Our highly skilled educators deliver research-based knowledge through non-credit education in the fields of Agriculture & Horticulture, Environment & Energy, 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Education.

2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545
845-677-8223 www.ccedutchess.org
Through quality educational programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) builds strong, healthy youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County. CCEDC links the research, knowledge and technology of the land grant system to the needs of individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout the County. We provide practical education for stakeholders to use in dealing with critical issues affecting the County's future and we enhance the quality of life by promoting individual growth, strengthening families, improving the economic well-being of businesses, enhancing the environment, and building stronger communities.
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Agriculture & Horticulture

Extension continues to play a key role in improving agricultural and horticultural production in Dutchess County by being on the leading edge of what will impact our communities and through our education programs keeping growers up-to-date on best practices.

The Agriculture/Horticulture Program is committed to supporting the agricultural industry in Dutchess County by working with farmers to increase agricultural competitiveness and profitability; developing new and promote existing markets, and ensuring future harvests through direct marketing and agri-tourism information, education and resources.

In 2014, the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan was developed through intra-agency partnerships, farmers and consultant to provide Dutchess County with a workable plan for agriculture to ensure that farming ventures remain a vital part of the landscape as viable businesses in the county.

- 678 farms produce everything from dairy and hops, to wool and Christmas trees;
- The number of farms and acres used for farmland are increasing with over 211,000 acres of land dedicated to farming, and 66,360 acres being actively farmed;
- Farms contribute about $50 million in sales to the County economy and the market value of agricultural products has increased 41% since 2007; and
- Over 44,000 acres of land in the County have been preserved for open space!

Taste NY at Todd Hill

An initiative of Governor Cuomo, Taste of NY has grown and come to Dutchess County. CCEDC operates the Taste NY store and seasonal farmers’ market in the median of the Taconic State Parkway. The purpose of the project includes researching the efficacy of marketing local farm and food products in a Taste NY market setting; conducting research on strategies to improve agri-business performance, and best agri-business management and marketing practices; promoting agri-tourism and the importance of “buying local” to consumers; and providing education and training and opportunities for farmers interested in providing products to the Market and enhancing retail sales at their farms and other outlets. The Taste NY Market at Todd Hill plays host to almost 5,000 weekly visitors and sells products from more than 58 producers. For more information, contact us at TasteofNYToddHill@cornell.edu.

Governor Cuomo at the Taste of NY Market at Todd Hill
Grand Opening, June 2014
Community Horticulture raises awareness of current issues, teaches best practices, provides education on organic recycling, and addresses community gardening needs reaching individuals, organizations and communities throughout the county.

Organics Recycling

A grant from Dutchess County for organics recycling education and promotion was utilized to increase recycling awareness and activities and ultimately to reduce the County’s solid waste stream. Adding to the home composting focus of 2013, educational and exhibit materials were created about Dutchess County’s waste and single stream recycling processing.

Of the thirty Master Gardener volunteers trained on home composting, fourteen were additionally trained on recycling. Organics recycling education was delivered at the Dutchess County Fair reaching 1698 people, at 7 community events reaching 622, at 7 workshops reaching 143 and at the Taste NY Todd Hill Farmers’ Market reaching 107. Even the most seasoned county residents were pleasantly surprised at the organics recycling opportunities now available. Information published on CCEDC’s website, newsletters, Facebook, and local newspapers reinforced the value of home composting and organics recycling.

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Throughout the year, Master Gardener volunteers delivered gardening education to 358 people in lectures and classes and reached 1289 visitors at community events. MGs demonstrated “How Does it Grow” with vegetables to 180 youngsters at summer meal awareness programs. They grew and sold over 8000 annual, vegetable and perennial plants in the annual Plant Sale, which funds the MG program. The volunteers also planted and maintained the Farm & Home Center’s demonstration gardens. Ten new Master Gardener volunteers were trained in the autumn. The 81 active MG volunteers donated a total of 6803 hours to CCEDC and the community.

Arborist Certification

This professional training series offered by the International Society of Arboriculture sets an individual apart from the competition and allows a competitive edge over non-certified arborists. CCEDC offers a four session training program to prepare participants for the ISA professional certification exam. 15 individuals participated in the training and 17 ISA Certified Arborists attended to receive continuing education credits (CEUs). CCEDC is the only organization in NYS that offers this training.

Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program (ENYCHP)

ENYCHP provided commercial fruit, vegetable, grape and small fruit producers, processors and the related industry with high quality educational programs and cutting edge research-based information so they can profitably produce and market safe and healthful crops in an environmentally sound manner. The team conducted site visits, field meetings, trainings and workshops, phone and email consultations, newsletters, updates/alerts and IPM scouting and monitoring.
Environment & Energy

Through education, research and partnerships, the Environment & Energy Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County empowers individuals and municipal groups to expand their knowledge and actions to protect, restore, and enhance the environment of Dutchess County for future generations.

Flood Resiliency
CCEDC staff have been working collaboratively with extension offices in other counties (Columbia, Greene, and Orange) on the Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project (HEWRP); a project funded by the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell, the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the Environmental Protection Fund. The HEWRP is a combination of research, demonstration, outreach and education focused on climate change, flood resiliency, stream management and related topics. As part of this educational initiative, focused on both municipal and riparian landowner audiences, CCEDC staff provides tools and resources meant to assist municipalities in reducing their vulnerability to flooding by enhancing knowledge of stream and floodplain dynamics. As part of the HEWRP, CCEDC staff worked with the regional team to conduct education and outreach initiatives including: seminars, trainings, and presentations for municipalities; developing fact sheets regarding which agencies to contact during and after flood events; and other outreach mechanisms for municipal officials and streamside landowners. Throughout the past year, CCEDC educators delivered presentations on stream management and flood resiliency to municipalities in the project’s target watersheds in Dutchess and other counties. Staff also conducted seminars on damn safety and removal, the National Flood Insurance Program, using wetlands and forests for flood management, and worked with Cornell University faculty to complete the analysis of the 2013 landowner survey.

www.hudsonestuaryresiliencenet.

EmPower NY
CCEDC staff presented fourteen free, two-hour workshops for Orange County residents throughout the summer and fall of 2014, called “Save Energy, Save Dollars.” The workshops are given as part of the EmPower New York Program, are sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and were developed in cooperation with Cornell University Cooperative Extension, which provided funding to CCEDC to complete the workshops. The goal of “Save Energy, Save Dollars” is to help participants take real actions that will lead to real energy savings. Through these workshops, which showcase inexpensive products typically used in weatherizing and upgrading the energy efficiency of homes, participants learn easy and inexpensive tips to save money on their energy bills. Since the workshops focus on easy, often seasonal and less permanent steps that participants can take to reduce their energy usage, renters are also able to find several actions that they can take to decrease their energy bills. The workshops cover four general areas of energy usage in households, in order of highest to lowest energy costs for the typical household. The four categories are: heating and cooling, hot water, appliances, and lighting. At the end of the workshop, participants receive free energy efficient light bulbs.

Save Energy Save Dollars workshop at the Albert Wisner Public Library in Warwick, NY. Photo credit: Camille Marcotte
A total of 11 Middle School, High School and College educators from across the United States participated in the Bioenergy and Bioproducts Education Program’s (BBEP) week-long workshop at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County from July 28 - August 1, 2014. This year’s group of teachers came from as far away as Texas to participate in the program, which included intensive training in Bioenergy, bioproducts & STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines, including agriculture. Teachers experienced engaging hands-on activities, field trips to bio-based industries, research-based teaching materials, and networking opportunities with world-class researchers and other educators. Field trips included visits to the ReCommunity Recycling Center in Beacon, NY, a field walk on forest management at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and a trip to Taylor Biomass in Montgomery, NY. Teachers worked together throughout the week to develop and integrate resources appropriate for their classrooms. The BBEP workshops provided an opportunity to learn, create, and discover with lectures and activities focused on topics, such as: sustainability, systems thinking, biomass, biofuels, bioheat & power, bioproducts, and environment & policy. The BBEP program is a USDA-funded, multi-state and multi-year initiative that connects educators to major sustainable bioenergy research initiatives.
Family & Consumer Education

Life has become a complex experience for American families, and never more-so than in the recent years. Health, finances, education, parenting and employment present greater challenges than ever before. Our Family and Consumer Education Programs are designed to respond to the ever growing, and ever-changing needs of Dutchess County households, while also assisting with community-based changes that enhance the positive survival of our residents.

The Family and Consumer Education Program (FCE), acts under a program mission statement of “Facilitating change with Dutchess County residents and communities through education.” Our programs and staff work with all levels of the Spectrum of Change to ensure that change can be successful. From strengthening individual knowledge and skill, to providing community level education, to educating providers of services, facilitating coalitions and networks, facilitating change in organizational practice and informing policy, our past and current programs impact change. FCE currently consists of three major topic areas including Food, Nutrition and Wellness, Parenting and Family Education, and Financial Management Education. FCE successfully works with underserved areas, areas with a high percentage of racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities and other special needs. We facilitate advisory committees and coalitions in each of our subject areas, and our team truly demonstrates every day the importance of working with persons of all ages and abilities in a variety of settings while having flexibility and patience in supporting their learning needs. Through our work with families, individuals, and youth, our programs improve nutritious eating habits, reduce risk of disease, decrease food insecurity (hunger), increase use of local foods, improve school and family engagement, increase ability to save money and reduce debt, and reduce the need for foster care and social services in the long-term.

Kinship Day 2014.

RAPP youth Sharing Science.

Teaching nutrition to youth.

Urban nutrition education program.
Family & Consumer Education

Through education, our SNAP-Ed/Eat Smart New York! program reached 6,358 Dutchess County residents, Food Access Collaboration and Education Project reached 607, and Hudson River Fish Advisories reached 656, for a total of 7,621 adults, seniors, and youth who have taken action to improve their healthy eating, active living, food security and food safety behaviors. Our Relatives as Parents Program assisted 131 relative caregivers and 154 youth in their care, to develop healthy parent-child relationships and positive living skills, creating a safe, structured environment to avoid foster care. Our Financial Literacy for Youth reached 189 in Dutchess County youth, whereas our Financial Literacy for Adults in Transition reached 59 adults, for a total of 248 adults, seniors, and youth who have taken action to practice wise money management skills and debt reduction. Total direct educational impact of our programs was 9,878 Dutchess County residents and their families. In addition, numerous interventions with stakeholders and decision makers through systems change efforts extended our reach and impact.

Through this community-based education and collaborations with partnering organizations, we have continued to reverse environments that lead to poor outcomes, establishing new systems that encourage healthy outcomes for childhood obesity prevention, chronic disease prevention, poverty prevention and foster care prevention, while enhancing the sustainability of our local food system and businesses. In this way, Family and Consumer Education Programs help create opportunities for healthy, productive Dutchess County families and communities.

Nutrition education for Seniors.
4-H Youth Development

4-H is a positive youth development program that empowers young people to reach their full potential. The 4-H Program in Dutchess County enables our youth to emerge as leaders through hands-on learning, research-based 4-H youth programs, and adult mentorship, in order to give back to their local communities. The Green Teen program is a youth development program that teaches life and work skills through hands-on experiences in farming and gardening, health and nutrition, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

The 4-H youth development movement which began more than 100 years ago as a rural youth education program has adapted and expanded to meet the needs of youth from all types of communities. Studies have shown that children participating in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel confident to try new things, achieve a sense of self-esteem and develop lasting friendships. 4-Hers are ready for an ever changing world.

CCEDC’s vibrant 4-H Youth Development program is led by a committed staff and dedicated volunteers who work closely with youth on projects, public presentations and entries to the Dutchess County Fair. During 2014, 350 youth participated in 45 4-H Clubs and the Green Teen Community Gardening program. Youth and their activities were supported by more than 65 volunteers and partners across the county who donated their time and skills. Beyond the Club experience, Dutchess County 4-Hers participated in county-wide educational programs including horse bowl and hippology, Fashion Revue, livestock clinics, farm visits and the Dutchess County Fair.

Green Teens harvesting produce from the BCRC Garden.

2014 Program Highlights!

- Green Teen celebrated its **10 Year Anniversary** and continued working with amazing long-time partners like the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Sprout Creek Farm, Common Ground Farm and Homespun Foods!
- 2014 was the third year in a row CCEDC sent 4-H youth to Capital Days, STARR and State Level Horse Bowl, Hippology and Communications!
- Green Teen worked with **85** youth this year in our 4th grade program, teen volunteer program and gardening vocational training programs!
- **37** 4-H members kicked off Public Presentations by giving a food demonstration at the annual Harvest Food Fest!
- Green Teen held their 7th Spring Photo Show - *The Journey to the Center of Your Plate!*
- Youth visited with their government representatives in Albany at Capital Days and shared their experiences as 4-H members!
- Green Teen added a new garden on Main Street in Beacon, the Common Greens Garden at Tito Santana Taqueria, and gained new partners in the process!
- We doubled our Ag Literacy Week program outreach from last year for Dutchess County reaching over 2,300 youth!
- Green Teen continued to partner with Kids R Kids Feeding Program and Common Ground Farm to run a program where cooking classes for youth by Green Teens were available throughout the city of Beacon reaching more than **100 youth!**
- Youth submitted over **2,700** different class entries from livestock to exhibit hall items in the Dutchess County Fair!
2014 Estimate of Financial Support

TOTAL FUNDING $3,105,705 100%

COUNTY $575,640, 19%
FEDERAL $161,298, 5%
STATE $1,124,548, 36%
OTHER $1,019,405, 33%
COUNTY AGREEMENTS DISTRIBUTING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS, $224,814, 7%
OTHER: GRANTS/CONTRACTS/CONTRIBUTIONS/PROGRAM REVENUES
COUNTY AGREEMENTS DISTRIBUTING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS
Working Together...to build strong, healthy families and communities while enhancing Dutchess County’s economic, social, agricultural and natural resources. Cooperative Extension cannot accomplish this alone! A wealth of resources exist in Dutchess County and CCEDC believes strongly in continuing its long history of working collaboratively to ensure a comprehensive approach to today’s issues.

Our Partners

Abilities First
ARC
Astor Early Childhood Education Center
American Farmland Trust
Association of NYS Youth Bureaus
Beacon Community Resource Center
Beacon Institute for Rivers & Estuaries
Beatrix Farrand Garden Association
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Casperkill Watershed Alliance
Catholic Charities
CCE Energy & Climate Change Team
Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse
Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam Counties, Inc.
Cities of Beacon & Poughkeepsie
Columbia Land Conservancy
Common Ground Farm
Community Associations Institute
Community Family Development
Community Foundation of the HV
Community Housing Innovations
Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute
DC Agricultural Society
DC Ag & Farmland Protection Board
DC Animal Response Team
DC BOCES
DC Community Action Partnership
DC Dairy Committee
DC Department of Health
DC Department of Labor
DC Department of Mental Hygiene
DC Department of Planning & Development
DC Department of Children & Family Services
DC Economic Development Corp.
DC Environmental Management Council
DC Healthy Families
DC Industrial Development Agency
DC Legislature
DC Office for the Aging
DC Planning Federation
DC Pomona Grange
DC Professional Horseman’s Association
DC Real Property Tax Services
DC Regional Chamber of Commerce
DC Sheep & Wool Growers
DC Soil & Water Conservation District
DC Tourism, Inc.
DC Division of Youth Services

Dutchess Community College
Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board
Dutchess Land Conservancy
Dutchess Outreach
Dutchess/Putnam/Westchester Farm Bureau
Dutchess Watershed Coalition
Dyson Foundation
Eastern Dutchess Maternity Clinic
Eastern NY Holstein Club
Empire State Development Corp.
Fall Kill Watershed Committee
Families First NY
Family Partnership Center
Family Services, Inc.
Farm Service Agency, USDA
Farm to Table Co-Packers
Fishkill Creek Watershed Association
Fishkill Farms
Friends of the Great Swamp
Gateway
Glynwood Center
Grace Smith House
Green Briar Adult Home
Heart of the Hudson Girl Scouts
Homespun Foods
Housatonic Valley Association
Hudson River Healthcare
Hudson River Housing
Hudson Valley Fresh
HV Equine Practitioner’s Assoc.
HV Greenway Council
IBM
Maplewood Senior Citizen Apartments
Marist College
Mark Adams Greenhouses
Mediation Center of Dutchess County
Mental Health America
Mid Hudson Alcohol Recovery Center
Mid Hudson Building & Grounds Superintendent’s Assoc.
Mid Hudson Children’s Museum
Mid Hudson Dietetic Assoc.
Mid Hudson Green Industry Assoc.
National 4-H Council
New York Farm Viability Institute
Nubian Directions
NYS 4-H Capital Days Committee
NYS 4-H Foundation
NYS Agriculture Experiment Station
NYS Arborists Association

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
NYS DEC
NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program
NYS Department of Health
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
NYSERDA
NYS Kinship Navigator
NYS Office of Children & Family Services
NYS Office of Real Property Services
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
NYS ReLeaf
NYS Legislature
NYS Urban Forestry & Community Council
Northeast Community Center
Omega Institute
Park Place Shelter
Pawling Recreation
Pine Plains FFA
Planned Parenthood
Poughkeepsie Farm Project
Ramapo for Children
Reardon Briggs
Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
Rhinebeck Continuing Treatment Center
Rotary International
Salvation Army
Scenic Hudson
Sprout Creek Farm
Stony Kill Environmental Ed. Center
Stony Kill Foundation
Taconic Resources
Teen Resource Activity Center - Poughkeepsie
USDA & USDA NRCS
US Park Service
United Way of Dutchess and Orange Region
US Forest Service
Vassar College
Vassar Environmental Research Institute
Wappinger Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council
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Women, Infants and Child Program (WIC)
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**We Appreciate Your Support!**

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