



Cornell University Cooperative Extension Mission Statement

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.

Issue Committee: Roles and Responsibilities

Issue committees help determine the direction of work in the county and region within each CCE Association. Issue Committee members' major responsibility is to help guide the direction of workshops, classes and other services that we offer residents of Allegany County, and to review the effectiveness of our efforts. Our programs have evolved over the years to reflect changes in: values, ethics, community norms, family structures, mobility and the economy. These changes have been in direct response to this grassroots community involvement making the best use of available knowledge, money, time and other resources.

Responsibilities of the Issue Committee

- Assist in identifying and prioritizing the issues and audiences for educational programs.
- Determine and recommend needed staff and staff support to board of directors.
- Build effective working relationships with additional association and issue committees and the board of directors to carry on the work of the Cornell Cooperative Extension System.
- Develop awareness, understanding and support for programs with potential program clientele, clearly targeted audiences and public decision makers.
- Adhere to policies of the association and of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Responsibilities of Each Issue Committee Member

- Become familiar with the mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension and further the aims and objectives of the association and program.
- Become familiar with the scope of Cornell Cooperative Extension programs.
- Participate in the ongoing work of identifying and representing the issues of diverse situations with need for educational programs.
- Assist in the challenge of contacting the hard-to-reach, such as limited income, minority and culturally diverse persons who may have particular need for educational support.
- Participate in identifying and prioritizing targeted audiences with identified need for programs.
- Support staff in the review and consideration of available resources that address the educational needs of clientele for programs.
- Participate in establishing audience and program priorities and the use of resources for programs.
- Regularly attend and participate in programs and the work of the committee in planning and evaluating program delivery.
- Share results of educational programs with the public.
- Determine and recommend needed staff and staff support to the board of directors.
- Appoint representatives from the committee to the association's board of directors and related committees (personnel, finance, etc) and participate in policy determination and organizational operation.
- Build effective working relationships within the association.
- Help others in the county understand Cornell University Cooperative Extension; develop support and participation in local programs.
- Advise, counsel, and support existing staff.

Qualifications: Members must be residents of Allegany County; have a desire to assist in CCE educational programs for county residents; and an ability to actively participate in Issue Committee meetings.

Time Commitment: Attend regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, lasting approximately 2 hours per meeting. Members missing three consecutive meetings without prior notification to the Issue Committee may be asked to resign. Members are elected for a term of three years and may serve two consecutive terms before rotating off the committee. After a lapse of three years, they are eligible for re-election or appointment to the committee.

Related Commitments: Issue Committees elect representatives to the Board of Directors and its standing committees from among their members. Members are encouraged but not required to participate in various CCE events, such as its Annual Meeting.

Benefits: Opportunity for leadership and group skill development; and the ability to focus and guide CCE program development.

Opportunities: There are two opportunities to serve on an Issue Committee. If you would like to volunteer with a committee, please get in touch with the staff contact person, listed under individual committee descriptions.

Agriculture & Food Systems Initiatives:

- Boosting agricultural production in sustainable ways
- Fighting hunger
- Long-term viability and well-being of the agriculture/horticulture
- Economically and environmentally sound products and practices
- Optimize production management and improve profitability
- Increasing the use of sustainable practices
- Improving soil health and productivity

Members assist in the identification of community needs that fit within the mission of CCE. They help prioritize programming and garner support and resources for these efforts. Committee members are asked to be our direct connection to the community in the various capacities in which they work and live. They suggest potential collaborations that help CCE avoid duplication.

Contact: Lynn Bliven, Agriculture & Natural Resources Issue Leader lao3@cornell.edu 585-268-7644 ext. 18.

Youth, Family & Community:

- Enhancing youth development, preparing the next generation of scientists
- Fighting hunger
- Youth become caring and contributing members of society enhancing the quality of life for themselves, their families, and their communities
- Economically and environmentally sound products and practices
- Improved financial status of residents
- Enabling vibrant and resilient communities. Communities actively manage their environments protecting and enhancing financial, infrastructure, human, environmental, and social capitals
- Individuals and communities experience high quality of life, social cohesion, ecological integrity, effective decision making, and new economic opportunities
- Local economies become more diversified

Committee members bring diverse perspectives and work together to shape the education efforts to make a significant difference in the lives of children, families and the community. This committee also serves in an advisory capacity for the 4-H Youth Development Program, providing input to staff and to the Board of Directors on local program needs.

Contact: Krista Humbert, 4-H and Youth Development Issue Leader khumbert@cornell.edu 585-268-7644 ext. 11.