

2020 Annual Report





Pictured: Keuka Outlet Boat Launch, August 2020.

Photo Credit: David Carr, Finger Lakes Institute

2021

2022

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On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are proud to present the Annual Report for 2020.

The start of 2020 marked the second century of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Yates County. During our first one hundred years, Cornell Cooperative Extension was known for bringing the latest and unfamiliar to Yates County for exploration, discussion, and adaptation decisions. Ten months into the COVID-19 pandemic, CCE-Yates County has once again shown their value to the community, just not in the way we previously have.

2020 was a long year. Like many organizations, CCE-Yates County was faced with financial challenges in the wake of the "New York State on PAUSE" executive order. Addressing these challenges became a top priority for our Board and was a guide on how to provide the services and navigate the relationships CCE-Yates has cultivated. Working with Executive Director Arlene Wilson and the CCE-Yates staff to adapt to new delivery models was a significant shift for us, especially considering we had to quickly resort to holding meetings over ZOOM (some for the first time). Ensuring sustainability for an essential organization during a major pandemic has been a giant pivot for all of us.

As 2020 tested our mettle, it also allowed us to demonstrate our strength, adaptability, and ingenuity. CCE-Yates presented the ability to provide services to the community utilizing various technology platforms and holding socially-distant events (i.e., "Fair Re-Imagined, Watercraft Stewards program, and various "at-home" gardening demonstrations), tasks extremely noteworthy and something to be proud of creating. There was also the call to action for CCE-Yates County to provide education and ensure availability/delivery of PPE and sanitizer to local businesses and farms, another accomplishment. Of course, the Board stayed committed to maintaining and adapting our strategic plan to ensure the future of CCE-Yates County. While the world has adapted to a "new normal," the dedication of our board members and CCE-Yates staff has stayed consistent.

Looking ahead to 2021, I look forward to the ability to host in-person gatherings. I have missed being able to interact with CCE-Yates staff and the other Board members personally. I also look forward to the continued creativity and adaptability of CCE-Yates County to provide services. I know there will be a continuation and enhancements to the delivery of services, and I look forward to seeing how creative our staff will be. And finally, as this was my last year as President, I look forward to assisting James Smith as he assumes the role of Board President. Jim brings a good deal of historical knowledge regarding Yates CCE as a past Board member, and his prior service as a Yates County Legislator makes him a great choice to take over the helm.

I would now like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the two Board members whose terms are ending this year. Ryan Hallings and Derek Stork have brought an incredible amount of expertise to the Board. We much appreciate and will miss their contributions. I do not doubt that they will continue to share their knowledge and time in our community. But, I am happy to announce two new board members: Daniel Wickham (Lyons National Bank) and Sirene Garcia (Finger Lakes Community Health).

I would also like to express my gratitude to Executive Director Arlene Wilson and the CCE-Yates County staff and educators (especially those who have noted anniversaries with CCE). We are very grateful for your dedication to our community and members and look forward to continuing to work alongside such a superb team of individuals.

In closing, I am very grateful for all that we accomplished in 2020. While the year was challenging and ever-changing, the ability of the Board, Arlene, and the staff to adapt and excel is commendable. I am proud to be a part of and support such a wonderful organization, and I look forward to what is to come during my last year serving on the Board of Directors.



Stay safe and well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Disbrow".

**Wendy Disbrow
CCE- Yates County Board President**

CCE Yates Board of Directors 2021

James Smith, President	Tim Christensen
Anne Waasdorp, Vice President	Wendy Disbrow
Suzanne Patterson, Secretary	Sirene Garcia
Kris Pearson, Treasurer	Bill Laffin
Leslie Church, Legislative Representative	Christine Livingston
Adam Hughes, Cornell Representative, State Specialist	Daniel Wickham

CCE Yates Staff Directory 2021

Arlene Wilson, Executive Director	aaw66@cornell.edu
Jennifer Clancey, 4-H Team Leader	jja26@cornell.edu
Terrie Sautter, Accounts Rep II	tls252@cornell.edu
Brittany Griffin, Administrative Assistant	bg393@cornell.edu
Maggie Mahr, Marketing Coordinator	mam752@cornell.edu
Caroline Boutard-Hunt, Ag Educator	cb239@cornell.edu
Vallie Castner, Life Skills Educator	vgc8@cornell.edu
Laura Bailey, Natural Resources Educator	lb698@cornell.edu
Cate Sirek, SBN IT Lead	ces38@cornell.edu
Hans Walter Peterson, FLGP Team Leader	hcw5@cornell.edu
Donald Caldwell, Viticulture Technician	dc886@cornell.edu
Judson Reid, CVP/HNY Team Leader	jer11@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County

417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527

Phone: 315-536-5123 Fax: 315-536-5117

Web: <http://yates.cce.cornell.edu>

Mission Statement

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being.

We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping local Yates County families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

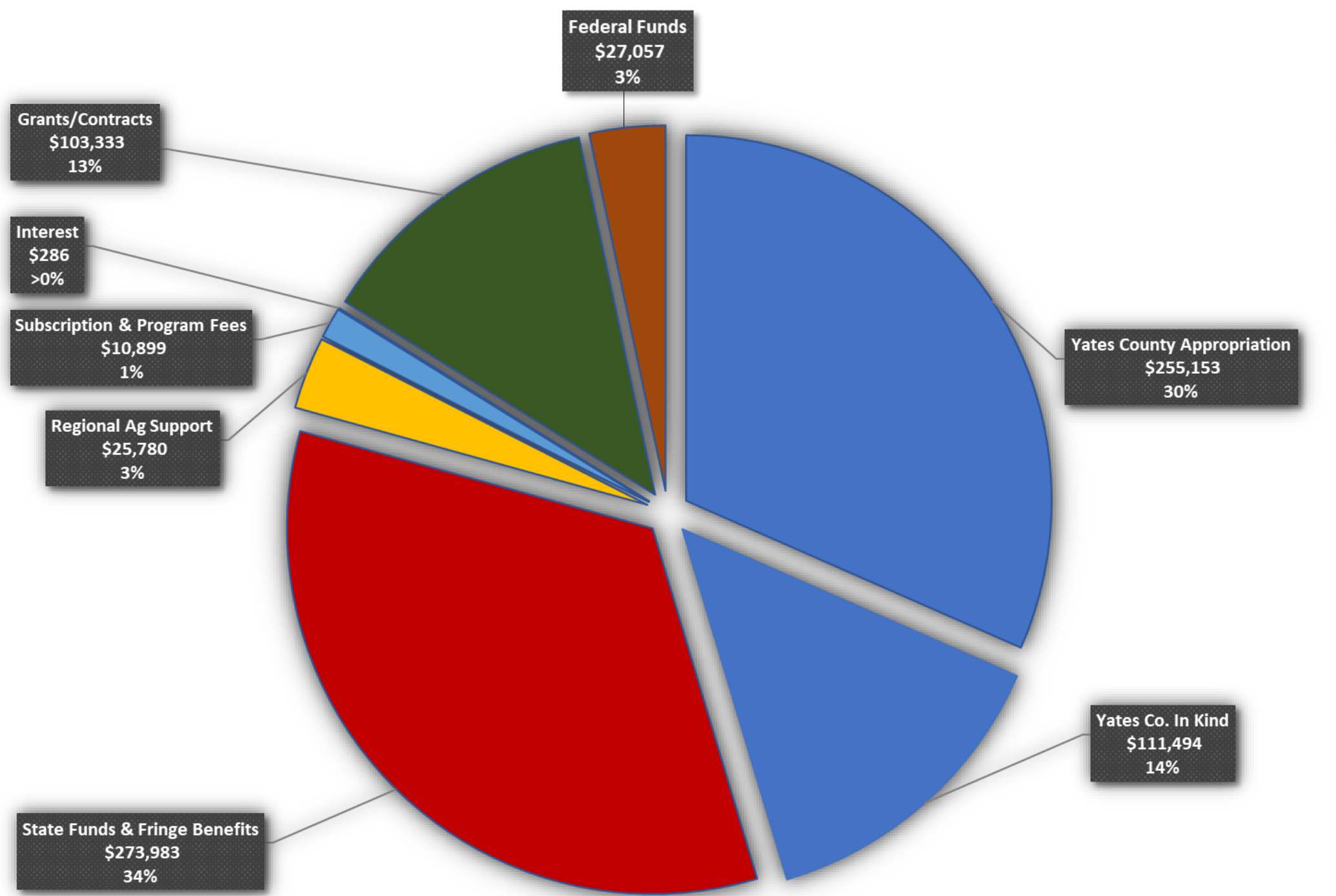
CCE-Yates County Re-opening Plan

CCE Yates County has daily office coverage, with 50% working in-person, and 50% working remotely. This includes work within the community (agriculture, gardening, natural resources, youth and families) using social distancing practices. To view our re-opening plan, visit us online at: <http://bit.ly/CCEYatesPlan>

Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/CCEYates/>

2020 CCE Revenue Resources



Finger Lakes Shared Business Network

2020 was a year of change for the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network, with new staff in the Human Resources (started 3/30/2020; resigned 9/18/2020), Finance (started 10/13/2020), and Executive Director (started 6/1/2020) Lead positions. These Leads provide high level strategic guidance, best practices, advice, and problem-solving to the seven Associations in the FLX SBN, and have been particularly important in guiding Associations through situations that arose as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Highlights Include:

- The Finance Leads team selected and started to implement a new accounting system, Acumatica, including account code mapping and extensive training for finance staff. This team also provided valuable input to Executive Directors on financial options available through COVID programs.
- The HR Lead was instrumental in creating and supporting the required daily COVID screening tool through Qualtrics. The HR Leads team provided crucial information to Executive Directors on staffing concerns as COVID fallout affected Association budgets.
- In addition to guiding the rapid deployment of remote work and learning hardware and other tools in response to the COVID crisis, the IT Lead instituted Tuesday Tech Tips, a bi-weekly online session to bring current technology and information to staff.
- Staffapalooza 2020 took place as scheduled on October 30th, but was held mostly virtual via ZOOM. This year's program had staff complete online trainings before the event (Sexual Harassment Prevention and Civil Rights Law Compliance) and used Staffapalooza for interactive reinforcement of the "spirit of the law", and for the required Workplace Violence training. But, the virtual format did not stop some associations from gathering in-person while maintaining social distance guidelines, and receiving Staffapalooza "swag". Participants were treated to custom-made socks, embroidered CCE face masks, as well as certificates for those celebrating 5, 15, and 20-year increments of years of service (as pictured left).





So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great good fortune

~Ruth Bader Ginsburg

This year of COVID-19 has been full of difficulties, challenges and leaving many of us worried and exhausted. But this has also been a year of great opportunities, and good fortune. We have seen and felt the encouragement of local fraternal organizations, not-for-profits, faith communities, government and businesses pool time, talents and treasure to ensure the continuity of our local economy, public institutions, and the safety of our agriculture, horticulture and livestock enterprises.

Collaborations between Cornell campus and County Extension associations were jump-started. The urgency of the times provided the impetus to move forward to implement great resources and initiatives. The **Finger Lakes**

4-H Learning Launchpad reached thousands of youth weekly, with educational videos ranging from exercise, food and nutrition, animal science, yoga, and more. Concerns about food insecurity were addressed with the spring **COVID Victory Garden Seed Packets**, which distributed vegetables/herbs and flowers to over 600 families and the summer **Container Garden Project**, which reached over 200 families in Yates County.

Yates County Extension staff huddled up (virtually) with communications via cell phone texts, Skype, email and online platforms such as Cornell BOX. Everyone became an expert at ZOOM, Facetime (on cell phones) and blended formats, so everyone was *in the loop*. As much as we expanded digital media communications, we also reintroduced and expanded traditional print media- creating flyers, hand bills and **Youth Activity Guide** for youth to color and use for outdoor activities, giving them a break from *ZOOM fatigue*.

Yates CCE Staff and **Cornell Vegetable Program**, and the **Finger Lakes Grape Program** area team members divided up the county, creating *drop squads* so resources were provided to all parts of the county. **NY Clean** hand sanitizer, face coverings and disposable gloves were provided to meet the need of farmers, growers, farm stands, marinas, campgrounds and other related businesses.

This has been the year of the pivot- Yates CCE has had to turn, twist and swivel to keep operations moving forward. Yates CCE will continue to find ways to meet the needs of the county's visitors and residents, we will continue to embrace the *opportunities* that result from having to meet the changing landscape.

Arlene A. Wilson

Arlene Wilson, Executive Director

Executive Director's Corner.....



January 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Hand Sanitizer Distribution for Local Businesses

This past May, Cornell Cooperative Extension partnered with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to distribute free sanitizer (NYS Clean) and cloth face coverings for farmers and employees. In July, the distribution was expanded to include local campsites and marinas. Two distribution sites were established, and CCE staff volunteered their time (and vehicles!) to deliver sanitizer if transportation was a challenge. Per data collected from each business, the distribution tally is as follows*:



Pictured (above): Terrie Sautter (CCE Finance) picking up sanitizer at the NYS Fairgrounds



How much sanitizer is that?

295 1-gallon bottles distributed
318 2 oz. personal spray bottles
1030 Cotton masks distributed

CCE-Yates County Sanitizer Distribution Numbers

Number of Farm Employees – 998

Farm Stands – 32

U-Picks – 4

CSA/Food Delivery – 2

Packing House Facility – 1

Dairy & Livestock – 4

Nursery & Horticulture – 12

Craft Beverage – 3

Campgrounds – 5

Marinas/Boat Launches– 5

Other– 47

Pictured: NYS Clean Hand Sanitizer on display at Keuka Springs Winery (Penn Yan, NY)

**As of 12/21/2020*

February 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6



Small Changes, Big Difference.....↑

SNAP-Ed New York- New Name, Same Mission!

2020 was a unique year, with many challenges, but also many successes. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, SNAP-Ed New York programming transitioned to new ways of reaching the SNAP-eligible populations in Schuyler and Yates Counties. This included blog and social media posts, providing partner agencies with recipe cards to coordinate with ingredients being distributed at food giveaways, and the creation of food demonstration videos featuring healthy and low-cost recipes – all with a shared goal of providing families and individuals in Schuyler and Yates Counties with nutrition education to improve healthy food and lifestyle choices.

In Yates County, a continued partnership with Finger Lakes Community Health provided the opportunity to implement the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription (FVRx) program in a remote setting. Each week of the six-week series, enrolled participants attended a virtual workshop focusing on increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables, eating healthy on a budget, introducing physical activity into their lifestyle, and more. After attending each session, participants received \$20 worth of vouchers (mailed to their homes) to redeem for fresh produce at local participating vendors. This year, the FVRx vendors included The Windmill (Penn Yan), Indian Pines Farm Market (Penn Yan), and Dave's Produce (Bath). Through this program, enrolled participants were able to receive up to \$120 of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, while also gaining the skills and knowledge for building a healthy diet and lifestyle.

Although challenges were encountered in the unexpected transition to virtual programming for most of 2020, families and individuals in Schuyler and Yates Counties received nutrition education from SNAP-Ed New York in new and innovative ways to support them in improving healthy food and lifestyle choices.

About the program: SNAP-Ed NY teaches people to shop for and cook healthy meals while on a limited budget. Our goal is to give you the tools, tips and tricks that help you make nutritious food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles. For more information, contact Joan Martin at jdm458@cornell.edu, or go online at <https://www.snapedny.org/>



March 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
			B.E.V. Virtual Conference March 3rd-March 5th, 2021			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						Spring Begins
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Sowing the Seeds of Victory!



The return of spring is part of a timeless and inevitable seasonal progression. However, spring 2020 was very different for the **Yates County Master Gardeners**. As a result, our volunteers encouraged local residents to participate in food gardening this season. Planting a garden in times of national crisis is a tradition in the United States. During WWI and WWII, Americans were encouraged to “sow the seeds of victory” by planting Victory Gardens. From large cities to small towns nationwide, different varieties of gardens were planted in backyards, public squares, schoolyards, and parks to both increase the domestic food supply, and to celebrate the victory of working together as a community.

In May 2020, CCE-Yates County and the Master Gardener volunteers distributed “Garden in a Bag” seed starter kits to the community. Sorted single-handedly in Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Flynn’s living room, these starter-kits provided easy-to-grow vegetable varieties suitable for beginners and experts alike. Using contact-free drop sites such as the “Little Free Library” boxes and the Penn Yan Community Garden, the Master Gardeners were able to continue their mission to help both beginner and experienced gardeners be successful in their efforts. This was all possible in part by a grant from the Yates County Tuberculosis and Health Association.

The work did not stop there. One unexpected result of increased gardening-at-home was a surge in requests for soil pH testing. In 2019, the Master Gardeners did a total of 15 in-office tests. But, thanks to the ability to set up a touch-free drop-off at her home, Cheryl completed **48** tests in 2020!

Finally, the Master Gardeners continued their tradition of maintaining the Penn Yan Community Garden. Thanks to their dedication (even with social distancing), the Yates County Master Gardeners donated over **166 pounds** of produce to the Hope Center Food Pantry this past summer.

“Tending a Victory Garden can definitely help brighten your day and keep you grounded during these challenging times. Find a sunny corner of your backyard, gather your containers and patio planters, or work a plot at the Penn Yan Community Garden and sow your own seeds of victory!”

(K. Dixon Zorovich, Yates County Master Gardener Volunteer)

Pictured: Donated vegetables to the Hope Center Food Pantry (top), Seeds being sorted at Master Gardener Cheryl Flynn’s home, and a picket marker at the Penn Yan Community Garden

Yates County Master Gardeners

April 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

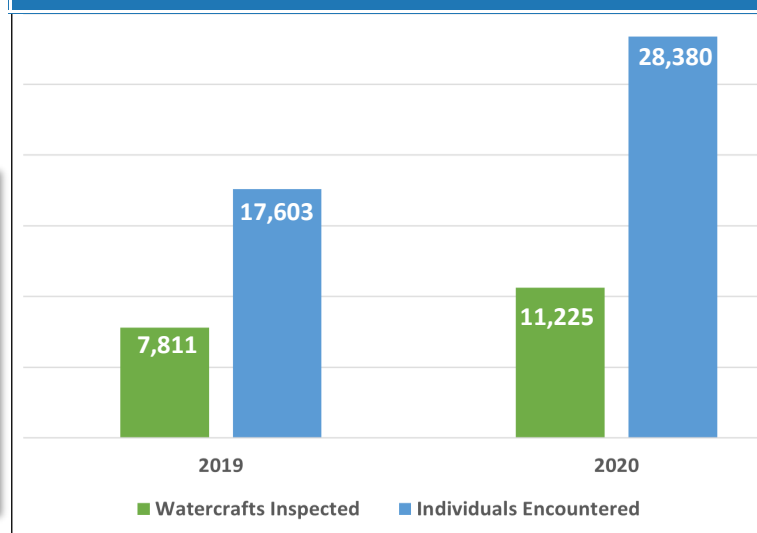
Watercraft Stewardship & Shoreline Monitoring

Even during a global pandemic, water bodies in NYS are still under attack by aquatic invasive species (AIS). Since 2015, CCE-Yates County has worked with the Keuka Lake Association in developing and maintaining the Watercraft Steward Program for Keuka Lake. While the Summer 2020 program looked different when compared to previous years, the KLA Watercraft Steward Program was able to complete its 5th season. With masks and sanitizer in hand, the Stewards' goal stayed the same: to offer voluntary inspections to boaters to check for any organic material that might be caught on their boats or trailers, and educate about AIS and steps boaters can take to "Clean, Drain, and Dry" their watercrafts. This summer, the Watercraft Stewards inspected **11,255** boats, and interacted with **28,380** individuals.

Pictured (center): Watercraft Steward Phil Simmons inspects a watercraft at the Keuka Lake State Park boat launch. For a closer look at this year's program, visit <https://bit.ly/3cCSaal> for a behind-the-scenes video located at the Keuka State Park boat launch.



Watercraft Steward Program Comparison
2019 vs. 2020



Keuka Lake SMP Data

Though this year's programming looked a little different, the Shoreline Monitoring Program launched its second season. When the program concluded, **50** volunteers helped maintain an increased community awareness and knowledge of HABs, with **42*** zones being monitored around Keuka Lake

***Zone size can range from 1 lake-front property up to many adjacent properties, provided neighbors agree to have their shorelines monitored as well.**



Pictured: Over the summer, updated HABs safety signage was installed near the shorelines at several locations within Yates County, and on all three of the Finger Lakes (Keuka, Seneca, and Canandaigua) within the county.
Photo Credit: Arlene Wilson

May 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Memorial Day				



Cornell Vegetable Program

Supporting Essential Farm Employees

In Mid-March, disruptions and cancellations were occurring in all corners of New York State, and the Cornell Vegetable Program's spring 2020 courses and meetings were no exception. While cancelling these meetings was the responsible thing to do, one negative result would be the growers' inability to access necessary DEC credits for maintaining their pesticide licenses. However, CVP persevered and successfully developed an online education platform. After receiving guidance and support from Extension colleagues in Eastern NY, CVP's first venture in online education started with the Cole Crops School on March 30th. At the same time, CVP also developed a new protocol that would satisfy NYS DEC requirements for meetings offering continuing education. This has since been shared with other Regional Ag teams throughout the state, and allows participants to earn DEC pesticide credits through online education.

Other programming resources implemented include:

- “Live Office Hours” for commercial growers every Thursday since April 16th
- “Finding Urban Land to Farm” online series
- “Essentials of Food Safety for Farm Workers”: a 5-part video series covering many required worker training topics set forth by the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Commercial Vegetable
ONLINE OFFICE HOURS

- ✓ Farmer-driven conversations
- ✓ Troubleshooting
- ✓ Photo diagnostics & ID lessons

NOFA-NY
NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

The Cornell Vegetable Program continues to make impacts on the growers and agri-business professionals of the vegetable industry of New York.



Cornell Cooperative Extension | **Cornell Vegetable Program**
cvp.cce.cornell.edu

June 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Summer Begins	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Yates County Fair Re-Imagined



July 7th - 11th, 2020 would have been our Yates County Fair. But, that didn't stop the Yates County 4-H program from holding a "re-imagined" version. On July 26th, 2020, we were able to have an exhibit hall "Judging Day" at the Yates County Fairgrounds. Not even masks or social distancing could deter our 4-H families from showcasing their creative and exciting projects from the year. Afterwards, the **35** exhibits were packed up and placed on display at WFLR from July 28th through August 5th, and were then on display in the windows of the Masonic Building in Dundee August 5th through August 26th.



The re-imagined fun did not stop there. Throughout the months of August through October, 4-H youth were also able to participate in animal science shows. Categories included Rabbit, Goat, Poultry, Dairy, Dog, and Horse. Total number of youth participation yielded **8** 4-H'ers, with the total of **35** animals shown.

To close out "Fair Re-Imagined", special 2020 rosettes (designed by 4-H teen Brennan Dailey) were awarded to this year's exhibits selected for state fair, which will be sent in 2021. Outstanding 4-H Exhibitor rosettes were also included in this year's 4-H Year-End Awards.

This year was certainly different from other years past, but, 4-H youth have (and always will) "make the best better."



Pictured: (Top photo, left to right) Brenna Hathway, Greyson Hathway, and Laura Bagley (4-H Poultry Exhibitors)

(Middle Photo, left to right): Brenna Hathway and Exhibit Hall Judge Kris Pearson

(Lower left) Jennifer Clancey (CCE-Yates County 4-H Team Leader) showing off the 2020 Rosettes

Yates County 4-H Summer Programming...



July 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 Independence	5	6	7	8	9	10
<div> Yates County Fair July 5th-11th, 2021 </div>						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CCE of Yates County continues to serve all residents, businesses, and communities. CCE’s programs touch the lives of many in our community. We would like to thank the individuals, families, and businesses listed below that support us through the Friend of Cornell Cooperative Extension fundraising efforts. We would also like to acknowledge our gratitude of the grants received from the organizations and foundations. To date*, we have raised over \$6,000 through this campaign. Our gratitude goes out to the following contributors:

Sally Acomb –
In Honor of the Glenn R. Alexander Family

Lois Agliata

Anonymous (FLXGives 2020 Fundraising Drive)

Jim Bedient (Bedient Farms)

Ron & Kathy Bulman

Ronald Christensen

Clearview Farms

Climbing Bines Craft Ale Co.

Rob & Sharon Corcoran

Laura Coplai- In Memory of Betsy Hansen

Vincent D’Ingianni (Eastside Vineyards LLC)

Wendy Disbrow

George Dornberger

Ever Green Farm CSA

Eileen Farnan (Buzzard Crest Vineyards)

Fox Run Vineyards

Peter & Mary Beth Gamba

Louis & Donna Gridley (Gridley Vineyards)

Bruce A. Habberfield

Ryan Hallings

Earl Hoover
Wilmer Ray Hoover

Horning’s Greenhouse

Harry Humphreys (Overlook Farm LLC)

Hunt Country Vineyards

Donald “Skip” & Jennifer Jensen

John & Anita Kriese

J. Robert & Madelaine Lawrence

Lilyea Farms LLC

Loyal Order Of The Moose Lodge 2030

Bill & Alise Mahr

Mary-Howell & Klaas Martens –
In Honor of YC Organic Farmers

John McGregor (McGregor Vineyards)

David Orzel (Nutrien Ag Solutions)

Scott & Ruth Osborn

Thomas A. Pearson

Penn Yan Elks Lodge 1722

John Potter

Tabora Vineyards

Foundation Support

Yates County Endowment COVID Relief (RACF)

Paper Clover Fund (TSC) 4-H Foundation

Finger Lakes BOCES Farm to School Grant

Beacon Grant (Elks Foundation)

Guido & Ellen Palma Foundation

J. M. McDonald Foundation

Joan and Harold Feinbloom Foundation

Yates County Tuberculosis and Health Association

Many thanks as well to those contributors wishing to not have their names published.

* As of 12/10/2020

August 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Cultivating Fruitful Relationships (Social Distancing-Style)

The 2020 growing season has been unlike any other for the Finger Lakes Grape Program. In addition to the potential of early bud-break in March, FLGP also had to make a quick decision regarding their summer programming in the wake of COVID-19. While wineries and many other farm-based businesses were closed due to the coronavirus outbreak, farms in New York were deemed to be essential businesses that could continue to operate. The FLGP spent considerable time during April and May providing growers with information about resources developed in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After deciding to go online, FLGP held their yearly Spring Grape IPM meeting virtually. While growers weren't able to meet in person, they still were able to get information from local experts, and could still receive 1.5 DEC credits for participating. Over **100** people registered for the event, with some participants calling in from Long Island, and as far away as North Carolina and Canada.

Virtual meetings did not stop there. We worked with the Agricultural Workforce Development Program and other CCE regional ag team members to create and disseminate information for farms to develop their required farm safety plans. All **18** growers who attended the first virtual Tailgate Meeting in June said that they became aware of the requirement to develop safety plans by the information in our Vineyard Update newsletter. All the remaining tailgate meetings were held via Zoom every other Tuesday from June 9th through August 18th. These meetings featured a free-flow discussion of what's been happening in vineyards, timely reminders about important practices, and updates on some of the applied research being done in grapes this year. Growers earned 0.75 NY pesticide recertification credits for each webinar attended.

Finally, the Finger Lakes Grape program took part in a new webinar series this year. "Timely Tuesdays" (held on opposite weeks from the Tailgate Meetings) was a series of webinars that focused on specific topics mostly centered around grape growing, featuring speakers from Cornell and elsewhere. One example of a topic discussed was how COVID-19 was impacting sales and demand for wine, and what tools growers and wine makers would need to evaluate its impact for 2020 and beyond.



Pictured: Ellen Coyne in the field updating our GIS-based vineyard map for the region

Pictured: (above) Colorful Concord sampling in late-summer

*Photo Credit: Hans Walter-Peterson
(Finger Lakes Grape Program)*



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Finger Lakes Grape Program

flgp.cce.cornell.edu

September 2021

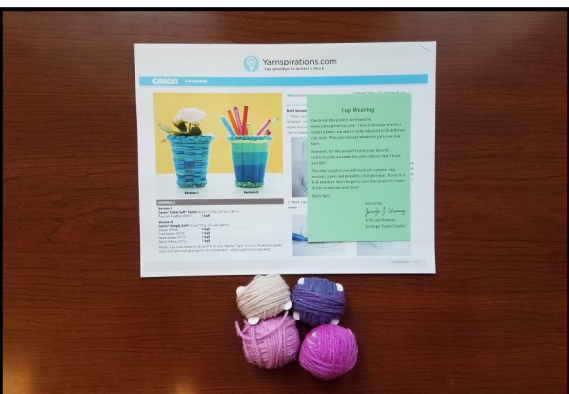
NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Fall Begins	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

4-H Project Kits: Hands-On Learning At Home



Pictured: Recycled cork sunflower wreath kit



Pictured: Cup weaving kit



Pictured: November "Boredom Buster" Kits in the process of getting packed up in the CCE-Yates County conference room.

The mission of the New York State 4-H Youth Development program is to connect youth to hands-on learning opportunities that help them grow into competent, caring, contributing members of society. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Yates County 4-H has adapted programming to meet family needs, while ensuring the safety of our participants. In addition to hosting virtual dog obedience classes and cooking workshops, Yates County 4-H developed 4-H Project Kits, an opportunity for area youth and families to learn, have fun, and develop new skills together.

First developed over Summer 2020, each kit came complete with instructions and supplies needed to create a fun, hands-on project. Project topics included woodworking, recycled art, gardening, and nutrition. The program also included a project subscriptions option, which enabled families to have supplies delivered "no-touch" via USPS.

Project Kits Varieties Included:

- Woodworking (Corner Shelf Kit)
- Container Garden Kits
- Recycled Cork Wreath and Fall Cork Pumpkin
- Simple Sewing (Sewn Pincushion and Bookmark, Pencil Bag, Wallet, Hand Warmers, and Holiday Ornament)
- Fine Arts and Crafts (Friendship Bracelets, Paper Wall Art, DIY Greeting Cards, Cup Weaving)
- STEM (Marshmallow Engineering, Grow a Geode)
- Food & Nutrition (Bread in a Bag, Homemade Fudge)
- Personal Well-Being (Gratitude Game, Random Acts of Kindness)

This fall, the 4-H Project Kits were upgraded to include "Boredom Buster" Kits. These seasonally-themed kits include FIVE activities for youth to stay busy and engaged during school breaks. Plus, with help from Rainbow Junction, St. Mike's School in Penn Yan, and Our Town Rocks in Dundee, participants are able to pick up their kits free of charge. Yates County 4-H is happy to provide this low-cost opportunity to area families via funding provided by the Joan and Harold Feinbloom Foundation.

To date (through November 2020), **84** kits have been delivered, reaching **49** Yates County youth.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

Yates County 4-H: To Make the Best Better!...

October 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
National 4-H Week, October 3rd-9th, 2021						
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Family, Budget, & Life Skills.....▲

Financial Wellness during COVID-19

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, Americans have been feeling the impact both in their everyday lives and their financial well-being. Now more than ever, education in both finances and budgeting is crucial. Luckily for CCE-Yates, we are fortunate to have Vallie Castner (CCE-Yates Community Educator) leading the helm of the TANF Life Skills 1:1 program. Through funding provided by the Department of Social Services and in partnership with Workforce Development, a series of 1:1 meetings are provided to Yates County residents and their families. Through individualized instruction, participants gain the necessary tools and tips to achieve a better understanding of their financial situations, and learn to save and “stretch” their dollars.

Though the TANF Life Skills 1:1 program had to make major programming adjustments (information shared via phone calls, text messages, and then once able, social distanced in-person meetings), its impact on the community has not changed. For the 2019/2020 program year, TANF 1:1 provided extensive, individualized financial education to **16** families, and **19** individuals (totaling **250** instructional contact hours).

One unexpected opportunity as a result of COVID-19 was educating financial literacy on a digital platform. In response to the CARES Act, Vallie, Jen Clancey (4-H Team Leader), and Maggie Mahr (CCE-Yates Promotions and Marketing Coordinator) collaborated on a video presentation called “COVID-19 Stimulus Relief: What Will You Do With Your Money?”. By watching the video, viewers were able to learn more about the stimulus relief, and recommendations regarding how to spend it. Access to the video is available via this link: <https://bit.ly/2S3QYDD>.

Other Highlighted Efforts in 2020 Include:

- Garden/Seed Kit Drop-offs
- Securing clothing and blanket donations
- Assistance with rent aid
- Linkage to food distribution sites
- Income tax education
- Back-to-School Supply Program Connection
- COVID-19 hotline and online resource sharing

To see if you qualify for the TANF Life Skills 1:1 Program, contact the CCE-Yates County office at 315-536-5123, or visit us online at <https://bit.ly/36Nlry5>.

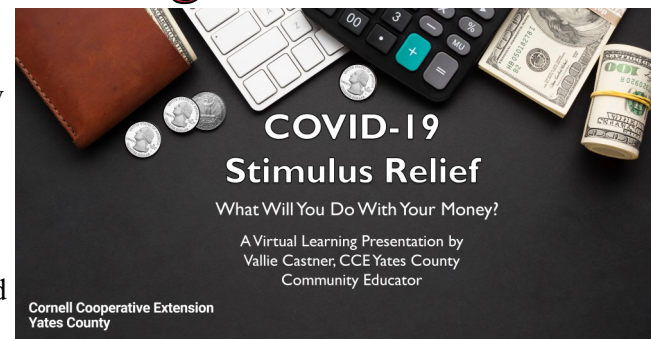


Photo Credit: Maggie Mahr

Community Feedback

“I got approved for the rent help. Thank you so much for helping me!!”

“I truly appreciate the information you send along and your effort to find it. Thank you very much!”

“I never saved receipts past the cash register and now I do! This program has been very helpful.”

“It might seem like just pieces of paper (budgeting sheets, tips/ information/ educations), but this information has opened for communication/ conversations with significant other, we are on the same page. This has been so helpful”.

“The accordion pleat file folder I received has been very helpful. Every bill and receipt are organized and at our finger tips. Thank you!”

November 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Daylight Savings Time Ends	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Gypsy Moths & Management Strategies

While COVID-19 updates may have been the top story this year, Yates County residents spent their summer staycations learning of another type of outbreak. This year, gypsy moths have been reported throughout New York State. Gypsy moths are an invasive, tree-defoliating insect, whose caterpillars are capable of feeding on 500 different species of trees and shrubs. White oak is the preferred tree species, but most other oaks species in the Northeast are highly susceptible, as well as several other deciduous trees (lose their leaves each fall) including maple, apple, crabapple, aspen, willow, birch, mountain ash, hawthorn and sometimes even conifers (have needles or scales and are generally evergreen), such as pine and spruce.

Gypsy moths are known as an outbreak pest, as populations can quickly increase every 5 to 10 years (possibly due to weather patterns) after an extended period of low, nearly undetectable levels. Multiple factors affect the size of the gypsy moth population each year, such as available food sources, parasites, predators, and disease. Both the fungus and virus require moisture, so control of gypsy moth populations by these diseases is better during wet springs.

Healthy deciduous trees can generally regrow leaves after defoliation from gypsy moth caterpillars and can usually withstand 2-3 years of successive defoliation. During outbreaks, when populations are high and food becomes scarce, gypsy moth caterpillars will feed on almost any vegetation including pines and spruce. Conifers do not regrow needles as easily as deciduous trees regrow leaves, and are more likely to die as a result of defoliation. Unhealthy trees are also less likely to withstand defoliation and might die after one defoliation episode. In many cases, the actual cause of death in trees attacked by gypsy moths is not the defoliation itself, but instead a secondary organism that invades the weakened tree, such as a fungus or borer. Even though gypsy moths can cause significant stress to a tree or forest during an outbreak, overall they do not pose a major threat to NY's forests.

In response to public inquiries about gypsy moths, Natural Resource Educator Laura Bailey hosted a webinar over Zoom on August 13th. This virtual lecture gave attendees insight on the gypsy moth's life cycle, the damage they cause to trees, and best management practices in curbing the population. The presentation has since been posted to the CCE Yates County website, which can be accessed via this link: <https://bit.ly/3jv4PP6>

Master Forest Owner's Program...>



Pictured: Laura Bailey (CCE-Yates County Natural Resource Educator) identifying a gypsy moth cocoon at the Keuka State Park boat launch.

NY Master Forest
Owner Program



Did you know the Master Forest Owners are on Facebook?

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/MFONorthwest/>

Find us on 

December 2021

NOTES: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1



Photo Credit: Maggie Mahr

Better Days are Coming

With the people of New York state facing their stiffest test in recent years, the staff and educators of **Cornell Cooperative Extension– Yates County** are on the front lines answering the call to help connect our neighbors to healthy food while also maintaining our commitment to strengthen families and communities. Even though our work currently demands social distancing, we are still here by your side, Yates County.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Yates County

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