News Release

For Immediate Release CONTACT: Andrew Graham

July 14, 2025 845-344-1234 /acg239@cornell.edu

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates New Rainwater Harvester System and Livestock Wash Rack at The Country Fair**

**Middletown, NY** — Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Orange County is proud to announce a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, July 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Education Center & 4-H Park during The Country Fair (300 Finchville Turnpike, Otisville, NY 10963). This celebratory event marks the completion of two major infrastructure projects: the Rainwater Harvester Collection System and the Livestock Wash Rack.

After years of planning and hard work, the new Rainwater Harvester System is now fully operational. Featuring a 70,000-gallon cistern, this innovative system efficiently captures and reuses roof rainwater for flushing toilets, animal washing, hydration, arena dust control, and garden irrigation throughout the 4-H Park. The system utilizes advanced filtration and UV treatment technology to ensure water quality and sustainability. It includes hydrants at each barn, a processing skid, and piping throughout the grounds—empowering the Park to conserve water while supporting agricultural education.

The project was made possible with funding through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, as well as a generous donation from an anonymous donor

“We’re deeply grateful for the collaborative effort that brought this project to life,” said Lucy Joyce, Executive Director of CCE Orange County. “From funders to staff to contractors to volunteers, this system is the result of vision, community, and perseverance.”

The ceremony will also recognize the completion of the Livestock Wash Rack, which was finalized just in time for this year’s fair. Special thanks go to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) and Senator James Skoufis for their role in securing critical funding support. The new wash rack provides a safe, efficient, and sanitary space for animals to be cleaned and cared for during events and exhibitions.

A special acknowledgment will be made to two extraordinary volunteers, Gary Johnson and Bob Nywening, whose commitment and hands-on contributions helped bring the Rainwater Harvester System over the finish line. Their work stands as a testament to the power of volunteerism in building community infrastructure.

The success of these projects also relied on the dedication and expertise of several key contractors and partners, including:

* TAM Enterprises, Inc.
* Wahaso Harvesting Solutions
* Harry F. Rotolo & Son, Inc.
* LaBella Associates
* Fusco Engineering
* OFC, LLC

Additionally, the grounds feature the Justin Terrace – In Memory of Mia, a thoughtfully designed garden and gathering space designed by Master Gardener Volunteer Doug Milne. This beautiful space includes a children’s hand pump and serves as a peaceful meeting spot within the park.

Join us as we cut the ribbon on these vital projects and celebrate the continued growth of the Education Center & 4-H Park, a hub for hands-on learning, agriculture, and community connection.

**Event Details:**

What: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Rainwater Harvester System & Livestock Wash Rack

When: Friday, July 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Where: Education Center & 4-H Park, 300 Finchville Turnpike, Otisville, NY 10963

During: The Country Fair (July 25–27, 2025)

For more information, contact Jill Van Aken at jd863@cornell.edu or call 845-344-1234

*Cornell Cooperative Extension and its partnerships provide programs for Orange County residents on youth and family development; nutrition, health, and food safety; community and economic vitality; and agricultural sustainability through Cornell based research. Committed to Orange County, we design programs to meet local needs to enable people to improve their lives and communities. For more information call Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County at 845-344-1234 or visit our website at* [*www.cceorangecounty.org*](http://www.cceorangecounty.org)*.*

*Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County provides equal employment and program opportunities.*

###

