Cornell University Cooperative Extension Wyoming County

ANNUAL REPORT
2013
International Staff
Camp Wyomoco was the place to be in the summer of 2013. Through a partnership with Camp America, we were able to hire nine international staff members from nine different countries. We had staff from China, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Poland, The Netherlands, Germany, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. In addition to the cultural exchange benefits that international staff brings, they also came with a variety of talents that they shared with us. Staff and campers learned new songs, acting and improvisation games, outdoor skills, photography techniques, soccer drills, and leadership skills. The international staff came to camp with energy and enthusiasm. This helped campers have fun while learning new things. Camp benefited from the addition of international staff this summer and we look forward to hiring more in future summers.

Ecology
Curriculum updates in the Ecology program area included the addition of a clean water project where campers learned about filtering water, pond study, wind power exploration and a biofuels manufacturing project. Camp was visited by a Cornell University intern for one week. She taught campers how to extract DNA from strawberries and make air powered rockets. Campers used a portable solar panel to make solar smoothies with just the energy of the sun and raspberries harvested from camp.

Wizard World of Wyomoco
This year wizards of all kinds came to Camp Wyomoco for Wizard week. Camp became Diagon Alley for a Wizarding carnival where flying broomsticks, potions and wands were made. Campers had a chance to ride a ‘hippogriff’, and sip on a butterbeer in the local wizard café. Wizard duels were held with handcrafted and decorated wands and campers could be seen flying around camp on broomsticks playing quidditch.

AmeriCorps
In 2013 Camp Wyomoco was fortunate to continue our partnership with the AmeriCorps program. Through this program we were able to hire six summer staff and one longer term position. Each AmeriCorps member completed a project that benefited campers and camp. With the help of these members we were able to develop a new program format and camp curriculum in several activities. Horses, aquatics, culinary fun, and ecology had new curriculum added to enhance the programs. We were also able to complete a service project with our campers each week. Campers and staff made several hundred cards for military service members and for sick children at local hospitals.

Operation Military Kids
For the third year, Camp Wyomoco supported the New York State 4-H Military Kids Program. This year Camp Wyomoco participated by staffing a week long Operation Military Kids Camp and also by hosting an Operation Military Kids Family Fun Day at Camp Wyomoco. We support our local military families!
Dairy Judging
2013 was a very successful year for the Wyoming County 4-H Dairy Judging Program. Participating youth competed, representing Wyoming County on the state level. The dairy judging program begins in April with a county-wide contest that over 80 youth participated in. Following that 60 youth were invited on to judge at farms once a week for 6 weeks. The top 15 youth in the senior and junior division participated in district events throughout WNY. In August the top 4 individuals in each division formed the teams that competed at the NYS Fair. Wyoming County's senior dairy judging team placed 1st at the state competition. Three youth from the team represented New York at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI and the 4th team member was on the NYS team that competed in Louisville at NAILE.

State Fair Success
Wyoming County can truly be proud of our 4-H members’ accomplishments at the 2013 New York State Fair! 168 family and consumer science exhibits were judged and displayed in the youth building, with 11 youth receiving purple rosette special recognition. Approximately 60 youth exhibited animals including beef, sheep, dairy, dogs, hogs, horses, and rabbits. More than 30 youth participated in dairy, hog, horse and rabbit educational contests. All of the youth who participated in the NYS Fair represented Wyoming County 4-H well and should be proud of their accomplishments.

Plant Science Activities
The Gladiola Project, sponsored by the WNY Gladiola Society, affords youth the opportunity to learn about how to plant and care for gladiola bulbs in the spring. Before the fair, participants in the project get the opportunity to tour a gladiola field and learn how to display their flower spikes at the fair. Youth then bring their spikes, corsages and arrangements to the fair to show in the WNY Youth Gladiola show. Through this project youth gain knowledge and great satisfaction from cultivating such beautiful arrangements. Participation also qualifies them for scholarships from the WNY Gladiola Society.

The Giant Vegetable Growing Project begins in the spring when youth attend a workshop to learn about the skills needed to grow giant vegetables. After tending to the “giants” all summer youth weigh them to see how they stacked up against other growers. This year Zach Stoffer’s pumpkin topped the scales at 610 pounds, a new Wyoming County 4-H record.

Smart Clothing, Smart Girls (SCSG) This summer three teens from Wyoming County, participated in SCSG: Engineering via Apparel Design, a week-long course designed and hosted by Cornell’s Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design (FSAD) in collaboration with the University of Minnesota. Cornell researchers led the girls, through four modules: advanced materials, wearable electronics, design technology and the engineering design process. These modules included hands-on lab and design activities, such as fiber burn tests, sewing and draping, and working with circuits and switches. Participants also observed use of laser cutters, thermal manikins and 3-D body scanners and were able to participate in a teleconference with a designer from NASA.

Livestock Barn Renovation
The 4-H livestock program celebrated the completion of a three year effort this year to renovate the livestock barn at the Wyoming County Fairgrounds. Approximately $27,000 was raised locally, to help fund this volunteer- driven renovation; which included an expanded show ring, cement floors throughout the building, and 95 new livestock pens with automatic waterers. The success of this project also encouraged other improvements at the fair, including cement flooring in the dairy barn and new sound systems in the livestock and dairy barns.
A "Hand"some Horse

This is a fabulous lesson that introduces students to a couple of topics in the equine world: Farriers/horseshoes and the unit of measurement "hand". The lesson begins with defining a farrier and some reasons why horses need to be shod. Several horseshoes are available to discern for different types of horses and their work. A freeze dried horse hoof (a real horse hoof, kids love this) show horseshoe and nail placement and parts of the hoof. The lesson transitions into the unit of measurement “hand” used for measuring the height of horses and ponies. A cardboard box authenticates a life-size horse outline with "hand" measurements. Students explore two tools used to measure the height of horses at which several volunteers' height is measured in “hands” using the tools. Depending on grade level, math skills are used to convert “hands” to inches and feet.

The Story of Soil

With a focus on appreciation of soil for its use in agriculture, The Story of Soil is a fantastic lesson where students explore soil through observation and hands-on activities. Desktop models of soil profiles help students understand that soil has layers underground and that each of these layers has effects on the use of that soil in agriculture. Soil profiles also serve as a model for understanding the process of how soil is made. A texture feel activity allows students to explore soil particles (sand, silt, clay) and topsoil for an understanding of particle sizes and the composition of topsoil. Following the texture feel activity, students observe jars of settled topsoil to identify soil particles in layers. In closure, students will cut panels and glue topsoil on an interactive soil profile worksheet.

The Amazing Dairy Cow

What an ideal lesson for all classrooms in Wyoming County! This lesson proudly boasts our county’s #1 status in New York State for milk production! Students are in for a real treat, literally, because the lesson culminates with students shaking heavy cream to make butter to spread on graham crackers for taste test. This lesson introduces students to 5 main dairy breeds, life of a dairy cow, an overview of the milking process from parlor to milk plant, activity on cow digestion followed by fun facts of dairy cows. Students are educated on commodity sheds and bunk piles plus explore several feed samples. To further educate students on the milking process, a milking unit, strip cup, teat dipper and wash cloth round out the lesson.

Enviroscape

A perfect lesson for water pollution awareness! Using a fun 3’ x 3’ landscape model, students learn about watersheds and test what happens to pollutants such as herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, sludge, animal waste and litter when it rains. Students identify varying topographic and geographic areas and observe the interactions of water and pollutants. Students use colored sprinkles and chocolate cocoa to represent pollutants followed by a couple of students spraying water to represent rain. This is quite an eye opening lesson because of the perspective the model brings for many water sources and potential pollutants in a community.
Honey and Beekeeping

The Wyoming County Beekeepers have had a stellar year of programming, enjoying an increase in local interest in honey and beekeeping. The many topics discussed in our workshops this year included bee biology, essential knowledge, beekeeping for beginners, queen bee cell identification, beehive frame construction, honey extractor, cooking with honey and much more. The Beekeepers also provide pollinator and honey product information at Garden Day, Agri-Paloozza, and the county fair. Our office fields many calls regarding bees, especially during the warmer months.

Master Gardener Program

This year, Wyoming County’s 17 active Master Gardener volunteers provided assistance to the our County’s community in a wide variety of ways. Through projects like the Gifted Garden, the Beaver Meadow Audobon Center, collaboration with the Warsaw Library and the Girl Scouts, new workshops and multiple service projects, the Master Gardeners continue to impact Wyoming County in significant ways. In addition to these projects, the Master Gardeners also coordinated the Annual Garden Day sale and Garden Bounty Celebration. In total, our Master Gardeners have given 450 hours in service to the Wyoming County community this year alone.

Maple

Maple remains an important product in Wyoming County! The WNY Maple School attracted over 140 attendees from 13 counties in New York and Pennsylvania. Held at Letchworth School, this event featured local vendors, 8 Maple workshops, group discussions, and a newly added open panel discussion and so much more! The Maple Value Added workshop was also very well attended as 25 participants visited Out-On-A-Limb Maple learning how to make tasty maple products ranging from molded maple candy to granulated maple sugar and maple cotton.

Poultry Discussion

The Wyoming County Poultry Discussion Group had a busy year with over 85 poultry enthusiasts gleanig from CCE’s workshops and discussions. Workshops from 2013 addressed poultry keeping topics including parasites and pests, managing the molt, portable chicken housing, and home-grown supplemental feeds. A poultry processing demonstration at CCE with hands-on participation from those in attendance wrapped up the year. This workshop was well attended and featured a sample of tasty home-made chicken stock.

Horticulture and Entomology

Extension Staff performed plant and insect identification, soil nutrient analyses, and plant disease diagnostics for more than 250 homeowners, gardeners, and commercial producers. Extension staff provided research-supported guidance on cultural control practices and integrated pest management. Staff members were also able to provide recommendations and resources regarding insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, and nutrient management strategies used to combat home and horticultural pests. 25 area participants also attended the 2013 Pesticides recertification class in order to stay up to date with pesticides safety issues.

Agri-Paloozza

The 3rd Annual Wyoming County Agri-Paloozza attracted 3560 people to the Dueppengiesser’s Dairy in Perry. Over 200 volunteers, 54 exhibitors and vendors, 3 presenting sponsors and 60 sponsors planned, manned and financed the event. Guided tours through the dairy barns led by farmers and agri-service reps, a glimpse at robotic calf feeding and visit to the sand reclamation facility highlighted the event. The farm shop provided easy access to children’s activities and a place to display hundreds of poster contest entries.
Precision Farming through Global Positioning Systems
This module offered in collaboration with Monroe Tractors out of Batavia, served as a tool to acquaint regional producers with the nomenclature and direct application of utilizing GPS on farm implements. Lead instructor, Seth Conway of Monroe tractor who is a former T.L. Jefferies employee and school teacher was the perfect fit to take the lead in developing and teaching the module. The obvious need for the course was evidenced by the fact that there was a substantial waiting list. Enrollment was kept to a modest twelve participants due to the hands-on activities on the last day to test participants on their ability to download data into a computer and allow the tractor to auto-drive an established A-B line. The base knowledge of participants was first rate proved that this technology is here and economically beneficial to the producers using it. Additionally, this class led to the creation of a more advanced class in the “fusion of agronomics with flow and application” for the winter of 2014. The title of the module clearly demonstrates the advancement of technology in agriculture as the union of these disciplines was not even realized a mere decade ago.

Nutrient Management
One of the more popular modules offered by the WCDI is the Nutrient Management module offered in collaboration with the NWNY Team. This year’s program was spearheaded by NWNY Team member Bill Verbeten. Instructors for this module were able to log in and teach from remote locations, thus allowing us to get some of the best people in their respective fields.

This module allowed us to beta test and enhance our broadcasting capabilities to other counties utilizing the internet webinar capabilities of WebEx. One of the great advantages of this system is the capability to archive presentations to the organizations website. The use of this software package was especially beneficial for anyone with high speed broadband capabilities and missed a class, to log on to CCE’s website and listen to the presentation. There were certainly slow bumps in the implementation of the module but it truly served as good building block for future programming and the expansion of the WCDI modules to limitless dairy areas of the state and nation.

WCDI Plans Collaborations
The WCDI is spreading its wings to enhance revenues to tantalize curriculum and create administrative efficiencies. In March of 2014 the WCDI will collaborate with CCE Northern & Central New York Regional Dairy Teams, relevant agricultural industries such as Agrochem, or Zinpro, and local hoof trimmers to broadcast webinars on Hoof Health and Lameness via WebEx. Local hoof trimmer, and officer in the National Hoof Trimmers Association, Chip Hendrickson has agreed to assist and help coordinate in this dynamic Initiative. Plans are to provide this program to the dairy producers across the state by embracing technology to deliver science based lectures via webinars while still incorporating the typical hands-on trimming activities on farm. The intent is to utilize state wide SUNY Campuses with dairy programs and/or CCE offices capable of hosting webinars and located near a large dairy operation.

CDL Class
Commercial Driver License program provided instruction for Class A and Class B licenses for 31 farm owners and workers in 2013. Most have earned their CDL license or have permits and road tests scheduled. The program has shown its value and adaptability by working with NYSDOT to provide alternative test locations and methods to meet the needs of any student and the requirements of the DOT.
Bilingual Dairy Training
A Spanish Employee Management Discussion Group was organized with support from the NY Farm Viability Institute to address the need for Spanish language instruction and support among dairy farms and agri-service personnel. Group members valued this forum, learning language skills, sharing their experiences and gathering advice from colleagues dealing with similar situations. Sixteen dairy producers and agri-service professionals participated, representing over 8,000 cows.

Winter Triticale Research
With feed shortages in 2012 and rising costs of land, many NWNY farmers planted winter triticale to harvest as silage. Optimizing nitrogen fertility has been shown to increase yields from 2 to 4 tons dry matter per acre. In response, a research trial was established using 15 on-farm sites in Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Yates, and Ontario counties following a variety of crops in rotation. Current estimates put the winter triticale acreage in WNY around 5,000 acres. About 2,000 acres have little or no nitrogen applied, while the other 3,000 have greater than 100lb/acre of nitrogen applied to them. Hay and haylage prices are approximately $300/ton dry matter and nitrogen averages $0.60/lb across the region. This research has been presented in Ag Focus Articles, e-mails and conversations and, if applied, could potentially enable farmers to gain $1.2 million worth of silage and save $36,000 in nitrogen fertilizer costs.

Job Training
What does the inside of an udder look like? How do cows produce milk? What effect does compliance with milking procedure have on the udder? These are questions that many people milking cows today can’t answer, despite the fact that even slight deviation from milking protocol can have negative effects on milk quality, udder health, and ultimately, farm profit. The NWNY Team, in collaboration with Vi-Cor’s Milk to the Max Program, organized a workshop to help producers educate their milking staff on udder health, udder physiology and mastitis. This workshop, presented on two dairy farms, attracting a total of 44 participants, 25 of whom were Spanish-speaking. Attendees included milkers, farm owners and agri-service professionals, who work with over 9,000 cows.

Malting Barley Production
The NWNY Team has taken the lead in the state-wide Extension effort to help farmers grow malting barley. We developed the first Extension bulletin for best management practices, hosted two variety locations, put on a twilight tour, and assisted farmers in WNY growing malting barley on over 400 acres this past year. Malting barley commands a premium price compared to feed barley or winter wheat. Although there are some modifications needed to the standard small grain production practices fall planted barley can yield 80 bushels per acre while spring planted yeilds 40 bushels per acre. Farmers are currently selling malting barley for between $10 and $12 per bushel.

Crop Alerts
The NWNY team provided weekly Crop Alert updates to over 600 people working directly on farms or with farmers in WNY during the 2013 growing season. Weekly, emailed updates addressed current problems and challenges in the fields. This included pictures of current field conditions, links to additional resources, and observations from members of the agricultural community. Our reports were shared extensively throughout the local and regional agricultural community. Crop Alerts are posted to our team Facebook and website and are sent via fax to members of the Mennonite community. Feedback from dozens of individuals indicate Crop Alerts are timely and very helpful.
These charts are a visual representation of the sources from which the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County has gained financial support. The programming, publications and educational opportunities that exist through the Cornell Cooperative Extension are a direct result of these funds.

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**COUNTY 23%**
$378,395.00

**STATE 18%**
$303,575.00

**FEDERAL 12%**
$205,100.00

**PARTICIPATION 47%**
$800,283.00

**BUDGET TOTAL**
$1,687,353.00

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County provides equal program and employment opportunities.