Cornell University Cooperative Extension
One Great Idea

at 100
Annual Report 2011
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County
Message from Board President and Executive Director...

ONE GREAT IDEA . . . 2011 was a year of Celebrating CCE’s Centennial!

In its 100th year, the Cornell Cooperative Extension System is still based on the “One Great Idea” that if people have access to university-based knowledge and apply it to their everyday lives, stronger individuals, families and communities will be the result. It will mean a better quality of life. It is an idea that was, and still is based on a belief that individual success, democracy and hard work can see us through any challenges.

The vision and power of CCE’s “One Great Idea” remains relevant today, and has spread across New York State and our nation. Regardless of what interest or issue one applies this Great Idea to, it continues to draw and engage some of the finest minds and strongest leaders in NYS and in Dutchess County, just as it has over the past 100 years. And that’s a wonderful thing, because in 2011, we faced our biggest challenge in recent history - the culmination of a two-year total loss of $590,000 in county funding. As a result, we made difficult choices: We reduced our staff from 40 to 25 (from all funding sources). These cuts had a tremendous impact on the resources and educational programs we’ve been able to provide to county residents. Rising to the economic challenges in 2011, we created a new CCEDC Fund Raising Committee, which kicked-off our 2011 Centennial Celebrations with a “Ribbon Cutting” in June, followed by a series of celebratory events and Centennial fund raisers including: our first Phonathon; our Tent at the Dutchess County Fair, a Walk-a-thon over the Hudson River, an Open House at the Farm & Home Center, a Centennial Appeal and our Annual Meeting with Silent Auction.

On behalf of CCEDC, we thank all of you who joined us to celebrate the people, purpose and progress that are Cornell Cooperative Extension. And we extend our gratitude to everyone who purchased a CCEDC item and/or made a Centennial Contribution, including our Centennial Corporate sponsors: Panera/Take Home The Bread, Central Hudson and the Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester Farm Bureau.

As we move ahead in 2012, our organization will continue to seek out funds from other sources, successfully secure grant funds and implement shared services to increase efficiencies. Yes, the new century keeps bringing us new challenges, but the One Great Idea is as powerful as ever. As we look forward, remember that while what we have focused on has changed over the years and will undoubtedly change more in the future, our four Program Area personnel and volunteers continue to address the needs of the residents of Dutchess County.

Our staff, collaborators, participants and volunteers work together to create a special synergy. It’s that synergy, coupled with our uniqueness that enables us to weather the ups and downs of the economy: It worked for us for the past 100 years, and it will for the next century, too—with your help and support.

Thank you again, for all that you do.

Warmest regards,

Laurie A. Rich, President, Board of Directors

Linda R. Keech, Executive Director
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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The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.

Cornell Cooperative Extension actively supports equal educational and employment opportunities. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, veteran status, or disability. Cornell Cooperative Extension is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.
Agriculture & Horticulture Program

According to the 2007 USDA Agriculture Census, there are 656 farms totaling 102,360 acres in Dutchess County, a decrease of 2 and 9% respectively since 2002. Interestingly, despite these modest decreases, the market value of production has increased significantly in that same time frame. There are fewer farms, but those in existence are producing higher value crops. A surge in the growth of small acreage operations and the expansion of niche and agri-tourism producers reflects the diversity of agriculture in Dutchess County. The commercial horticulture industry in Dutchess County not only meets the niche of helping residents to maintain and sustain healthy landscapes to protect water quality and reduce runoff but also grows many of the trees, shrubs and bedding plants used in these landscapes. CCEDC is the front line for education on beginning farming, agriculture value assessment and agriculture districts, Integrated Pest Management, food security, Christmas tree production and pest management, best management practices to maintain viable landscapes, bed bug education, invasive species education and education on response for animal rescue due to natural disasters. The following are some highlights of 2011.

Disaster Response
CCEDC was key in getting out disaster response information to the agricultural/horticultural community in the wake of Hurricanes Irene and Lee. Timely email blasts occurred as soon as the information was received by FEMA and other local state and federal agencies. Educators also worked closely with farmers and other agencies to track damage and provide information on relief and funding.

Smart Marketing for Farmers - Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference
Over 75 participants attended the Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference Capitalizing on Group Action & Business Alliances to Improve Marketing Returns held at the Wallace center in Hyde Park. An outstanding field of agricultural producers and academic, industry, and government speakers discussed and highlighted innovative agricultural marketing models that have capitalized on the benefits of group action and business alliances. On the second day of the conference, an assembled team of experts discussed the ins and outs of new agricultural cooperative development.

Strategic Livestock Marketing Program
A 6 county program offered through Tompkins County Extension allowed Dutchess County livestock producers to participate in a 4 part webinar series about marketing livestock. The interactive discussions after the program were the most beneficial to our producers and the most valuable that this staff member has seen after a program.

Horticulture Production, Best Management Practices and IPM
20 Christmas Tree Growers learned IPM techniques during our annual twilight meeting and field demonstration.
Green industry professionals were able to take advantage of industry updates via webinars transmitted from Cornell University. This remote teaching enabled direct contact with state specialists and interaction via live chat and at the same time taught them about cutting edge technology and techniques.

Resurgence of a Serious Insect Pest
Bed bugs are back! Through an article in our Land & Living newsletter and through several information booths set up in the county, Master Gardener volunteers and CCEDC staff raised awareness of the bed bug epidemic in Dutchess County. Volunteers disseminated hundreds of traveler’s cards detailing tips on how to prevent bed bug infestations in homes.

Invasive Species
The Cornell Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) Project involves collaboration between CCE educators, regional specialists and Cornell faculty. To date, one of our Regional Fruit Specialists has been involved with project cooperators monitoring 78 pheromone traps and 10 black light traps in fruit and vegetable cropping areas in Eastern, Central and Western NY. 2 Dutchess County farms were monitored with BMSB traps.
Agriculture & Horticulture Program

Agriculture District Mapping Project
Agriculture District mapping has been completed. The CCEDC Agriculture/Horticulture and Environment Programs successfully partnered with Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dutchess County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board and the Dutchess County Planning Department to complete this important project. Parcels that were “unknown” as to the type of agriculture that was being produced were identified, clarified and mapped based on the 8 year review from 2008 information. Agriculture District maps previously completed through 2008, were approved by the DC Legislators in 2011. 85 County and Town officials were informed of our work in mapping the 2008 Agriculture Districts and the possible uses for those maps. A spring 2012 educational session is planned.

Urban and Community Forestry
150 individuals attended the NYS Releaf Conference which was held in Region 3 a joint effort of Dutchess, Ulster and Orange Counties. Urban and community forestry topics which included a tour to an emerald ash borer infested community illustrated the reality of this invasive pest and its destruction of native ash trees.

“The Snippet”
2011 Budget Cuts in County Appropriations reduced our Livestock Educator to part time. In an effort to reach residents, this educator created a livestock blog, “The Snippet” for our CCEDC website. The Snippet addresses issues facing farmers in a manner in which the general public can understand and appreciate. The blog also has a presence on our CCEDC Facebook site.

Living Outdoor Classrooms
The Farm & Home Center in Millbrook has a variety of demonstration gardens created and maintained by Master Gardener Volunteers. From the Xeriscape Garden to the Bird and Butterfly Garden, from the Shade Garden to the Edible Landscape Garden, these gardens illustrate for homeowners best practices, and how to incorporate an edible landscape into their homesite to provide healthy food products and enhance food security.

"Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my inquiry regarding the beetles found on my potato plants. I am relieved to hear that the tortoise beetles are not a serious threat to the plants. It seems that they appear for only a short time span. I observed only one more of them the following day and they have disappeared completely as of today. Thank you and others in your organization who helped in this matter."
Life has become a complex experience for American families, and never more so than in the last few 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 households, while also assisting with community-based changes that enhance the positive survival of our residents. 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.

"The great part was working together as a team. It was very fun. My team members were funny and nice." RAPP Participant-Team Building Exercise

"Today I learned how to control your anger. It's important to take a couple of deep breaths and tell the teacher and take a picture of a flower to look at for a minute or two to calm down." –RAPP Participant-Furious Fred Workshop

Through education, our **Food, Nutrition and Wellness Programs** helped 1,429 adults and seniors take action to improve their healthy eating, active living, food security and food safety behaviors. 447 youth have taken action to reduce behaviors that cause childhood obesity. Our **Relatives as Parents Program** helped 60 relative caregivers and 58 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 Management** programs empowered 160 adults and 306 youth take action to practice wise money management skills and debt reduction. Of these adults reached, 25 were caseworkers of partnering agencies, completing our professional training program, who have now begun reaching secondary clients (53 year to date since graduation in June and November).

"I liked playing Jeopardy because when you get it right or wrong you learn something new." –student in nutrition program

"I noticed my child looking at the labels of food. She never used to do that before. She points out how much is in the product." –parent of youth participating in nutrition program

"During class snacks, students announced when they had fruits and veggies. They were proud." –teacher of classroom where youth graduated from nutrition program

"Although he already loves to eat many fruits and vegetables he tried even more such as asparagus and loved it. He also points out the “whole grain” signs on the cereals, etc." –parent of participating youth

"You should keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot." –student in nutrition program

"My favorite part was tasting the milk and learning not to keep meat out. It was gross!" –student in nutrition program
Through our community-based work and collaborators with partnering organizations, we have continued to change 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 business. In this way, Family and Consumer Education Programs help create opportunities for healthy, productive Dutchess County families and communities.

“Although they lived together as a couple, two clients who attended the FLEAT (Financial Literacy for Adults in Transition) program separately, participating in parenting programs separated by gender. The female participant, “T”, had been through major life changing financial situations and was basically self-taught out of necessity. She had some excellent money managing skills and some that needed correction. Her goal during our sessions was to decide whether to repair her old car or purchase a “new” used one. After we analyzed the concept of goal setting, talked about credit scores, how to correct mistakes on her credit report and where she could obtain resources to make it happen, “T” purchased a much needed car and let go of the old one. She stated that as a result of attending our program, she realigned her budget and also after identifying her needs and wants, she could begin to think about her long term financial priorities. “J”, her partner, found out that this program was being taught to his group, he was thrilled! “T” would come home and share all the great things she learned and the bonus was they gained the ability to buy the car. It was very satisfying to both of them that there could be such a positive outcome from educational programs. When I saw both of them last week, they stated to me how much they benefited from what they learned and they hoped our important and necessary program would be funded again to help more couples like themselves.” - CCEDC Educator

“We learned how to save up money for needs and wants...it was cool because I got to see how much money I would have to save each day if I want to buy a car when I am 16. I think that it was good that we were learning about credit and real-world stuff.” - Student

“My students were extremely excited to take home the budget goal exercise. Many said that they wanted to let their parents use the form. They have also referenced checks and banking during other class discussions. They have looked forward to receiving their folders to take home.” - Teacher
Environment & Energy

Through education, research, and partnerships, the CCEDC Environment & Energy Program empowers individuals and municipal groups to expand their knowledge and actions to protect, restore, and enhance the environment of Dutchess County for future generations. Environment & Energy Program staff bring expertise and resources to Dutchess County officials and residents to conserve and manage our natural capital—including groundwater, farmland & open space, and clean air. In 2011, the program was able to maintain staffing levels and leverage core county dollars by bringing in over 60% of funds from external funding sources. In 2011, staff developed and implemented these vital programs for residents of Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley:

**Sustainable Land Use Planning & Decisions**

Environment and Energy Program staff provide expertise, training and research-based resources to municipal officials, Conservation Advisory Councils (CACs) and the Dutchess County EMC to help them make more informed local planning decisions to protect natural resources. More than 172 members of municipal Conservation Advisory Councils, local boards, and the EMC received information on upcoming environmental training opportunities, notices from the DEC, an opportunity to share resources and ideas, and attended numerous training workshops organized by CCEDC staff.

**Natural Resource GIS Data & Tools**

Environment and Energy Program staff provide access to GIS data and information, tools, training and expertise to help municipal officials make more informed decisions regarding natural resource and land use planning. More than 100 municipal officials and volunteers from CACs, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Boards, the EMC, and watershed groups increased their knowledge of GIS and GIS skills through presentations and hands on workshops. Staff were available to provide information and answer questions of municipal officials about using GIS for land use and natural resource use planning and open space/farmland protection. The Senior GIS Resource Educator worked to finalize the GIS Agricultural District Database for Dutchess County, allowing county agencies, the Farmland Protection Board, Land Use Conservancies and Dutchess County municipalities more accurate Agriculture District and farm enterprise information and maps to support improved decision-making.

**Water Resource Protection**

Working entirely with grant funds, Environment and Energy Program staff provide residents, volunteers, and members of local watershed groups access to information and training in order to protect their local water resources and watersheds. Through facilitation of local watershed groups and development of the Dutchess Watershed Coalition, staff were critical to the organization of the third annual Watershed Awareness Month, where over 600 members of public and local officials attended 30 events. These included rain barrel building workshops, Green Infrastructure Bus Tours for municipalities, birdwalks and community hikes, green infrastructure workshops for homeowners, movie showings, and watershed group meetings. Staff continued to work with Cornell University to develop a new watershed steward volunteer training program for New York State.

**Energy & Environmental Issues**

Environment and Energy Program Staff are the “go-to resource” for Dutchess County residents (both youth and adults) when they have questions or need research-based information to protect their natural resources and the local environment. More than 400 residents improved their understanding of natural resources and local environmental issues through answers to their questions, and participation at environmental training forums and workshops. More than 1,000 Dutchess County residents gained increased access to local environmental best practices through staff time and informational exhibits at community events such as the Dutchess County Fair. More than 230 youth from Dutchess County gained improved understanding of natural resources and local environmental issues through their participation in
Environment & Energy

the Envirothon and Snapshot Day along the Hudson River. With grant funding, staff organized eight “Save Energy, Save Dollars” workshops throughout the county to train residents on home energy conservation actions, and contributed to CCE Statewide efforts to develop new energy and climate change outreach materials. Four new research-based fact sheets were developed to educate the public and farmers about New York’s changing climate.

“Great job! The quality of the workshop was excellent, and the instructor definitely addressed my particular questions and issues. This will improve my capacity to work with GIS. The hands-on training is essential for me. You did a remarkable job of presenting to a widely diverse audience. We’re all coming to these with different expectations, experience, and level of knowledge!”

“The presentations at the Watershed Roundtable Forum were great and very engaging. The information from each discussion group was valuable - I hope that we can use the information to make progress in our town!”

“First, let me say thank you. I’ve been working on my lesson plans and your webpage (http://www.dutchesswatersheds.org) really helped me out! I really like the “The Groundwater Foundation” resources and activities you have developed!”

“Thank you for the Save Energy, Save Dollars workshop, and for answering my questions so quickly! It seems that I was quoting you all day. Thanks again for the information, help, and energy items!”
This year the Green Teen Community Gardening Program, funded by the County of Dutchess/ New York State Office for Children and Family Services, the Dyson Foundation, the Duchesne Fund, and Covanta Hudson Valley Renewable Energy, LLC, provided four seasons of garden and agriculture related programming for 98 children and 37 teens in Beacon. Even during the cold, dark months of winter seven teenagers would rush to make it to the van after school to be taken to a local dairy farm. Upon arriving at Sprout Creek Farm, in Poughkeepsie, the teens were taught to help with farm chores including milking the cows and goats, collecting chicken eggs, feeding the animals and ensuring that all the animals were secure for the night. Many of the Green Teens had never been on a farm. This experience gave them the opportunity to see “first hand” food production. That’s what Green Teen is all about - teaching teens about the world around them and that they can do things they never even imagined!

During the summer program the Green Teens bottled over 1400 jars of Peach-a-peño salsa. What is Peach-a-peño? That’s what happens when seven teenagers create an original recipe that is chocked full of their own grown jalapeños and local farm peaches. The Green Teens were involved in every aspect of the process from planting tomatoes in the spring to designing the label, harvesting peppers and bottling and selling the salsa. Peach-a-peño is a huge success and is being sold at over a dozen local stores and funds raised from the sale of the salsa support the continuation of the Green Teen program.

The Green Teen staff also worked with fourth graders from the JV Forrestal Elementary School. The spring was spent learning about pollination and honey bees; in the fall the focus was on local food and global-industrial food systems. They visited the Poughkeepsie Farm Project to check out a vegetable farm. The big finale of the 2011 fall season was the Local Food Feast, where they made a wonderful meal of raw kale salad, macaroni and cheese, and salsa, of course.

“My favorite memory will definitely have to be the salsa because it was just an amazing feeling to know we, as Green Teens, made it and it’s done beautifully. We met amazing caring people along the way and it was just awesome. Something that changed in me is that I now have more confidence in myself when it comes to talking and sharing information with others. I also gained greater faith in people. Whether we liked each other or not we still got everything we needed done – no matter what. I will take my confidence in me and others with me when I leave the program.” - K.A. age 17

“I will take with me the importance of eating and growing vegetables. How to respect one another, how to cherish moments, and how to never give up.” - A.A. age 14
4-H Youth Development - Club Programs

The 4-H youth development movement began more than 100 years ago originally as a rural youth education program to introduce new ideas to what was then a country of primarily rural communities. As the nation’s economic and demographic profiles became more diverse, 4-H adapted and expanded to meet the needs of youth from any community. Young people who participate in 4-H become confident, mature adults ready for success in today’s challenging world, the only youth development program with a direct connection to advances from research conducted at state land-grant universities. Studies show that youth who participate 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.

CCEDC has a vibrant 4-H Youth Development Club program led by committed staff and dedicated volunteers. During 2011, 558 youth participated in 50 4-H Clubs and over 130 volunteers supported their activities. Beyond the Club experience, Dutchess 4-Her’s participated in county-wide educational programs including public speaking, hippology, horse bowl, cynology, dog bowl, tractor safety courses and the Dutchess County Fair.

Today the New York State 4-H program priorities include providing young people with opportunities to participate in science, engineering and technology, youth community action/citizenship activities and to develop healthy lifestyles. Highlighted below are examples of the opportunities Dutchess 4-Her’s have had to excel in these areas:

Science, Engineering and Technology
The Dutchess County 4-H Horse Program sponsors a horse clinic each summer that provides the youth participants with 5 riding lessons taught by certified riding instructors, 3 educational demonstrations ranging from dissecting a horse stomach to lessons from a jockey, and a 3 mini-camp like atmosphere during which they are solely responsible for the care of their horse. This program is planned and executed entirely by the 10+ committed volunteer leaders on the 4-H Horse Advisory and reaches more than 60 youth each year. The 4-H Beef, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Hog and Sheep programs also hold clinics/workshops throughout the year.

Youth Community Action/Citizenship
Each year, 4-H clubs are asked to complete 1 community service project. In 2011, the Feathers and Fur Rabbit Club delivered homemade cookies and handmade ornaments to the Baptist Home in Rhinebeck. The Barn Bratz 4-H Horse Club raised more than $800.00 in support of our troops. Club members solicited donations at the fair, and then purchased everyday items like toothpaste and deodorant and shipped it overseas. Members of the Got Goat Milk 4-H Club brought goats to the Children’s Home and visited with youth at the facility.

Healthy Lifestyles
Harvest Food Festival is a county-wide event that is held the first weekend in November each year. Youth who participate are asked to submit recipes that they have modified to suit their taste and then prepare their selections in front of an audience. Participants are required to use at least 1 cup of an ingredient produced in New York and many use vegetables grown in their gardens, eggs produced by their chickens, or meat from their own livestock. In 2011, more than 40 youth participated in the Harvest Food Festival program, and 15 were selected to move on to the Produced in New York demonstrations at the NY State Fair.

Thanks to dedicated 4-H volunteers and community partners, 4-H Youth Development will continue to expand youth development opportunities available to Dutchess County youth in 2012.
2011 Estimate of Financial Support

COUNTY
Appropriations 520,000
Agreements/Contracts 295,814
Use of Building 237,308
TOTAL County Funding $ 1,053,122 48.06%

FEDERAL
Smith/Lever 12,000
Grants 64,617
TOTAL Federal Funds $ 76,617 3.50%

STATE
224 Funds 137,500
Fringe Benefits 464,458
Grants 105,855
TOTAL State Funds $ 707,813 32.30%

OTHER
Grants 157,476
• Enrollment & Program Fees 60,990
• Reimbursement for Professional Services 11,500
• Contributions & Fundraising 80,804
• Rent, Sales, Interest, Etc. 43,050
TOTAL Other Funds $ 353,820 16.15%

TOTAL FUNDING $ 2,191,372 100.00%
Working together to build strong, healthy families and communities while enhancing Dutchess' 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. 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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<td>Marist College</td>
<td>Taconic Resources</td>
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<td>DC Department of Labor</td>
<td>Mark Adams Greenhouses</td>
<td>Teen Resource Activity Center - Poughkeepsie</td>
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<td>DC Department of Mental Hygiene</td>
<td>Mediation Center of Dutchess County</td>
<td>The Living Room</td>
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<td>DC Department of Planning &amp; Development</td>
<td>Mental Health America</td>
<td>The Turning Point at St. Francis Hospital</td>
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<td>DC Department of Social Services</td>
<td>Mid Hudson Alcohol Recovery Center</td>
<td>USDA &amp; USDA NRCS</td>
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<td>DC Economic Development Corp.</td>
<td>Mid Hudson Building &amp; Grounds</td>
<td>US Park Service</td>
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<td>DC Environmental Management Council</td>
<td>Superintendent's Assoc.</td>
<td>United Way of Dutchess and Orange Counties</td>
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<td>DC Healthy Families</td>
<td>Mid Hudson Children's Museum</td>
<td>US Forest Service</td>
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<td>DC Industrial Development Agency</td>
<td>Mid Hudson Dietetic Assoc.</td>
<td>Vassar College</td>
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<td>Mid Hudson Green Industry Assoc.</td>
<td>Vassar Environmental Research Institute</td>
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<td>DC Division of Aging Services</td>
<td>National 4-H Council</td>
<td>Wappinger Creek Watershed</td>
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<td>DC Planning Federation</td>
<td>New York Farm Viability Institute</td>
<td>Intermunicipal Council</td>
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<td>DC Pomonia Grange</td>
<td>Nubian Directions</td>
<td>Wells Manor</td>
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<td>NYS 4-H Council</td>
<td>Women, Infants and Child Program(WIC)</td>
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<td>NYS 4-H Capital Days Committee</td>
<td>Workforce Investment Board</td>
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<td>DC Sheep &amp; Wool Growers</td>
<td>NYS Agriculture Experiment Station</td>
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<td>DC Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</td>
<td>NYS Arborists Association</td>
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<td>DC Tourism</td>
<td>NYS Department of Agriculture &amp; Markets</td>
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<td>DC Division of Youth Services</td>
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<td>Dutchess Land Conservancy</td>
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<td>Dutchess Outreach</td>
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Lauren Beatty, 4-H Summer Assistant
Cassandra Messina, 4-H Summer Assistant

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