



2025/JG Calendar

2023 Annual report





Association Management Team

Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director

Carol Watkins, Health & Nutrition Issue Leader

Richelle Singer, Family Development Issue Leader

Celeste Oppito, Agriculture Senior Team Lea

Marty Broccoli, Ag Economic Development Leader

Lisa Farney, Youth Development Program Leader

Helen Madden, Grant Writer & Special Projects

Bonnie Backman, Finance Lead

Lori North, HR, Director of Operations

Roberta Oram, SBN IT Lead

John Adams, Environment & Energy Team Leader

Terri Harrison, Office Manager

Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County

Our Mission

Cornell Cooperative Extension 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 New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

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George Joseph-Majority Leader Oneida County Board of Legislators, Appointed Legislative Representative

Danielle Hautaniemi-State Extension Specialist





From Our Executive Director, Mary Beth McEwen





It is a privilege to share the Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County (CCE) 2023 annual report with our community partners and constituents. I continue to be in awe of the many accomplishments of the dedicated and professional CCE Oneida County staff.

CCE brings research-based information to our community members that addresses topics that are meaningful to them including agriculture and horticulture sustainability, nutrition education and obesity prevention, environmental education, energy, youth development, childcare, parenting education, urban renewal, and agricultural economic development. Through diverse resources and educational opportunities, we empower, encourage, and equip our community to cultivate a future of wellness, innovation, and growth.

As you look through the pages of the 2023 annual report you will see that CCE touches thousands of lives in our community each year. Whether it's the 13,000 plus community members that our team of energy educators reached, the 5,600 students that our agriculture and dairy in the classroom educators reached or the 37 farmers that attended a no-till farm field day, we are making a difference in the lives of people in our community.

At CCE, we realize that to continue to be relevant, we must be ready to pivot and meet the emerging needs of our community, which is why we started a social-emotional learning program. This program, which reached over 3,900 people in 2023, helps children and adults learn coping skills and build self-esteem to navigate some of the challenges they may face in an ever-changing world. We have also recognized that the need for quality childcare continues to increase. To help expand access to high-quality care, in 2023, we offered technical assistance to childcare providers over 1,700 times and provided education to 576 families seeking quality care!

As you look through the annual report, you will see a sampling of programmatic highlights from 2023. Although it is impossible to capture all that we do within our annual report, it is a wonderful overview of our dynamic organization and all that CCE does to enable, empower, and educate our fellow community members.

I would once again like to thank our constituents, community partners, the Oneida County Executive, and the Oneida County Board of Legislators for their continued support. Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't close by thanking the entire staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County, our Board of Directors, and our wonderful volunteers for a job well done! Guided by a drive for service, compassion, and respect for one another and all members of society their dedication is unparalleled!

Best wishes for a wonderful 2024!
Mary Beth McEwen
Executive Director
Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County





Child Care Council serves Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties



The Child Care Council is a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) that serves Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties.

Staff handled 576 referrals for families needing childcare.

Child Care Council staff provided non-grant related technical assistance to child care programs 443 times in the grant year between basic technical assistance and intensive on-site technical assistance.

CCR&R supports child care programs with grants issued by New York State Office of Children and Family Services, such as the Stabilization Grant, Invest in New York Child Care Deserts, and Workforce Retention Grant. Staff provided technical assistance to child care programs on these grants 1,333 times.*

Staff continues to provide ongoing assistance for Child Care Providers to meet the requirements of specific grants.

CCR&R staff hosted the *Herkimer Schools Out* program at our campus on July 7th, 2023. Children and staff enjoyed the Parker F. Scripture Gardens and activities such as yoga, making nature collages, and an outdoor 'fairy hunt'.

Our Child Care Council Team

'Project THRIVE' reached 3,936 participants. This socialemotional learning program was presented mostly in school settings for children in elementary through high school age. Topics ranged from coping skills and self-esteem to working with educators on brain architecture and team building.

*The totals on this page reflect CCE Child Care Council's staff presentations from October 2022 to September 2023.







The Herkimer County System of Care (HC/SOC) grant provides direct support to Herkimer County Child Care Programs on the social-emotional well-being of young children in their care. CCR&R staff supplied materials and activities to providers in that county.

A provider expressed the impact this program had:

"I've had one child being very aggressive so I explained how we felt when our friends hurt us."

This provider used the handheld child-safe mirrors provided by the grant to make faces and to talk about the emotions each child might be feeling.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County





9)anuary 2024

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Mohawk Valley Regional Clean Energy Hub

Smart Energy Choices — Mohawk Valley

Created to help New Yorkers access and navigate all the available energy opportunities and headquartered at CCE Oneida County, the energy hub is a collaboration of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida, Herkimer, Otsego, Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties. Clean Energy Hub's knowledgeable teams connect people to the clean energy economy.





Scan the QR Code to fill out the quick form and an energy team member will contact you.



2023 the inaugural year and soft launch:

The Mohawk Valley Smart Energy Choices (MVSEC) team has tabled, presented, and educated at over 40 locations throughout the 6 counties they serve reaching over 13,000 community members. Adding to these interactions are:

- Visits to 7 Oneida County school district classrooms with lessons and crafts, created by the team, to build energy literacy in schoolage children in grades K-12.
- Amazingly, during the first fiscal year, the energy team directly interacted with and educated 9988 adults and 1277 youth, while logging in 194 hours of direct education
- 2,148 energy team hours were spent engaging with 26,707 participants over 6 counties during the 2023 calendar year.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Smart Energy Choices — Mohawk Valley











February 2024



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4-H School and Government Programs





Ag in the Classroom and Dairy in the Classroom reached over 5,600 students. Lessons ranged from ice cream and butter making to pumpkins and maple syrup.





The 4-H Government Program is open to students in Oneida County and is held at the Oneida County office building in downtown Utica. 35 students participated in the 5-week sessions, held in spring and fall, teaching students how local government works and they get a chance to brainstorm solutions to local issues.

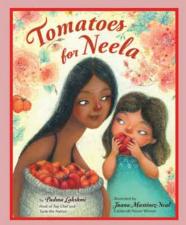


An afterschool pilot project at Adirondack Central School ended in June of 2023.

The program, which included everything from crafts to snacks, had an enrollment of 40 Students at Boonville Elementary and 20 Students at West Leyden Elementary.



Agricultural Literacy Week 2023



Written by Padma Lakshmi Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

2496 students participated in AG Literacy week.

Volunteers read the story of Neela and the delicious family recipes her grandmother (Paati) makes using fresh grown tomatoes. To compliment the story students grew tomatoes and basil in their classroom.





Agricultural Literacy Week
March 18-22, 2024
Written by Shannon Anderson
Art by Jaclyn Singuett

732 K-3rd grade students visited our CCE campus this spring. Youth visited our gardens and woodland trail to learn about honeybees, NYS wildlife, and the Native American story of the Three Sisters. One class was even able to take part in the release of the very rare (official NY State Insect) the nine-spotted ladybug.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County

March 2024



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	ASTER DAY					

If You ate today,

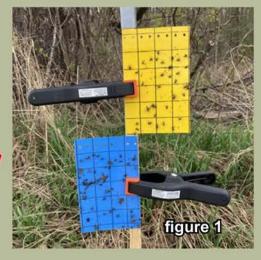


Thank a Farmer!





Preliminary
research data
showed that the
color of the seedcorn maggot trap
makes a
difference. Blue
sticky traps were
placed on 61
farms across
New York to
monitor the seedcorn maggots.



- In 2023, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County Ag Team monitored the activity of 3 common pests of field crops (armyworm, black cutworm, and western bean cutworm), reporting to farmers each week.
- A statewide research project to monitor and evaluate control measures for seed corn maggot was also conducted in 2023. A combination of mesh traps and *blue sticky traps* were placed at farm sites across New York state with CCE Oneida County monitoring 3 sites in Oneida County. (see figure 1)
- In August of 2023 37 farmers attended a No-till Farm field day in Augusta, NY. Demonstrations included field practices to help reduce erosion and fuel use and increase the sequestration of carbon in the soil with little impact on crop yields.
- In response to farm fertilizer prices doubling in 2022 the CCE Oneida County AG Team coordinated a webinar series on best management practices for fertilizing crops in 2023. Visit our YouTube channel to watch the webinar series.



Farm Flash is a monthly newsletter with the most up-to-date local farm happenings.
Read it online or sign up for our mailing list.
Call 315-736-3394, x100.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County





SCAN the QR Code to read Farm Flash Newsletter online.



April 2024



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2023 Oneida County Farm Fest

Oneida County FARM

Oneida County Farmers invite you to learn about our local agriculture through Farm Fest. Enjoy educational displays and fun for the whole family

- · Farm Tours · Hay Maze
- · Hay Rides · Food Games
 - Vendors

Fri, May 31, 2024

6585 Benton Rd, Marcy CASH ONLY (NO ATM)

Fees for Pony Rides and Food A \$5.00 Parking Donation is Appreciated







CCE's Annual Farm Fest is one of our most popular events of the year.

Held June 2nd, 2023

During the day 451 students were bussed in from schools around Oneida County to learn firsthand knowledge about dairy farms and how much work goes into running them.

At 4:00 pm the host farm opens to the public so they can enjoy an evening on the farm.

All of the programs at Cornell Cooperative Extension are represented in some way at Farm Fest. The SNAP-Ed booth saw 260 fourth-grade students from local schools. Students also had a chance to make their own butter at the Dairy in the Classroom booth and they learned all about honeybees and pollinators at the Mid-York Beekeeper's booth.























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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County





Oneida County Public Market





- Public attendance at the Oneida County Public Market (OCPM) in 2023 was up from last year totaling 15,937 people with 85 vendors participating in the market throughout the year.
- 2023 also saw an increase in the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) program, in its 3rd year. DUFB offers a 1:1 match for SNAP dollars spent at OCPM, with up to \$20 per market day for fresh fruits and vegetables. DUFB generated an additional \$5,094 in SNAP sales and an additional \$3,357 in DUFB sales for participating OCPM vendors.
- The creation of Bagg's Square Mile, a 1.1-mile walking trail around the Bagg's Square neighborhood happened when OCPM partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension's SNAP-ED program.
- The SNAP-ED partnership; also featured nutrition education and market cooking demos twice a month with free sampling of recipes prepared with fresh, local ingredients. CCE's Smoothie Bike also visits the market to promote eating fresh seasonal fruits and easy-to-make smoothie recipes. Market visitors can pedal their way to a taste of the featured smoothie.
- Created in 2021, CCE's Child Care Council Kids' Zone at the OCPM is still a family favorite. Weekly mural coloring and painting are featured with Painting WILD.
- New in 2023, CCE's Master Gardener Volunteers hosted a monthly booth with displays and free seed packets, Market visitors could get answers to their gardening and growing questions.



The ONLY YEAR-ROUND Farmers Market Every Saturday 9a-1p mid-May through December

Every other Saturday, mid-January through April at the Historic Union Train Station
321 Main Street Utica, NY







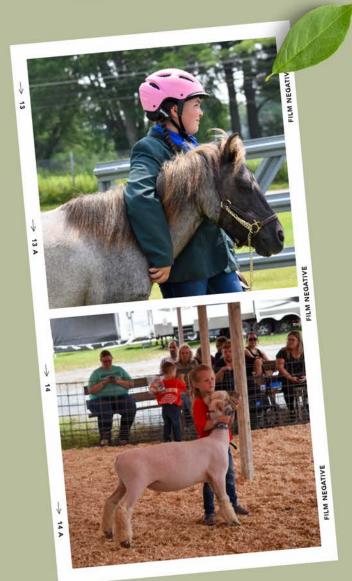






Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County





4-H Youth and Family



4-H County Fair Projects

- · 181 total projects
- 101 projects awarded Blue Ribbons
- 53 projects received special recognition as Cloverbud Projects
- 13 Fan Favorite categories were voted on by the public at the Boonville-Oneida County Fair
- 29 county projects were sent to the NY State Fair

4-H Animals Show

- · Showcased 80 animals
- Exhibiting 10 species including; dairy, beef, dog, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, rabbits/cavy and horses!











Two of Oneida County's projects earned a purple rosette. A purple rosette is awarded to projects that judges feel are exceptional, based on the project itself and the write-up explaining the project. The projects are pictured above (Jamestown ship) and below (a pink dragon egg).



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County



July 2024



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Consumer Horticulture, Master Gardener Volunteers, and the Parker F. Scripture Gardens





Although our gardens have been under construction, we have added some new features and upgraded others in 2023. From new vinyl fencing and a rain garden to a new grassy area and a dog statue in the children's music garden. The gardens are much more child-friendly, with more features being added in 2024. The best time to visit is late spring through early fall, but the gardens and nature trail are open during daylight hours seven days a week year-round.

From October 2022 to September 30, 2023, CCE's Horticulture Department saw an increase in calls from residents and businesses seeking information on soils, gardening, disease, pests, and lawn care. Our in-house lab handled 101 soil pH tests with as many soil inquiries being sourced to the Dairy One Lab in Ithaca for nutrient testing. Incoming calls, voicemails, and emails to the Home & Garden hotline, as well as, walk-in inquiries totaled 610 in all.





What's new in the Parker F. Scripture Gardens?













Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County

August 2024

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Nutrition, SNAP-Ed and Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings





A three-week Move More Challenge was held with all 110 fourthgrade students at Columbus Elementary School in Utica.

The nutrition team created a toolkit to provide each classroom with instructions, physical activity break ideas, and calendars to track the weekly movements.

Nutrition classes were held each week, and educators checked in with the classrooms to collect the tracking sheets.

The fitness activities included: yoga, math sprints, dance videos, jumping jacks, squats, lunges, push-ups, salsa dancing, and sprinting.

At the end of the three-week challenge, the winning team (see above pic) was recognized and awarded certificates.

This project promoted a healthier environment by helping Columbus students, teachers, and staff eat better and move more!





In May 2023, SNAP-Ed recognized a local agency, CABVI as a Champion of Change for their achievement in positively impacting the wellness of the local community through their health & fitness program.





Scan QR code to view SNAP-Ed Curriculum Offerings





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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County



SNAP-Ed/Nutrition







A total of 83 in-person adult sessions reached 909 adult participants. (37% more compared to FY22)

A total of 470 in-person youth sessions reached 6,173 participants.

20 Farmer's market demonstrations were provided reaching 674 participants.



Nutrition Assistance Program

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County's (CCEOC) SNAP-Ed Nutrition Program coordinated the installation of a mile loop, The Bagg's Square Mile, in downtown Utica, NY in partnership with the Oneida County Public Market (OCPM) and the City of Utica to help promote physical activity among the community.

The Central SNAP-Ed Program worked with the City of Utica to install directional and health promotional signs around Bagg's Square in Utica. The signs promote moving more by including statistics on physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption to further educate and motivate participants to engage in walking. Water bottles were provided from local grant funds, which were passed out as a reinforcement to anyone who completed the mile. The SNAP-Ed team will hold more guided walks with a nutritionist next year in the warmer months.



SNAP-ED and Eat Well Play Hard





Photos show the boxes of fresh produce provided Free through grants from New York Food for New York Families and NY Agriculture and Markets (fig. 1) distributed by CCE's SNAP-Ed and Eat Well Play Hard nutrition programs. Lead Nutritionist, Kristen Obreza (fig 2.), is shown stacking the produce boxes.







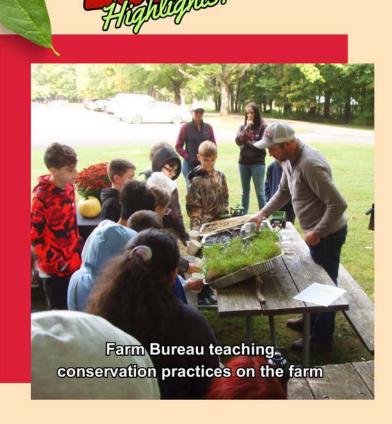
Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings (EWPHCCS) is an education and policy, systems, and environmental change intervention for families, teachers, and daycare providers, funded by the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed).

EWPHCCS staff provide lessons that encourage healthy behavior changes, and positive role-modeling through nutrition and physical activity messages.

CCE's Eat Well Play Hard staff worked with Academics First Daycare in Utica to help teachers and children start seeds (fig. 3) and then plant and grow a garden (fig. 4).



4-H Conservation Education Days



4-H Conservation Education Days is a joint effort of CCE Oneida County as well as many conservation clubs and organizations. Held at a local State Park, this free educational event provides Oneida County sixth-grade students the opportunity to:

- Gain a better understanding of the ecological balance among humans, wildlife, forest, soil, and waters of New York State
- Gain exposure to various outdoor activities available in New York State
- Gain exposure to a variety of conservation career opportunities

722 sixth-grade students attended the 2-day event from 7 Oneida County School Districts.

A total of 15 different Conservation-themed educational stations were set up around the park area. Each class attended 10 out of the 15 stations.

Station 1—Sportsmen Education and Hunter Safety

Station 2—Furbearers

Station 3—Have Fun & Be Safe on the Trails

Station 4—Recycling

Station 5—White-Tail Deer Management

Station 6—Encountering Wild Animals in the Outdoors

Station 7—Lost in the Woods

Station 8-It's all about the Tree SAP

Station 9— OC Soil & Water

Station 10—Conservation in our forests

Station 11 —Invasive Species

Station 12—Sports Fishing in Oneida County Waters

Station 13- Wild Turkeys

Station 14—Conservation on the Farm

Station 15—Renewable Energy











After serving the agricultural community for 37 years,
Agronomist, Jeff Miller, (seen here with his wife and daughter) retired at the end of 2023. We wish him all the best as he embarks on a new life adventure. Jeff, you will be missed.

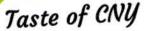
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County





Ag Economic Development





Saturday, November 4th
11am-2pm
North Star Orchards
4741 NY-233 Westmoreland, NY
Taste, see, shop, for locally
Grown foods and goods...



In the Star Orchards Greenhouses

Of Star Orchards Greenhouses

Nelson Farms vendor at the events

On Saturday, November 4, 2023
over 500 people from around Oneida
County and beyond enjoyed visiting
with 16 vendors for food, apples, and
cider tastings at North Star Orchards
Greenhouses in Westmoreland. Hosted
by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)
of Oneida County, visitors got to taste
products before making local food
purchases from the vendors.

CCE's Ag Economic Development plans to make

TASTE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

an annual event.







Urban Learning Lab at Union Station

MON

TUE

In partnership with our Master Gardner Volunteers and CCE's Ag Team, a series of hands-on activities were offered geared towards gardening effectively and safely in our urban communities. A series of roundtables were hosted throughout the winter months. In connection with Growing the Landscape for Urban Agriculture in Oneida County, New York, built upon the Farms Under Threat, the lab worked with American Farmland Trust to bring together community members within our urban centers to discuss land access, continued education, and their needs to grow for profit.

"I need more land. I desire education. I'd love to meet with other urban gardeners to share experiences." ~ Urban Farmer and Gardener Survey Respondent 2023

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November 2024

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WED

Union Station, 321
Main Street, Utica, NY

Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County



Ag Economic Development/SNAP-ED

Expanding markets for our upstate farmer. . .

On August 12th, 2023, Myron Thurston, Supply Chain Specialist for CCE Oneida County, volunteered during Child Poverty Day at the River Fund in inner city Queens, NY which serves more than 2,000 families per week with food distributions on Saturday mornings. The River Fund worked with Myron and Robyn Enes, who is Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, on the Nourish NY Program. This program has helped supply a significant amount of Upstate New York farm products to River Fund's downstate families.



CCE Programs Collaborate...

Myron Thurston collaborated with our SNAP-Ed nutrition education program to bring in Upstate Growers and Packers in Oriskany, NY as part of the New York Food for New York Families grant (NYFNYF). The grants through NYFNYF and NY Agriculture and Markets were awarded to our SNAP-Ed and Eat Well Play Hard Farm to Preschool programs. Through Upstate Growers and Packers, a co-op of New York State Farmers, 860 free produce boxes (a value of over \$12,000) were packed and distributed to over 750 income-eligible families and one day care center in Oneida County from June to October of 2023. Recipients also received nutrition education and information on how to use EBT (SNAP) and incentive programs to continue to access Oneida County's locally grown produce. The program will continue during the 2024 growing season.





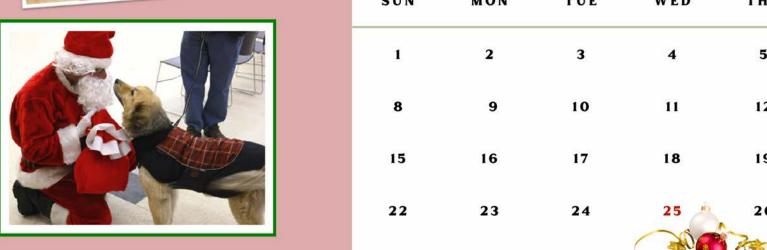






December 2023 Photo Highlights: Child Care Council and CCE Staff with Santa and CCE Oneida County's Canine Companions at their annual visit with children from Thea Bowmen in downtown Utica.

December 2024







Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County

Educating Children in Our Parker F. Scripture Gardens!













Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County

2023 Financial Support

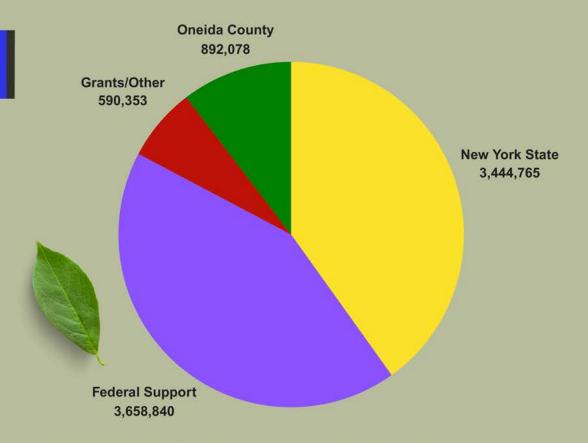
Oneida County (10%).....\$ 892,078

New York State (40%).............\$3,444,765

Federal Support (43%).....\$3,658,840

Grants/Other* (7%).....\$590,353

Total Support.....\$8,586,036



CCE Oneida County's operating budget in 2022 totaled \$7,064,342. As we come to the close of 2023 the operating budget totals \$8,586,036 reflecting an increase of \$1,521,694 or a growth of over 21.6%.

*Other income sources include: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, NYS Department of Health, Office of Children & Family Services, Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Leatherstocking Shared Business Network, The Community Foundation, and Cornell University.

Volunteer Support

CCE Oneida County's Program Leads estimated volunteer hours to be approximately 2,675 in 2023. The 2023 value of volunteer time was set at \$31.50 per hour making the value of those hours \$85,065







Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County

121 Second Street Oriskany, NY 13424 phone 315-736-3394





CONTACT US AT 315-736-3394, THEN THE EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE 111
AG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 167
AG BUSINESS 177
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT 122
CHILD CARE COUNCIL 251
CROP PRODUCTION 132
ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY 254

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 101
HOME & GARDEN 333
HORTICULTURE & SOIL TESTING 125
LEGALLY EXEMPT 234
DAIRY & LIVESTOCK 132
NUTRITION/SNAP-ED 227
ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC MARKET 103

HOME AND GARDEN QUESTIONS?
SOIL PH TESTING?

CALL 315-736-3394 EXTENSION 333

EMAIL: HOMEANDGARDEN@CORNELL.EDU

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