

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Franklin County

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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MESSAGE

FROM CCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A Letter from the Executive Director:

On behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Franklin County staff, members of the Board of Directors, and the program advisors, please accept our 2025 Annual Report and Financial Overview.

By all measures, 2025 was another successful year in the history of CCE Franklin County. With a record number of events, programs, and grant funds received, we reached an unprecedented number of the county youth, seniors, farmers, small businesses, and municipalities. In 2025, staff at CCE continued to grow with the addition of a new Director for a Building Opportunities in Out of School Time (BOOST) Grant. This \$1.2M grant will work with grades 7-12 in Chateaugay Central School. Additionally, we were honored to receive numerous other grants to help fund our array of programs. Our programs continue to create positive changes in the lives of Franklin County citizens by offering informal education and learning activities to county residents in rural towns, centers and villages.

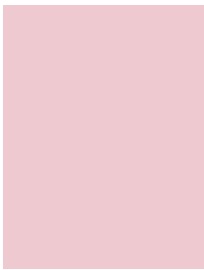
We thank you for your support!

Scott Gordon
CCE Executive Director

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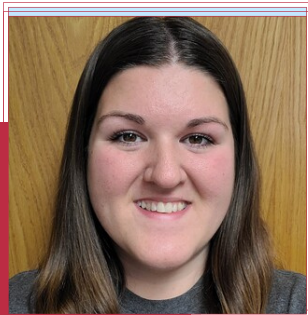
MEET OUR TEAM



Pat Banker
4-H Program Educator



Stephanie Carlisto
Director of 4-H After
School and Summer
Programs - Chateaugay



Mikayla Cassidy
4-H Program Educator



Jessica Finnell
Director of 4-H BOOST
Program - Chateaugay



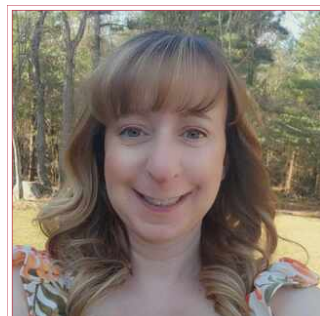
Jerry Fisher
4-H Camp
Overlook Caretaker



Scott Gordon
Executive Director

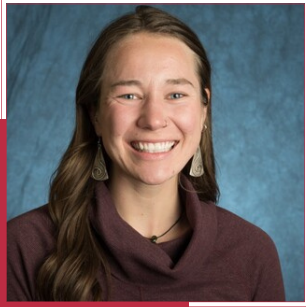


Kerri Keeler
Director of 4-H
After School and
Summer Programs
- Brushton Moira



Lindsey Kelly
Association
Administrator

MEET OUR TEAM



Katie Remmers
Farm to School
Coordinator



Kendra Robinson
Finance Coordinator



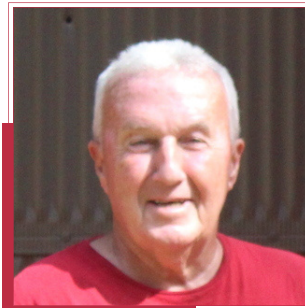
Amy Shipman
Ag Education
Specialist - Dairy
in the Classroom



Laura Trudell
Horticulture Educator
& Greenhouse
Manager



Justin Tucker
Agriculture
Program Educator



Barry Webb
Assistant Camp
Caretaker



Jennifer Fefee
4-H Camp Overlook
Registrar



Julie Cooke
SNAP-Ed Nutrition
Educator

DAIRY IN THE CLASSROOM

Dairy in the Classroom brings high quality, hands-on, and tasty dairy lessons to students directly in their classrooms! Lessons are formulated based on classroom grade level and needs. Students learn about why milk is healthy and identify the multitude of dairy products available. Students have the opportunity to taste (and make) these products to help expand their knowledge. Students also learn about the lifecycle of cows, what they eat and need at each stage, how to milk a cow and how milk moves from the cow to the carton.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2025, Dairy in the Classroom expanded to reach grades 6-12 in Malone CSD, Brushton-Moria CSD, Saranac Lake CSD, Salmon River CSD, St. Regis Falls CSD and added two new schools: Chateaugay CSD and Tupper Lake CSD.
- Students participated in cheese taste tests. During the student's lunch period they could try different types of cheese and vote on their favorite - with 533 students participating.
- Butter making workshops were held at all Malone K-5th grades and Salmon River 2nd grades from April-June reaching a total of 847 students.
- Students from Brushton-Moira visited PAPAS Dairy Farm, toured the farm, and made mozzarella cheese on site.



In 2025, CCE Dairy in the Classroom hosted the 2nd annual Franklin County Ice Cream Trail!



DAIRY IN THE CLASSROOM

MAC & CHEESE CHALLENGE

Local students participated in NYA/ITC mac and cheese challenge with classes at Franklin Academy competing. Each class made their own mac and cheese recipe and created a slogan and advertisement.

Franklin Academy student participating in New York Agriculture in the Classroom Mac and Cheese Challenge



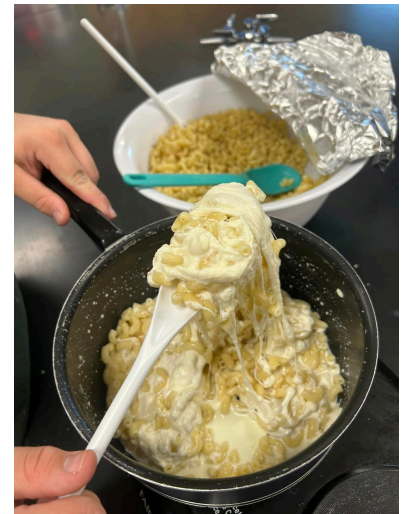
CCE Franklin Dairy in the Classroom Educator visiting Salmon River Elementary for students to learn about the "Adopt a Cow" program



POPULAR LESSONS

Popular lessons and fun, hands-on activities included:

- Food Insecurity
- Intro to Agriculture
- Ice cream making
- Cheese taste testing!



Dairy in the Classroom Impact

- Over 100 classrooms participated in activities
- 3,726 total students participated
- Over 250 adults were involved with programs

FEATURED ACTIVITY

Students from across Franklin County learned about milk and milk substitutes, tried different samples, and compared taste and nutrient content.

FARM TO SCHOOL

In 2025, the Franklin County Farm to School program continued to strengthen connections across the cafeteria, classroom, and community, expanding access to fresh, local foods for students across participating districts. In addition to ongoing programming in Brushton–Moira (BM), St. Regis Falls (SRF), and Salmon River (SR), CCE Franklin brought on Tupper Lake CSD and Saranac Lake CSD in varying capacities.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Cafeteria initiatives saw significant growth this year. Brigaid-led cafeteria trainings were held with Salmon River and Brushton–Moira, focusing on scratch cooking, knife skills, and strategies to increase local procurement. A new collaboration with the Paul Smith’s College Culinary Program provided an additional training for BM and SR cafeteria teams centered on squash preparation and recipes from the new New York State Farm to School Cookbook. Monthly taste tests took place across all districts, featuring seasonal New York–grown products. All schools continued to make progress toward the NYS 30% Initiative, with Brushton–Moira officially qualifying in August 2025.

The classroom component expanded significantly due to additional funding, allowing CCE educators to deliver more Harvest of the Month–aligned, hands-on lessons in grades K–12. Funding also supported agriculture-focused field trips, including two visits for Salmon River middle and high school agriculture students to Prairie’s Orchard, and a third-grade trip from Brushton–Moira to the same location. These experiences strengthened students’ connections to local farms and helped integrate food systems learning into curriculum.



Schools Served:

- Brushton-Moira CSD
- St. Regis Falls CSD
- Salmon River CSD
- Tupper Lake CSD
- Saranac Lake CSD



TASTE TESTS A HIT!

Taste tests across the districts continue to be a hit with a Harvest of the Month calendar that introduced students to seasonal, locally sourced foods.



FARM TO SCHOOL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement remained a core pillar of the program. Partnerships with local producers continued, and CCE educators supported a variety of district events designed to engage families with the initiative. Highlights included the Saranac Lake Saturday Academy and Family Farmers Market, Brushton–Moir Back to School Night, St. Regis Falls Book Fair Night, and the Salmon River Fall Fest. Together, these efforts fostered a stronger, more connected local food system and set the stage for continued growth in 2026.



“ One of the most rewarding aspects of the program is the enthusiasm of students during taste tests—especially their excitement over trying squash and beets!

School Employee

”

THE FUTURE

Goals for the next phase include:

- Further increasing NYS product procurement and from scratch cooking
- Deepening agricultural literacy through standards-based lessons, hands-on activities, and school garden projects.
- Enhancing cafeteria operations with additional training and equipment

The overarching goals remain clear: to foster enduring relationships between schools and local producers, ensuring a sustainable and meaningful impact on education, agriculture, and community health in Franklin County.



HORTICULTURE

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County is the resource for information on soils, site improvement, plant selection, proper plant care, eco-friendly practices, integrated pest management, composting and so much more!

TUPPER LAKE COMMUNITY GARDEN

For the second year in a row CCE Franklin supported the Tupper Lake Community Garden. The Tupper Teens met with the CCE Educator at the TL library multiple times in the spring to plan out the garden and start seeds. The garden was planted in June and the Tupper Teens, TL library staff, community members, and AmeriCorps volunteers helped maintain the garden throughout the year. Library staff distributed garden produce to the community at the library. Amount of vegetables harvested and community participation increased from last year. The project will continue in 2026.



SEED TO SUPPER PROGRAM

The Seed to Supper program teaches new gardeners how to grow their own food on a budget. Gardeners learn how to prepare their own garden space, start plants from seeds, and take care of their growing garden. Classes are free and gardeners are supplied with a gardening manual, seed starting supplies, and garden tools to use at home in their own garden.

This year the Seed to Supper program operated for the second year at JCEO in Malone and added a second location at the Tupper Lake Library. At both locations we did a collaboration with the SNAP-Ed program – a Quick Pickle lesson with radishes and green beans.



HORTICULTURE



JCEO GREENHOUSES

Building on the success of the last two seasons, additional outdoor growing space was utilized to increase the success of the JCEO spaces.

The JCEO greenhouses and outdoor growing space produced over 2,200lbs of vegetables from June – October

- **Tomatoes – 1473 lbs**
- **Cucumbers - 453 lbs**
- **Squash – 254 lbs**
- **Beans – 88 lbs**



Joint Council for Economic Opportunity
of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc.



AGRICULTURE

Agriculture continues to be a major focus of CCE Franklin. We continue to expand our staff, programming, workshops, and impact. The following are just some highlights of activities during 2025.

CCE Franklin held a bee keeping workshop attended by many beekeepers across Franklin County. A speaker from Switzerland presented at the workshop.



A FAMACHA training was held in April. This workshop demonstrated a selective treatment method for controlling the level of parasitic barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*, also known as twisted wireworm).



CCE Franklin Ag Team collaborated to hold a grain bin rescue training for first responders and farmers.



AGRICULTURE



Progressive Ag Safety Day was held at Brushton Moira Central School. Students learned about how to be safe while visiting a farm and interacting with livestock.



CCE Franklin Ag Team and Animal Response Team (CART) held a Livestock Handling & Safety Training.

CCE Franklin participated in the Brushton-Moira Central Career Fair.



CCE Franklin Ag Team hosted numerous community events



CCE Franklin Ag Team in collaboration with FC Farm Bureau hosted a FARMEDIC Training for First Responders at CARSADA Dairy in Malone, NY.

CCE Franklin Ag Team hosted a grants guidance workshop for local farmers.



AGRICULTURE



CCE Franklin Ag Team regularly works with local beef producers to increase yield and improve herd health



CCE Franklin Ag Team participated in the manure roadshow workshop at the Miner Institute

Additional Agriculture Team Impact

In 2025, the Ag Team worked directly with over 200 farmers from across Franklin County in a variety of ag related areas such as:

- Artificial Insemination
- Pesticide Application
- Food Justice
- Tick Management
- Parasite Issues and Management
- Agriculture Safety
- Production Improvement
- Decontamination Methodologies



4-H AFTER SCHOOL

4-H After School programs foster a unique combination of fun and learning that helps youth develop lifelong skills, such as leadership, critical thinking, and teamwork. The programs address a growing need for quality after-school programming in the U.S., where as many as 15 million children go home to empty houses after school. Research shows that youth that are at a high risk can greatly benefit from 4-H programming and after school enrichment.

SUCCESS AND UPDATES

Cornell Cooperative Extension's After-School Enrichment Experience for 2024-2025 had a lot of success for both the Chateaugay and Brushton-Moira Central School Districts. The newly adopted software system, Ezchildtrack in 2024 continues to be useful for parents and directors of the program to keep track of attendance, payments, and important child information relating to allergies, individuals allowed to pick up and emergency contact information. The program introduced for the first time in 2024-2025 being open during many school closures and breaks as well as offering a 6-week summer program for students enrolled in the district. The additional days of operation proved to be helpful for the families struggling to find childcare when school is not in session.



INCREASED ENROLLMENT

The 2024-2025 program year's daily attendance was 38 children per day compared to the previous year of 29 children in attendance per day. The after-school program had approximately 90 students in each school district that attended the program at least one time throughout the 2024-2025 year and out of those 90 students 68 students attended for 30 or more days.

In September 2025, CCE of Franklin began year 2 of the New York State Learning and Enrichment After-School Program Supports Grant (LEAPS) through the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The success of the program in 2024-2025 allowed our program capacity to increase from 44 children to 55 children in attendance at one time. Our program continues to allow for lower registration fees, more program supplies for enrichment activities, guest speakers, and field trips.

SUPPLIES FOR ENRICHMENT

The NYS LEAPS grant allowed for an abundance of supplies to be purchased to fulfill the enrichment activities for the students enrolled. A variety of guest speakers visited the program and local field trips were offered that further built upon the 4-H Positive Youth Development Model.

4-H AFTER SCHOOL

REBRANDING

For the 2024-2025 school year, Bulldog/ Panther Hour was rebranded to “Cornell Cooperative Extension Enrichment Experience” and launched. Both programs have seen a significant increase in attendance since the beginning of the 2024-2025 year with total average daily attendance of 67 students.



4-H After-School Enrichment Experience

Positive Youth Development
4-H Curriculum
Learning Resource Stations
Social-Emotional Development
Active and Engaged Learning Activities
Guest Speaker
Community Engagement
Field Trips
Daily Tutoring
Family Engagement Opportunities



THE FUTURE

The NYS LEAPS funding allows for care to be provided on school closure days (superintendent and ½ days, and vacation days) as well as a 6-week summer day camp at each school district.



4-H CLUBS

4-H is a leader in the research and practice of positive youth development and the largest youth organization in the world. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential by working with and learning skills from trained, caring adult mentors and educators. The phrase “Learn by Doing” is the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. Franklin County 4-H currently has 14 established clubs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024-2025 4-H YEAR

- New Club Update Meetings to bring our clubs together
- Boston-Bound Trip
- Wild Edibles Trainings & Workshops
- Club Activity Days: greens workshop, hiking and canoeing at the VIC, corn maze race
- Winter Sowing Workshops
- Animal Programs: council meetings for both horse and other ruminant, animal science, Horse Camp, Animal Camp, Mini Horse Camp, Fall Fun Fest, and yearly animal shows
- Public Speaking: Workshops, Area Presentations, and District Presentations
- Leader trainings for new club leaders
- Community Outreach: spent time at farmer’s markets, local schools, NYS Fair, and community partners
- Fundraising: annual cheese sale, food stand at an auction, food stand during the local fair, TSC Clover Campaign, Stewart’s Holiday Match
- School Enrichment: Ag Literacy Week readings, environmental science, and embryology in the classroom
- All Things Youth Fair: 8 animal shows, project judging, interactive activities daily, sensory stations, training and preparing youth with real-world work experience through our fair concession stand, post-fair meeting to get feedback on how to continually improve



14 Clubs
Franklin County



4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,
my **HANDS** to larger service,
and my **HEALTH** to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.



4-H CLUBS



**GREENERY
WORKSHOP**



**DISCOVERING PARASITES-
VET SCIENCE WITH DR. SARAH**



**PUBLIC SPEAKING
SKILLS FOR LIFE**



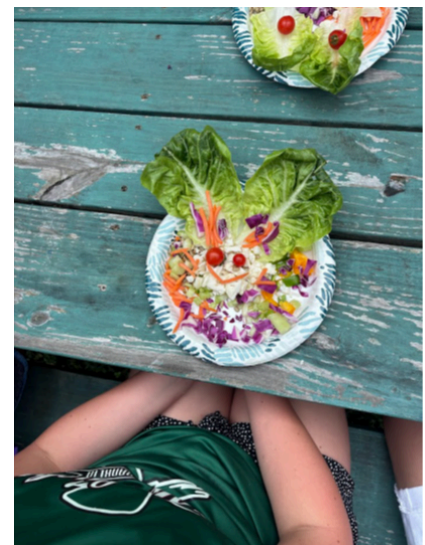
**ART WORK AT
FARMERS MARKET**

SNAP-ED

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, new in 2025, provides nutrition, food safety and preparation skills, and obesity prevention education to low-income populations of individuals and families that are SNAP eligible. Seek out and develop new networks and partners for nutrition, education delivery, and community initiatives. This program fills the need of educating our community about health, cooking on a budget, food safety, and overall nutrition to combat the obesity epidemic, food insecurity, and food access barriers.



Franklin County SNAP-Ed





4-H CAMP OVERLOOK

4-H Camp Overlook is a traditional, six-day, five-night residential camp located on Indian and Mountain View Lakes in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains. The camp, owned and operated by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties since 1945, is open to youth ages 6-17. 4-H Camp Overlook also offers Cloverbud and Cloverleaf programs for new campers between the ages of 6 and 11. Year-round, Camp Overlook also offers team building, leadership training and ropes course facilitation for group field trips and overnight stays.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

MAAP BACKPACKING PROGRAM

(MOUNTAINEERS, ALPINE ADVENTURERS AND PATHFINDERS)

The MAAP program at 4-H Camp Overlook is a progressive experience geared towards introducing campers to safe and enjoyable backpacking in the Adirondacks. Divided into 3 age-appropriate levels, campers begin their learning on-site as **Pathfinders** with interactive lessons about planning, packing, leave no trace principles, maps & navigation and outdoor cooking with practice hikes and an overnight campout at camp.

The next step on the journey is for **Alpine Adventurers** to stretch their legs during a three-day, two-night Adirondack trip where they plan their journey during their first days at camp and then head out on the trail for three to six miles per day. Campers focus on managing their pack, pace, and supporting each other.

The final step in the MAAP program experience is left to the **Mountaineers** who brave the Adirondacks high peaks for a full five days and four nights before they head back to camp to celebrate their success with a hot shower and a journey down the zipline.

In 2025, 88 campers participated in a MAAP program including 69 Pathfinders, 10 Alpine Adventurers and 9 Mountaineers. Program equipment, including backpacking packs, tents, lightweight cook kits, and water purification filters, is a key future need for this program to enable its continuance and growth.



88 Campers
participated in the MAAP
program in 2025

Website: <https://4hcampoverlook.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4HCampOverlook/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/4hcamp_overlook/



Summer Camp by the Numbers:

4-H CAMP OVERLOOK



- **640** Traditional Campers
- **80** Cloverbud/Cloverleaf
- **19** Backpackers
- **68** Scholarships Awarded



**PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHT**

Rentals- 21
School Groups- 12
Family Campers- 45

YEAR-ROUND FUN

Camp is for everyone- all year round! With our multi-purpose, winterized Great Hall, you and your group can take advantage of all that camp has offer, whether it's ninety degrees or twenty below!



Rental options include:

- year-round meeting room location for your group of 10-200
- use of our commercial kitchen and dining hall
- seasonal outdoor picnic location or campfire gathering area
- facilitated teambuilding challenges for all ages
- school field trips including free play, archery, low ropes challenges & nature discovery
- expert lead high ropes adventure and/or ziplining
- overnight cabin camping seasonally (accommodating approximately 150)
- overnight heated cabin options (for around 20)

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Ag Workshop - Sheep producers feeding and health
- Tupper Lake Winged Eagles 4-H Robotics Workshop
- 4-H Junk Drawer Robotics at VIC
- Winter 4-H Sewing Project
- 4-H WOW-Boston Bound Planning Meeting
- Eat Healthy and Be Active Workshops
- Ag Safety Awareness Workshops
- 4-H Bluebird House Make-n-Take
- Hay and Pasture School
- Ag Literacy Week
- Ag Fruit Tree and Raspberry Pruning Workshop
- Career Day Workshop – Brushton Moira Central
- Beekeeping Workshop
- Small Ruminant Workshop and Camp
- Multiple 4-H Club Meetings across County
- 4-H Riding Evaluations
- Manure Pit Rescue Safety Training
- Area 4-H Public Speaking Workshops



- Food Preservation Workshop
pressure canning venison soup
SRMT Rec Center
- Healthy Pasta from Vegetables Workshop
- District 4-H Public Speaking Presentations
- Soap Making Workshop
- Camp Overlook Cleanup
- 4-H Shooting Sports State Training
- 4-H Sewing Camp
- Dairy Day for Schools
- Conservation Field Days for Malone first graders
- 4-H Horse Camp
- 4-H Miniature Horse Clinic
- Wild Walks and Workshops at VIC
- 4-H Dairy and Beef Camp
- Progressive Ag Safety Day at Brushton Moira Central

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS OFFERED



- Food Preservation Workshop pressure canning venison soup SRMT Rec Center
- Food Preservation Workshop pressure canning and boiling water bath canning SRMT Senior Center
- Cornell Lost Lady Bug Program to release endangered 9 Spot Lady Bugs
- Paul Smiths College “Groove, Move, Food” wild foods class
- Franklin County Fair Horse, Goat, Sheep, Alpaca, Dairy & Beef Cattle Shows
- 4-H Youth Building on Display. Youth had projects judged Face to Face
- 4-H Youth gaining work experience manning the Fair Clover Corner Eats food stand
- 4-H Youth, Families and Staff interacting with several thousand fair attendees over 12 days
- Wild Ed- Traditional Plant Use Workshop at Generations Park
- Master food Preservation Certification Workshop, Thompson Island 2 days
- New York 4-H Wild Ed training at Camp Shankitunk, Delhi for Train the Trainers
- Conservation Field Days for 4 & 5th grades at Camp Overlook 2 days
- Master Food Preservation Certification Workshop, SRMT Senior Center 2 days
- Goat Hike-Learn about 4-H and Goats, Paul Smiths VIC
- Wild Roots Workshop - VIC
- Daily educational activity offered at After School Programs
- 4/5th Grade Conservation Field Days
- Soil Health Workshop
- Visit to the Farrar Home (Malone) with kid goats
- Day At The Farm to be held at Stauffer's Farm
- Represent CCE on the Franklin County Animal Response Team
- Instrumental in establishing the Beef Farm of Excellence Award Program
- Master Forest Owner Visits



EXAMPLES OF CONNECTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Adirondack Quilters Guild
- Akwesasne Camp Association
- American Red Cross
- Borderline Quilter Guild
- CCE St Lawrence County
- Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country
- Colton Pierrepont School
- Eastern NY Commercial Hort Team
- Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES
- HeadStart
- JCEO
- Malone Telegram
- The Malone Wead Library
- Nightengale Elementary School
- Paul Smith's VIC
- Saranac Lake Farmers Market
- Franklin County Soil and Water
- SUNY Plattsburgh Women's Basketball
- SUNY Potsdam EOP
- Tupper Lake School Green Team
- Tupper Lake Library
- Utica University, Young Scholars LLP

2025 GRANT FUNDING

- 2025 Farm-to-School Continuation/Expansion Grant funded for \$100,000
- 2025 Dairy in the Classroom Grant - \$26,000
- Stewarts 4-H Grant – Funded for \$1,446.
- Rooted in Learning - Funded for \$50,000
- Generous Acts Grant - Funded for \$7,500.
- United Way Camp Overlook Scholarships Grant – Funded for \$3,500.
- LEAPS (After-School) - \$220,000/yr per school for up to 5 years (\$2.2M)
- BOOST Grant - \$219,000/year for up to 5 years (\$1.25M)
- NYS Agriculture and Horse Breeders Development Fund - Funded for \$1,500.

NYS BOOST Grant

The NYS Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grant is a collaborative with Chateaugay Central School District and will provide students in grades 7-12 with high quality afterschool, school vacation, and summer programs to achieve improved academic outcomes, career and vocational opportunities and aspirations, internships, SEL skills for improved communication and restorative practices and strong youth and family activities to build connections between home, school and the community. The program will utilize PYD activities that allow students and families to have input in program decision making, preventing social isolation, and creating authentic youth leadership opportunities.

2025 ECONOMIC IMPACT

WHY IS CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION A COST EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION?

- Our program educators and team leaders work directly with over 12,000 residents each year (adults and youth).
- All of our programs are free or low cost.
- Through workshops, fairs, news outlets, media and publications (print and electronic), CCE educates over 350,000 people that live, work, and spend their money in Franklin County.
- Our employee benefits are paid by Cornell University totaling over \$388,000.
- Cornell provides many services including payroll and personnel administration, web-based staff development, and other program support.
- Cornell's educational programs are NY State certified and are not duplicated by other agencies.
- We partner with local agencies to provide programs, examples include NYS Office of the Aging, United Way of the Adirondacks, Paul Smith's VIC, and Malone YMCA.
- Extension's curriculum is Cornell University and other Land Grant University research based.



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Connie Gerow, President

Anne McIlhenny, Vice President

Rebecca Preve, Secretary

Errolynn Bradley-Bero, Treasurer

Kevin Leahy

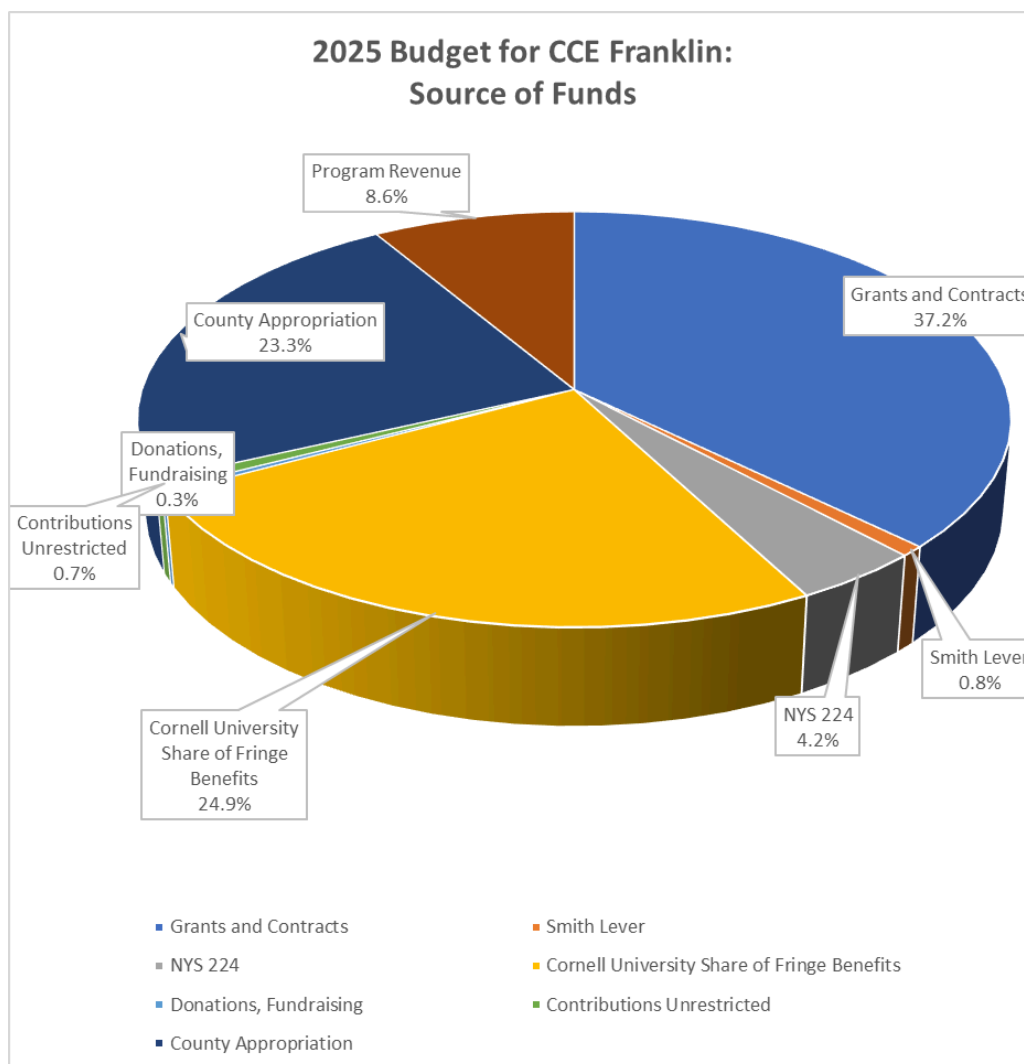
Benjamin Herne

Star Bashaw

Jacqueline Godin

David Moore

Justus Martin, Franklin County Legislative Representative



2025 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

During the course of each year, we recognize individuals or organizations in our community for their volunteerism, partnership or participation. We are fortunate to be part of a community who supports our positive impact programming.

Friend of
Extension

MICHAEL MURPHY



Friends of
4-H

STEFANIE WILSON AND VAL DALTON



Friend of
**4-H Camp
Overlook**

MIKE PERRY



*Thank
you!*



GCE

FRANKLIN



