Our highly skilled educators deliver research-based knowledge through non-credit education in the fields of Agriculture & Horticulture, Environment & Energy, 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Education.

2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545
845-677-8223 www.ccedutchess.org
In 2013, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County celebrated 100 years of serving Dutchess County communities. As we plan to carry forward the mission, traditions, and strengths of Extension, we also reflect on the accomplishments in 2013 which lay the foundation for a successful year ahead.

This past year, the Family and Consumer Education team offered programs to a diverse array of Dutchess County residents, including adults, seniors and youth from every demographic and geographic part of the county. They educated the full spectrum of educational and income levels through research-based programs directed at improving life skills for program participants.

Together with the Dutchess County Heritage Committee and Dutchess County Tourism, we hosted an agricultural tour for stakeholders which showcased the impact our farm operations have on the local economy. Extension agriculture program staff and our farm families described the risks, rewards and hard work involved in generating that economic activity and in preserving the agricultural landscapes that benefit all of us who live and work in the County.

Also in 2013, the Environment and Energy staff coordinated a superb Energy and Climate Change Conference, in partnership with Cornell University’s Community and Regional Development Institute and Vassar College, focusing on local and regional options for energy and climate change resiliency.

Returning after a number of years, the 4-H program sent representatives to 4-H Capital Days. 4-H youth also participated in STARR (State Teen Action Rep Retreat) and Career Explorations. And the Dutchess County Fair – helped by an extraordinary run of good weather plus the good work of staff and countless volunteers - provided a terrific showcase for 4-H accomplishments again this year.

Over 60 people from all over the Northeast attended our Hops 101 program, sponsored by the Agriculture/Horticulture Program Team, to learn the basics of growing and marketing hops on their property. This is just one example of how CCEDC is introducing our growers and agribusiness operators to new and value-added crop opportunities in order to expand and diversify their operations.

Thank you for your continued support of Extension programs. We look forward to serving you in 2014.

Sincerely,

John J. Borchert
Board President

Ruth A. Moore
Executive Director
Our Mission
Through quality educational programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County builds strong, healthy youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County.

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Agriculture & Horticulture

*Extension continues to play a key role in improving agricultural and horticultural production in Dutchess County by being on the leading edge of what will impact our communities and how through education programs we can keep growers up-to-date on best practices.*

Our Agriculture/Horticulture Program is committed to supporting the agricultural industry in Dutchess County by working with farmers to increase agricultural competitiveness and profitability; develop new and promote existing markets, and ensure future harvests through direct marketing and agri-tourism information, education and resources.

Our Community Horticulture Program raises awareness of current issues, teaches best practices and addresses community gardening needs reaching individuals, organizations and communities throughout the county.

*Field crop and pasture land in the Harlem Valley*

**Program Highlights**

Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Update- Through a NYS grant funded effort, an update of the 1998 Dutchess County Agricultural Plan began with the development of a steering committee, public surveys and a public forum.

**Agritourism and Marketing** – We conducted a tour for 28 Municipal and County officials relating the importance of agriculture to local economies.

**Agriculture Breakfast** - One hundred farmers and municipal officials attended this annual event to celebrate our local agriculture, its importance and its impacts.

**Field Crops** - Our farmers are looking for new and diverse crops to add into their rotation and production to meet new demands. We offered a Hops 101 conference for 60 on the economics and feasibility of growing and selling a hop crop.

NYS Integrated Pest Management- Our producers were provided with timely information and county specific resources through the statewide IPM Team weekly newsletters, monitoring of Western Bean Cutworm, scouting of pests in Christmas trees, soybean and hay crops. The Diagnostic Lab handled 415 requests to identify plant and insect samples, diagnose plant samples and perform soil pH testing. Requests included integrated pest management and soil improvement, with an increased focus on growing vegetables and small fruits for home consumption. Education was delivered to nearly 400 people in lectures and classes and reached over 1000 visitors at community events.

*Hops 101 participants visit a local hopyard*
Organics Recycling - A grant from Dutchess County for organics recycling education and promotion was utilized to increase recycling awareness, activities and ultimately reduce the county’s solid waste stream. Leveraging Cornell University Waste Management Institute’s research-based composting education, new materials were created and delivered by 30 trained Master Gardener Volunteers throughout the county. A new exhibit at the Dutchess County Fair taught 900 visitors why and how they should compost. Information published on CCEDC’s website, Facebook, and local newspapers reinforced the value of organics recycling.

**A family viewing the compost exhibit at the Dutchess County Fair**

Master Gardener Outreach included “How Does it Grow” with vegetables and was delivered to 235 youngsters at summer meal awareness programs. MG volunteers also grew and sold over 8000 annual, vegetable and perennial plants in the annual plant sale which partially funds the program, and planted and maintained the Farm & Home Center’s demonstration gardens. In total, 85 Master Gardener Volunteers donated over 8000 hours to CCEDC and the community.

Certified Arborist Training - International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification sets an individual apart from non-certified arborists. CCEDC offered a comprehensive four session training program to prepare participants for the ISA professional certification exam. CCEDC is the only organization in NYS that offers this training.

Invasive Species - Media coverage of the cicada hatch of 2013 was extensive, including Dutchess County Extension’s local television and news print coverage regarding the cicada and its unusual life cycle, behavior and its possible damage to fruit trees. Cicadas generally emerge only once every 17 years.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force engaged municipalities, landscapers and arborists in a dialogue about community preparedness for this invasive insect that affects native ash. This invasive has devastated trees in the Midwest since the early ‘90s. It was discovered in Dutchess County in 2012.

Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program (ENYCHP) - ENYCHP provided commercial fruit, vegetable, grape and small fruit producers, processors and the related industry In Dutchess County and beyond with programs for profitable and market safe crops produced in an environmentally sound manner. Tree fruit specialists provided a new technical resource for tree fruit growers in 2013 - The Tree Fruit News. Twilight meetings, field days, variety trials and other timely programs were conducted by the ENYCHP team.

Small Farms - Information was provided to 78 small and beginning farm operators in 2013. A short course on poultry housing construction for high school students and assistance in the development of standards for egg sales for Hudson Valley Fresh are two examples of small farm focused programming offered.

We impacted the lives of nearly 5000 Dutchess County farmers, residents and businesses through agricultural and horticultural programming and information.
Environment & Energy

Through education, research and partnerships, the Environment & Energy Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County empowers individuals and municipal groups to expand their knowledge and actions to protect, restore, and enhance the environment of Dutchess County for future generations.

Flood Resiliency
CCEDC staff have been working collaboratively with extension offices in other counties (Columbia, Greene, and Orange, and last year, Putnam) on the Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project (HEWRP), a project funded by the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell, the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the State Environmental Protection Fund. The HEWRP is a combination of research, demonstration, outreach and education focused on climate change, flood resiliency, stream management and related topics. As part of this educational initiative, focused on both municipal and riparian landowner audiences, CCEDC staff provides tools and resources meant to assist municipalities in reducing their vulnerability to flooding by enhancing knowledge of stream and floodplain dynamics. As part of the HEWRP, CCEDC staff worked with the regional team to conduct education and outreach initiatives including: seminars, trainings, and presentations for municipalities; developing fact sheets regarding which agencies to contact during and after flood events; and other outreach mechanisms for municipal officials and streamside landowners. Throughout the past year, CCEDC educators delivered presentations on the overall project, flood resiliency, and stream management to municipalities in the project’s target watersheds in Dutchess and other counties. Staff also conducted needs assessment interviews with municipal officials in Dutchess County to evaluate the specific needs and barriers municipalities face concerning flooding and flood mitigation. CCEDC is currently focusing on providing outreach to municipalities on the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System, as well as continuing to organize seminars and other forms of outreach focused on flood-related topics, such as basic stream dynamics and dams. www.hudsonestuaryresilience.net.

EmPower NY
CCEDC staff hosted eight free, two-hour workshops for local residents throughout the fall of 2013 called “Save Energy, Save Dollars”. The workshops are part of the EmPower New York Program and are sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). They were developed in cooperation with Cornell University Cooperative Extension, which provided funding to CCEDC to complete the workshops. The goal of “Save Energy, Save Dollars” is to help participants take real actions that will lead to real energy savings. Through these workshops, which consist of a PowerPoint and simple demonstrations, participants learn easy and inexpensive tips to save money on their energy bills by increasing their energy efficiency. Since the workshops focus on easy, often seasonal, and less permanent steps that participants can take to reduce their energy usage, renters are also able to find several actions that they can take to save money on energy bills. The workshops cover four general areas of energy usage in households, in order of highest to lowest energy costs for the typical household. The four categories are: heating and cooling, hot water, appliances, and lighting. At the end of the workshop, participants receive free compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Beacon Train Station - Tropical Storm Irene - August 2011

Flooding at Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie after Superstorm Sandy

Save Energy Save Dollars workshop at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook. Photo credit: Lalita Malik
**Environment & Energy**

**GIS Mapping and Analysis**
The CCEDC GIS Lab and staff continue to partner with several Dutchess County agencies (Department of Planning and Development, Office of Computer Information Services, Real Property Tax Service Agency), local municipalities, and non-profit groups to provide GIS mapping and analysis services for municipal officials and volunteer groups. We also provide GIS training and facilitation of the GIS special interest group and volunteer program that helps extend the reach of CCEDC into the community. One of the highlights of the year was hands-on training for municipal officials and volunteers, using computers borrowed from the Cornell University Institute for Resource Information Science. The training included an introduction to online mapping resources for municipal officials in Dutchess County, followed by instructor-led exercises that taught participants how to investigate site-specific natural resources in the county. The CCEDC GIS Lab also provided support for the county’s GIS Agricultural District and farm operation mapping and analysis; mapping for the Village of Millbrook water supply protection zone; GIS training and mentoring for volunteers; mapping of the Wappinger Greenway Trails; and mapping of zoning districts in a number of Dutchess County municipalities for a ‘food deserts’ study.

*Neil Curri, Senior Educator, facilitating a GIS training for municipal officials*

The CCEDC program initiated a USDA-funded, multi-state and multi-year initiative that connects educators to major sustainable bioenergy research initiatives - National Bioenergy and Bioproducts Education Programs (BBEP). The program includes intensive training in bioenergy and bioproducts STEM disciplines, including agriculture. During a week-long workshop, middle and high school teachers, as well as college educators, experience engaging hands-on activities, participate in -field trips to bio-based industries, receive research-based teaching materials, and have access to networking opportunities with world-class researchers and other educators. Participants work together to develop and integrate resources appropriate for their classrooms. BBEP workshops provide an opportunity to learn, create, and discover with a focus on sustainability, systems thinking, biomass, biofuels, bioheat and power, bioproducts, and environment and policy.

*This project is supported by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant no. 2011-67009-30055 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.*

**No Child Left Inside**
The No Child Left Inside (NCLI) youth environmental educators worked hard over the past year educating middle school youth and the public about the environment while also developing and creating the Fall Kill Creek Podcasting Project. The Youth Environmental Educators have conducted environmental After School Enrichment programs at Krieger Elementary School and Summer Enrichment programs with Catherine Street Community center. The educators also took 15 City of Poughkeepsie youth on their first boat ride ever while canoeing up the Indian Creek at Norrie Point, and have encouraged many of their peers to join them for hiking and other outdoor activities. The NCLI Youth environmental educators continue to educate and work to connect youth with nature through community events such as the Dutchess County Fair and the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program “Day in the Life of the Hudson River.” Finally, the youth educators have spent a good portion of this year learning how to write, create and edit podcasts. They are currently working on creating 10 podcasts, including a rap, and a website all with the focus on educating their peers about the Fall Kill Creek and its watershed.

*Hiking at Sam’s Point Preserve*
Family & Consumer Education program empowers families, individuals and communities of Dutchess County to improve their well-being through education and change facilitation. Our programs and staff utilize research-based expertise, teaching methods and learning tools to help families, individuals and communities apply research based concepts to real life situations. Life has become a complex experience for American families, and never more-so than in the recent years. Health, finances, education, parenting and employment present greater challenges than ever before. Our Family and Consumer Education Programs are designed to respond to the ever growing, and ever-changing needs of Dutchess County households, while also assisting with community-based changes that enhance the positive survival of our residents.

The Family and Consumer Education Program (FCE), acts under a program mission statement of “Facilitating change with Dutchess County residents and communities through education.” Our programs and staff work with all levels of the Spectrum of Change to ensure that change can be successful. From strengthening individual knowledge and skill, to providing community level education, to educating providers of services, facilitating coalitions and networks, facilitating change in organizational practice and influencing policy, our past and current programs impact change. FCE currently consist of three major topic areas including Food, Nutrition and Wellness, Parenting and Family Education, and Financial Management Education. FCE successfully works with the underserved areas, areas with a high percentage of racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities and other special needs. We have form and facilitate advisory committees and coalitions in each of our subject areas, and our team truly demonstrates every day the importance of working with persons of all ages and abilities in a variety of settings while having flexibility and patience in supporting their learning needs.

Through our work with families, individuals, and youth, our programs improve nutritious eating habits, reduce risk of disease, decrease food insecurity (hunger), increase use of local foods, improve school and family engagement, increase ability to save money and reduce debt, and reduce the need for foster care and social services in the long-term. Through education, our SNAP-Ed/Eat Smart New York! program reached 363 Dutchess County residents, Food Access Collaboration and Education Project reached 532, Food Nutrition and Wellness Program reached 99, and Hudson River Fish Advisories reached 485, for a total of 1,479 adults, seniors, and youth who have taken action to improve their healthy eating, active living, food security and food safety behaviors.
Our Relatives as Parents Program assisted 67 relative caregivers and 83 children in their care, to develop healthy parent-child relationships and positive living skills, creating a safe, structured environment to avoid foster care. Our Financial Literacy for Youth reached 214 Dutchess County youth, Financial Literacy for Adults in Transition reached 92 adults, and Consumer Call Line helped 37, for a total of 343 adults, seniors, and youth who have taken action to practice wise money management skills and debt reduction.

Total direct educational impact of our programs was 1,972 Dutchess County residents and their families. In addition, numerous interventions with stakeholders and decision makers through systems change efforts extended our reach and impact.

Through this community-based education and collaborations with partnering organizations, we have continued to reverse environments that lead to poor outcomes, establishing new systems that encourage healthy outcomes for childhood obesity prevention, chronic disease prevention, poverty prevention and foster care prevention, while enhancing the sustainability of our local food system and businesses. In this way, Family and Consumer Education Programs help create opportunities for healthy, productive Dutchess County families and communities.
4-H Youth Development

The 4-H youth development movement which began more than 100 years ago as a rural youth education program has adapted and expanded to meet the needs of youth from all types of communities. Studies have shown that children participating in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel confident to try new things, achieve a sense of self-esteem and develop lasting friendships. 4-Hers are ready for an ever changing world.

CCEDC’s vibrant 4-H Youth Development program is led by a committed staff and dedicated volunteers who work closely with youth on projects, public presentations and entries to the Dutchess County Fair. During 2013, 350+ youth participated in 45 4-H Clubs and the Green Teen Community Gardening program. Youth and their activities were supported by more than 65 volunteers and partners across the county who donated their time and skills. Beyond the Club experience, Dutchess County 4-Her’s participated in county-wide educational programs including horse bowl and hippology, Fashion Revue, livestock clinics, farm visits and the Dutchess County Fair.
6th Annual Green Teen Spring Photo Show. This year’s theme We’ve Been Served: Food through the Eyes of Teenagers.

Sending 4-H Teen Ambassadors to Capital Days, STARR and CareerEx.

Doubling the size of the Green Teen garden with the new raspberry patch.

Record number (50) of participants in the Harvest Food Fest public presentation!

Green Teen’s seasonal exchange of garden maintenance for baking lessons with Homespun Foods.

Visit to the Dutchess County Legislature by the Dutchess County Teen Ambassadors.

Sprout Creek Week Summer 2013! Spending a week taking care of animals, learning about farm chores, working the community, and getting to know youth from all over the country.

Largest Ag Literacy Week program for Dutchess County reaching over 1200 youth!

The best mobile market season ever with 4 sites and hundreds of Beacon area residents served!

4-H dedicated December to community service with Stuff the Trailer and a toy drive to help our neighbors in need.

Co-hosting a Food Day event and screening “A Place at the Table” about hunger in the United States. More than 3,000 exhibits at the Dutchess County Fair in August.

2013 CCEDC Centennial Ribbon Cutting event with a 4-Her cutting the ribbon for the next 100 years of Extension!
2013 Estimate of Financial Support

TOTAL FUNDING $2,470,321 100.00%

COUNTY $632,934 26%
FEDERAL $226,926 9%
STATE $982,240 40%
OTHER $443,916 18%
COUNTY AGREEMENTS DISTRIBUTING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS $184,305 7%

GRANTS/CONTRACTS/CONTRIBUTIONS/PROGRAM REVENUES

COUNTY $ FEDERAL $ STATE $ OTHER $
Working Together...to build strong, healthy families and communities while enhancing Dutchess County’s economic, social, agricultural and natural resources. Cooperative Extension cannot accomplish this alone! A wealth of resources (community and government leaders, not-for-profits and agencies) exists in Dutchess County. Cooperative Extension believes strongly in continuing its long history of working collaboratively to ensure a comprehensive approach to today’s issues.
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We very much appreciate your support.
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Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County
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