

# CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ALBANY COUNTY - 8753

## MISSION STATEMENT

Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County (CCE) puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

## WHO WE SERVE

CCE provides education and training to residents, communities, and businesses throughout Albany County.

## ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

CCE links research-based knowledge to county constituents by providing practical education addressing economic, societal, environmental and agricultural issues and concerns. As an extension of Cornell University, NYS's land grant university, our association exists through joint funding from county, state and federal government partnerships. Programming is designed to meet local needs through community input, delivered through numerous outreach methods including: classes, trainings, workshops, exhibits, outreach events, one-on-one interventions, applied research, resource material distribution, newsletters, certification classes, webinars, teleconferencing, media, volunteer opportunities, etc. All educational offerings align with statewide priorities:

- **Agriculture & Food Systems**- Small & New Farm Trainings, Consumer Horticulture, Master Gardener Volunteers, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Insect & Plant Identification, Soil Testing, Farm Business Management, Niche Market Development, Local Food Initiatives/Farmers' Markets, Agricultural Economic Development, Lawn/Landscape/Forestry/Woodlot Seminars, Agronomy/Field Crops, Dairy, Livestock Production & Marketing, Grass Fed Beef, County Animal Response Team, Agriculture Worker & Safety Trainings, Right to Farm Law, Agriculture District Reviews/Law, Agriculture & Farmland Protection, County Pesticide Committee, Invasive Species Research & Monitoring, Farm Brewery Initiative, Urban Agriculture, Agriculture Recycling.
- **Children, Youth, & Families**- 4-H Youth Development, After-School Programs, Summer Scene Day Camp, Youth Worker Training, District Attorney's Youth Advisory Board, Strengthening Families, Teacher Trainings, Agriculture in the Classroom, Family Farm Day, Shooting Sports, Dog Obedience/Agility, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), Financial Management Education, Workforce Development, Emergency Preparedness.
- **Environment, Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, & Climate Change**- Rain Gardens, Albany County Water Quality Committee, Composting, Agricultural Environmental Management, IPM & Pesticide Certification Training, Rural Land Use Issues, Indoor Air Quality, Radon Prevention, EPA Renovators Certification Lead Education & Training, Healthy Homes, Youth Environmental Programs, Cooling Initiatives, Energy Conservation, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).
- **Nutrition, Food Safety & Security, & Obesity Prevention**- Women's Health Issues, Chronic Disease Prevention, Nutrition Classes, Obesity Prevention, Senior Nutrition, Food Preservation, Food Safety, Hudson River Fish Advisory, and Regional SNAP-Ed.

## 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- CCE educators with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program continue to visit more than 500 homes annually, teaching approximately 1,500 residents how to improve their living environment and their health. Working closely with the Albany County Department of Health, a major focus has been helping people control asthma.
- CCE continued to inform thousands of individuals annually about radon exposure and how to avoid its serious health effects. Radon awareness education was provided via health fairs, workshops, displays, and in-home visits. In addition, hundreds of radon test kits were supplied free for residents to test their home.
- More than 1,600 urban youth were educated at 23 sites in Albany County on topics related to environmental sustainability, recycling, composting, reducing the carbon footprint, water conservation, and healthy lifestyles.
- The Albany Youth Community Action Network collaborated with the Arbor Hill Community Center and Ezra Prentice Homes to provide opportunities for teens to develop their leadership skills through civic engagement and community service projects.

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- One hundred six youth participated in the 45<sup>th</sup> annual 4-H Summer Scene day camp at Ridgefield Park in the city of Albany, with 45 counselors employed at the site through the Albany Summer Youth Employment Program.
- More than 300 youth are currently enrolled in 4-H club programming, with 70 volunteers providing their time and expertise to help these young people grow into caring, productive citizens.
- Over 725 youth in grades 2-4 from nine City of Albany schools attended educational programs at the City of Albany Normanskill Farm. CCE coordinates the event annually with six staff members and three interns teaching at the various educational stations. Meeting the farm animals and learning where their food comes from, along with bees, nutrition and blacksmithing were topics of interest for the students and teachers.
- The Grassfed Exchange Conference, hosted by CCE at the Desmond Hotel, had 510 producers in attendance from 40 states and seven countries. The conference featured national grass-fed industry speakers and showcased a variety of cattle as well as local grilled grass-fed beef.
- As a result of attending the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Green up Conference 100 participants learned about mob grazing, marketing strategies, multi-species grazing, and New York State USDA slaughterhouse survey data.
- Farmers and engineers educated over 90 producers in a Managing Dairy Manure Systems workshop that featured topics on separating sand and solids, draglines, hauling storages, pumping and satellite lagoons.
- The Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, an agriculture advisory board, and a private consultant are working to complete the Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. Economic development centered on agriculture is the key component of the plan to be released by the end of the year.
- One hundred nine Master Gardener volunteers contributed over 6,200 hours of their time answering consumer calls, conducting soil tests, initiating garden-based learning projects and attending farmers markets and other public events to educate the public about sustainable gardening, invasive species and a host of other topics. This equates to more than \$148,000 in volunteer outreach and education.
- Interactive community nutrition programs featuring topics such as weight management, reducing food waste, Mediterranean cooking, going green/saving money in the kitchen, heart health, safe home food preservation, and healthy cooking classes were delivered in 62 locations throughout Albany County and served over 1,600 residents.
- CCE staff assisted more than 2,700 Albany County households in applying for HEAP benefits and linked them to many additional educational opportunities offered through CCE including: Eat Smart New York (ESNY), Financial Education, Emergency Preparedness, 4-H Youth Development, and the Healthy Neighborhoods program.
- CCE is bringing New York State Department of Health Hudson River Fish Advisory education to the most vulnerable county residents and has focused on refugee and immigrant community centers for information distribution.
- Over 36 financial literacy programs were provided, in collaboration with community-based organizations, reaching over 400 participants through a variety of workshops including basic budgeting and credit/debt management.

## **2019 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

- CCE will play an active role collaborating with dozens of organizations in a regional approach to make residents and their homes healthier through the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). Families will receive a comprehensive housing assessment, education, and housing improvements focusing on energy efficiencies, lead paint controls, and asthma trigger elimination.
- More than 100 landlords, code officials, maintenance workers, and residents will learn the latest rodent exclusion methods to help reduce pests in homes through IPM (Integrated Pest Management) trainings.

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- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Farm Day will educate the public about the importance of agriculture in Albany County. Guided tours of a local beef farm, exhibits, and a children’s educational area will offer hands-on learning opportunities for participants to help them recognize where their food comes from and how the environment plays a role in sustaining our food supply.
- A pilot mentoring program will be explored, targeting Albany County youth with a specific focus on urban areas.
- After participating in a research study focusing on the impact of intergenerational programming, the 4-H program will include opportunities for young people to learn from their elders and provide a positive and safe environment for interaction and inclusion.
- Additional educational opportunities will be offered in STEM-based programming to the youth of Albany County featuring animal science, environmental education, and on-line app development for children of all ages.
- Educators will continue their partnership with the New York State Department of Health and will expand delivery sites to provide Hudson River Fish Advisory information to Albany County residents, anglers and consumers.
- An increased quality, availability, and effectiveness of community-based educational programs to improve the nutritional health of residents will continue to be offered.

## SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2019 Executive Budget for CCE does not include substantive change.

**Family Farm Day...** was held at Stanton’s Dairy Farm in Coeyman’s Hollow and hosted over 750 attendees from the Capital Region and three neighboring states. Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County partnered with local agencies to educate consumers on the importance of agriculture, what it is like to be on a modern working farm, as well as how farmers care for the environment and their animals. Over 50 volunteers worked at various stations throughout the farm explaining specific topics like animal welfare, farm equipment, agricultural technology, and manure management. This event highlighted the importance of working landscapes in Albany County, how agriculture positively affects our communities, and how food makes its way from the farm to the consumer’s plate.

			2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2019	2019
A8753 Cornell Cooperative Extension			Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
<b>Contractual Expenses</b>									
A 8753 44476	Cooperative Ext Serv Assoc				\$1,001,827	\$1,077,623	\$1,077,623	\$1,094,244	\$0
A 8753 44480	Weatherization				\$86,490	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal for: Contractual Expenses</b>					<b>\$1,088,317</b>	<b>\$1,077,623</b>	<b>\$1,077,623</b>	<b>\$1,094,244</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>					<b>\$1,088,317</b>	<b>\$1,077,623</b>	<b>\$1,077,623</b>	<b>\$1,094,244</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Revenue</b>									
A8753	02418	Rent Cooperative Extension			(\$246,552)	(\$246,552)	(\$246,552)	(\$246,552)	\$0
A8753	04950	Weatherization			(\$86,490)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue</b>					<b>(\$333,042)</b>	<b>(\$246,552)</b>	<b>(\$246,552)</b>	<b>(\$246,552)</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>County Share</b>					<b>\$755,275</b>	<b>\$831,071</b>	<b>\$831,071</b>	<b>\$847,692</b>	<b>\$0</b>