2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Ulster County

“Putting knowledge to work.”
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Ulster County

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Commercial Agriculture and Community Horticulture

- Christian Malsatzki, Program Leader
- Justin O’Dea, Commercial Vegetable & Field Crops
- Jim O’Connell, Climate Change, IPM, Farm Worker Labor Educator (Grape and Berry)
- Jason Detzel, Livestock and Pasture Management Educator
- Dona Crawford, Master Gardener Coordinator and Community Horticulture
- Erik Schellenberg, GAPS (Good Agriculture Practices) and Small Farms Organic Fruit and Vegetable Educator
- Sam Meigs, Research Technician
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Healthy Communities

- Melinda Herzog, Program Leader; Healthy Ulster Council Coordinator; Live Well Kingston Coordinator
- Katie Sheehan Lopez, ESNY Nutrition Educator
- Janie Greenwald, EFNEP Nutrition, Master Food Preserver, and ServSafe Educator
- Katiri Hart, EFNEP Nutrition Educator
- Jennifer Patterson, RAPP Coordinator
- Allison Solian, RAPP Youth Educator
- Maria Cecilia Deferrari, RAPP Outreach Coordinator

4-H Youth Development

- Melanie Forstrom, Program Leader
- Matt Helffrich, Youth Educator
- Tami Loeffler, Program Coordinator

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management

- Leslie Zucker, Program Leader
- Brent Gotsch, FHM Educator, Community Outreach
- Matt Savatgy, Watershed Youth Educator
- Annette Feschau, Administrative Assistant
- Samantha Kahl, Community Educator
- Sean Koester, Stream Educator

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Greetings CCE Family,

I am incredibly honored to be your new Executive Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. This feels like a home coming to me. I grew up on a small horse farm in Saugerties and have just moved back after many years outside of the Hudson Valley. I am glad that my two young daughters will enjoy the same rivers, mountains and farms that inspired my love of nature and journey in extension, and I am excited to serve the community that raised me.

Our mission to better lives of New York residents by putting knowledge to work for improved sustainability, economic vitality and well-being is more important than ever. We face dynamic, looming challenges. For example, how do we ensure employment opportunities in an increasingly automated world, food and water production in an increasingly variable climate, and balance health amidst a backdrop of convenience, increased screen-time and an opioid crisis? Now more than ever we need evidence-based programming to help our communities thrive in the coming century.

I am confident that we will rise to this challenge. Extension has a long, 100+ year history of helping Ulster County residents navigate challenge and change. And our programming is already future-facing – the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) and Sober Parenting Journey address our growing opioid epidemic, and the youth mentoring Tech Wizards program provides at-risk teens with positive alternatives and STEM exposure.

Yet we cannot do this alone. We will need your help. If you are reading this, you know the value of extension. It will become increasing incumbent upon you, the friends of extension to help us spread the word about what it is we do, who we benefit most, and the promise held by evidence-based programming to have direct, efficient impact on our community. Extension is changing in many ways including how we are funded and how we provide services. Please join us as we build upon the land-grant and Cornell traditions to usher in the new era of extension in Ulster County and beyond.

Yours in service,

Jared Buono
Executive Director
Awards and Recognition Night

A special night when we honor all of our youth and volunteers and celebrate youth and clubs who set ambitious goals related to 4-H projects, community service, leadership and more.

The Catskill Stream Champions Program

4-H Youth surveyed hikers on four educational hikes in the watershed, educating them about water quality and environmental and stream management practices. The youth also gave a presentation at the Catskill Interpretive Center and surveyed the public at the Ulster County Fair.
4-H at the Ulster County Fair!

The Fair provides youth with opportunities to educate the public and showcase their hard work. This year we had 121 youth exhibitors submit 1,078 exhibits!

These included animal showmanship, youth building exhibits, and public presentations.

4-H youth guides also provided Ulster County and National Legislature with a walking tour of the amazing exhibits at the Fair.

“Learn by doing!”
Introduction to Veterinarian Science
A popular program serving youth aged 9 to 13. This year it was again filled to capacity. Our partners at SUNY Ulster taught youth about wildlife rehabilitation, reptiles, mini-donkeys and more.

Agriculture Literacy Week!

2017 Theme
Grapes!
This year we broke our record, reaching 1,010 children in 56 classrooms throughout Ulster County. We are indebted to our trained Volunteer readers who enjoy the experience just as much as the youth in the classrooms.

2018 Theme
Farm-to-Table!
Volunteers, get ready! We plan to once again shatter our record! Please contact our 4-H agents if you are interested in volunteering for this highly successful program.

Connecting youth to hands-on learning opportunities.
Tech Wizards

Our educators ran weekly programs for four years, serving 122 youth and connecting youth to Mentors from the community. The youth visited SUNY New Paltz's 3-D Printing Lab, STEM Camp, the Museum of Math, Cornell’s Career Explorations Program, and much more. To our great disappointment and without warning, we learned two weeks before our next contract that the Tech Wizards program will be cut because of dramatic cuts in the federal budget. Our Kingston and Ellenville sites will not be funded after December 2017. We are working hard to secure other funding to keep the program alive, and in the meanwhile we have created a GoFundMe campaign:

Please Donate! Gofundme.com/SaveUlsterMentoring

Newspaper article from the Times Herald Record. December 18, 2017.
Agriculture

Thanks to grants from the Local Economies Project, Northeast SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education), American Farmland Trust (Doris Duke Foundation), Penn State, and several smaller grants from New York State, the CCEUC Ag Department works in a variety of areas to better serve our communities. This year 583 people attended CCEUC Ag programming and our educators reached over 1800 people through site visits, newsletters, and technical assistance.

Field Crops and Small Grains

Christian Malsatzki handles field crops, small grains, and urban/small acreage agriculture, partnering with Dr. Mark Sorrels and Dr. Gary Bergstrom of Cornell University and the Farm Hub, to investigate which small grain varieties have promise in the Hudson Valley. Malsatski works with Cornell educators from around the State on a project funded by NYS Ag and Markets which looks at barley production in New York. The Fifth Annual Small Grains Field Day, held this year at the Farm Hub in Hurley, welcomed fifty-six attendees. This research contributes to the NYS Malt & Barley Team which will host the first ever Expo in Syracuse in December to highlight research of the team.
Livestock

Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator, works with beginning and experienced producers to ensure they are doing their best to run a sustainable business. Although the program deals with all types of livestock, CCE was pleased to host a rare two part poultry processing class and seminar in 2017. The first part focused on the legalities of poultry processing, ensuring compliance with the best management practices, and marketing the product for profit. Part two was held at the Dogwood Farm in Chatham, NY and included a tour of the production facilities, with an opportunity to complete each step of the process. There is a farmer exemption law in New York State, which allows farmers to process up to one thousand birds on their property, in preparation for sale at farmers markets or on the farm; this is an important economic resource for local producers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Farm Worker Labor

Jim O’Connell completed a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant, developing guides to help farmers communicate complex tasks such as grape pruning to their Spanish speaking farmworkers. The guides were pictured based, with text in English and Spanish, allowing growers and farmworkers to understand the information. O’Connell completed another season of monitoring for invasive insects in grapes and berries at ten farms, as part of NYS Ag & Markets Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). This was coordinated by reps from NYS IPM Hops and Grapes and NYS IPM Fruit. Potential invasive samples were sent to the Cornell Insect Diagnostic Lab in Ithaca for identification. There were no positive samples!
Looking for Land

Erik Schellenberg, vegetable production and farmers’ training for GAPS (good agricultural practices), hosted a New Land Owner and Beginning Farmer trio of classes that included: “New and Aspiring Land Owner; Vegetable and Fruit Production for Beginning Farmers, and Livestock Production for Beginning Farmers. Twenty Eight participated in the class. A permaculture land assessment class was held with eighteen participants, which also included a classroom component and a site visit to an Ulster County farm.

Community Horticulture

Dominic Parise Scholarship

Congratulations Zachary Wightman, the 2017 recipient of the Dominic Parise Scholarship. Zach, a student at SUNY Cobleskill, is working on a Bachelor’s of Technology (B.T.) degree in Plant Science. Zach’s claim to fame? Holding the World Record for cultivating the Worlds’ Largest Blueberry in 2008 when he was twelve years old! The Scholarship is funded by The Plant Swap in memory of Dominic Parise. High school seniors or college students in the field of agriculture, horticulture or environmental biology are eligible to apply each year.

The Master Gardeners Program

Plant Swap

Held at Forsythe Park every June, attracting gardeners who swap their extra plants for different treasures. Swappers drop off their plants and receive vouchers, valued at $1.00 = 1 point. They return later and select new ones. It’s a gardeners’ frenzy! Plants left over are available for sale. The Master Gardeners made $464. The 2017 Master Gardener volunteer training class has 13 participants who will learn all aspects of home gardening, fruit, vegetable and annual growing, botany, soil, lawns and insects. Upon completion the trainees will give back 100 hours of time in the Garden, answering hotline calls, and working with other non-profits on gardening projects.
Garden Day
A wonderful sold out event with 160 attendees! The keynote speaker was Marie Ianotti, a garden writer and former Master Gardener Coordinator. Marie’s newest book, A Gardener’s Tour of the Hudson Valley, served as a vehicle to entice the public with a glimpse into the bounty of our local Hudson Valley Gardens. Sixteen classes and a mini-trade show were presented. This very successful event is organized and expedited by volunteer Master Gardeners who teach at the event, and we are grateful for the support we receive from SUNY Ulster.

‘Invasives’ Paper workshop
This workshop was held in July. Participants learned about current and new emerging invasive plants and insects and then made paper from Japanese Knotweed whirled in a blender together with recycled paper. The finished product was decorated with flowers from honeysuckle and multiflora rose, both extremely invasive in Ulster County. We offer FREE invasive plant or insect ID during our Hotline hours. The Horticulture Hotline is open M-W-F from 9am-12pm March through October and Friday’s only Nov-Feb. We offer walk-in soil pH testing and insect/disease or plant help. The call-in phone number is (845) 340-DIRT.

Learning in the Garden
This FREE to the public series runs every third Saturday from June through October in the award winning Xeriscape Demonstration Garden created and maintained by CCE Master Gardeners at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge. This year’s most popular topic was “Tick Talk” presented by Master Gardener Barb Campbell, who spoke on “ticks” in a way easily understood by the audience. Ticks continue to be a serious Ulster County issue and while the MG program cannot determine if the tick is carrying disease, they do offer tick identification through our Hotline and during MG office hours.
Ashokan Watershed Stream Management

CCEUC delivers education, funding and technical assistance to communities in northwest Ulster County through the AWSMP. The stream program is a collaborative effort funded by the NYC DEP. The program focuses on maintaining healthy and stable stream corridors through promotion of stream and floodplain best management practices and employs three full-time CCE staff and three part-time staff at a field office in Shokan, NY.

Community Education and Outreach
The 2017 Ashokan Watershed Conference was attended by 100 people interested in the theme “Building Sustainable Communities in a Changing Environment.”

Watershed Youth Education
The watershed youth program delivered science programs to over 450 Onteora Central School District elementary students serving Shandaken, Olive and Woodstock in 3 schools. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders in the very popular after-school Watershed Detectives Club created a 20-minute movie entitled “All about Water.” The movie is a wonderful resource for elementary school science teachers, as it aligns directly with science concepts that the students learn in class.
Stream Management Implementation

CCE currently manages 19 contracts totaling $1.7 million awarded to municipalities, non-profits, and government agencies to implement stream projects. Projects cover a range of activities: restoring natural channel stability; up-sizing culverts and bridges to accommodate flood flows; education and training in stream science; studies of sediment and fisheries; community planning to reduce flood hazards. In 2017, CCE administered projects implemented by partners and funded by the NYC DEP to complete:

- Professional training for 11 Town and County officials
- Educational signage and deer fencing for stream buffers at the Catskill Interpretive Center
- Stream bank erosion monitoring at 36 watershed sites to quantify rates of erosion
- Stream temperature monitoring at 120 sites
- Long-term fish survey at 6 sites
- Flood hazard mitigation planning for the hamlets of Boiceville and West Shokan
- Replacement of the Town of Olivebridge on Hillside Drive over the Bushkill stream – the bridge now passes the 100-year return flow.

Professional Trainings

CCE and the Ulster County Department of the Environment coordinated with the Ulster County Board of Realtors to train 58 real estate professionals in floodplain management topics. The trainings took place in May and September and qualified for continuing education credits by the NYS Department of State. This training will again be offered in the spring and fall of 2018.
Healthy Communities

Nutrition

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
A Facebook page was introduced by our new Nutrition Educator, Katiri Hart, in August 2017 and is proving to be a resounding success. An ongoing Wednesday class held here at the CCE office is growing in reputation and attracts men and women alike who are interested in healthy recipes and saving money on their food bills. The EFNEP Facebook page now has over 136 friends. Katiri’s colleague, Janie Greenwald continues to bring nutrition education to individuals and groups, as well as holding Kitchen Classes, covering home food preservation and other topics.

Kitchen Classes
Nutrition educator Janie Greenwald holds monthly Kitchen Classes, a series of diverse classes targeted to individuals interested in refining their kitchen skills and learning various methods of food preservation. In 2017 64 people attended twelve classes.

ServSafe®
Janie also presented monthly ServSafe® classes to food managers interested in receiving certification. Eighteen individuals received their ServSafe® certification in 2017.

542 people attended our classes and workshops in 2017
Eat Smart New York (ESNY)

Nutrition Education is FREE to all individuals who qualify for and/or receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). ESNY provides nutrition education on a variety of topics: healthy eating on a budget, healthy meal planning, smart shopping for fruit and vegetables, food safety skills, weight control and physical activity. Our ESNY nutrition Educator, Katie Sheehan-Lopez, visits sites regularly throughout the year. Katie also worked with a nutrition educator from Dutchess County to advance the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement. Together they assessed ten lunchrooms in the Kingston School district; all schools received a bronze or a silver score.

Live Well Kingston (LWK)

This coalition for health was administered by CCEUC from 2013-2016 in the City of Kingston. By 2017, it had evolved into its own dynamic entity and prior funding had ended. To ensure the sustainability of LWK, and enhance the effectiveness of policy, systems and environmental changes to improve the health and well-being of Kingston residents, the Leadership Team worked to transition LWK to a City Commission. This was achieved in February 2017 when a Resolution to establish LWK as a Commission was passed unanimously by the City of Kingston Common Council. Melinda Herzog, Healthy Communities Program Leader, serves on the LWK Commission, and Katie Sheehan-Lopez, CCEUC’s ESNY Educator, serves as Co-Chair of Eat Well Kingston.
Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)
RAPP assists grandparents and other relative caregivers who have taken on the role of primary caregiver for related children. The youth have access to peer support, a 4-H club, intergenerational activities and other community projects. RAPP serves over 100 families a year through referrals, support groups, and education in parenting/discipline and has approximately 50 active families in the program.

Intergenerational Activities
Throughout the year, caregivers and youth participate in intergenerational activities. These events are designed to help strengthen familial bonds, encouraging families to spend more time together. In October, RAPP participants went to Camp Ramapo in Rhinebeck, New York. They spent the day engaged in activities that promoted team building within the family unit on the pastoral camp grounds that cover more than 100 acres.

RAPP 4-H
Rapp youth have the option to join 4H in the Crafty Clovers who are very active throughout the year and participate in the Ulster County Fair annually. Club members can enter individual projects in areas such a photography, baked goods, sewing and art. Many of the youth projects have earned blue ribbons and their projects have gone on to be exhibited at the state fair.
Teen RAPP
As the youth in RAPP matured, we saw the need for a teen group that would address their specific needs. Teen RAPP consists of youth age 12 and up and meets monthly. Discussion topics focus on the high school experience, development of life skills, human sexuality, preparing for the future, and engaging in community service. This year the youth were involved in reading to young children at the library, and engaged in a resume building seminar and a financial applications workshop. RAPP teens plan to visit a local college campus in the spring to learn about options after high school.

Monthly Support Groups
RAPP offers monthly support group meetings for the adult caregivers in the program. These support groups provide a safe place for participants to discuss issues they may be encountering and it gives them a chance to seek help from their peers. In addition, RAPP staff brings in guest speakers and educators to present on specific topics. The monthly support groups usually begin with a family meal. The youth meet separately after the meal and participate in their own planned activity.
We’d like to thank all of our supporters and donors who have given us the opportunity to continue our work throughout Ulster County in 2017.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Hudson Valley Shared Business Network
2017 Accomplishments

Finance

The HVSBN Regional Finance Manager continued participation on the team to upgrade to the CCE financial software. CCE Administration sub-contracted for her expertise in state-wide financial, ACCPAC and Blackbaud/Financial Edge (FE NXT) user support as well as all facets of FE NXT development and implementation targeted for October 2018. She assisted five Associations in the region with audits by Insero & Co. CPAs, relieving the local staff of many of the tasks needed to complete the audit and leading to clean findings and best practices that are now being carried over to the benefit of all the HVSBN Associations. Improved resources helped to achieve consistency in the region and has led to greater efficiency and understanding. The HVSBN Regional Finance Manager coordinated two state-wide professional development trainings for SBN Finance Leads and also provided an introduction the FE NXT system along with the Western SBN Finance Lead. She continued to provide accounting, software and business process support and guidance to Executive Directors and local finance staff in the HVSBN County Associations, temporary support for vacancies as needed, and participated in recruitment and training of new staff. She supported the seven county region with year-end financial closing in a timely manner with positive compliance reviews by Extension Administration.

IT – Information Technology

The Regional IT Manager continued work on the Windows 10 upgrade / Encryption / Server projects. In addition to these major projects, the Regional IT Manager also continued to provide computer maintenance, hardware management and data rescue and recovery.

Human Resources

The Regional Human Resources Manager helped guide Associations in preparation for the proposed changes in the US DOL’s Fair Labor Standards Act that then did not happen. Alignment to the CCE Enhanced Classification System implemented in 2016 was finalized for all needed positions in the region. Training for supervisors, “Promoting a Positive Work Environment” to reduce harassment was co-presented to both the Hudson Valley and the Greater Capital SBN. In addition to these efforts, the HR Lead continued to provide support with employee issues, HRIS/Payroll transaction processing, resources for Association HR staff to be in compliance and affect organizational strategy.

SBN Administrative Management Group

During 2017, Operating Guidelines and Scope of Services were drafted as part of the proposal for the next three year term for the SBN. Agreements were formalized for portions of the IT and Finance Leads’ time to statewide projects. Functional Leads continued efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the back office operations of Human Resources, Finance and Information Technology to have a positive impact on many facets of the Associations’ programs.
On behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, we’d like to thank you, our many donors, participants and volunteers who so generously devote time, effort, and money each and every year. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities. We provide equal program and employment opportunities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through partnership with Cornell University.

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