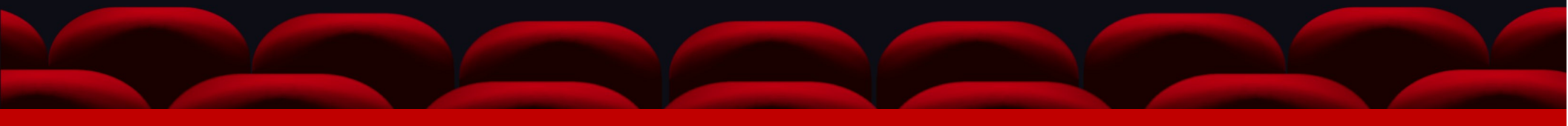


Presenting...

2023 Annual Report

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
2024 Calendar ★



Yates County
200th
1823 2023
Bicentennial



Pictured: The Bicentennial Monument donated by the Penn Yan Elks Club (Photo: Lucas Day)

President's Address



On behalf of the Board of Directors, we proudly present the Annual Report for 2023. As we approach the end of another year, it is an honor and a pleasure to share a comprehensive overview of the past year's activities and accomplishments within our organization.

We began the year focusing on programming and community, working through many changes and new developments. Through it all, our commitment to the unique needs of Yates County remained unwavering. With a

focus on our agricultural community and the preservation of natural resources, as well as 4-H youth programming and community services, we continue to work towards fostering a thriving and sustainable environment. The proximity to the Finger Lakes and the dedication of our community members inspire us to preserve the quality and way of life in this beautiful rural area.

Considering the focus on ag programming, one pivotal moment of this year was the decision to rejoin the Northwest New York Dairy and Livestock team. This decision, rooted in the feedback received from our stakeholders and the results of our Ag survey, was met with overwhelming support from the community, the Farm Bureau, and the Yates County Legislature. We are pleased to share that their unanimous agreement increased funding to support our reintegration into the Northwest New York Dairy and Livestock team.

However, that is not to say 2023 was without its challenges. We faced the departure of our executive director this year, followed by the interim appointment of Jen Clancey, who played a crucial role in steering our organization through this transitional period. The collective efforts of our team, including Jen's exceptional leadership, allowed us to overcome obstacles and make 2023 a successful year.

While 2023 saw an increased focus on the importance of Natural Resources to the community and the Association, our Natural Resources Expert, Lexie Davis, took on a new position as a Researcher with Cornell. We greatly appreciate Lexie's contribution and wish her well in her new role. Her departure has allowed the Association to assess our near- and long-term needs and how best to address them as we search for a replacement educator.

Thinking ahead to 2024, I am looking forward to continuing to work with CCE-Yates staff and educators, as well with the Board of Directors, and community partners, with a focus on solidifying our team by appointing a new executive director and natural resources educator. We are in our search, and anticipate bringing these individuals on board in the first quarter of the year. With a strengthened team, we aim to continue our efforts to operate as a best-in-class extension association.

Regarding the Board of Directors, I want to thank our outgoing board member, Sirene Garcia, for her dedication and contributions during her three-year term. Additionally, I am excited to welcome three new board members (Todd Anderson, Ritchie Lent, and Mark Morris) who bring diverse talents and expertise to our organization. Their presence strengthens our board and enhances our ability to serve the community effectively.

A special note of appreciation goes to Jen for her exceptional leadership as the interim director. Her willingness to step in during this trying time has been commendable, and her commitment to the organization's well-being is a testament to her selflessness. I also want to thank the CCE-Yates staff and educators for their continued hard work and expertise.

Finally, I want to once again acknowledge the Yates County Legislature for their continued support and their unanimous vote to approve our county allocation budget as presented.

In conclusion, I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we have overcome challenges and achieved milestones that have positioned us for a successful future. As we look forward to the opportunities and endeavors, our continued collaboration will lead to further growth and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

James Smith
CCE-Yates County Board President

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.

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>

CCE-Yates Board of Directors

James Smith, President

Anne Waasdorp, Vice President

Daniel Wickham, Treasurer

George Lawson, Legislative Representative

Adam Hughes, Cornell Representative, State Specialist

Todd Anderson

Trish Bagley

Ritchie Lent

Mark Morris

Susan Spence

Caryl Sutterby

Andrew Zimmerman

CCE-Yates Staff Directory

Jennifer Clancey, 4-H Team Leader/Interim Executive Director jja26@cornell.edu

Caroline Boutard-Hunt, Ag Educator cb239@cornell.edu

Donald Caldwell, Viticulture Technician dc886@cornell.edu

Vallie Castner, Life Skills Educator vgc8@cornell.edu

Cheryl Flynn, Master Gardener Coordinator cj348@cornell.edu

Brittany Griffin, Operations Coordinator II & FLGP Program Assistant bg393@cornell.edu

Kayleigh Hight, 4-H Program Assistant krh97@cornell.edu

Maggie Mahr, Marketing Coordinator mam752@cornell.edu

Judson Reid, CVP/HNY Team Leader jer11@cornell.edu

Hans Walter Peterson, FLGP Team Leader hcw5@cornell.edu

Front Cover Credits

Graphic Design By: Maggie Mahr

Photo Credit: Caroline Boutard-Hunt (Pictured, Buckwheat Field in Yates County)

Finger Lakes Shared Business Network

We are heading into our **tenth** year of having Regional Lead positions in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, and in our second year of CCE-Steuben County serving as the lead SBN. The Leads continue to provide strategic guidance, best practices, and problem-solving to the seven Associations in the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network: Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates.

FLXSBN Leads:

- Tess McKinley, Executive Director, CCE-Steuben County
- John Bouwens, Finger Lakes SBN Finance Lead
- Kelsey James, Finger Lakes SBN HR Lead
- Scot Mantelli, Finger Lakes SBN IT Lead

About the SBN:

Shared Business Networks (SBN's) were created to provide an updated infrastructure for Cornell Cooperative Extension associations statewide. Associations participating in the SBNs have access to competent, knowledgeable “leads” in the areas of finance, HR, and IT. The SBN leads have access to training, troubleshooting, and business practice development with on-campus administrators.

CCE Administration works through the local SBN functional leads. The functional leads work directly with association staff to address needs as they arise. The vision creates a structure that provides increased effectiveness at reduced transaction costs, both locally and at Cornell. Another outcome of this vision is to better position CCE in ways that will enhance the sustainability of programming in difficult economic times.

Regular mechanisms are in place for each statewide group of functional leads to communicate via conference call or other electronic means one or two times per month. These connections provide a forum for a statewide team approach to addressing issues and problem-solving and assure SBN leads are kept current on matters that will affect local CCE association business. “Lead” Executive Directors of SBNs also meet monthly via conference calls. CCE Administration functional leads and staff facilitate these meetings.

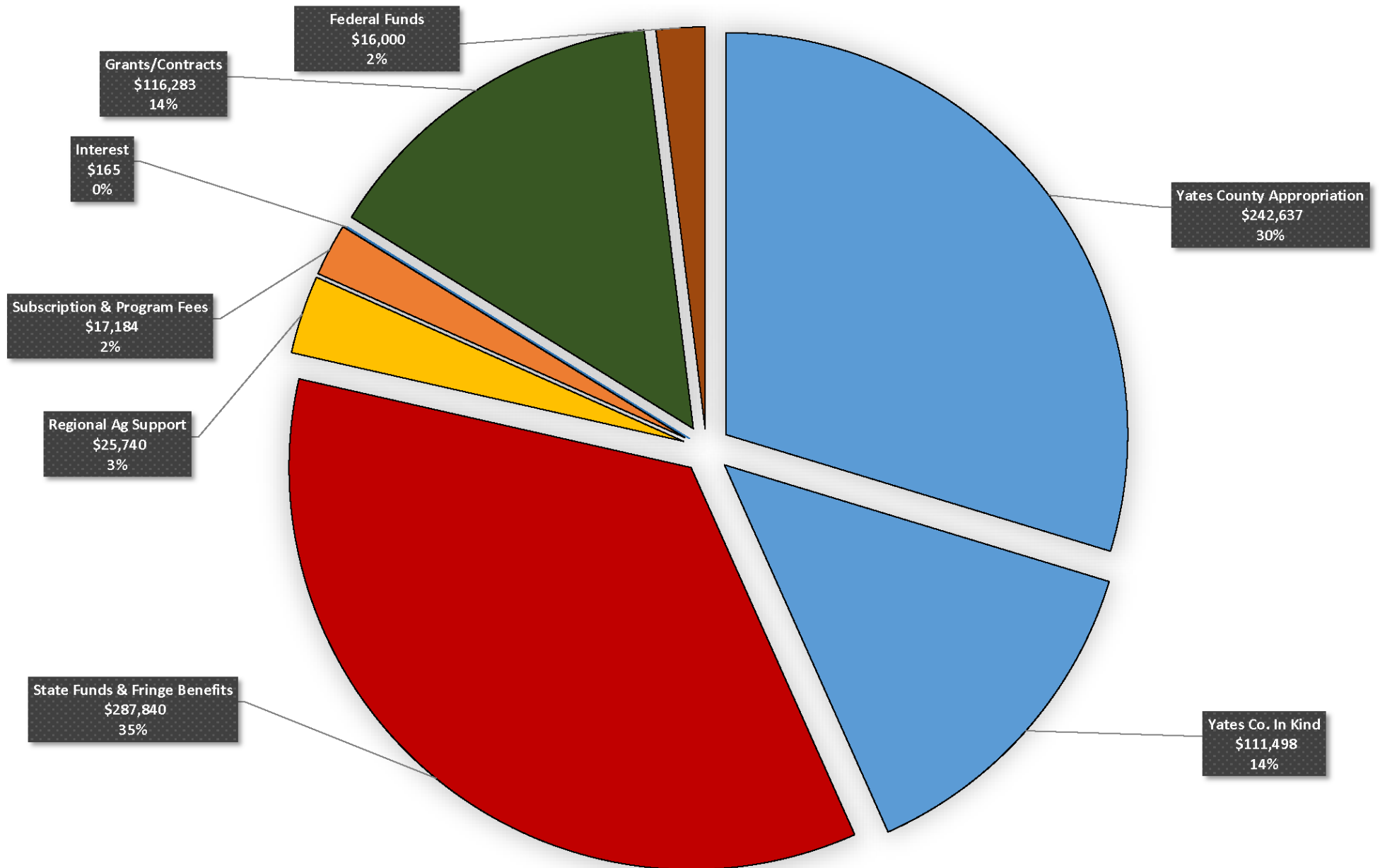
When significant business practices change across the system, those changes are implemented through the SBN functional leads instead of the former practice of dealing with all 57 counties individually and simultaneously. The SBN infrastructure allows for a communication pathway between CCE Administration and the SBN leads and then between the SBN leads and Associations. This feedback mechanism provides CCE administration with information from the field on topics such as which options will work best, how to deploy a change, how to fix a problem, etc. When an association experiences a business-related problem or question, the appropriate SBN functional lead is the first contact and serves in the role of relaying information to CCE Administration when needed.



Pictured (from top to bottom): Tess McKinley, John Bouwens, Kelsey James, and Scot Mantelli



2023 CCE Revenue Resources



Interim Executive Director's Note

I am privileged to provide this year's Director's address. 2023 has been a year of transition, increased communication, and re-direction. Stepping into this role on a part-time basis in mid-May, the past 6 ½ months have been spent working closely with our dedicated Board of Directors, talented team of staff members, diligent county legislatures, devoted community collaborators, and numerous key stakeholders to continue programming, assess association needs, look at new funding sources, increase visibility, and strengthen community connections.

While times of transition can pose challenges, it also provides the opportunity to step back, evaluate, gain perspective, and make changes as needed to strengthen operations. CCE-Yates has done just that, all while continuing quality and innovative programming, increasing outreach efforts, and working collaboratively with community partners. While we are a small county, we do not lack program impacts or accomplishments. From working with our 4-H members and community youth groups to providing resources and education to area farmers, increasing understanding of horticulture and gardening, promoting the importance of protecting and preserving our natural environment, and helping families thrive in an ever-changing world, our educators, staff members, and area specialists have been instrumental in working together this year to increase program impact, educate our stakeholders, and advocate for cooperative extension.

We have worked with area farmers, local ag groups and businesses, and county legislatures to enable Yates County to rejoin NWNY. In partnership with the Cornell Vegetable Program, we have increased GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) education and assisted area farmers in successfully completing GAPs audits. We have trained ten new Master Gardener volunteers and increased participation in our Seed to Supper Program, holding two classes this year, one partnering with local veterans and their families. We have supported local artists through youth art programming, expanded outreach efforts with our TANF Life Skills Program, and partnered with the Branchport Fire Department, Saunder's Finger Lakes Museum, and Yates County Soil and Water to install over 200 sedges, shrubs, and trees to combat soil erosion and shoreline degradation. Our area ag teams continue to educate and support local farmers to address seasonal concerns while partnering with farms and vineyards to conduct research to continue advancement in agricultural practices. Additionally, our regional nutrition educator provides programming, resources, and support to various community groups to help residents learn about and incorporate healthy lifestyle choices into their daily lives.

My involvement with Cooperative Extension started as a 4-H member, and the more I learn about the Cooperative Extension system, the more amazed and inspired I am to be a part of it. The research, resources, information, and education provided by Cooperative Extension are assets to all counties, not just in NY but throughout the nation. And, Cooperative Extension's foundation in rural agriculture makes it a vital resource for Yates County.

As we enter 2024, we are excited for new partnerships, the potential for program growth, and, of course, welcoming a new Executive Director to our association. I want to thank our association staff, area specialists, and board members for their increased efforts over the past several months. It has been a team effort on multiple levels, and everyone's dedication and shared perspectives have aligned us to address challenges better, meet community needs, and continue to enable Yates County residents to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.



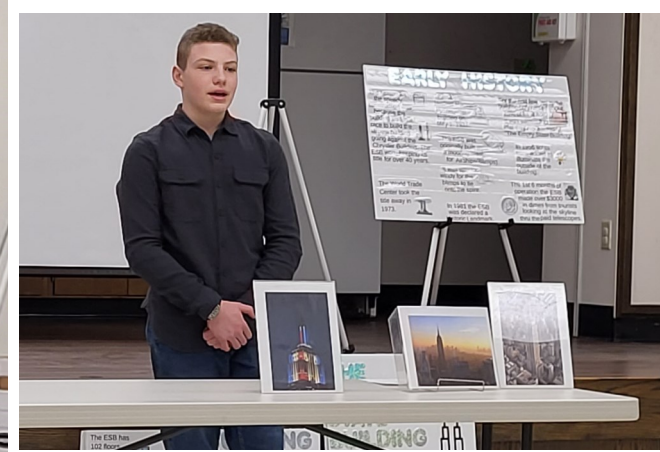
Jennifer J. Clancey

Jennifer J. Clancey
Interim Executive Director/4-H Team Leader

January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 ML King Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____		



Skills Learned

4-H Public Presentations allows youth to grow and develop a variety of skills:

- Organization
- Time Management
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Discipline
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Poise
- Creativity
- Professionalism
- Sportsmanship

Yates County 4-H Public Presentations: A Foundation of Success

4-H Public Presentations is an annual event allowing youth as young as 5 years old to gain experience developing a presentation and speaking in front of an audience. Youth gain constructive feedback from volunteer judges, with the opportunity to advance from the county to district, state, and even national level of completion as skills develop and improve. Many 4-H alum credit 4-H Public Presentations to successes in high school, college, and beyond – successfully preparing them for a variety of experiences beyond their 4-H careers.

Pictured (clockwise, from the left): Arianna Winfield presenting on how to make mini bundt cakes, Greyson Hathaway presenting on the Empire State Building, and Ariel Winfield presenting on the saxophone.



February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Leap Day	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

Agricultural Programming In Yates County

Yates County Agricultural & Farmland Protection- Protecting Farmland For Present and Future Generations

Although farming is a thriving and growing industry in Yates County, it faces both new opportunities and challenges. Over the past two years, the **Yates County Farmland Protection Board** has been working with **Labella and Associates**, to update the Yates County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. Our last plan was written in 2004 and the landscape of agriculture has changed significantly within that time period. The **2023 Yates County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan** aims to support agricultural businesses and keep high-quality farmland in agricultural production. The Plan documents the economic significance of agriculture and related industries to the local and regional economy, evaluates agricultural land resources and environmental conditions, and recommends specific actions that Yates County and its partners can take to ensure that farming remains viable for generations to come.

In addition to the Plan, the Board has been busy completing the **Yates County Agricultural District #8-year review**. In addition, land within the county continues to be protected through the board's partnership and work with the Finger Lakes Land Trust in securing Farmland Implementation Grants. In 2023, **816** acres were added to the program and there are an additional **195** acres in review for approval in 2024.

Outreach By The Numbers:

- **92** Agriculture Questions answered via phone or e-mail
- **63** farm visits completed
- **64** Yates County Farm Update Newsletter Subscribers
- **2** Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) trainings, attended by **23** individuals.



Photo Credit: Caroline Boutard-Hunt

March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Spring Begins	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____			

Master Gardeners & Community- Based Horticulture in Yates County

“Gardening Matters” Day 2023:

On **April 15th**, 2023, the Yates County Master Gardener Volunteers held their annual Gardening Matters Day event. With refreshments provided by the organization, over **40** participants spent their Saturday morning learning about the latest gardening trends. Our speakers and topics were:

- **Lexie Davis** – Tree pruning and tree disease for the home gardener.
- **Brian Eshenaur** (Senior Extension Associate, NYS Integrated Pest Management, pictured right) – Native Plants and Invasive Species.
- **Caroline Boutard-Hunt** (Agricultural and Horticultural Educator, CCE-Yates County)- Gardening for Birds



The presentations are available to view on our YouTube channel (visit <https://www.youtube.com/@CCEYates> to subscribe).

2023 Pollinator Bracket Challenge

CCE-Yates County launched the 2nd Annual Yates County Pollinator Bracket Tournament in March 2023. Inspired by the National Park Service’s “Fat Bear Week,” this tournament aims to educate the community and bring attention to the variety and importance of pollinators in the support and continuity of agriculture. This year, the tournament averaged a total of **22,023** views, with the **Andrena Mining Bee** winning **65%** of the vote during the final round. For more information, visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/3m81UCp>.



Community Comment: “What fun to learn all about these friends of flowers. They’ve got an early wake-up with this weather and all these early blooms!”

2023 Workshops and Events: By the Numbers

This year, the Master Gardener Program held **10** classes, workshops, and events including:

- Seed to Supper (A 4-Week Food Gardening Class)– **27 attendees**
- Native Plants for Pollinators Sale– **400 plants sold**
- Penn Yan Community Garden Open House–**33 Attendees**
- Master Gardener Volunteer Training– **10 New Volunteers**
- Fall Centerpiece Workshop– **15 Attendees**

The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county Cooperative Extension Office to share information throughout the community.

Our 12 Master Gardeners:

- Provided **539** hours of volunteer service.
- Grew and donated **627** pounds of produce to local food banks
- Over **100** hours of Master Gardener Hotline Calls answered, and **30** site visits completed.
- Presented a **6-week** summer gardening program in partnership with The Living Well and their Dreamcatchers youth group.
- Wrote a total of **14** articles for the quarterly Gardening Matters newsletter.

April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Gardening Matters Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____			

Natural Resources Education



Photo Credit: Saunder's Finger Lakes Museum

Sugar Creek Shoreline Restoration—Riparian Buffer Project

Sugar Creek is a tributary that empties into the Keuka/Seneca watershed. Located in Branchport, Sugar Creek also runs through Yates County farmland, privately-owned homes, local wetlands, and privately-owned preserved natural areas that are managed for recreational hiking, boating, fishing, and kayaking. Within the last five years, the western shoreline (behind the Branchport Fire Department and the Saunder's Finger Lakes Museum) area had lost roughly twenty feet of the streambank. In collaboration with the museum, Yates County Soil & Water, and aligning with a Nine Element Plan (9E Plan), CCE-Yates County developed a riparian buffer to prevent further loss of the shore. Funding for this project was provided by the [New York's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants program](#).

The toewood restoration concept was designed and provided by the [United States Fish and Wildlife Service \(US FWS\)](#) to specifically reduce the streambank erosion of this specific section of Sugar Creek. The newly developed toewood restoration process sustainably utilizes excess tree material, such as fallen trees that would otherwise be unused. The stabilization of Sugar Creek protects the area from the continued loss of the shoreline, the lake from sedimentation and nutrient and pathogen loading, and the property from being degraded by reducing and redirecting the flow. Data loggers (pictured, left) were installed to monitor this. Additional planting of the riparian buffer increases the area's biodiversity and protects the shoreline from further degradation.

In **January of 2023**, the toewood restoration was completed. Six weeks after construction ended, the data was extracted from the data loggers. After analysis, the data showed a statistically significant reduction in the flow of Sugar Creek. In **May of 2023**, the first phase of the riparian buffer was planted as part of the Lake Friendly Living Coalition's Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month Impact Day. **Eight** Volunteers planted **182** sedge and rush plugs (*Carex frayi*, *Carex lupulina*, *Carex stricta*, and *Juncus effusus*) and **38** trees and shrubs with species of dogwood, alders, birch, willow, oak, and maples (pictured, lower-left corner). In June, **17** Master Naturalists planted more vegetative plants such as sunflowers, bonesets, and blue-stem grass. The toewood restoration has held strong throughout the season despite heavy rain events. The riparian buffer has also shown significant signs of success, with only an **8%** loss in vegetation planted.



Photo Credit: Lexie Davis



Photo Credit: Maggie Mahr



Photo Credit: Maggie Mahr

2023 Programming Updates

Shoreline Monitoring Program:

- **62** volunteers
- **256** surveys
- **6** blooms

Master Forest Owners (MFO) Program:

- **160** volunteers (**5** located in Yates County)
- **56** new trainees in 2023

May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____			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 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	1

SNAP-Ed Prescription Vegetable Program



In partnership with Finger Lakes Community Health, the **Southern Finger Lakes SNAP-Ed** program held a **5-week Fruit and Vegetable Prescription (FVRx)** program in Yates County. Participants were recruited to take part based on their status of being patients of Finger Lakes Community Health, as well as eligibility criteria for experiencing food insecurity.

The classes were held at the Yates County Auditorium. Along with the classes, participants received vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables (**\$24** each week attended). The participants were able to use these coupons at The Windmill Farm & Craft Market, Indian Pines Farm Market, and Tops Friendly Market in Penn Yan.

Each week, the participants learned about different nutrition and physical activity topics from the **Eat Healthy Be Active** curriculum and **Cooking Matters in Your Community** curriculum. In addition to a heavy focus on fruits and vegetables, topics for these classes included healthy eating on a budget; reducing salt, added sugar, and unhealthy fat intake; how to prepare produce; the **MyPlate**; and different types of physical activity. Food demonstrations were included with the classes, using a range of in-season produce.

The Finger Lakes Produce Auction

A Dundee Fresh Grocery, Inc. Community Partner

Did you know that Dundee Fresh Grocery, Inc. purchased produce from FLPA?

- **Dundee Fresh Grocery Inc.** began purchasing produce from the Finger Lakes Produce Auction on **July 28, 2023**, to distribute to DCS District residents who signed up to be members of this program.
- This **8-week** fresh produce distribution program reached **449** total households in the Dundee School District.
- This free distribution was made possible by a **Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority** grant to **Cornell Cooperative Extension-Yates County**, Dundee Fresh Grocery, Inc., and the **Dundee Baptist Church**.

About Dundee Fresh Grocery, Inc.

Our Mission: to provide access to fresh and wholesome foods to support the health of the community. We plan to open a brick and mortar grocery store in the village of Dundee to support this mission.

Dundee Fresh Grocery, Inc.

PO Box 144

Dundee, NY 14837

dundeefresh@gmail.com

<https://www.dundeefreshgrocery.org/>



Participants were encouraged to share what they purchased, meals they made, and to make the demonstrated meals through purchasing produce featured in the recipes with their vouchers.

Impacts

Based on feedback and surveys from the **FVRx** participants, the program proved to be effective and to have a positive impact on the health behaviors of many participants. Several participants shared that through these classes, they had tried produce that they had never had before. Many of the participants commented on the food demonstrations with positive remarks, stating that they helped them learn new ideas for cooking.

For more information on SNAP-Ed programming, visit their website at <https://snapedny.org/>, or call Justine Cobb (Program Director) at 607-664-2572.

June 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Begins	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____			

Local Youth Take Part in Yates County Fair

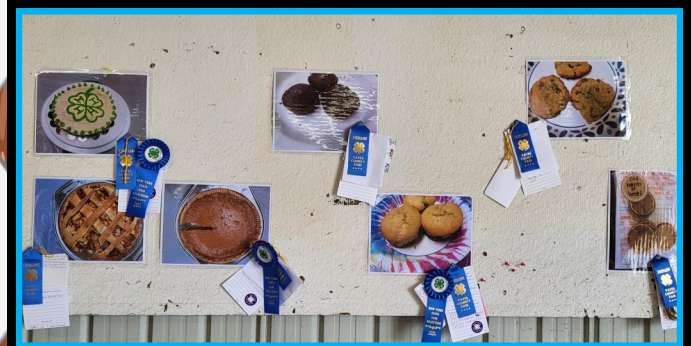
The Yates County Fair took place **July 11-15, 2023** in Penn Yan, NY. The County Fair is a time for 4-H youth to come together with 4-H'ers across the county to showcase what they've worked on throughout the year. While the fair is a lot of fun, it is also a lot of work. 4-H'ers can be seen throughout the week demonstrating their talents, learning new skills, and helping others.

Congratulations to our 4-H and FFA exhibitors and thank you to our dedicated volunteers. Your time, efforts, and support to Yates County 4-H helps increase opportunities for our youth and makes youth programming opportunities at the Yates County Fair possible.

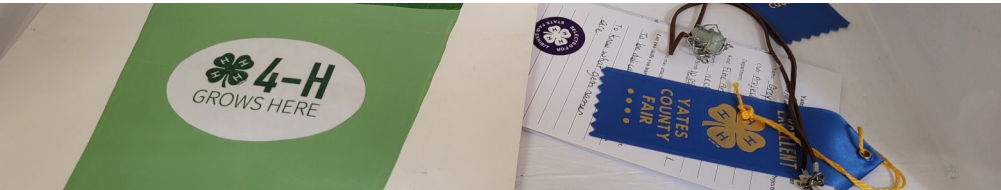
In 2023, there were...

- **23** 4-H'ers showcasing **184** projects in the exhibit hall.
- **16** 4-H animal science members exhibiting **40** animals
- **13** youth learning job-readiness skills by working in Scooper's Dairy Bar
- **7** teens increasing leadership skills by serving as Junior Superintendents and/or Teen Leaders in the animal barns or exhibit hall.

Pictured (clockwise): 4-H Youth participating in the Dairy Show, Ginny Savage at the Rabbit show, Ribbon display at the Exhibit hall, Arianna Winfield with her decorated cake, Jocelyn Johnson showing her string art for judging, Ramona Mills and Lucie Martens at the Rabbit show, Zoey Zeigler at Scoopers Dairy Bar, Maddie Smith and Ginny Savage at the Goat show.



July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	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	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____		

Cornell Vegetable Program Responds to Late Blight in 2023

Late blight is a devastating disease of tomatoes and potatoes caused by the water mold **Phytophthora infestans**. Once an outbreak begins, damage spreads rapidly throughout the canopy, with the fruit becoming unmarketable due to large, rotting lesions. The disease spreads quickly and will ultimately destroy a field if left untreated.

Late blight does not overwinter outdoors in New York State, so its arrival each year differs depending on neighboring regions and weather conditions. Another variable is the strain or 'genotype.' Different genotypes vary in their relative severity to tomatoes and potatoes and response to fungicides. Therefore, it is crucial to identify genotypes early in an outbreak.

The Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) works with colleagues throughout North America to help our local tomato and potato industry prepare and avoid catastrophic losses. In our weekly newsletter VegEdge, we project late blight risk using NEWA weather data to create Blight Units (BUs) for 25 sites across western and central NYS. Thus, we could prepare for when late blight arrived in our region.

Samples were collected on **August 1st** from symptomatic tomato

plants in Yates County. Under microscopy, Cornell AgriTech Plant Pathologist Chris Smart confirmed diagnostic sporangia on the same day. Hundreds of tomato and potato growers in the region were informed of the outbreak via text messages, phone calls, farm visits, and the many on-farm twilight meetings from CVP educators. Advice includes using resistant varieties, high tunnels, and effective fungicides.

A farmer affected by the August outbreak reported (in an interview this fall) that, with Cornell Vegetable Program recommendations, he could save approximately \$60,000 in revenue per acre! Isolates from our region are currently undergoing genetic study by the USDA to improve our understanding of this devastating disease.

We take a team approach to achieve this level of support for our local industry. The late blight heroes here include CCE Yates ag educator Caroline Boutard-Hunt, CU Plant Pathologist Chris Smart (and lab staff), USDA-ARS researchers Jason Ingram and Zachariah Hansen, CVP Specialists Reid, Buck, Hadad and Lund, CVP Program Aide Lori Koenick, and most importantly the tomato and potato farmers of the Cornell Vegetable Program region!

White spores on the underside of a tomato leaf are diagnostic for late blight, a disease that can cost farmers thousands of dollars.

Photo Credit: Judson Reid, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program



The Cornell Vegetable Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in 14 counties: Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates.

August 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____				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

2023 Legislative Ag Tour

On September 11th, 2023, CCE-Yates County staff took members of the legislature and other community leaders on an agricultural tour of Yates County. Usually held every two years, the purpose behind the Agriculture Tour is to give participants the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at local farms and businesses. This year's tour included stops at Black Squirrel Farms and Anthony Road Wine Company.

Black Squirrel Farms

Just off of Route 14 in Benton, Black Squirrel Farms is one of the county's newest agritourism spots. They specialize in products made from black walnuts, which are harvested from mid-September to early-November.

“Black walnuts are a native Yates County crop,” said Sara Tyler, the owner and general manager. “They may not be used to their potential, but it is a Yates County crop.”

There are about 80 black walnut trees on 8 acres at Black Squirrel Farms, but Tyler said that only makes up about 10% of the walnuts the business uses. Others come from regional collection sites in Binghamton and Sterling, Cayuga County, while the business also accepts walnuts from the public, paying \$10 per 100 pounds for quality walnuts.

In 2022, Black Squirrel Farms became the first 20-C licensed facility to process black walnuts in New York state.

Anthony Road Wine Company

After relocating to the Finger Lakes area, John and Ann Martini planted their first vineyards in 1974 and sold their grapes to Taylor Wine Co. Ann managed the vineyard, while John worked for Cornell University at the Agricultural Experiment Station (now known as Agritech) in Geneva, New York. In 1990, when they could no longer sell grapes to a declining Taylor, they started their own winery along with Donna and Derek Wilber; Derek was the first winemaker.

Today, Anthony Road, which encompasses nearly **100** acres of vineyards, is a family affair. Martini's son, Peter, is the vineyard manager, while daughter Sarah is the business manager. Another daughter, Liz, is the tasting room manager.

Anthony Road has long been a leader in the Finger Lakes viticulture, research, and winemaking industries. About 2 acres at Anthony Road are teaching vineyards and produce much of the grapes used at the Finger Lakes Community College Viticulture Center.



Pictured: A sampling of wild black walnut products available for sale at Black Squirrel Farms.

Photo Credit: Maggie Mahr



John Martini (right), founder of Anthony Road Wine Co., talks about the longtime business during the tour. Listening is Hans Walter-Peterson, viticulture specialist for CCE

Photo Credit: Mike Hibbard, Finger Lakes Times

Sourced From: Hibbard, Mike. “Some History ... and Some Novelty: Yates Ag Tour Includes Stops at Anthony Road Wine Co., Nearby Black Squirrel Farms.” Finger Lakes Times, 13 Sept. 2023, <https://bit.ly/46HEUvz>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2023.

September 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	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	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____			

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



FLGP Data Supports Release of New Cornell Winegrape

In March of 2023, the latest winegrape cultivar was released from Cornell's grape breeding program. The new variety, "**Aravelle**" (from the Latin Arabella, which means "grace, favor, answer to prayers"), comes from a cross between two well-known parents - Riesling and Cayuga White - that was made over 40 years ago. The new variety possesses positive traits from both parents, such as high wine quality potential and improved disease resistance. The FLGP has been collecting information about the new variety for over **10** years in the test plot at our Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard. This data was an important justification for the release of the variety to the industry. One of the most attractive traits of Aravelle is that it is highly resistant to late-season bunch rot diseases like Botrytis bunch rot and sour rot, which can cost growers hundreds of dollars per acre in some years.



FLGP Helps Industry Respond to Historic Spring Freeze Damage

The Finger Lakes experienced one of the worst spring freeze events in history this year. On May 18th, temperatures dropped below freezing for several hours in many locations, causing significant damage to young shoots that had just emerged. Damage estimates ranged anywhere from almost nothing to **100%** injury. Staff from the FLGP visited many vineyards around the region to assess the amount of damage in the region this year, and has been communicating with federal, state and local officials and agencies, along with other ag organizations, on the status of this year's crop. Our estimate is that the grape crop in the region was about **30%** lower than average overall.



*Pictured: Catawba clusters in a Keuka Lake vineyard
Photo Credit: Hans Walter-Peterson*

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is a partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

    **YouTube**
flgp.cce.cornell.edu

October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day	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



Community Feedback

“I learned a lot of ways to track my finances and to save energy. The planner and budget book helped me to see my bills all in one place. ...and I liked the chart (the paycheck power calculator) to see how \$4 a day adds up.”

“The tools (calendar, budget book, etc.) are very useful.”

“...the program is very thorough and detailed. The unit pricing part was helpful.”

“Many of the topics were very informative.”

Family, Budget, & Life Skills Programming

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County offers the **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Life Skills 1:1 program** to eligible, qualifying Yates County residents. While it is specific in terms of participant eligibility, the program is rich with information, education, tips, and tools which are provided to family participants.

It has been important to assist individuals and families to help address their additional needs during these difficult and changing times. Encouragement/assistance with connecting to local community resources (**Amy Taft/Rise and Shine Clothes Closet, Early Head Start/ Home Visitors program, Keuka Housing Council, Inc./ESG, The Well, the Keuka Pantry, and DSS**) for possible funding assistance and food security. Sometimes an individual just needs the physical accompaniment and encouragement of our Life Skills educator when reaching out to a local resource. Some past program participants have requested to

have monthly check-ins (a text, email, or phone call and to be notified of any new updates and community resource information).

CCE partners with Workforce Development to offer Self Sufficiency workshops. This year, **18** workshops have been presented in-person, and topics included community resources, budget education/information, a food unit, simple energy tips, and more. Participants not only received free resources (ex. Budget tools, calendars/planners, calculators, and lightbulbs), they also received a **\$100** gift card upon completion of 1:1 classes.

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>.

How can we help you meet your savings goals?



November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____				31	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	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

Friends of Extension 2023 Campaign

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. Our gratitude goes out to the following contributors:

Sally Acomb -In Honor of the Glenn R. Alexander Family (Cortland Co.)

David & Veronica Baum

Edward & Virginia Allen

James Bedient (Bedient Vineyards)

Beverly Cerow

Nancy S. Cole - In Honor of Hans Walter-Peterson

David DeMarco (Seneca Shore Wine Cellars)

Dr. Timothy & Dawn Dennis

Wendy Disbrow

Douglas B. Miles Agency, Inc.

Eileen & Ken Farnan (Buzzard Crest Vineyards)

Harlan Fulkerson (LKF Vineyards)

David Hoover

Harry Humphreys (Overlook Farms)

Arthur & Joyce Hunt

Bill Laffin

Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #2030

Bill & Alise Mahr

Mary-Howell & Klaas Martens - In Honor of Yates County Organic Farmers

Tim & Sandy Merwarth (Wiemer Vineyards/Standing Stone)

Edwin Moberg

Scott Osborn (Fox Run Vineyards, Inc.)

Thomas A. Pearson, PhD

Gene Pierce (Glenora Wine Cellars)

Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Club

Alice Shoemaker

Donald Tones (Clearview Farms & Vineyard LLC)

Foundation Support

Cornell Innovation Grant

DEC Emergency Food Grant

Elks Foundation Beacon Grant

Extension Foundation

Genesee Finger Lakes Chapter Air & Waste Management Foundation

Joan and Harold Feinbloom Foundation

NYS Agriculture and Markets

NYS Council on the Arts

Rochester Area Community Foundation

Tripp Family Foundation

USDA Sea Grant

Yates Endowment Relief Grant

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

December 2024

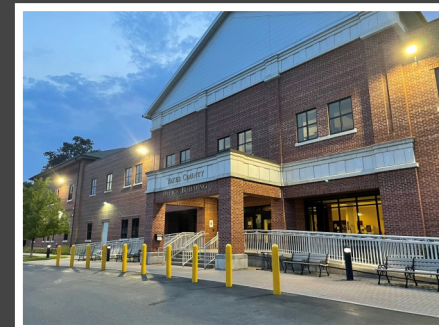


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 Winter Begins
29	30	31	1	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____		

CCE connects communities with Cornell research and expertise to enrich and empower New York State neighbors, local businesses, towns, and cities.

In neighborhoods, homes, workplaces, and schools, CCE educators work to empower individuals and families with raising children, saving energy and money, growing and preparing food, starting, sustaining businesses, and protecting the environment.

Each CCE office relies on county, state, and federal funds to solve local problems and strengthen communities.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Yates County

417 Liberty Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

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



(315) 536-5123

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