

Cornell Cooperative Extension is “Kids, Foods & Jobs”!

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In my recent meetings with community leaders, I have had the opportunity to explain what we in Extension “do”. As our mission states: *“We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.”*

With national, state, county and grant funding sources Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) continues to provide the citizens of Franklin County with programs that focus on “Kids, Food and Jobs” with a level of performance that impacts lives and changes behaviors in positive ways. CCE is in its second hundred years with educators aligning local needs and experience with research based solutions of the Cornell land grant system and its state and federal partners. We help Franklin County families and communities navigate in a rapidly changing world.

Cooperative Extension has expanded into new areas as well as maintaining respected, traditional foundations. Our agricultural programs and resources in the areas of dairy and livestock production, field crops and nutrient management, fruits and vegetables, as well as farm business management and policy. Staff members also present information on energy, natural resources, and consumer horticulture. Profitability, environmental stewardship, the promotion of agricultural tourism and a safe, healthy local food supply are our goals.

Our 4-H Youth Development has had spectacular growth resulting from significant grant awards. 4-H Programs are delivered through community and school-based clubs, public school enrichment programs, and special partnerships. 4-H reaches youth in the areas of Science, Technology and Engineering, Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles to provide and improve essential skills for our county’s youth.

Changes in the Eat Smart New York Program funded by USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program resulted in different directions for our Family, Health and Well-Being Department. CCE food and nutrition classes are developed with the goal of reducing the incidence of childhood obesity and to alleviate chronic disease through improved nutrition. Other programs presented by CCE include financial management, health and exercise and children coping with divorce.

CCE Franklin has emerged as a leader in responding to current and emerging needs in community and rural development. Whether working with community leaders, schools, businesses and organizations to improve workforce development, improve production and marketing, adding value to raw products, or conducting strategic planning, the staff of CCE Franklin have been at the center of dialogue and collaboration addressing these needs.

Through all our work, CCE will continue to focus on tying all efforts together with “Kids” “Foods” and “Jobs”.