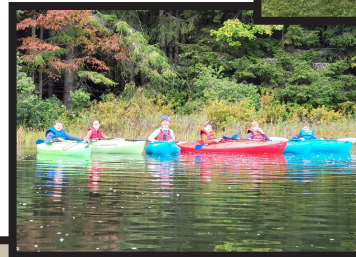


Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango County

Annual Report *2021*



A letter from our Executive Director

November 24, 2020

Dear Chenango County Cooperative Extension Supporters:

I am extremely proud of all that our CCE staff were able to accomplish this year to help Chenango County residents deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic. Our goal for 2021 was to provide as much in-person programming as we could to improve life for the people we serve, particularly young people and farmers.

For our kids, we offered more 4-H programming than ever. Kids suffered greatly during the COVID shutdowns from lack of socialization and lack of activity. So, we were very happy to be able to offer so much great 4-H programming. Our 4-H activities included snowshoeing, skiing, hikes, ice fishing, public presentations, shooting sports, kayaking, survival skills, County Fair, Ag in the Classroom, growing and cooking vegetables, and a lot more. All these activities made for a lot of happy times for kids during a year that was often challenging.

Farmers also faced huge challenges in 2021 due to the COVID 19 Epidemic. Most had their markets and income greatly reduced. There were a lot of grants available help farmers get through the COVID epidemic, but many farmers did not know how to access the right grants; some did not even have computers. Fortunately, our Dairy Livestock and Field Crops Team was able to tell farmers about grants they might be eligible for and help them get the grants submitted. Overall, Chenango County Farmers received more than \$23 million dollars to help them weather the COVID-19 challenges. That helped the farmers and the entire Chenango County economy.

Of course, CCE Chenango does a lot more than 4-H and Farming, and our other programming stepped up as well to offer more programming. Our nutrition programs, both SNAP-ED and Grow, Cook Serve, got back out into the community, sometimes on their own and sometimes in combination with 4-H. Our Master Gardeners answered a thousand growing questions. We also offered a support to Dairy Day, the County Fair, and with everyday issues from woodchucks to wasps.

Sometimes adversity brings out the best in people, and in 2021 I feel like it brought out the best in our CCE Staff.



Sincerely,

Ken Smith

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Dennis Madden, John Palmer



Erica Clark, Richard Turrell, Craig Brown



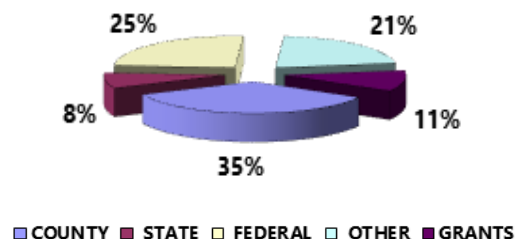
Betty Clark, Neisa Pantalia, Whitney Kmetz

Financial Facts

Estimated Revenue and Support received by CCE Chenango County during

	Total	Support	Revenue
County	\$246,300.00	\$0.00	\$246,300.00
State	\$426,372.21	\$371,082.31	\$55,289.90
Federal	\$239,572.00	\$63,158.00	\$176,414.00
Other	\$151,636.76	\$0.00	\$151,636.76
Grants	\$75,506.03	\$0.00	\$75,506.03
Totals:	\$1,139,387.00	\$434,240.31	\$705,146.69

Sources of Revenue



Estimated Revenue and Support received by CCE Chenango County during 2021

State and Federal SUPPORT includes the estimated value of services and educational access provided by Cornell, USDA, and NYS sponsored grants. Most of this is related to training and access to the research that is the basis of the programs we conduct. These services are available to CCE Chenango because of the memorandum of agreement and support provided by local government and are made available because of Chenango County's contribution to our funding.

REVENUE is the actual cash provided to CCE during the fiscal year 2021, of which Chenango County provides approximately overall revenue and support of 35%. Other reflects income generated through contributions, special projects, and rental income.

Grow, Cook, Serve



Grow Cook Serve is a program which provides access to fresh local produce to income restricted individuals and families by donating produce from local farms and gardeners and providing self-sufficiency education. Our goal is to help economically challenged families and individuals to adopt life-long healthy habits by donating fresh produce to people in need; teaching cooking and gardening skills for people to become more self-sufficient; and providing nutrition education to facilitate healthy choices.

In its seventh year Grow Cook Serve gleaned over 3000 pounds of fresh produce to donate to 7 Food Pantries in Chenango County. The produce was donated by Norwich Meadows Farm, and home gardeners. Additionally, Grow Cook Serve donated 63 vegetable transplants to Roots and Wings and Emmanuel Episcopal Food Pantry.

Furthermore, we partnered with the place and created 50 container garden kits. Each kit contained a container garden, seed packets, seed starting trays and information on how to grow their garden.

In March Grow Cook Serve created a new program, collaborating with 4-H, called "Kids in the Kitchen". Our goal for this new program is to teach children how to create healthy inexpensive meals. We have families pick up their meal kits and cook along with Grow Cook Serve educators virtually. We have hosted 8 classes.

Additionally, we have hosted 3 virtual cooking classes for adults and 2 in-person cooking demonstrations at Roots and Wings. We continue to produce cooking videos for YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. Those videos have been viewed over 8000 times since we started making them in Spring of 2020.

Grow Cook Serve continues to evolve and adapt through are changing landscape. We look forward to serving the community of Chenango County in 2022.



SNAP-Ed Nutrition

As SNAP-Ed Nutritionists, we're always looking for ways to improve the health and well being of the communities we serve. Increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables is a sensible but not always practical and often pricey way to improve health.

Currently, OTDA (Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance) is pushing the SNAP-Ed program to focus on PSE (Policy, System, and Environmental) changes that work to create lasting impacts within our communities. The Fruit and Vegetable Prescription program (F&V Rx) is an initiative that we will be working on in 2022 to implement within and around Chenango County. The fruit and vegetable program model promotes affordable access to fruits and vegetables and healthy eating in underserved communities through coordinated partnerships with healthcare providers and fresh produce retailers. Participants typically will receive vouchers or cards to spend at local farmer's markets, farm stands and or other retail options giving additional purchasing power to people who need it the most. Participants will be receiving support and education through the program and can attend additional nutrition, cooking, and gardening classes. As SNAP-Ed Nutritionists, we will be providing the nutrition education and, CCE Horticulture Educators will assist with gardening classes.

Please look for more information on the F&V Rx within the upcoming months to learn more.

SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators are ready to create a whole new wellness culture within your school in 2022. Our Educators are fully trained to implement the CATCH training within the school setting, and it is completely FREE! CATCH stands for Coordinated Approach to Children's Health which is based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Coordinated School Health Model. In this model there are eight components that work interactively to educate young people about and provide support for a healthy lifestyle. The eight components are health education, physical education, health services, nutrition services, counseling and psychological services, healthy school environment, health promotion for staff, and family/community involvement.

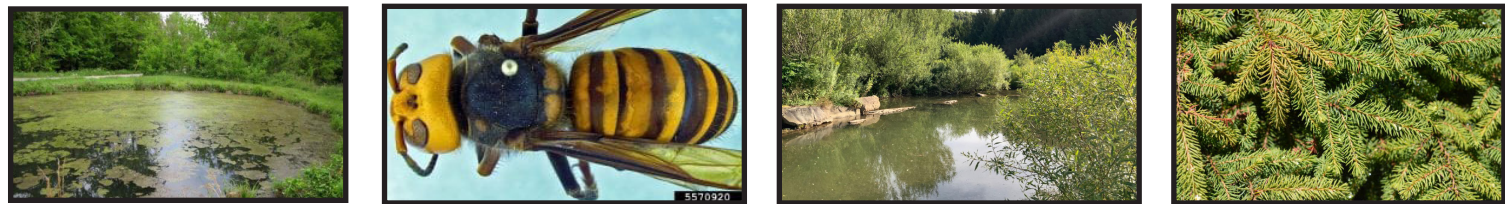
The CATCH program provides in depth materials for classroom teachers, child nutrition services staff members, physical educators, and families. All the materials were designed to complement and integrate with one another, when implemented, the entire school environment is affected.

The CATCH Training workshops are fun, dynamic, and multi-dimensional clinics designed to provide the knowledge, skills, and tools to successfully implement and support the CATCH program. Establishing a process that "sets everyone up to succeed" is the key and training does just that!



Natural Resources

From sickly spruce to problematic pondweeds, CCE Chenango staff spend a lot of time helping with natural resources issues. Chenango County is almost 70% forested and that means that our residents are constantly dealing with challenges that come from owning homes near fields and forests. Diseased trees, giant wasps, ticks, bats, woodchucks, mold, are common subjects of calls to our office. Rich Taber and Ken Smith, who have degrees in Forestry and Natural Resources respectively, are on hand to help with natural resource issues and field hundreds of calls each year on natural resources issues.



Chenango County 4-H

4-H Community Impacts 2021



Your Chenango County 4-H Youth Development Team has been hard at work this year to ensure our community continues to receive the highest caliber and frequency of educational programming possible. While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about several challenges, we have met them head on. As local health department guidance changed, we quickly adapted our programs to the newest recommendations and this resulted in the successful return of local and district Horse/Dairy Bowls, Public Presentations, Outdoor Adventures, the Chenango County Fair, the 4-H Afterschool Program, and so much more! We know this would not have been possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers, educators, community members, and youth. Thank you for your continued commitment "to make the best better!"



As Outdoor Adventure continued monthly through the Covid pandemic we were able to offer 12 different programs encompassing 150 youth participants. The youth participated in one or more of the monthly 4-H Outdoor Adventure programs gaining hands on experience by: kayaking on the Susquehanna River from Sidney to Bainbridge, a day of Survival Skills Challenges from fire starting to wayfinding, touring and collecting samples at Shackelton Point(Cornell University's research station) on Oneida Lake, snowshoeing, sheltering building and fishing.

The 4-H Shooting Sports program was able to maintain steady attendance during the 2020-2021 project year with 4-10 youth attending the monthly meetings. During the winter months we have access to the Rockdale Rod and Gun Club's indoor range. In the summer we are at the Iroquois Sportsman's Club. The program will be expanding to include .22 caliber rifles beginning in November.



It was fantastic to be back to the County Fair. This summer we had 104 youth enter over 1000 exhibits in Case Building and livestock events. The Case Building was busy with everyday craft activities for 4-H and non 4-H youth. The volunteers in Chapman Hall showed their creative side by opening the snack bar end for all day menus.

Public Presentations were held at the CCE center in February 2021. Most of the presentations were in-person with a few youth opting to send in a video presentation for the judges to view. Our numbers were down from our typical public presentations program, however, we did have a strong and enthusiastic group wanting to share their presentation. We had 29 youth participate in the annual county event with several going on to compete in the regional competition.



Due to COVID restrictions at local schools Chenango County 4-H hosted the regional Horse bowl/ Hippology, Dairy Bowl, and Public Presentations at the Chenango County Fair Grounds. By having the programs at the County Fair Grounds our teams were able to compete against the other teams in our eight county region.

We were excited to renew our 4-H after-school programs offering of hands-on STEM, nature and craft activities at the New Berlin library, Sherburne Library, Afton Library, Bainbridge Library, The Place, and with our Liberty Partnership Program schools in the county. This program reached 630 Chenango County youth.



Sewing camp was offered with 17 youth participating in a variety of handsewn projects which they were able to show at County fair.

In 2021 4-H partnered with Grow, cook, serve reaching youth through zoom with fun, healthy cooking projects.

Chenango County offers a variety activities for the kids in our 4-H communities. Keep watch for more to come in 2022.

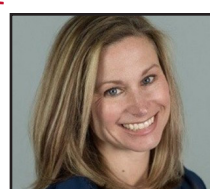
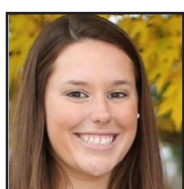
Agriculture & Economic Development

The year of Covid presented several challenges to our programming efforts at CCE Chenango. We had to change our delivery methods to adhere to Covid protocols. We still got to deliver many different programs to the public. These were some of our accomplishments:

- With support from the Chobani Foundation, we were involved in a multi county effort to arrange programming for beginning beef and sheep producers. On farm visits, articles in the Small Farm Quarterly, Newsletter articles, and Zoom presentations were all part of our arsenal of program delivery.
- We continue to support efforts of the Cornell Small Farms Program, in the form of quarterly informational articles on beef production.
- We had an informational booth at the Chenango County Fair showcasing our program offerings.
- We continue to support the Amish community in the town of Guilford which was established in 2015.
- A Grazing Workshop for Veterans was held in October at Rich Taber's Farm, in collaboration with the Cornell Small Farms Veterans Program and the Chobani Foundation.
- Support has been given to the local Wool Producers Cooperative by offering a meeting place and programming assistance.
- Phone and on farm visits have been offered to new and beginning farmers in Chenango County.



CNY Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops Team



The CNY Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops Team; made up of David Balbian, Ashley McFarland, Eric Smith and Nicole Tommell, continued to offer a variety of programs to aid farmers as the region coped with the Covid-19 pandemic. The team accomplished this by offering a mix of online and in-person programming as they met the needs of our agricultural community. The CNY Team helped to bring in \$23 million in Covid government grants to help farmers in Chenango County.

CCE on the Web and in the News

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County continued to face the challenges that COVID presented in 2021, by staying connected with the community using Twitter, Facebook, local papers, flyers, and the radio.

The typical publications; the Sherburne News, the Evening Sun, the Pennysaver, the Oneonta Daily Star, the Small Farm Quarterly, Country Folks East, and Empire Farm and Dairy, numbers have remained down through the pandemic. The CCE staff stayed the course determined to keep the community informed.

Social media pages were the major outreach method. Both CCE Chenango and the Chenango 4-H pages buzzed with activity. The CCE Chenango Facebook pages reached 37,950 for the year, with 234 reached on Instagram. Chenango 4-H did well with 43,355 reached on Facebook, 974 followers, with 216 followers on Instagram.

Another way CCE Chenango reaches out to the community is through two publications that are sent on a bimonthly basis. In 2021 there were six newsletters sent and emailed to nearly 2,000 along with approximately 200, 4-H newsletters sent directly to each enrolled youth. These newsletters included updates, activities, and notices of upcoming events.

Pinterest, Twitter, and You Tube are other means CCE uses to reach the public. Pinterest numbers fluctuated depending on the season with a total of 785 engagements in 2021. You Tube peaked reaching 33,296 viewers. Twitters also had a large following with total impressions at 16,815.

CCE of Chenango County is committed to keeping the community informed. You can find us on; Instagram: @ccechenango and @4hchenango, Pinterest: @ccechenangocounty, Twitter: twitter.com/chenango, the web, and Facebook at the links below.

Visit us on the web and like us on Facebook to keep in touch!

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Norwich, NY 13815

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