoco introduced a day camp option. Day campers arrived in the morning, and were dismissed before evening activities. It is a great way for new or younger campers to try out camp, as well as a way to fit camp into the summer for a camper who has evening commitments, sports, etc. Camp Wyomoco intends to continue to offer this “Day Camp” option in the future.

Operation Military Kids

For the fourth year, Camp Wyomoco is proud to support the New York State 4-H Military Kids Program. In 2014, military kids participated in a day of fun-filled activities when Camp Wyomoco offered a military Family Fun Day in September.

Camp Turns 50!

2014 marked Camp Wyomoco’s fiftieth year. A fiftieth anniversary celebration was held in August. Members of the community and alumni enjoyed lunch, an opportunity to tour the camp, and a chance to reminisce on fifty years of Camp Wyomoco.
4-H Teen Press Corps

Our teens have accomplished some amazing things this year with the new Wyoming County 4-H Teen Press Corps. At the county fair, 4-H teens wrote articles and took pictures of the Fair's events and stitched content together to create three stellar publications that informed the public about 4-H Events at the Fair. After producing three editions of 'The Show Times' 4-H'ers distributed 1,200 copies of the publication to fair goers. We hope to see the Teen Press Corps grow and involve more teens from the 4-H Program giving teens the opportunity to participate in Press Corps activities throughout the year.

4-H Award Trips

4-H award trips are a very important part of the learning process of 4-H as they provide an opportunity for 4-H'ers to learn about careers, visit interesting places, and meet fascinating people. In 2014, Thirty-nine Wyoming County 4-H'ers were selected to participate in the following great trips: Pennsylvania Farm Show, 4-H Teen Winter Weekend, 4-H Capital Days, Culinary Arts Exploration, 4-H Career Exploration Program, West Virginia State 4-H Camp, and the Agri-Business Career Conference. Award trips are sponsored by the Wyoming County 4-H Leader’s Association through funds from the annual 4-H Cookie Sale.

To Make the Best Better in 4-H Animal Science

Wyoming County 4-H is home to some of the largest youth animal science programs in the state! Animal science members exhibit more than 800 project animals each year at the Wyoming County Fair. This includes beef, dairy, dogs, goats, horses, poultry, rabbits, sheep and swine. Youth have the opportunity to engage in educational opportunities each offered each month in the form of workshops, instructional meetings, field trips and clinics. Raising and caring for 4-H animal projects allows these youth to gain important life skills such as responsibility, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, salesmanship and much more!

4-H Welcomes YOU!

Through the newly formed teen leaders group teens advocated local government, worked through state rules and designed road signs. The sign project idea was taken to the teen group and then developed and implemented by them; from sign design to talking to local town boards. This project introduced the teens to governance and the structure of our local government. Approximately 55 signs have been placed on Wyoming County roads to date, increasing the presence of 4-H in the county.

Cloverbud Dairy Project

In January of 2014, Wyoming County 4-H offered a multi-part series for the youngest 4-H members. Through this project youth from ages 5-9 learned about the dairy cow, what cows eat, dairy products and the industry. In addition, to workshop time the youth also toured a local dairy farm. This project was a great way to jump start 4-H members participation in the dairy project area. The base knowledge they gained in this project as Cloverbud will help them as they move in to the dairy projects offered to regular 4-H members.
AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Chickens at Arcade Elementary

As a long term project at the Arcade Elementary School 4th graders took on the care and management of 4 chickens in their school yard. The 4th grade classes learn about chicken and marketing to care for and sell eggs to the Arcade community. This project was a great way for students to get outside and work with something they never had before. The classrooms worked together to insure the chickens got fed each day and that eggs were collected. In addition, classes took on the task of cleaning and selling the eggs to different individuals at the school.

Mapping NYS Agriculture

In this lesson students will learn about New York Agriculture, and its importance to New York State’s economy. The lesson will focus on the various regions of New York and what products are grown. By the end of the lesson students will have gained an understanding of Agriculture in New York and will map what products are produced where.

Honey Bee

Students learn how the honey bee lives, including the characteristics and roles of the queen bee, the worker and the drone. Students learn what nectar and honey are; where bees collect these from and the mutually beneficial relationship between bees and flowers. Students learn about hive construction and how honey bees dance to communicate. Students explore equipment a bee keeper needs including a bee smoker, a hat veil, hive tool, frames and two supers.

Holland

In the spring of 2014 the Agriculture in the Classroom program expanded to Southern Erie County, starting with the Holland Central School District. The program was greatly received, with lessons being taught in Kindergarten through 12th grades. Around 800 students were impacted receiving about 40 lessons throughout the spring. The program has continued into the current school year with growing excitement. We look forward to the continued work with Holland Central School and the possibility of expanding the program further.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM
2014 IMPACT

11,879 Students Reached
619 Classroom Lessons
Eat Fresh Buy Local

2014 marked a 28% increase in the number of local farm markets listed in the guide. Collaboration with Senator Gallivan’s office for publication of the guide resulted in a glossy color brochure highlighting 81 local on-farm markets and 3 community farmer’s markets. Thousands of brochures have been distributed across western New York. This rise in participation reflects both the local and national interest in knowing the source of the food we eat.

Poultry

“A Good End for Your Spent Hen” workshop featured on-farm poultry processing techniques using an automated poultry plucker. Poultry enthusiasts also attended ‘Making a Chicken Feeder’ which featured a weather, spill and rodent proof feeder constructed with used covered buckets and PVC fittings. Other workshops included building a dustbox, and a pastured poultry walk focusing on alternate ways of raising meat birds, including turkeys.

The Gifted Garden

Beginning in April participants learned gardening basics and seed starting exercises. Plants were put in the ground in late May and weekly support was provided to work through gardening issues like disease and insect management. This year the program focused on late blight resistant tomato varieties, educating gardeners on the disease cycle and how to avoid late blight. This space is also being used as an educational tool to transition the Bhutanese refugee community to local crops and growing conditions.

Perry High Tunnel

Extension staff provided best management practices for high tunnel production including site layout, drainage, and planting considerations. Student groups were educated on the differences between field, greenhouse and high tunnel production. Site visit for school staff were conducted to an existing high tunnel operation to help school staff learn how to erect and operate a high tunnel. Extension staff also participated in the high tunnel construction.

Maple

Twenty-three maple producers learned how to make maple cream and other confections from State Maple Specialist Steve Childs. Western New York Maple School attracted 125 producers to learn about maple production and marketing techniques and get updates from NY, WNY and Wyoming County Maple Producer Associations. Cornell Cooperative Extension is gearing up to help producers implement new technologies in the coming year.

Beekeepers

The fall workshop ‘Taste of Honey’ attracted over 40 people to sample dishes using honey by expert chef Travis Barlow and Local Beekeepers shared tips on hive management. ‘Beekeeping for Beginners’ drew 54 attendees and enthusiasts in February. A ‘Bee Wellness’ workshop – with WNY Honey Producers focused on integrated pest management and hive health. At the County Fair, honey entries totaled 21, with a live hive on display; and the annual Beekeepers Meeting at the Fair. The Commercial & Private Beeyard Visit at Sturm’s and Baldeck Beeyards attracted 33 people from 3 counties and Massachusetts. This was followed by ‘The Environment and Pollinator Health’ with Sara Scott in September.

Master Food Preserver

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County hosted a three-day Master Food Preserver workshop. The in-depth course focused on the science and safety necessary to properly preserve food at home. The need for preservation knowledge is on the rise and to help meet that demand three Master Food Preserver participants plan to teach others how to safely preserve food at home during future workshops.
Statewide Collaboration

The concept of sharing lectures for dairy workforce development across the state using webinars hosted in three locations was premiered with the Hoof Health and Lameness module. Each region worked with a local hoof trimmer from the Professional Hoof Trimmers of North America to host a day-long hands-on session. A Calf Management module will be offered in six locations across New York this fall. Plans are underway for pulling in resources from across the state for a winter milk quality course at five locations statewide.

Dairy Skills Training

In 2013/14 seventy-nine workers completed one of the five modules offered covering Hoof Health and Lameness, Feeds and Feeding Management, Artificial Insemination, Commercial Driver License Training, or Milker Training. Nineteen of the thirty CDL participants have successfully completed their road tests to date and are licensed drivers.

Refugee Milker Training

Five Bhutanese immigrants completed 3 weeks of daily training including 32 hours of classroom instruction, 15 hours working with cattle at Alfred State College and 1/2 day of job shadowing at Synergy Dairy, LLC. Following interviews 2 started employment at Noblehurst Farm and 2 at Synergy Dairy. Today, three individuals remain employed in the program and we are readying for a second class of trainees. This project is funded by the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority. Based upon recommendations from the farms and workers, the training curriculum is being condensed into a full week with emphasis being added on communication and American farm workplace customs.

Dairy Business Skill Building

Western New York Academy for Dairy Executives graduated 20 individuals from three agri-businesses and 13 farms. These operations collectively milk over 9,000 cows yielding over $55 million in milk revenue and employ nearly 200 people. They honed their business management skills including budgeting, employee management, personal style discovery, strategic planning, measuring financial performance, family business communication, working across the generations, conflict resolution and managing risk.

Dairy Farm Business Summary

Applying financial management skills, owners of 42 dairy farm businesses from the region completed DFBS’s for 2013. Research studies conclude producers using DFBS with analysis achieve greater levels of profit compared to producers that do not. Greater profitability contributes to enhanced economic viability, increasing the likelihood that businesses have the capacity to invest in replacement and, or expansion assets, and maintain and, or increase employment levels.
Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP)

DAP is a partnership between the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and implemented through Pro-DAIRY announced in 2013. Through the program, farms can be awarded funding to help cover the cost of a business plan focused on growth, design of new or remodeled facilities or development of environmental and farmstead plans. Dairy and farm business specialists jumped on board to help eligible farms apply.

So far the NWNY Team has been involved in ten DAP projects. Team members serve as facilitators and business planners. Three Wyoming County Projects resulted in major expansion plans, 335 cows total, with construction underway, planned for 2015 or the purchase and repopulation of a neighboring farm.

Triticale Silage Yield

A research trial was conducted in Ontario County assessing the fall and spring nitrogen needs of triticale silage during the winter of 2013/spring of 2014. Different combinations fall and spring fertilizer produced triticale silage yields of 2 to 4 tons of dry matter (DM) per acre. Two spring 2014 nitrogen rate trials were conducted in Wyoming County on triticale silage fields showing a range of 1.5 to 3 tons DM/acre. These trials, in addition to the 15 trials conducted in 2013 in western NY, will help the farmers growing triticale silage on around 10,000 acres in northwestern NY raise their triticale silage yields around about 1 ton DM/acre.

UAS to Scout Farm Fields

We received the first permission in NY from the FAA to begin using unmanned aerial systems (UAS), commonly called “drones”, to evaluate farm fields in two of our ten counties. We are continuing to obtain FAA clearance to fly over a select group of farms across NWNY. In 2015 we will be evaluating the ability of our UAS to monitor disease, insect, & weed pressure, count corn, soybean, & small grain populations, estimate crop yields & nutrient content, map soil variation, and other tasks on 5,000 acres representing many different crops, soils, farm practices, and environmental conditions across our region.

Team Finds New Soybean Disease

The team collaborated on the assessment and diagnosis of soilborne diseases of soybean as part of a statewide grant project funded by the NY Soybean Checkoff. The cool wet weather in 2014 was perfect growing conditions for many diseases. Plant samples from seven counties were submitted to Cornell for diagnosis. Pathogens identified included: Brown Stem Rot, Phytophthora Root Rot, White Mold, Cercospora Leaf Blight, Brown Spot, Frogeye Leaf spot, Downy Mildew, Soybean Vein Necrosis Virus, Bacterial Pustule and Bacterial Blight. Plant samples submitted on August 25 were surprisingly diagnosed, for the first time in NY, with Northern Stem Canker. NWNY Team will educate producers how to best manage this new soybean disease at Soybean/Small Grains Congresses and industry meetings.

Forage Fed Bull Test

The beef industry in New York is in a great position to take advantage of high prices with excellent forage quality and available land. Good genetics are a way to assist with producing a high quality product brought to market in as short a time as possible. The NWNY Team conducted the NY All Forage Fed Bull Test at the Cornell University Ruminant Center. The second year of the 112-day test concluded with weight gains exceeding model predictions by 0.5 lb per day. This discrepancy opens up possibilities for research to ‘ground-truth’ the model.
These charts are a visual representation of the sources from which the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County has gained financial support.

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- Joan Petzen, Farm Business Specialist
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- Shawn Tiede, Lead Executive Director
- Donna James, Finance Lead
- Kimberly Amey, HR Lead
- Jennifer Carges, IT Lead
- Lisa Johnson, HR Staff
- Harold Coller, Finance Staff

**2014 BUDGET**
- BUDGET TOTAL: $1,996,047.25
  - COUNTY 21%: $415,500.00
  - STATE 27%: $540,539.00
  - FEDERAL 4%: $76,090.00
- PARTICIPATION 48%: $963,918.25

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