October 2022



22 Annual Kepor

Cornell Cooperative Extension Saratoga County

4-H Ro-Bo-Vines take on the World...

4-H STEM saw substantial growth in 2022. Saratoga County 4-H's FTC team, the Ro-Bo-Vines had a year to remember. The team was made up of 6 youth from 4 different school districts and 4 of them were 1st year members. In FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), the team is tasked with building and programming a 18" by 18" robot that competes on a 12' by 12' field. They receive the challenge in the beginning of September and their first competition is in December. During those first 3 months, the team worked on building a robust robot. They compete in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ minute matches. The first 30 seconds of the match is autonomous, which means that the robot moves without anyone driving it. The team programs the robot using vision sensing and encoders to get it to do what they want. The next 2 minutes are driver controlled with 2 drivers and a youth coach on the field. The game is played with 2 alliances on a side and 4 teams total. In addition to the robot, the youth go to a judging panel where they share what they have done for the year including their outreach to the community.

The first competition was held in Rochester. Our youth participants were able to share the county-wide robotics program that they run. It is the largest 4 H robotics program in the state. They offer robotics to youth ages 5 to 18. There was a total of 40 youth involved in the 4 programs they ran.

The next competition was in Corning in January. Ro-Bo-Vines had an amazing competition. They won the whole robot game portion. They also won the Inspire Award. The Inspire award is given to the team that best embodies all the FIRST values. It is the highest honor given to a team. Winning this qualifier moved them on to the NYS FTC Championship held in Utica, NY.

On March 6th, Saratoga County 4-H's Ro-Bo-Vines did it again! Starting out 4th in the semi-finals, they were able to beat



both the 1st and 2nd seed alliances to become the Winning Alliance Captain. This win earned them the honor to move on to the FIRST Championship being held in Houston, Texas from April 20th through April 23rd, 2022.

Ro-Bo-Vines put on their fundraising hats and managed to fundraise and surpass their goal in 6 weeks. They did this through reaching out to businesses and using social media to reach their goal. All of the extra funds from their trip are going to the other Saratoga County 4-H robotics programs.

Ro-Bo-Vines met and talked to teams from 44 different states and 15 different countries. They finished in the top 50% of teams overall at 75th out of 160 teams.

Although their competition season is over, the Ro-Bo-Vines are far from relaxing! The team has many upcoming fundraising and outreach events on their calendar as part of their plan to grow the 4-H STEM program. The team is working to add leaders and members to the robotics program, as well as assisting to raise funds for the new STEM building at the Saratoga 4-H Training Center. The sky is the limit for our program and this group in 2023!

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A Letter from the President and Executive Director

October 2022

Dear Friends:

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Annual Meeting is a time to reflect on the past year, highlighting successes made possible by an outstanding professional staff and the resources of Cornell University (our land grant university) along with the financial support of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, state and national funding, featuring grants and contracts. CCE is emerging from nearly three years of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In-person programs, activities and events are returning, blossoming like the plant seeds sown in the spring leading to the bounteous harvest being enjoyed today, as clientele and sponsors are benefitting from CCE.

Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. The following pages are a sampling of the highlights of CCE Saratoga programming for 2022. There was a return to the same four fundamental challenges. These are Program Delivery, Staff Development, Communications and Financial Responsibility. The Leadership Team continues to enhance traditional methods, including new avenues identified by funders and clientele. Social media efforts have been enhanced, including websites reaching new audiences while maintaining traditional ones. Future challenges include ways to return to face-to-face and learning by doing models.

During 2022 Saratoga eliminated many of the barriers which were a result of the pandemic. Working remotely was not eliminated, just adjusted to creatively deliver informational and educational initiatives. We continue to utilize ZOOM when appropriate, meet in-person when possible, and develop more efficient ways for staff to meet their responsibilities.

A most significant accomplishment in 2022 was the reality of establishing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the Saratoga County Agricultural Society for the development of an Agricultural Economic Development Program agreement to enhance Saratoga's Agricultural programs; The strongest economic driver in Saratoga County. More to come!

On behalf of the Leadership Team, Board of Directors' President Jim Pettis, Jr. and I thank all of you – the stakeholders, elected officials and partners – for your support. We are working together to better the lives and livelihood of our residents. We proudly present the 2022 Saratoga County Cooperative Extension Association's Annual Report.

Respectfully,

Janes Pettis Jr.

James Pettis, Jr. CCE Saratoga County Board President

William M. Schwerd

William M. Schwerd, Association Executive Director

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal employment opportunities.

Agriculture Program & Farm to School



2022 not only saw the Agriculture Program continue to use virtual meetings to disseminate new research findings, but we were also able to return to in-person meetings.

Over the past year, we have been able to build new relationships with organizations such as NYCAMH, presenting at our adult tractor safety training. This partnership has opened a door of possibilities for future programs that involve adults and youth in regard to Agricultural Safety.

We have been building new programs and

revamping some old ones. Working together with outside organizations and farms to better listen, communicate and serve the people of our Agricultural community.

Saratoga County participates in two regional team programs, the Central NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team and the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program Team. Participation in these teams makes it possible for us to provide dedicated specialists to our producers in all major commodities. Just a few of the workshops provided by these specialists included production highlights for dairy, beef and sheep; local field research data on strawberry production, garlic and potatoes; as well as the most up-to-date information on the new labor laws and business planning.

As in the past, our Ag program partnered with Saratoga PLAN for Farmland Workshops. This year's topics included a Beginner Farmer workshop, Farmland Conservation, Farmland Evaluation, and Succession Planning. Among all the scheduled meetings, field research and on-line programming are the numerous phone calls, email consults, timely newsletters, and farm visits.

In addition to this traditional programming our Farm to School program has been talking and working with students from Pre-K to 12th grade. Introducing

them to the world of agriculture and to our community of Agriculture that is in their





Capital Region PRISM

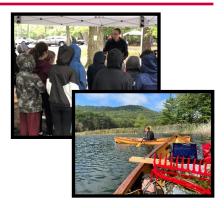


The CR-PRISM delivers invasive species outreach, prevention, and management for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Our office is staffed with full time Outreach, Terrestrial, Aquatics, and Lead Coordinators. Our seasonal staff includes interns from affiliated colleges in the Capital Region. The CR-PRISM also deploys a watercraft inspection steward program. The CR-PRISM works on public and private lands and waters to help protect our environment from the threats posed by invasive species. Our reach is large across eleven counties in the capital region.

Hannah Coppola, our Aquatics Program Manager, runs the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program. The 2022 program ended on September 5th with nine stewards which covered ten launch locations. The boat stewards educated 19,122 individuals on clean, drain, dry, practices while inspecting 13,210 watercraft. Stewards intercepted 505 aquatic invasive species plant fragments from watercrafts during inspections while protecting our waters.

The terrestrial program led by Sam Schultz has surveyed over 1,400 acres at 17 locations for high threat species. Conservation areas include places such as Grafton Lakes State Park, Indian Kill Preserve, and Wilton Wildlife Preserve. Other areas surveyed for post-treatment monitoring or rapid response efforts include Daniel's Road State Forest. The terrestrial program also performed posttreatment removals and monitoring actions at six locations, treating about eight acres of invasive species. Species for early detection include Spotted Lantern Fly, and for removals Giant Hogweed.

The CR-PRISM has shown tremendous success in educating its constituents. It has held nearly 300 educational events (e.g., lectures, in-field demonstrations, workshops, etc.) and has directly educated over 10,000 individuals throughout the Capital Region.



Informal education such as tabling events (e.g., regional fairs, garden shows, etc.) are utilized to reach audiences of nearly 100,000 individuals indirectly.

Any organization involved in invasive species education, management, and surveying is eligible to partner with the PRISM. Our partners are dedicated in slowing the spread of invasive species and protecting our environment.

Find out more about the PRISM on our web page www.capitalregionprism.org.

4-H Youth Development



2021-2022 was a year of transition for the 4-H Program. We saw our program go from all virtual in 2019-2020, to returning to a more traditional in-person programming. 2021-2022, we saw revitalization and growth within our youth and adult participants. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Through our staff's dedication and the support of our volunteers, we are so proud of our 2021-2022 achievements.

4-H enrolled close to 500 youth members in 2021-2022 through our club program. We also had 1,459 special interest participants in all aspects of the program including STEM, Nutrition and Citizenship.

805 students were educated and engaged in STEM activities.

1,500 youth focused on healthy lifestyles through food and nutrition, physical activity, health and safety projects.

Over 1,000 youth participated in the Incubation and Embryology project, and saw the transition of egg to chick over a eggs hatch and raise chicks through their

schools, delivered her programming virtually once again. The program was still able to reach an amazing 5,500 youth participants with a vast variety of delivery methods.

4-H showed up in full force at the 2022 Saratoga County Fair. This was the first full fair since the pandemic had begun. In total, we had 377 exhibitors with more than 1,500 exhibits on display. Ranging from photography and sewing, to animals of all shapes and sizes. The 4-H Snack Bar was up and running at full capacity. Over 100 youth and adult volunteers successfully learned about the food industry and every capacity of running a full-service kitchen, while raising funds for the 4-H Program. In our Natural Resource/ Shooting Sports area, some 50 youth and adults acted as ambassadors for our Shooting Sports program. Hundreds of youth's projects were on display in our static building, which was open for the first time since the pandemic started. Our 4-H Leaders Association held their annual 4-H Chicken BBQ on Thursday of the fair. The event was a huge hit and sold out.

14 youth represented our 4-H Shooting Sports clubs at the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports competition. The group had an amazing learning experience and brought home 18 medals. Some are going on to the National Shoot happening next Spring.

Saratoga 4-H Teen programming has continued to be successful, with 4-H Teen Council meetings continuously being at or near capacity while in-person. We are looking forward to expanding our 4-H Teen programming in the coming year by exploring an Interstate 4-H Teen Exchange and Teen Ambassadors.

2021-2022 saw the success build in our Animal Ambassador Program and the Vet Science Program. The interest level has been so strong that we have had to create a waiting list for participation. The Animal Ambassador group once again was instrumental in the successful Saratoga County Fair, and has helped lead or support many Animal Science events in 2021-2022. One of our most successful Fall of 2021 events was our 4-H Halloween Extravaganza. Over 1,000 community members flooded the 4-H Training Center. Our 4-H staff, youth and volunteers held an Open House complete with Animals, Robotics, Trick or Treating, and so much more. We attribute the success of this event to the community looking for an opportunity to get back to "normal."

4-H Robotics continues to be our fastest growing program area. We now have nearly 75 kids participating in all levels of Robotics. We have found an amazing partnership with FIRST Lego League which helps us continue to build the largest 4-Ĥ Robotics Program in New York State.

Our program showed great resiliency in 2021-2022. When the pandemic let up and opportunities arose, our staff and volunteers were up to the challenge. We are extremely excited and ready to keep building this program as the premiere Youth Development Program in NYS.



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Safety Education Program

CCE's Occupant Protection Educator supervises 7 Car Seat Fitting Stations, 51+ certified car seat technicians and 7 certified car seat



instructors. During 2022, CCE's Child Passenger Safety Team installed 621 car seats including 92 seats given & families with an additional 23 given & installed to families that had a car seat that expired.

CCE's Occupant Protection Educator held 2 Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician Classes which gave Saratoga County 16 additional technicians. CCE offered 2 credit classes for certified technicians allowing them to keep their certification current.

CCE's Occupant Protection Educator taught an awareness Child Passenger Safety Class to all the Labor & Delivery Nurses and Doctors, along with the Emergency Room Nurses and Doctors at Saratoga Hospital.

CCE's Occupant Protection Educator gave and properly fitted 402 bicycle helmets to children at several events: Saratoga County Fair, Mechanicville Family Day and summer weekly events. CCE partnered with the Saratoga County Sheriffs every week during July and August going to many different areas within the county to "catch" children riding with a helmet and giving them ice cream coupons from Stewarts and Hayner's Ice Cream.

Children "caught" without a helmet were given a brand new, properly fitted helmet.

CCE's Occupant Protection Educator held in-person, court ordered classes: Alive At 25: 212 drivers 16-25 years of age Distracted Driving: 29 drivers Defensive Driving: 40 drivers



Victim Impact Panel: 710 drivers with alcohol or drug arrests...these classes consistently showed 1/3 of all attendees were repeat offenders. CCE's Educator saw the need and developed a new course specifically for the repeat offender. After receiving approval from the Saratoga County DA and Saratoga County STOP DWI Coordinator, this program will begin in 2023 here at CCE.

CCE's Occupant Protection Educator held "License to Live" teen driver programs at Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School and a 2-day event at New Country Toyota where students from Mechanicville and Waterford High Schools were bussed in each day. CCE partnered at each event with the NYS Police, Saratoga County Prevention Council and WRGB. These events allowed us to bring good choices education behind the wheel to 1,000 high school students.

CCE is at the forefront of education programs for Occupant Protection- CCE's Educator has been asked and will present all these programs at the NYS Magistrates Conference in November. The goal is for other counties to work with judges to implement these programs around the state.

Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardeners

Due to last year's overwhelming success of our "Lunch and Learn" series we decided to grow this program for the 2022 gardening season. Our educator staff and Master Gardener volunteers presented a different topic every other week from February through early June.

In addition to this series, several virtual and in-person programs were provided to local service groups, senior centers, garden clubs and local libraries as the desire to plant home gardens did not end with the slowing of the pandemic.

The 2022 Master Gardener volunteer training program was held virtually this past spring using Zoom and Moodle platforms. Although the group was unable to meet and learn in person, that did not stop 12 enthusiastic trainees

from completing and graduating from this year's class.

Through the year, the Saratoga Master Gardeners contributed valuable community volunteer time in a variety of ways. Some of the projects they have been involved with include maintaining community gardens, running local farmer's markets Q & A tables, leading virtual "Lunch and Learn" sessions, assisting with the annual Saratoga County Fair, answering questions at the Self-Sufficiency Homesteader and event, conducting research through the Cornell Vegetable Variety Trial Garden program, soil pH testing, and troubleshooting countless horticulture inquiries. We have also been lucky to resume in-person monthly meetings where we share updates and discuss our passion for gardening.

"Thank you so much for your very quick action on this, and for your advice on the phone. We certainly appreciate it!" $\sim Rina$



CCE Equine

Cornell Cooperative Extension Equine (CCE Equine) is excited to announce many successes of the 2021-2022 year. Events continue to be well attended, and partnerships continue to grow, and community involvement has increased. Our traditional events are the Horseman's Social, Horse Symposium, and the Horse Farm Tour. These events have a variety of objectives to serve our community. New this year, CCE Equine hosted a tour of the Goshen harness track, hired a summer intern, and expanded our network by collaborating with the NYS Agriculture, Breeding, and Development Fund, the New York State Horse Council and NYTHA.

The Horsman's Social was canceled for 2022, due to concerns regarding COVID, and little participant interest in a virtual meeting. We look forward to a new vision for the Horseman's Social that will increase involvement and networking in 2023.

The Horse Symposium hosted in May was a huge success. Due to generous sponsors

and wise budgeting the event was offered to the public for free. A little over 120 people attended, and guest reported seeing a revival in this event.

For the Horse Farm tour, offered in August, CCE Equine partnered with three local horse farms that opened their doors to the public to view the everyday operations of a Horse Farm. In attendance were slightly over 300 participants. This is less than last year, assumed to be contributed to many other events offered on the same day. Again this year, CCE Equine partnered with Amplify Racing, an educational program developed to introduce young adults to the racing industries. CCE Equine looks forward to further collaboration with Amplify.

CCE Equine was excited to get additional projects done this summer with the help of a summer intern. Adriana Drindak worked part time for three months working on archives, press releases, contacts lists, and our website. We look forward to the possibility of hiring interns each summer in order to improve our media contacts, and programing. This is also an opportunity for young adults to be introduced to diverse jobs in the industry.

Lastly, CCE Equine is a proud recipient of funding from the NYS Agriculture Breeding and Development Fund. This allowed us to provide an affordable day trip to Goshen for a tour of the museum and track, and had provided the liberty to invite and host more quality speakers and professionals within the standardbred community.



Nutrition and Health



In the spring of 2022 nutrition and food programs resumed in person beginning with the Master Food Preserver workshops. 2022 was the first year our Nutrition Resource Educator was the lead educator for the statewide CCE Master Food Preserver program. Workshops were delivered in Livingston, Niagara, St. Lawrence, and Warren Counties, plus for the Seneca Nation of Indians in western NY, reaching 81 participants who came from 21 counties, plus 3 other states and Canada. Our association was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Cornell University College of Human Ecology, Division of Nutritional Sciences to promote food preservation education statewide through the CCE system. Food preservation classes were offered in the

evenings in Ballston Spa to 165 residents learning about canning, dehydrating, freezing, and fermenting.

The Saratoga County Fair Culinary Department was spearheaded once again by our Nutrition Resources Educator overseeing entries for judging and daily presentations at the fair. The Taste of Saratoga County events attracted fair goers with samples of local products.

The Hudson River Fish Advisory Outreach Project continues for a seventh year with the awarding of another twoyear grant of \$15,000 per year. Our educator reaches people with NYS Department of Public Health messages through schools and community events, include the Saratoga and Washington County Fairs. Through partnerships with LifeWorks Community Action's WIC and Head Start programs we were able to reach 1800 children from low-income families. Seasonal Saratoga Racetrack employees were presented with a bi-lingual Spanish/English program supplemented with Spanish language materials. School outreach educated 450 4th and 5th grade students in four school districts, both in-person and virtually.

Diabetes education was offered to 43 residents via on-line and in-person Dining with Diabetes programs. A new Diabetes Support Group via Zoom was started in January that meets the first Friday of each month at noon.

Nutrition education programs on various topics including Mindful Eating and Eat to Stay Young were offered throughout the county at locations such as libraries, senior housing centers and farmers' markets. Over 500 residents were reached with nutrition and healthy eating messages.

Our Nutrition Resource Educator continues to have a monthly nutrition message on Saratoga's STAR Radio, 93.3 FM, 1160 AM or streaming online. Topical messages change monthly. Our

educator also has articles published in newspapers and magazines, including Simply Saratoga and Saratoga Family magazines. These free publications and radio messages reach thousands of county residents.



Inter-municipal Stormwater Management Program



Stormwater Regional Training Centers (RTC) – the SCCCE SW program is 1 of 4 organizations across NYS partnering to bring practicing professionals the latest in engineering design and stormwater permit compliance education and training. While all RTCs are equal partners, because of the resources that we have developed here in our program we act as the administrative hub and manage all registrations and Zoom-access and technical aspects of each 4-hour online course. Additionally, we also manage the archived recordings through video-on-demand and pay-per-view online portals for each course. In 2021-22 the ISWM Program/ENY SWRTC provided several trainings and community outreach opportunities.

Some of the highlights include the following: (a.) 5 courses offered between March 9th and June 8th, online/ virtual-only, 4.0 NYS DOE-accredited Professional Development Hours for NYS licensed P.E. and R.L.A. A total of 709 trainees from all 4 RTCs with 213 from the local program; (b.) In-Service Trainings – offered 2 trainings on Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Staff through online/ virtual setting for 45 Saratoga County members; (c.) GIS Training, in-person and online/virtual trainings

were offered in Saratoga Springs, Moreau, South Glens Falls, Wilton and Malta. A total of 9 staff were trained over 20 hours of contact time.

Additionally, the program offered a variety of community outreach events including: (a.) In October 2021, 150 to 200 attendees were reached at the North Country Stormwater Conference where the team presented case study of our GIS (geographic information system) to regional stormwater professionals; (b.) In May 2022 Stormwater Management, Mapping and Planning for the Village of Ballston Spa Master Plan Committee was conducted; (c.) June 2022 marked the release of the Shoreline Buffers Handbook to the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District, online/virtual with 30 attendees; (d.) Also in June, the team participated in the "Day At The Beach" – Brown's Beach - Town of Stillwater/SLPID, public outreach event reaching 50 attendees on the subject of water quality of Saratoga Lake. At the same location a demonstration Buffer Planting was completed with the assistance from 3 partner agencies/organizations and 6 volunteers; (e.) In August we participated as a panelist for Saratoga Springs Department of Public Works sponsored public Q & A for residents impacted by local flooding issues.



USDA Local Food Promotion Program



In November 2021 CCE of Saratoga County was awarded a USDA grant to look at the feasibility of the creation of a food hub and networking systems that would incorporate school systems, low-income populations and local agriculture producers. With this grant we have seen an expansion of local food distribution to 7 districts (Argyle, Bolton, Corinth, Greenwich, Hadley-Luzerne, Lake George, and Salem) that had not previously been able to access these foods. This was done through order aggregation, last-mile delivery, and NYS 30% Initiative documentation assistance.

In addition to food distribution we met with 5 local districts and 3 CCE Farm to School Coordinators to educate and create tracking documentation for the NYS 30% Initiative. 2 of these 5 districts are currently undergoing audits for the NYS 30% Initiative, and are on track to qualify.

Last-mile distribution efforts have been handled by CCE staff to date, but work has begun to transition last-mile distribution to Comfort Food Community, who will be an important partner in long-term local foods

distribution in this area. A geographic preference bid was written by CCE staff for WSWHE BOCES to administer, to continue to increase the amount of local foods being distributed in this region. More districts are able to take advantage of this, as the bid guarantees a delivery to this region. Other districts can add to the order and help fill the trucks, which means more revenue for food hubs and local manufacturers, and greater access for smaller districts.

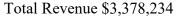


From December 2021 through June 2022 the program moved 10,567 pounds of food worth \$33,466.51. In September of 2022 the program moved 3,902 pounds of food worth \$14,915.88, with an additional 1,596

pounds of food worth \$3,054.58 moved by Comfort Food Community, for a total of 5,498 pounds of food worth \$17,970.46. This is just the beginning of what we hope to achieve as we continue to move forward with this grant.

2022 Funding and Support

Source	Federal*	State**	COUNTY***	Private****	Generated
Revenue (\$)	82,159	557,343	1,351,349	71,250	1,316,133
Percentage	2.4%	16.5%	40%	2.1%	39%



* Includes Smith Lever, Safety Edu. Program, DEC Program, MFO and Farm to School

** Includes State 224 Funds, DEC Stormwater Management, and Capital Region PRISM, Hudson-Mohawk Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

- *** Includes County appropriation, Saratoga County Planning Stormwater, DFY
- **** Cornell, Health Research Institute, Stewarts, Saratoga Planning Land Access Outreach Program

In addition, Cornell University estimated support equals \$919,796

The value of all CCE volunteers equals \$897,603

Who We Are

Above: Garden maintained by MG volunteers.

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Jim Pettis Jr., President John Barnes, Vice President Stacy Simmons, Treasurer John Mishoe, Secretary John Cromie Ed Hersh David Wood Paul Laskey, Jr. Craig DeVoe John Mancini

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Agriculture

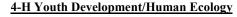
2022 Open House visitors waiting for their ride to the ENYCHP's strawberry experiment; one of many experiments conducted at the 352-acre Cornell Willsboro Research Farm.

Lia Palermo Alexandra Eustis Jennifer Flinton Kristie Edwards

GC-SBN Leads Erik Yager

Jim McNaughton

<u>Central NY Dairy, Livestock,</u> <u>and Field Crops</u> David Balbian



Paul Laskey, Jr.	John Mancini		
Rachel Maxwell	Meg Sodan		
Kristine O'Rourke	Wendy Kuehner		
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Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

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