

2024 Annual Report





Pictured: Downtown Penn Yan at Eclipse Totality, April 8th, 2024 (Photo: Maggie Mahr)

2025

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President's Address



On behalf of the Board of Directors, we proudly present the Annual Report for 2024. One word comes to mind as we reflect on this year: transformation. The 2024 programming year includes significant milestones that have advanced our mission and strengthened our presence within the Yates County community. It is an honor and a pleasure to share a comprehensive overview of the past year's activities and accomplishments within our organization.

First, I want to acknowledge the seamless transition in leadership by hiring our new Executive Director, Sandi Bastedo, who joined us in March. Her dedication and vision, coupled with the groundwork laid by Jen Clancey during her tenure as Interim Director, have positioned us for continued growth and success. Additionally, our re-integration with the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops team has expanded opportunities for collaboration, particularly in supporting Yates County's dairy farming community, which boasts the highest number of dairy farms in the state.

We also welcomed Lydia Williams as our new Natural Resources Educator this year. Lydia has already made an incredible impact by revitalizing our programming in this area and spearheading initiatives like the weekly Invasive Species podcast series, dramatically enhancing our communication and outreach efforts. Her expertise and energy have been a tremendous asset to our team.

Our expanded use of in-person activities has been another highlight of 2024. After navigating the challenges of the pandemic, it has been invigorating to see programs thriving again, thanks to increased community engagement and support. From the growth in 4-H enrollments to the successful Board of Directors' site visits to the Community Garden and Anthony Road, the vitality of our programs underscores the resilience of our staff, volunteers, and partners.

Of course, no year is without its challenges. The unanticipated reallocation of our office space tested our adaptability. However, with the remarkable effort of Sandi, our staff, and the Yates County facilities team, this transition became an opportunity to reimagine our space and operations. The process allowed us to declutter, reorganize, and position ourselves more effectively for the future.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited about furthering our partnerships within the community and enhancing our impact. Whether through our collaboration with Farm Bureau, Dundee Fresh, or new connections forged through 4-H, these relationships are the cornerstone of our success. We also aim to sustain and expand our volunteer base, which remains vital to the breadth and quality of our programs.

As my tenure as President concludes, I express my deepest gratitude to outgoing Board members Andrew Zimmerman and Dan Wickham for their invaluable contributions. At the same time, I warmly welcome our newly elected members, Frederick Stein-Heron and Margaret Long, whose fresh perspectives will undoubtedly enrich our work.

I also want to express our deepest gratitude to the Yates County Legislature for their continued support. Their unanimous vote to increase our county allocation budget for the second year is a testament to their confidence in our work and an invaluable resource enabling us to serve our community better.

Finally, to Sandi, our incredible staff, and our educators, thank you for your unwavering commitment and passion. Your hard work makes all we do possible, and your efforts continually inspire me.

Thank you all for being part of this journey. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for Yates County.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of the name James Smith.

James Smith
CCE-Yates County Board President

Interested in Joining Our Board?

CCE-Yates County is always seeking engaged individuals for our Board of Directors. Must be a Yates County resident (18+), able to attend monthly meetings on the last Wednesday at 4:00 pm. Diverse perspectives are encouraged. Elections occur annually in December; mid-term replacements may arise. Call 315-536-5123 or email yates@cornell.edu for info.

CCE-Yates Board of Directors

James Smith, President

Trish Bagley, Vice President

Anne Waasdorp, Secretary

Susan Spence, Treasurer

George Lawson, Legislative Representative

Richard Harper, Alt. Legislative Representative

Adam Hughes, Cornell Representative, State Specialist

Todd Anderson

Ritchie Lent

Mark Morris

Caryl Sutterby

Dan Wickam

Andrew Zimmerman

CCE-Yates Staff Directory

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Jennifer Clancey, Team Leader

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Caroline Boutard-Hunt, Ag Educator

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Donald Caldwell, Viticulture Technician

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Vallie Castner, Life Skills Educator

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Maggie Mahr, Marketing Coordinator

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Judson Reid, CVP/HNY Team Leader

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Hans Walter-Peterson, FLGP Team Leader

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Lydia Williams, Natural Resources Educator

lrw73@cornell.edu

Mission Statement

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

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County

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Penn Yan, NY 14527
Phone: 315-536-5123
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Web: <http://yates.cce.cornell.edu>

Front Cover Credits

Graphic Design By: Maggie Mahr

Photo Credit: Maggie Mahr (Pictured, Penn Yan Community Garden)

Finger Lakes Shared Business Network

We are heading into our **eleventh** year of having Regional Lead positions in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, and in our **third** 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**

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.

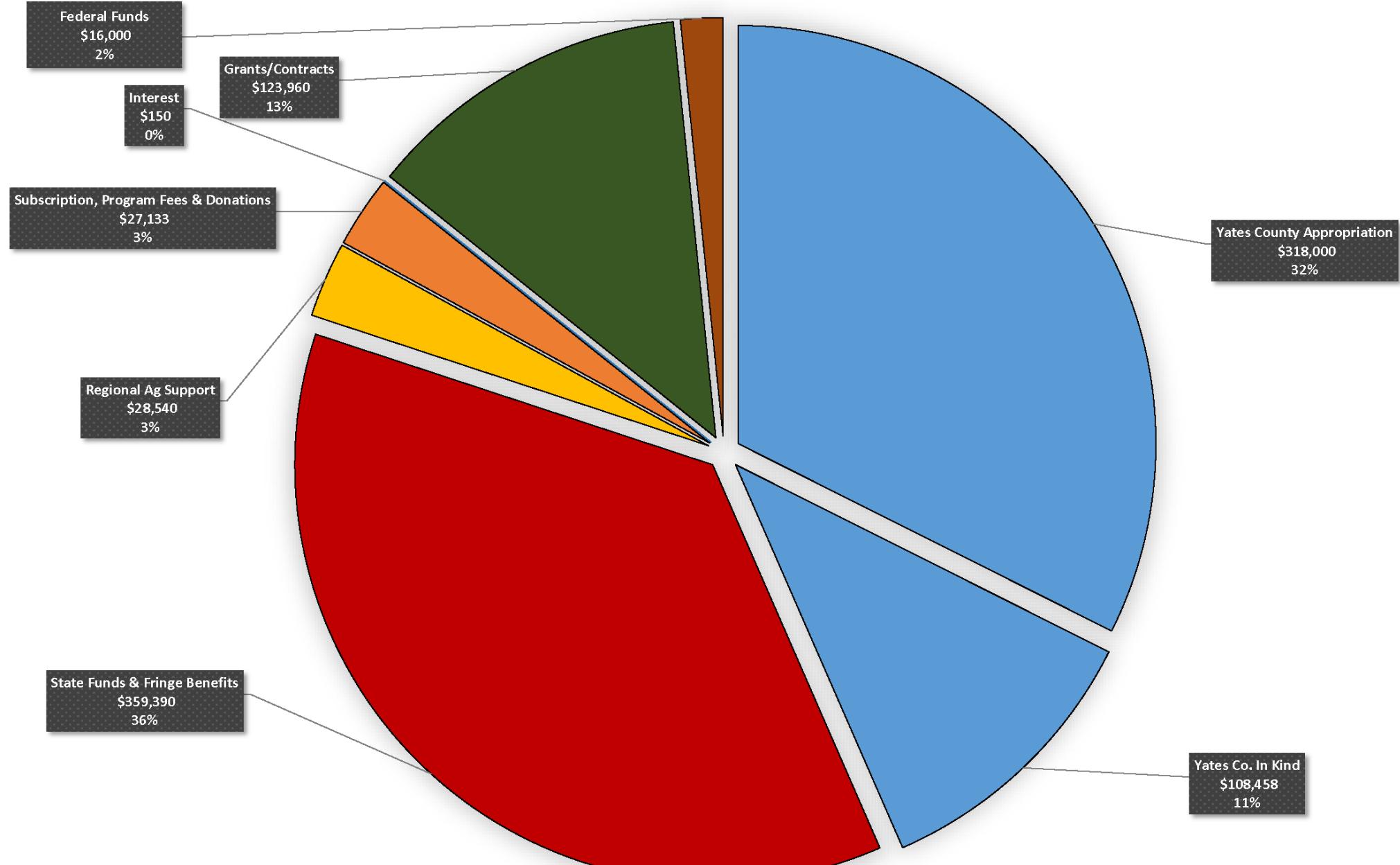
This feedback mechanism provides CCE administration with information from the field on topics such as which options will work best, how to deploy a change, how to fix a problem, etc. When an association experiences a business-related problem or question, the appropriate SBN functional lead is the first 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



2024 CCE Revenue Resources



Executive Director's Note



I am thrilled to provide the 2024 Director's address. February 29th was my first day as Executive Director, and from day one, I felt well supported by our fantastic staff and experienced Board of Directors. This year was filled with transitions, a few challenges, and a year of growth. I want to thank Jen Clancey for her role as interim executive director. During her leadership from May of 2023 to February 29th, 2024, she strengthened operations and provided a solid

foundation from which to grow. As I approach my one-year mark, I still rely on her experience of almost 20 years at Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Yates to guide me and assist me as we continue to work together to meet the ever-changing needs of Yates County.

My journey with Cooperative Extension began almost **14** years ago in Wayne County. The mission of CCE, which is to empower individuals to enhance their lives and communities through collaborative partnerships that leverage research knowledge and experience, resonated deeply with me. Our programs, shaped by community feedback and the latest insights from Cornell and other Land Grant universities, are a testament to our commitment. CCE Yates stands as a trusted, distinctive, and indispensable resource for Yates County, a beacon of knowledge and support.

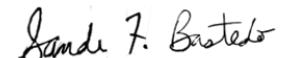
I spent the first few months familiarizing myself with CCE-Yates programs and all that is Yates County. My priorities have been building relationships with staff, volunteers, the CCE Board of Directors, residents, county departments, county Legislators, community collaborators, local businesses, schools, and agencies to continue assessing the community's programming needs. We can help residents obtain the knowledge and resources they need to thrive through collaboration and shared goals.

This year, we emphasized broadening access to programming with additional staff, volunteers, and funding. We are hiring a full-time SNAP-Ed NY Nutritionist to provide nutrition and physical activity education

throughout Yates County. This nutritionist will be part of the Southern Finger Lakes SNAP-Ed NY team but will be housed in and serve Yates County for the next 5 years. Jen established and filled a new part-time 4-H Educator position, meaning new opportunities for positive youth development throughout the county. Our 4-H volunteer base continues to grow as we start new, unique 4-H clubs at places like Sweet Farm. Master Gardener Volunteers almost doubled in number and assisted with the planning and developing of Bioretention Beds in Dundee and **28** accessible raised garden beds in the Penn Yan Community Garden. Our Family Budgeting and Life Skills received funding via the Yates County Endowment to provide financial literacy education to ALL Yates County families, regardless of income eligibility.

Our staff continues to impact the community with quality and innovative programming. Our Natural Resources educator created an Invasive Species podcast, which has **24** episodes that highlight an invasive plant or animal and what you can do to help. Our Agriculture/Horticulture educator connects farmers to cutting-edge, up-to-date resources, research, and education to help them remain viable and profitable businesses. Our regional CCE agriculture teams provide cutting-edge research and education to Yates County's **838** farms, operating on **117,491** acres. By participating in regional agriculture teams, Yates County can access the expertise and resources of all ten regional teams in the Extension System and more effectively access the rich faculty and program resources of Cornell University and the entire National Land Grant System to benefit Yates County growers and ultimately, all residents of the county.

2025 will bring new collaborations, new funding opportunities, new possibilities for programming, and new challenges that will allow us to evolve and adapt. The efforts of our dedicated Board of Directors, association staff, and area specialists have made our programming relevant and vital to responding to the changing needs of Yates County. As I look to the future, I am excited to support my talented, caring, passionate association staff, who put experience, research, and knowledge to work to help our communities thrive!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandi F. Bastedo".

Sandi Bastedo
Executive Director

January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day			
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Yates County 4-H: Dedicated to Serving and Strengthening Our Community

2024 Community Service Highlights

4-H Valentine Card Drive

- Participation - **97** Youth (**15** 4-H) (**82** non- 4-H), **13** Adults
- **285** valentines collected, surpassing the set goal by **185** cards.
- Participation from **9** Yates County youth-serving organizations – Yates County 4-H, St. Michael's School, Dundee Dreamcatchers, Penn Yan Dreamcatchers, Rainbow Junction Childcare Center, Penn Yan Library, Middlesex Reading Center, local Girl Scout troop, Mosich Family Child Care.
- Collected enough valentines to share with **5** different senior living facilities in Yates County, Keuka Comfort Care, The Homestead, St Mark's Terrace, Penn Yan Manor Nursing Home, and Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital.
- Provided over **47** contact hours of community service involvement.

Celebrate Service, Celebrate Yates (CSCY) – **6** 4-H youth and **6** adults took part

Shelf Building – **4** youth and **3** adults helped make new shelves for the 4-H Exhibit Hall

Bell Ringing – **7** youth and **3** adults supported the Yates Christmas program by helping with bell ringing efforts in Penn Yan.

4-H Outreach Efforts

- **Paper Clover Promotion** – 4-H clubs helped promote 4-H throughout the county during Paper Clover Time at Tractor Supply, Co.
- **Trunk or Treat** – 4-H Teens created a theme and helped promote 4-H at Dundee's Trunk or Treat event.

Pictured (clockwise, left to right): Dundee Trunk or Treat, Yates Christmas Program Bell Ringing, CSCY 2024, Paper Clover at TSC, Valentine Card Drive

February 2025



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Groundhog Day						
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Valentine's Day						
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Presidents' Day						
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SNAP-Ed NY Nutrition Program

Working to increase healthy choices within our communities through education focused on healthy food options on a limited budget and the benefits of increasing physical activity.

- Partnered with the Dream Catchers program through the Living Well to provide 17 nutrition and cooking classes to youth in Penn Yan and Dundee. Students learned about the MyPlate food groups, cooking safety and skills, and how to reduce intake of added sugars, sodium, and saturated fats.
- Partnered with the Dundee Central School Extended School Day Program (**DSC TRAILS**) and provided weekly education on nutrition and physical activity.
- Partnered with Yates Workforce Development to provide 10 life skill classes on eating healthy and affordably.
- Taught a five-week series program called Fruits and Vegetable Prescription Program (**FVRx**) at the Yates County Auditorium. Classes highlighted healthy eating, cooking safety and skills, physical activity, and healthy grocery shopping. Each week participants would receive \$24 in vouchers that could be used to buy fresh produce.

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



"I found the class very interesting and helpful. I really enjoy learning ways to improve my health and what I and my family eat, and this class helped with that." (Yates Workforce Development Life Skills & Nutrition Class)

(On making Warm Lentil Salad): "This is something I wouldn't have made myself when looking at this recipe, but I actually really like it and will make this at home." (FVRx Program)

Pictured (top left to right): SNAP-Ed NY FVRx workshop , Nutrition/Cooking Demonstration at the Living Well, SNAP-Ed-NY Smoothie Bike Demonstration at Yates County Fair (July, 2024)

Photos Provided By: Brooke A.S. Bloodgood (Regional Environmental Nutritionist)

March 2025



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Daylight Savings Time Begins						
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Spring Begins						
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Master Gardeners & Community- Based Horticulture in Yates County



“The Master Gardeners of Yates County have continually donated produce to the pantry for many years. The Food Pantry looks forward to the fresh-picked produce that is delivered on Tuesdays every week. We can't thank the Master Gardeners for the wonderful fresh-picked produce that helps with our food starvation in Yates County.”

Cheryl Davis (Pro Action Food Pantry)

Penn Yan Community Garden Makeover

Thanks to a grant from Ag and Markets, this year, the Penn Yan Community Garden received a makeover. In coordination with CCE -Yates County and the Yates County Master Gardener Volunteers, the funds went towards rebuilding **30** raised garden beds, running a water line from the fire hydrant with a water meter, and establishing a food forest garden around the shade shed.

One goal behind this project was to expand the garden's accessibility to allow increased participation by community members with varying mobility challenges. Each new bed is 10' L X 4' W X 2 ½ tall, and were made from locally purchased larch lumber and galvanized metal.

The construction process used the Hugelkultur method, a centuries-old, traditional way of building a garden bed from rotten logs and plant debris. These mound shapes are created by marking out an area for a raised bed, clearing the land, and then heaping up woody material (ideally already partially rotted) topped with compost and soil.

A special thanks goes to the Penn Yan FFA Club for their help in building and assembling the raised beds, and to the Penn Yan High School Horticulture group who helped plant **10** garden beds this year.

2024 By the Numbers

- 10 new Master Gardeners completed the nine-week Master Gardener training course last fall, bringing us a total of **18** volunteers.
- **710** pounds of produce was grown and harvested for local food pantries.
- **37** participants attended Seed to Supper (A 4-Week Food Gardening Class) and received transplants and seeds of their choice to get them started on their growing journey.
- Gardening Matters, the Master Gardener quarterly newsletter, entered its **fifth** year of publication, with **38** subscribers.

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.



April 2025



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Natural Resources Education



Photo Credit: Sandi Bastedo

Master Forest Owner (MFO) Program Update:

- **160** volunteers (**5** located in Yates County)
- **177** Acres of woods surveyed
- **90** Direct Contacts were reached across **6** community events.

“Thanks so much for taking the time to inspect and diagnose our trees and for the detailed explanations and recommended prescriptions! It's great that we now have a basis from which to attack these issues.”

Introducing the Invasive Species Friday Podcast!

In 2024, **Lydia Williams** (Natural Resources Educator) launched the **Invasive Species Friday Podcast** to provide engaging, digestible snapshots of invasive species in Yates County. The podcast aimed to raise awareness of often overlooked or misunderstood species. With episodes running under ten minutes, the series ensured that the information was accessible and not overwhelming, attracting listeners of all ages through a previously underutilized media format in the region.

Highlights

- Between June and November 2024, **23** episodes plus a bonus episode were released.
- **Key Topics included:**
 - Origins and entry points of invasive species into North America
 - Descriptions, life cycles, and distribution methods
 - Impacts on ecosystems, human health, and agriculture
 - Management strategies and native alternatives
 - Look-alike species and public health hazards
- **Reach & Engagement:** While the primary audience was within the Finger Lakes Region, the podcast also reached listeners in other states, including Washington.
- **View Count:** Season 1 had a total of **3,132** views.

Scan the QR code or go online at <https://bit.ly/3McnHCP> for access to all 24 episodes!



May 2025





Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

Regional Dry Down Days Expand into Yates County

It was a tale of two corn crops in 2024. With early May plantings and unseasonably warm temperatures turning into cooler weather later in the month, it was especially important for farmers to develop a plan for the 2024 harvest.

This year, Regional Dry Down Days, hosted by the NWNY Dairy and Forage Team, expanded to Seneca and Yates Counties, supporting 42 farmers across 89 fields. Using portable near-infrared (NIR) technology at Keystone Mills (Romulus) and Himrod Farm Supply (Himrod), corn silage samples were tested for dry matter and starch percentages.

With DairyOne's NIR reader, samples were scanned, and information about the overall corn maturity and starch levels in the ear were analyzed. Farmers received harvest date estimates and best management practices, helping improve silage quality, especially for smaller dairies and Plain Community farms with limited lab access.

CCE NWNY Team Field Crop Specialists Mike Stanyard and Jodi Letham feed corn samples through a woodchipper to prepare them for dry matter analysis.

Photo by Margaret Quaassdorff



The Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops is supported, in part, by ten county Cornell Cooperative Extensions including: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties.

Additional Trainings & Workshops

- **Yates County Crops Congress** - 30 people learned about key pest management issues of corn and soybeans, enhancing soil fertility and structure through cover crops and grazing cover crops for soil health and saving money.
- **Tactical Agriculture Team** (7 farms) held 5 field meetings to learn more about crop production and protection of corn, soybean, alfalfa and small grains.
- Dairy Barn Ventilation and Calving Training workshops were attended by 14 farms.
- **NY Corn Yield Tour** - Visited 10 Yates corn growers and estimated grain corn yield as part of 11 county survey in NWNY. **Yates corn average was 197/bu/acre.**



nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/

June 2025



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Juneteenth

Summer Begins



4-H Recognizes Yates County Fair Youth Participants

The 2024 Yates County Fair took place on **July 9th-13th**, on Old Route 14A in Penn Yan, NY. Throughout the week, 4-H members participated in a variety of leadership opportunities and skill building activities, such as serving as Junior Superintendents and Teen Assistants, and working in Scooper's Dairy Bar, participating in animal science shows, and entering and receiving feedback on their past year's projects.

In 2024, there were...

- **26** 4-H'ers showcasing **203** projects in the exhibit hall.
- **17** 4-H animal science members exhibiting **69** animals
- **18** youth learning job-readiness skills by working in Scooper's Dairy Bar
- **3** teens increasing leadership skills by serving as Junior Superintendents and/or Teen Leaders in the animal barns or exhibit hall.

We are proud of all our 4-H exhibitors and appreciative of our volunteers. Thank you for your time, efforts, and dedication to Yates County 4-H.

Photo Credits: Jen Clancey (4-H Team Leader), and Maggie Mahr (CCE-Yates Promotions & Marketing Coordinator)

Voices of 4-H: Inspiring Youth Stories

“...I joined Yates County 4-H three years ago. I enjoy the multitude of activities that 4-H offers. I've grown my cooking skills, learned archery, and enhanced my public speaking skills by doing several presentations. I have learned more about my animals, including my chickens and rabbits. I enjoyed learning to show them at the county fair. I have been able to participate in the New York State Fair with the Chick Project and Media Corps. 4-H has been such a great experience!”

-Arianna Winfield



Beyond Ready



July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
					Independence Day	
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

Cornell Cooperative Extension Cornell Vegetable Program

High Tunnel Research Demonstrates Benefits of Multi-Species Cover Crops for Soil Health and Fertilizer Reduction

The last published USDA Census of Agriculture reports a **24%** increase in the number of vegetable farms growing under protected settings (greenhouse and high tunnels) and in New York State census data documents a **38%** increase with total sales exceeding **\$38,000,000**. The Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) region leads the state in this production technique.

For the CVP, Judson Reid and Lori Koenick continue to research high tunnel best management practices by evaluating multi-species cover crop mixtures compared to a grower-standard single species winter grain. Over this past winter, our Yates County collaborators planted half of a high tunnel with Jonny's Selected Seeds 'Fall Green Manure Mix' (winter rye, field peas, ryegrass, crimson clover, and hairy vetch) and the other half with a grower standard of triticale. Biomass from these plots was collected throughout the winter and spring for fresh weight and dry weight data.

Foliar samples were submitted for analysis at a cooperating lab to assess potential nutrient contribution to the soil in the future. Next, soil samples from each half of the tunnel were taken after the cover crop was incorporated and submitted to the Cornell Soil Health Lab for Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health and soluble salt tests. Tomato foliar samples were collected in May, and submitted for foliar analysis.

Results:

- The cooperating grower detected differences in tomatoes grown in area with cover crop mixture versus with triticale. Tomatoes in cover crop mixture appeared taller, with more lush growth and darker green foliage (**Fig. 1**).
- A comparison of macronutrients in tomato crop following a single species vs. multi-species cover crop mix revealed all nutrients are higher in the tomatoes grown in multi-species cover crop plots. In the case of nitrogen, the difference has the crop within sufficiency for multi-species treatment, and deficient under the grower standard, single species (triticale) (**Fig. 2**).

This research supports the educational efforts to help farmers adopt sustainable management of high tunnel soils and the opportunity to reduce fertilizer inputs.

"Working with the Cornell Vegetable Program has saved me an estimated \$60,000 per acre thanks to the improved disease management skills I've gained."

-Local Farmer, Town of Barrington, NY

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



Figure 1. Tomatoes on the righthand side of the glove are darker green and taller than those on the left. This corresponds to our cover crops plots of mix species vs. single species.

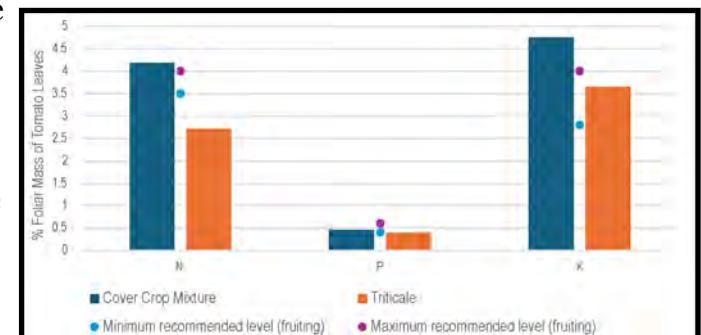


Figure 2. A comparison of macronutrients in tomato crop following a single species vs. Multi-species cover crop mix. In the case of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, all nutrients are higher in the tomatoes grown in multi-species cover crop plots.

August 2025



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

Conservation Field Day 2024

The **57th Annual Conservation Field Day** for all of Yates County's (Penn Yan and Dundee) sixth graders occurred Thursday, September 19th, 2024, at Indian Pines State Park. Conservation Field Day is a yearly, one-day environmental education program designed to introduce students to topics in ecology, water, natural resource management, conservation careers, safety and more.

This year, over **100** sixth graders were educated on the following topics:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Ticks, Lyme Disease, & Rabies
- Waste Water Treatment
- Pollinators
- Erosion
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- GPS
- Forestry

After the event, each class is encouraged to enter a contest by creating a PowerPoint presentation that showcases an important or fun thing they learned whole at Conservation Field Day. Entries are judged on creativity, effort, and class involvement, with the winners receiving a pizza party sponsored by Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District, and CCE-Yates County.

57th Annual Yates County Conservation Field Day Cooperating Agencies:

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County
Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District**

Yates County Public Health

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Village of Penn Yan Department of Public Works

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association

Pictured (top left to right): Yates County Soil & Water, NYSDEC, Lydia Williams (CCE-Yates County), USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn Yan Dept. of Public Works, and Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association



“...Thank you again for participating as an instructor for this year’s event. We appreciate the time, effort, and talent you put forth for Conservation Field Day and the students. It definitely makes a difference. The teachers have mentioned how this day helps them with their (conservation) science curriculums.”

September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 Labor Day	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 Fall Begins	30	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____			

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



Managing the Threat of Spotted Lanternfly

In 2024, the Finger Lakes region confirmed the presence of spotted lanternfly (SLF), a highly invasive pest. Although its arrival was anticipated, it became a reality this past July when SLF nymphs were identified in Romulus, NY. While only small numbers were found, their presence indicates a likely local hatch this spring, marking the beginning of SLF's establishment in our area.

What This Means for Growers

Hans Walter-Peterson, Finger Lakes Grape Program (FLGP) Team Leader, and Brian Eshenauer from the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program have provided practical guidance for growers to prepare and respond effectively:

Stay Calm

- SLF's arrival was expected, and thanks to lessons learned in Pennsylvania, the region is better equipped to address this challenge.
- Current observations suggest that SLF populations are small, and significant vineyard impacts are not anticipated this year. It typically takes 1-2 years for populations to grow to levels that may cause concern.

Scouting for Tree of Heaven (TOH)

- TOH is a key host plant for SLF, critical for their reproduction and survival.

"We became aware that spotted lanternfly would likely reach this area about three years ago when the vineyards in Pennsylvania were under real serious stress...the good news is CCE is very much on the case. Hans Walter-Peterson has connections to colleagues with experience in managing spotted lanternfly, and he knows the most specific treatments that are most effective and efficient. Part of the reason we trust that is because Hans has been in his role for a long time; he knows the grape industry, and he knows us. **We trust CCE to help get us through this.**"

-Bruce Murray (owner of Boundary Breaks Vineyard in Lodi, New York), quoted in Cornell Chronicle, "Invasive spotted lanternfly detected in Finger Lakes vineyard," July 23, 2024

- Scout vineyard edges and surrounding areas for TOH, as this is often where SLF first appears. Accurate identification is crucial, as TOH can be confused with plants like sumac or black walnut.

Monitor Vineyards in Late Summer and Fall

- September and October are crucial periods for scouting as adult SLFs move from trees into vineyards.
- Adult females will lay eggs on almost any surface during this time, increasing the spread risk.

Report Sightings

If you find SLF nymphs or adults, report them using the SLF Reporting Form or contact Hans Walter-Peterson at 315-521-8789 for assistance notifying IPM or Ag & Markets.

Resources for Identification and Management

Visit the New York State IPM website to access resources on identifying SLF life stages and TOH. (<https://bit.ly/4f2HWiq>)

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.

*Photo Credits: Ellen Coyne
(Project Field Technician)*

October 2025



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



As a single mom with limited income, I learned valuable ways to save money and make the most of available resources. The nonjudgmental, friendly atmosphere made it easy to ask questions and share struggles, and I continue to use the tips I learned. I always recommend this program to others, and they consistently share positive feedback. This program truly understands the challenges faced by low-income families in our community. Thank you for everything you do for Yates County!"

- Shannon Kennerson

Family, Budget, & Life Skills Programming

This year, CCE-Yates received funding to provide financial literacy education to residents, regardless of income, through the **Money in Your Pocket** program. This initiative equips individuals and families with education, resources, and support to enhance their financial knowledge, confidence, and money management skills, fostering greater self-sufficiency and stability.

With support from the Yates County Community Endowment, Community Educator Vallie Castner partnered with local agencies to deliver the program. Participants received community resource information, financial management education, and life skills development tools. Importantly, the program was open to all residents of Yates County without eligibility restrictions.

Program Highlights:

- Topics included goal setting, money tracking, budgeting, energy-saving tips, grocery shopping, and menu planning strategies.
- Participants were introduced to community resources such as

food pantries, free meals, library activities, and events hosted by local organizations.

- Educational materials provided included budget planners, expandable files, pocket folders, and reusable fabric bags.

Program Impact:

- 15 individuals** received comprehensive financial management education, resources, and materials.
- Of these, **6 individuals** participated in one-on-one financial education sessions, while **9 individuals** attended workshops.
- 100% of participants** who provided feedback reported the information was useful and said they would recommend the program to others.

**How can we help you
meet your savings
goals?**



November 2025



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	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30			Thanksgiving		

Friends of Extension 2024 Campaign

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Yates County proudly serves our region's residents, businesses, and communities. Through our diverse programs, we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, and businesses whose generous support fuels our mission through the Friend of Extension fundraising efforts. Your contributions enable us to strengthen our community and create a lasting impact.

Additionally, we are deeply grateful for the grants provided by various organizations and foundations. These funds empower us to broaden our reach and deliver innovative programs that address the unique needs of Yates County. Our deepest gratitude goes out to the following contributors:

Edward & Virginia Allen

Dave & Sue Anderson

Trish Bagley

David & Veronica Baum

James Bedient (Bedient Vineyards)

Nancy S. Cole

Wendy Disbrow

Douglas B. Miles Agency Inc.

Jane Eatherton (Tabora Vineyards)

Todd Eichas (New Vines Winery)

Eileen Farnan (Buzzard Crest Vineyards)

Peter & Mary Beth Gamba

Bruce Henderson (Henderson Farms)

Jere Horning (Horning's Greenhouse)

Harry Humphreys (Overlook Farms, LLC)

Arthur & Joyce Hunt (Hunt Country Vineyards)

Jeff & Martha Johnstone

John & Anita Kriese

Bill Laffin

Gary & Mary Lilyea

Bill & Alise Mahr

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

Tim & Sandy Merwarth (Wiemer Vineyards)

Doug Miles (Miles Vineyard)

Loyal Order of the Moose #2300

Scott Osborn (Fox Run Vineyards, Inc.)

Thomas A. Pearson, PhD

Gene Piece (Glenora Wine Cellars)

Seneca Lake Duck Hunters

Alice Shoemaker

Lynn E. Simmons (Pine Ridge Vineyard)

Donald Tones (Clearview Farms & Vineyard, LLC)

Tri-County Rural Veterinary, PLLC

Christine & Lance Yonge

Foundation Support

Joan and Harold Feinbloom Foundation

NYS Agriculture and Markets

ONYA Grant

Rochester Area Community Foundation's Yates Endowment Fund

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

**Support CCE Yates – Become a Friend of
Extension!**

<https://yates.cce.cornell.edu/donate>



December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	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
Winter Begins					Christmas Day	
28	29	30	31	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____		

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has been deeply rooted in the Yates County community for over 100 years. Our connection to Cornell University and the 112 additional institutions comprising the Land Grant University System allows us immeasurable access to research and resources to help address needs and issues affecting our local community.

CCE-Yates works with residents of all ages, area farms, businesses, and local community organizations to serve as a vital connection to research-based education and resources.

For more information, please visit us online at <https://yates.cce.cornell.edu/>.



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