



August 11, 2026

Board Meeting Agenda

Wayne County Fair 4-H Building

Board Members Present: John, Ken, Ariel, Shane, Gerry, Shawn, Judy, Betty, Kate, Steve,

Non-Board Members Present – Nancy, Tim

6:15 President (John): Call to Order

Approval/edits to agenda

Privilege to the floor (3 minutes per public comment)

Secretary (Shawn): Minutes from June Board meeting (separate attachment)

Motion to approve June minutes Shawn

Second Betty

Votes All

6:20 Facilities update (Nancy)

Facilities committee met June 18 at 6:15 pm on zoom (Gerry, Judy, Ken present) and selected AB insulation to complete insulation work on the attics areas over the 4-H offices and the ones accessed over the garage. Executive committee members supported that decision via email. Tom has sealed the bottom exterior edge of the building to try to reduce pest infestations, with some apparent success. Parking lot re-sealing and painting completed, insulation work in progress this week – office is only open in the mornings during county fair, and only the activity room and bathrooms while work occurs on the other end of the building.

Update on insulation project, parking lot sealing

Motion to approve additional AB work on attic door from garage Ariel

Second Ken

Votes All

6:25 Treasurer

May 2026 Revenues:

We are just shy of \$5000 of our projection of donations for 2026, we will exceed this by July Interest income as of May we are \$255.00 shy of what of our budget \$5745.00 for the year goals.

We were under our fundraising goals which these upcoming months we will hit our goals with teen exchange and spaghetti dinner and plant sales for May.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

Expenses: Majority of expenses were consistent and under budget. June and July these will pick up with more programming happening!
Credit card fees are higher than expected with giving people options to pay with enrollment/registration fees online now.

Katie's Katch Up Korner:

SFS budget was approved; we submitted Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 SNAP Ed and received payment already! \$277K or reimbursement including repayment to Monroe and Livingston County contractual of \$113K

We were approved with our new year contract with Active People Healthy Wayne, now Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

4H did great with Beechwood camp, Teen exchange trip, Garden Cooking camp all in July and prepping with Fair and Livestock Auction for August. So a lot of spending happening! (as usual at this time of year)

We met the deadline to send in the County budget with the 4% increase ask, I am still working with programming with their individual budgets to keep on track and get in earlier for board approval at annual meeting in November.

Motion to approve May financials Ariel

Second Shawn

Votes All

Motion to approve 2025 Audit report Steve

Second Judy

Votes All

Motion to approve mileage reimbursement increase to \$0.76 per mile, in accordance with updated IRS guidance, and to tie mileage reimbursement rates to the set IRS rate in the future:

Gerry

Second Shawn

Votes All

Motion to designate Shelby DePew as Acumatica approver in case of my absence (vacation, illness, etc.) Betty

Second Ken

Votes All

Sharing of county budget as submitted (and shared with executive committee). Also submitted grants to Lululemon to support Stay Strong Stay Healthy work, and to Bolger Foundation for a new building roof.

Grant news \$5K in hand from RACF for one month pilot program running nutrition programs at apartments and mobile home communities (planned for October).

6:45 People and Programs

Motion to approve parental leave policy _____ *Ariel* _____

Second _____ *Steve* _____

Votes _____ *All* _____

Motion to Approve new Gender-Based Violence workplace policy _____ *Judy* _____

Second _____ *Shawn* _____

Votes _____ *All* _____

6:50 Staff Program Reports (Nancy, notes below)

6:55 ED Report (Nancy)

7:05 SES Report (Tim)

7:10 Board President (John) – reminder to encourage new board members to apply

7:15 New business

7:20 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn _____ *Ken* _____ *Second* _____ *Betty* _____ *Votes* _____ *All* _____

Next meeting October 13, 2026

Program reports

Master Gardeners

During our June MGV planning meeting MGV's received updates for soil testing, viewed a presentation from MGV Velma Harris on food insecurity as it relates to fresh vegetables and had good discussion on this topic. Our July meeting update was a refresher on Late Blight and other common tomato issues and procedure review for fungus ID.

This year, 145 people registered to attend our Master Gardener's Great Gardens of Wayne County Tour, that was held on Wednesday, July 15th from 4pm to 8pm. This is up slightly from previous years, so we are growing! Next year our tour will be in the Ontario area. Please get in touch if you know of a possible site. Site selection for our 2027 tour is in process now.

Participant Highlight:

Seed 2 Supper Class of 2026: Email from one of our S2S participants- came to us in June with several pictures of her garden.

Hi, I wanted to share progress on my first raised bed...I'm so excited to see what it will grow. I've got my Damsel tomato (thank you so much), and bell peppers, Manzano tomato, Cucumbers, Romaine and Carrots. Everything we learned in class is really coming in handy, I will keep you posted...wish me luck!!

~ Jan Leonardi

Agriculture

July was the month of child education. Our department helped 4-H with Camp Beechwood, where Josh worked there for the whole week. He led a plant press activity and taught the kids about plant identification. We also helped the 4-H department out

with a microgrant Melissa got by building a pollinator house and planning a pollinator garden at the office. The major project our department has been working on this month is the *Weed it & Reap* monthly digest. The idea of this digest is to centralize all of the team's program and event dates into one email. It will also contain news updates from local, state, and federal government announcements pertaining to agriculture, as well as grant and federal program deadlines. Lastly, it will contain a crop of the month highlighting an in-season crop with recipes to go along with it, and a farmer highlight, which will give some background on a farm in the county, what products they sell, and where they sell. It will oscillate between small and large operations, as well as crops/livestock.

Community Contacts:

We had a couple of community questions this month. I was asked to help identify an unknown ag chemical found in an old barn. It was sul-po-mag. A question on woodland debris and how to properly manage downed trees and brush. And lastly, helping someone navigate the commercial pesticide 30-hr course sign up.

Notable Events:

- Sweet corn pest scouting continued at G&S Orchards.
- Camp Beechwood
- Pollinator House and Graden
- Survey regarding programming and newsletter/digest

4-H

Grant Applications/Awards:

- Received the NYS 4-H Scotts Miracle Grow grant to complete pollinator houses at the Learning Garden and one at Sodus State Park (2 at \$750). One house has been built and lesson taught at Gardening Cooking Camp and at Camp Beechwood. Installation of signs and houses will be completed after Fair.
- Chrysalis mini-grant pending approval in September 2026.

4-H Activities and Events

Camps: Both camps went really well. We had to close Camp Beechwood on Thursday due to bad air quality, but we kept families well informed and gave them an hour notice to come pickup and all were there to get their kids. A pretty smooth week with no major issues and lots of fun.

Wayne County Fair: Fair is almost here! Will be here for your meeting. Preparations are in full swing and we hope for no major issues. We are trying to do as much before the Fair as possible, so the week of is less stressful. It should be a great week.

Teen Exchange Program: Our 11 teens and 2 chaperones went to Texas last week and had an amazing time. They went to Austin, San Antonio, water park, capital building, Alamo, Riverwalk, Tower of America. Some kids went shark fishing on their family day and to the USS Lexington. It was an amazing week and although flights were cancelled an hour before they were to go to the airport, we were able to get them switched flights and airports and go home the same day. They are all excited to host next summer.

Career Explorations: We had three delegates attend the Career Explorations program in Ithaca a few weeks ago. The kids learned all about career opportunities in agriculture and met some amazing people. It was very hot, but they had an amazing time. All three of youth and the chaperone registration was covered by Tractor Supply Paper Clover campaign funds and scholarship from NYS 4-H.

Upcoming:

- August 4th – Pre-judging Night
- Aug 10-16 Wayne County Fair
- October 24 – Open House

Nutrition and Health

Shelby designed a logo for us to begin using for nutrition and health programming once SNAP-Ed ends (see last page).

The Nutrition and Wellness team welcomed the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities program into our program, as we felt it was a better fit than under 4-H. CHSC budget and all required documentation have been submitted for final approval. The SNAP-Ed budget for FY26 was finally approved by FNA(Formerly FNS), and finance has received reimbursement for quarters 1 and 2 already.

The nutrition and wellness team has continued nutrition education in Lyons and Newark food pantries, Sodus and Lyons Farmers Market, Sodus Success Center, Lyons, Newark, and Sodus Libraries, with a new addition by request from Clifton Springs Library for both nutrition education and Stay, Strong Stay Healthy programming. Nutrition education was also conducted this month at Sodus and Newark school districts, Camp Beechwood, Clyde-Savannah Garden, and classes at the CCE office with a Survivor advocacy group, picky eating class for families, and continuation of Stay Strong, Stay Healthy classes. To help promote Stay Strong Stay Healthy classes, we have connected with PT clinics and medical offices to share SSSH program fliers and conversation of possible partnerships with referral capacity. Adam also had a conversation with CHE Nutritional Sciences staff at Cornell at the Healthy Living Program Work Team (PWT) meeting about possibly crafting a physical education curriculum to be used for home-schooled youth and parents. Future plans started:

Planning with Marion Library, Palmyra Library, and Palmyra CSD has started for potential programming in September.

ED Report

(Note: I will be on vacation in England August 31-September 13)

When I transitioned from my career in academia back to cooperative extension, one of the changes I thought would be a loss was summer vacation. Instead, one of the best surprises about this transition has been how much I now look forward to the summer work of extension. Camps (Beechwood, Gardening and Cooking) and Fair highlight the summers here at CCE Wayne, and while these are both primarily 4-H activities, they are also all-hands-on-deck. Nutrition, agriculture, and gardening programs are part of camp; all staff participate as adult presences (since our counselors are mostly youth themselves); finance and front desk folks collaborate on fair prizes, baskets, and giveaways, and Tom cleans up a lot of extra messes. As a professor, I came to dread August, but now the blooming goldenrod marks the season of county and state fair, and the many celebrations of a growing season well spent.

Taking vacation in the heat of summer is overrated, and my spouse and I have enjoyed taking shoulder-season trips with fewer crowds. We're glad to be here for festivals and farmers' markets, chicken BBQ's and canal celebrations. Vacation is an important part of employee benefits, and one of the many board decisions I'm particularly grateful for was the expansion (in 2024) of employee vacation time accrual, to just over 4 weeks per year. Vacation time keeps my mind refreshed and allows me time to visit faraway places, family, and friends. The whole office benefits from the renewed energy each person brings when returning to work.

This month, I'm asking the board to consider another benefit change: paid parental leave. Until now, the only paid leave we offered has been through accumulated sick leave, and unpaid FMLA, which comes with the complication that employees temporarily lose health insurance during the unpaid time when premiums are not subsidized through Cornell benefits.

According to studies, employees with paid parental leave have higher morale, loyalty and productivity. Paid family leave is one of the top benefits which draws young workers to join and stay with their employer. Especially at CCE, which as a system does not offer highly competitive salaries, employee benefits are an important retention tool.

Societally, research shows that paid parental leave benefits both maternal and child health. We already work hard to support families through our nutrition, gardening, and youth development work. It makes sense, ethically, for us to offer a benefit which is so clearly in line with our mission of putting research-based knowledge to work.

