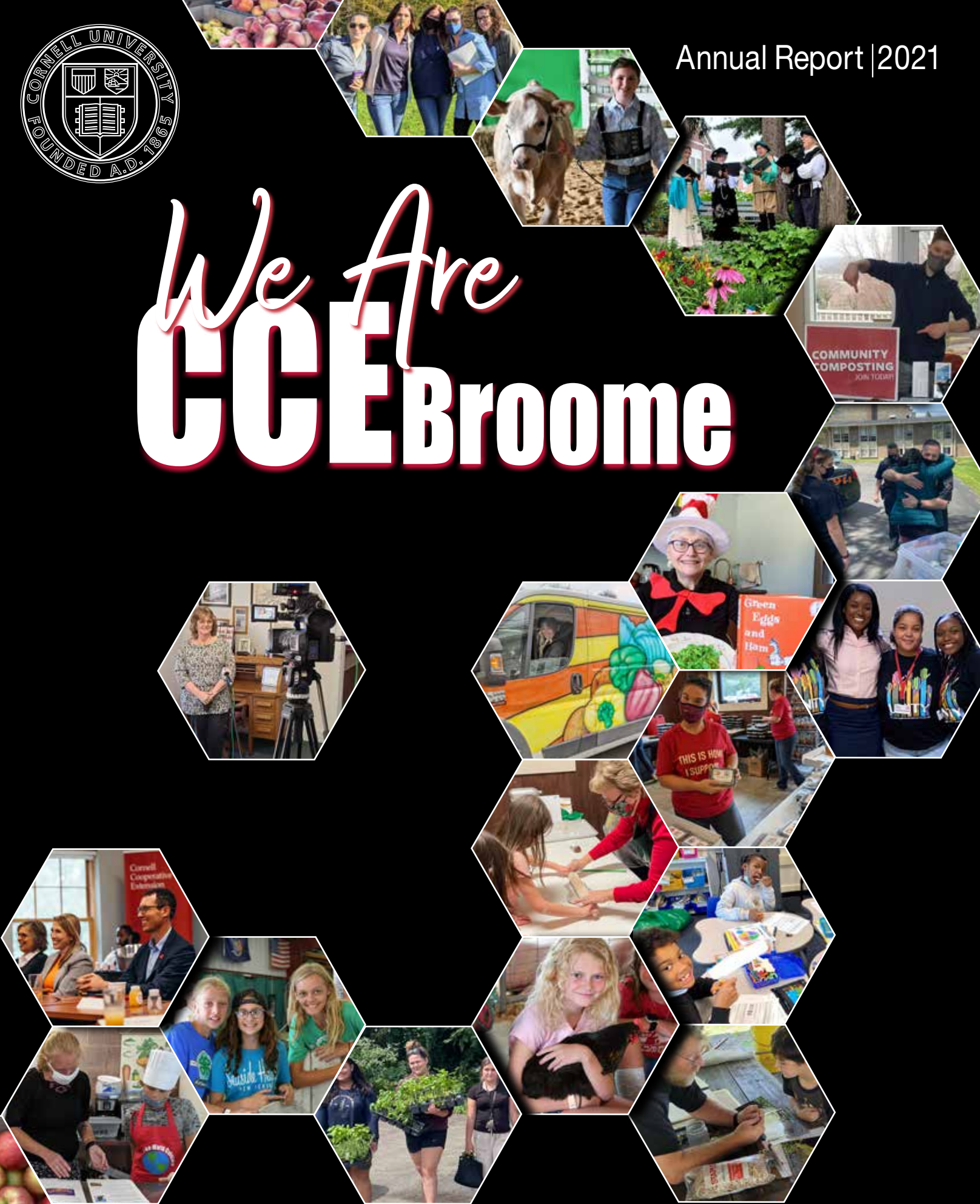


We Are CCE Broome





Cornell University created its first agricultural extension program in 1894, distinguishing it as the nation's longest continuously operating Extension program. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County was established in 1911 and is recognized as the nation's first Extension office.

Today, CCE Broome County is part of Cooperative Extension's statewide network of agriculture, nutrition, environment, 4-H youth and community development teams.

CCE Broome's educators are recognized as innovators, applying Cornell University's cutting-edge research to ensure our programs serve all of Broome County and all residents benefit and thrive.

Photo by Dave Burbank, courtesy of Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

We Are CCE Broome



**Agriculture and Agribusiness • Horticulture • Environment • 4-H Youth Development
Nutrition • Workforce and Community Development**

Director's Message



Throughout 2021, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County's entire team pivoted, got creative and delivered new, innovative programs to meet the many challenges of the pandemic and assist the community in recovering from the pandemic. Our Agriculture and Agribusiness, Horticulture, Nutrition, Environment, 4-H Youth Development, Workforce Development and Parent Education teams developed new ways to deliver research-based, high-quality programming both virtually and in-person while adhering to all NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets and CDC safety procedures.

We Are CCE Broome, the theme of our Annual Report, shines a spotlight how our entire team—supported by our networks of volunteers, farmers, community organizations, schools, businesses and government leaders—responded to the challenges facing the community with innovative, creative programming.

In 2021, the Broome County Regional Farmers Market celebrated its five-year anniversary. Since opening in 2016, the number of Farmers Market vendors has grown to more than 45 agribusinesses. Adhering to its mission to support Broome County farmers and address food insecurity, the Farmers Market operated multiple nutrition incentive programs during 2021 to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables for food insecure families. Throughout 2021, the Farmers Market partnered with Binghamton Food Rescue to connect our Market vendors with a way to donate their produce and distribute these farm-fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries and those most in need.

CCE Broome's Ag in the Classroom team reached 8,968 elementary and 106 middle school students in 14 school districts in Broome, Chenango and Tioga counties—and took 1,800 students on *live*, virtual tours at three local farms from the safety of their classrooms. Our Nutrition team delivered virtual and in-person programs throughout the county to improve the nutrition and well-being of our most vulnerable communities. Nutrition partnered with New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Broome-Tioga BOCES and CHOW on the Holiday Giving Box project and helped feed nearly 200 food insecure families during the holidays. The 4-H Youth Development team launched its new 4-H SPARK Club so that youth, 5-18 years old, would have a place to belong, explore hands-on activities and discover their sparks. The 4-H SPARK Club offered over 35 different topic areas events and became a place for youth to belong, discover a sense of purpose and thrive during a difficult and stressful year for many young people. With the return of funding for 4-H RootED, we partnered with Binghamton City School District to provide innovative, afterschool STEAM programming in each of Binghamton's seven elementary schools. We provided parents and their children with engaging, hands-on classes at the 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow and the Broome County Parks through Weeks Without Walls: An Outdoor Learning Adventure. We worked with the Town of Union, United Way of Broome County and Broome County Dept. of Social Services to assist parents suffering from unemployment and other issues associated with the pandemic. Through our partnership with Broome-Tioga Workforce NY, our workforce development program, CareerBound, we supported out-of-school young adults in achieving self-sufficiency, securing employment and realizing their goals. Recognizing all COVID and food safety guidelines, we re-vamped our premier fundraiser, the Fresh Food Face Off, into a successful drive-through event.

All of our accomplishments in 2021 would not be possible without the support Broome County Government. We are grateful for Broome County's contribution to CCE Broome, their recognition of the value of our association and the role we play in the community. We are honored by the support CCE Broome receives through our partnerships with NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, New York Farm Bureau, Farmers Market Federation of NY, Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Broome County, Broome County Health Department, Rural Health Network of South Central NY, Visions Federal Credit Union and NBT Bank. And we are very grateful to our Board of Directors for their dedicated service.

We encourage you to discover and participate in all that is We Are CCE Broome. Please consider shopping at one of our Taste NY locations or the Broome County Regional Farmers Market, spend time in our beautiful Cutler Botanical Garden, or participate in one of the many events and classes that comprise We Are CCE Broome. We hope you will explore our website, connect with us through Facebook and Instagram, or give us a call. We look forward to your visit to our Front Street campus soon.

Beth Roberts

Beth Roberts
Executive Director

2021 Board of Directors

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County

Cornell Cooperative Extension believes in shared leadership through locally elected Boards of Directors and active program development committees. Cornell Cooperative Extension applies research from Cornell University to strategically develop and implement programs to meet county priorities and critical community issues.

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Vice President, Chemung Trust
 Whitney Point

KATHARINE ELLIS, Vice President
Senior Director for Communications and Marketing,
Binghamton University
 Vestal

SHELI O'HARA, Secretary
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District
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SCOTT BAKER
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CINDY O'BRIEN
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Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University
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IT Director, Broome County Government
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Center
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REBECCA HARRIS
Contract Specialist, Broome-Tioga Workforce NY
 Binghamton

FRANCIS KIRK
Retired Anesthesiologist, Master Gardener
 Binghamton

MICHAEL OLIN
Service Manager, Chenango Supply
 Hurlpursville

PETER REYNOLDS
Owner/Operator, McRey Farm
 Glen Aubrey

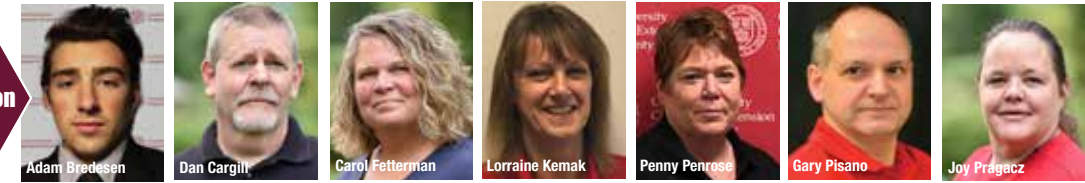
KELLYANNE TRUESDALE
Assistant Vice-President and Business Banking Officer, NBT
Bank
 Chenango Forks

JAMES WARD
Attorney, Law Offices of James D. Ward
 Vestal

JUDI WHITTAKER
Co-owner, Whittaker Dairy Farm
 Whitney Point



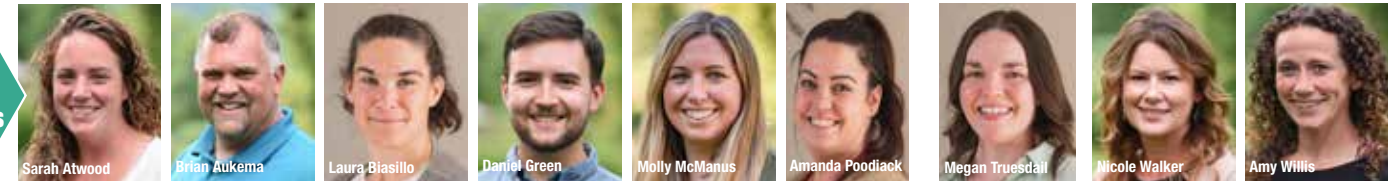
Administration



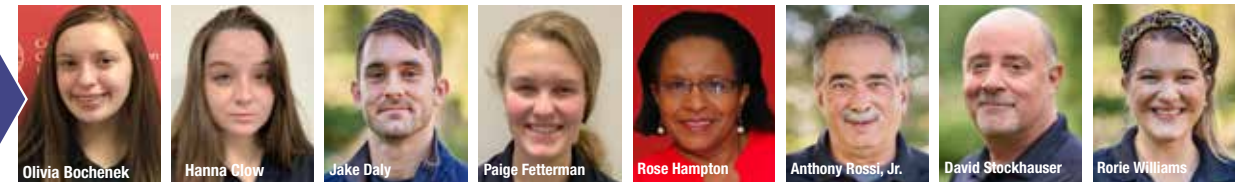
We Are CCE Broome



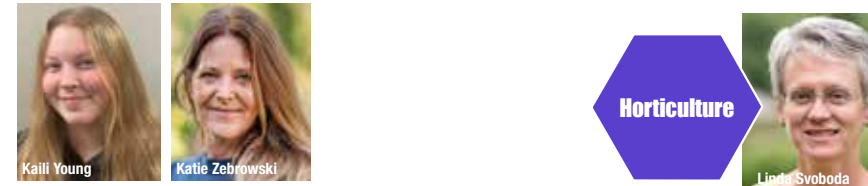
Agriculture and Agribusiness



TASTE NY



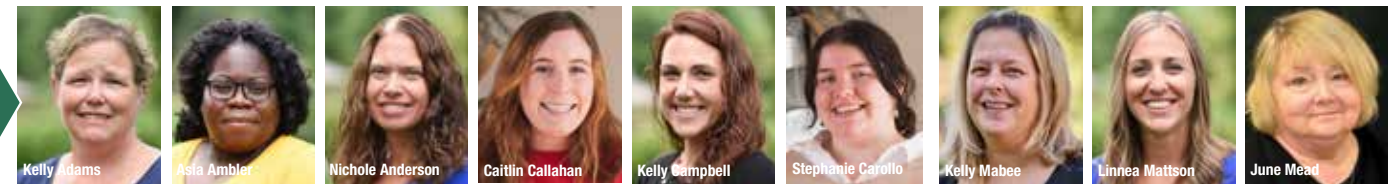
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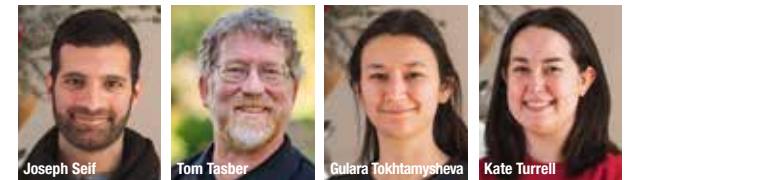
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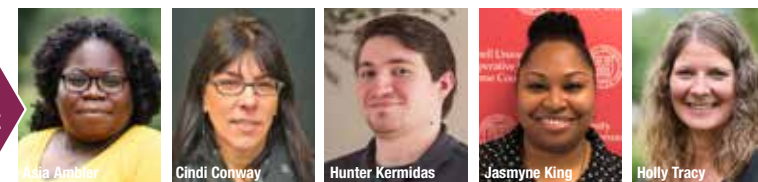
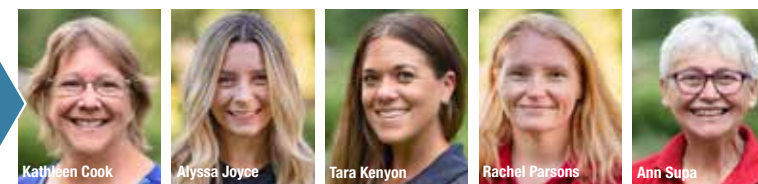
4-H Youth Development



Nutrition Education



Community Development



Finance Overview

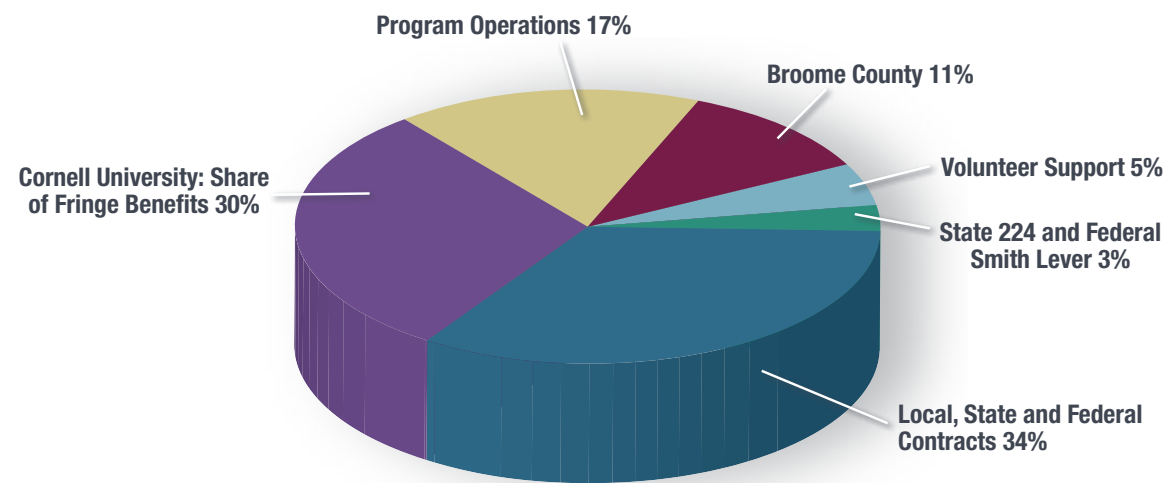
2021 Financial Support/Funding Sources

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County leverages Broome County tax dollars to benefit the county's economic vitality and invest in the well-being of its residents

In 2021, it is estimated that each dollar of county funding to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County will be matched by \$7.74 in additional financial, volunteer and Cornell University fringe benefit cost share resources. CCE Broome County's fiscal year ends December 31. Because this report is prepared prior to the fiscal year end, this graph does not represent the actual revenue for 2021. It is based on the estimated 2021 budget.

2021 FUNDING SOURCES

- 34% Local, State and Federal Contracts**—Direct program delivery
- 30% Cornell University: Share of Fringe Benefits**—Direct program delivery (includes donations, user fees, interest earnings and transfers)
- 17% Program Operations**—Direct program delivery (includes donations, user fees, interest earnings and transfers)
- 11% Broome County**—Operations and direct program delivery
- 5% Volunteer Support**—207 volunteers donate over 7,842.5 hours of time and expertise valued at \$193,631
- 3% State 224 and Federal Smith Lever Funds**—Direct program delivery



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The association is part of the national Cooperative Extension System, an educational partnership between County, State and Federal governments. As New York's land grant university, Cornell administers the system in this state. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer that is governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located as well as state and national goals.

Cornell Cooperative Extension actively supports equal educational and employment opportunities. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender/gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. Cornell Cooperative Extension is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.



Agriculture and Agribusiness

Broome County Regional Farmers Market and Commercial Kitchen

In 2021, the Broome County Regional Farmers Market celebrated its five-year anniversary. Since opening in 2016, the number of Farmers Market vendors has grown to more than 45 agribusinesses. The Farmers Market continues to inspire and support new vendors, host community events and provide a venue for local agriculture, as food safety and supply chain issues from the pandemic plague the nation.

Partnerships with organizations, such as Binghamton Food Rescue, allowed the Farmers Market to donate farm fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries. Through programs, such as Double Up Food Bucks in partnership with the Field and Fork Network and the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program (FVRx) in partnership with the Food and Health Network, the Market played a role in impacting food insecurity and increasing food access.

Relationships took center stage at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market, helping connect local farmers and consumers. As Becca Rimmel, Bottomland Farm, explains:

The Regional Farmers Market has allowed us to build lasting relationships with customers that we otherwise wouldn't have. This direct connection not only means direct sales of our products, but also assists us in better understanding what our customers want. Without the Market, our farm would look completely different today.

Cortez and Blair Campbell, JuUice Juicery, say that the Farmers Market has given them the opportunity to have a footprint in the community. As one of the Market's newest vendors, JuUice Juicery uses organic fruits and vegetables to introduce their innovative fresh squeezed juices to the community. Cortez says that the resources, mentorship and guidance from the CCE Broome team have been integral to their growth.

In addition, the Commercial Kitchen at the Farmers Market is an essential resource, providing vendors with a safe and clean area to prepare their goods for sale. As Laura Kuhnen of Rainbow's End Desserts explains, "Access to the Commercial Kitchen has made everything so much easier—and cleaner, so important during the pandemic."

Owner of New Leaf Cide Company, Dustin Beagell says, "The Market really helped us survive. We have made it through the pandemic without people having a safe place like the Farmers Market to shop locally."





Taste NY

As the pandemic continued throughout 2021, Taste NY Broome County remained a source for local small businesses to sell their products throughout New York. With continued support from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Taste NY network continues to be a source of education for consumers and a resource to agribusinesses throughout Broome County.

Body Delights by LizAnn, owned by LizAnn McEwen, is a small bath and body business that got its start at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market. Soon, LizAnn's products began selling off the shelves at the Taste NY Front Street location and expanded to Taste NY at the Southern Tier Welcome Center.

As LizAnn explains, "Selling my products directly at the Taste NY locations have given me a level of visibility that money can't buy. I have been receiving online orders from all over the country because of people stopping in and trying my products at Taste NY. I have also received large wholesale orders from a local distributor recommended to me by the Taste NY team from CCE Broome. I have been able to breathe financially during this time of uncertainty and provide for my family. It has been a life changing experience. I'm very grateful to the Taste team."

Another Broome County Regional Farmers Market vendor who grew into becoming a successful Taste NY vendor is Bespoke Apothecary. April Hart, owner of Bespoke, attributes a large measure of her business's success to being a vendor at the Farmers Market. Today, the Taste NY location on Front Street in Binghamton has customers continuously coming in and asking for her products. After showing such success at the Front Street location, Bespoke



products are now found at the Southern Tier Welcome Center location.

As April explains, “After a trying year in 2020, we were thrilled to not only have the opportunity to continue to stock the Broome County Taste NY location, but to expand to the Taste NY store at the Southern Tier Welcome Center—and to the Hudson Valley/Catskills location, serving Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. We will be forever grateful for all that CCE Broome has done for us.”



Supporting New and Beginning Farmers

Since he first started working on his grandfather's dairy farm, Connor Gehl knew what he wanted to do. After graduating from SUNY Cobleskill in 2020 with a degree in dairy production and management, Connor began working on several local dairy farms. He soon realized he wanted to own his own dairy farm. But as a young farmer just starting out on his own, Connor soon encountered many challenges.

Farmland for a New Generation New York supports a network of Regional Navigators, or partner organizations, that provide training and customized support for new farmers and landowners across New York. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County is the Regional Navigator for the Southern Tier—and became a resource for Connor on his journey.

Today, Connor is leasing nearly 75 acres in Broome County, and hopes to expand to 180 acres to grow wheat, hay and corn by the end of 2022. Leasing is the arrangement he chose while he continues to look for the best location for his dairy farm. CCE Broome County, as Connor's Regional Navigator, connected him with a non-farming landowner looking to keep her land in production. CCE Broome supported both Connor and the landowner in the leasing process by providing sample leases and education about the essential components of leasing. Leasing, as opposed to buying, has enabled Connor to gain a footing in growing and marketing his crops without the necessary, and expensive, cash outlay required for a land purchase. Connor's dream is to own a dairy farm with 250 cows, utilizing robotic milkers.

Finding suitable land took Connor around six months. It started with the creation of his profile on the NYFarmlandFinder website to find land tailored to his needs, in terms of location, lease arrangements and allowed agricultural activities. He was able to find multiple parcels that fit his needs. Connor found it

heartening to learn that landowners are seeking out new/beginning, young farmers to keep their land in production for generations to come.

Connor has also engaged with multiple service providers in his farming journey. In addition to working with CCE Broome County's Agriculture Team and the Regional Navigator to find available land, Connor received a Beginning Farmer loan from the USDA Farm Service Agency to purchase his tractor and other equipment. CCE Broome connected Connor to the South Central New York Dairy & Field Crops team from Cornell University to support him in learning how to increase his profitability in field crop production. Tying together a support network is what Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Regional Navigator program are all about.

Looking ahead, Connor's next challenges will be to find the additional land he needs in order to increase production—and purchase another tractor. Currently he is exploring the idea of finding a grain bin to store the harvested grains until they can be sold to a grain mill. Growing grains for a mill is somewhat uncommon in the Southern Tier, but much more common in the Finger Lakes region. Connor plans to network with these grain mills to better understand market demand and appropriate varieties for the Southern Tier. According to Connor, his next challenge will be to explore supply chain costs and how to control costs by pre-purchasing items, such as fertilizers.





4-County Farm Trail

Agriculture is a major part of New York's economy. Today New York farms employ 55,363 people and generates over \$5.75 billion in revenue. There are 33,438 farms in New York with 6,866,171 acres in production. In Broome, Tioga, Cortland and Chenango Counties there are 2,355 farms that generate over \$210 million in direct economic impact.

In October 2021, CCE Broome, Chenango, Tioga and Cortland Counties partnered with NYS Senators Fred Akshar (52nd district) and Peter Oberacker (51st district) to promote local agriculture and bring awareness of agriculture in our communities, by hosting the 4-County Farm Trail. The Farm Trail is an opportunity for families to learn about the importance of local agriculture and sample the wealth of farm-fresh goods produced in the region.

Fourteen Farms participated in the 2021 4-County Farm Trail: Country Wagon Produce, JADA Hill Goat Farm, Edwards Petting Farm, Hust Roost Farm, Peila View Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch, Deja Moo, CCE Tioga's Next Generation Community Farm, Trinity Valley Farm, Tartan Acres LLC, Villnave Family Farm, Main Street Farm, Iron Kettle Farm, Side Hill Acres and Apple Hills.

Over 2,000 people attended the 2021 4-County Farm Trail. Participating farms sold over \$25,000 in local products during the two-day event, accounting for over \$175,000 in local economic impact. Visitors to local farms picked apples, tasted local products, witnessed the birth of baby calf, saw fiber spinning, visited corn mazes, watched cows being milked by robots, learned how vegetables are grown and got to go "behind the scenes" at the participating farms.



Farm to School

CCE Broome's Farm to School program is a collaboration between Broome-Tioga BOCES Rock on Café and the Food and Health Network of the Rural Health Network of South Central NY. The Farm to School program supports local farms, strengthens regional food systems, connects members of the community through food and farming and provides fresh, local, healthy lunches to students so that they can learn, engage with the environment and develop lifelong healthy lifestyles.

CCE Broome's team of Nutrition Educators helps develop nutritious recipes and conduct taste tests to gather student feedback about the success of adding new recipes to the NY Thursday menus, an event that takes place twice a month in each of the 15 school districts in Broome-Tioga BOCES. The NY Thursday meals feature seasonal NYS foods, prepared by the Rock on Café Food Service Program, a service of Broome Tioga BOCES. In addition, the Nutrition team collaborates with CCE Broome's Ag in the Classroom to connect classroom activities and lessons to the Farm to School and NY Thursday menus.

Each year, new recipes are developed and tested in area schools to determine if they will be successful menu items. These events are called 'taste tests' and occur twice per year at each of the school districts, resulting in 30 taste tests each year at the elementary, middle, and high schools to collect data on students' assessment of the recipes.

Taste testing in 2021 was challenging due to COVID. Nevertheless, CCE Broome's Farm to School program developed nine new NY Thursday recipes and taste tested them with over 235 students. New recipes included Parmesan Roasted Cauliflower, Buffalo Cauliflower, Buffalo Brussel Sprouts, Roasted Maple Carrots and Brussels, Vegetable Lo Mein, Herb Potato Salad, Pasta Fagioli, Harvest Parfait and a Sunshine Bar. The results of the taste tests showed that 84% of students grades K-6 liked or loved the Parmesan Roasted Cauliflower, 79% of students K-8 liked or loved the Buffalo Roasted Cauliflower, and 73% of students K-5 liked or loved the Herb Potato Salad.

In addition, CCE Broome's Farm to School program developed a video series to educate the community about Farm to School and encourage more participation in school meals. Filming began in the spring with visits to local Farm to School farms such as Catskill Cattle and Russell Farm, using footage from NY Thursday taste tests, local produce and dairy farms Headwater Food Hub, Upstate Farms and Whittaker Dairy Farm and the NY Animal Agriculture Coalition. The first video was released in October 2021 to coincide with National Farm to School Month. See: <http://ccebroomecounty.com/nutrition/farm-to-school-program>





4-H Livestock Program

As the landscape of agriculture continues to evolve, the average age of the farmer now approaches 60 years old, making efforts to prepare tomorrow's farmers vitally important.

CCE Broome's 4-H Livestock Program provides an innovative way to build agricultural workforce readiness skills. Youth learn about local food systems, business planning and development, budgeting, animal care, genetics, consumer needs and marketing.

Brycen Aukema, 13 years old, is part of the 4-H Livestock program and a member of the 4-H Explorers Club. Brycen's love of agriculture began as he worked on his grandparent's dairy farm. There he developed a love of animals and all things agriculture, and began learning the basics of animal care by feeding and working with the dairy calves. Slowly grew into learning to feed and milk the cows. By the time his grandparents retired, Brycen had developed a love of agriculture and sparked his very own 4-H project.

Through his participation in the 4-H Livestock Program Brycen gained exposure to sheep and decided he would like to raise a 4-H market lamb. Brycen managed to purchase his first market lamb with help from the 4-H Flex Spending Scholarship.

Since raising his first market lamb, Brycen researched various breeds of sheep and determined that Suffolk sheep were best for market and showing. Brycen and his family traveled across the state and he was able to purchase four new ewes and a ram that would be sure to increase the genetics of his national quality sheep. Brycen began building his Suffolk sheep flock by purchasing two pregnant ewes from a breeder. The two ewes allowed him to learn and practice the skills needed, such as proper shearing, hoof trimming and nutrition.

Realizing that he had discovered a passion for agriculture is his passion, Brycen changed schools to attend a school with an FFA program, a well-known organization that prepares

young people for careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture, and became the FFA Sentinel while only in 7th grade. He completed his Supervised Agricultural Experience in sheep production and he was able to write a grant to National FFA where he was one of four youth in NYS awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for his project.

During 2021, Brycen focused on developing sheep knowledge and skills, participated in youth shows and clinics in other areas of the state and brought what he had learned back to Broome County by teaching at the 4-H Livestock Clinics. During the Broome County Fair in Whitney Point, Brycen had a chance to share in his passion for sheep raising. He made his sheep available for showmanship classes and showed his sheep for the first time. Brycen plans to continue with the 4-H livestock program and has future plans to sell his sheep to other breeders and 4-H members.



Ag in the Classroom

In response to the challenges of the pandemic, Agriculture (Ag) in the Classroom educators needed to pivot, be innovative and create new online teaching strategies.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Ag in the Classroom (AITC) reached 8,968 elementary and 106 middle school students in 14 school districts in Broome, Chenango and Tioga counties. Each elementary school received 70 hours of programming or a total of 140 30-minute lessons. Windsor Middle School received 180 days of 45-minute lessons.

Typically, classrooms throughout the Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties would take field trips to Winsor Acres in Harpursville, Broome County's largest family owned and operated dairy farm. Students would tour the farm, learn how a farm operates and get to sample the dairy's delicious products. The challenge for 2021 became how to bring the field trip experience to remote/virtual learning. CCE Broome County's Ag in the Classroom team got creative and hosted a series of live virtual field trips in which approximately 1,800 students took part.

The first virtual field trip was to Trinity Valley Farm, East Homer. Over 1,300 elementary students from Broome, Chenango and Tioga counties—including students from Chenango Forks, Chenango Valley, Bainbridge Guilford, Johnson City, Newark Valley, Susquehanna Valley, Union Endicott, Whitney Point and Windsor—participated in Ag in the Classroom's virtual field trip.

Students learned how dairy farms have integrated technology into their cow care and milk production for efficiency. They learned how cows sleep on mattresses, have brushes to scratch themselves on and how robotic milking machines are used to milk the cows. Prior to the field trip the Ag in the Classroom team provided each classroom with a half gallon of whole or chocolate milk to enjoy at the end of their virtual visit.

A HUGE thank you to Trinity Valley Farm and Cornell Cooperative Extension for the lovely virtual field trip today. You did a wonderful job keeping my kindergartners engaged, and making it feel as if we were on the farm. The chocolate milk received two thumbs up! Kindergarten teacher, Windsor

CCE Broome's Ag in the Classroom program hosted a second virtual field trip to Whittaker Farms LLC, Whitney Point for 550 elementary students from Vestal Central School. Whittaker Farms is a family owned and operated dairy farm, with a large milking parlor and a robotic feeding system for their calves. Students toured the farm, got to visit where the workers milk the cows and where cows, who are calving, get to rest on comfy beds before delivering their babies. Prior to the virtual field trip, each classroom was given freshly made cheese curds, as a way to connect the dairy farm to a lesson about food production.

Thank you for opening up c to our class! We would have loved to be there in person but this is the next best thing. We love Ag in the Classroom. 2nd grade teacher, Vestal



In October, the Ag in the Classroom team took 3,063 students on a virtual field trip to Apple Hills Farm to learn about the operations of an apple farm. This field trip to Apple Hills was made possible through a partnership with schools participating in Broome-Tioga BOCES Rock on Café, Food & Health Network and CCE Broome County. Apple Hills is owned and operated by Dave and Joy Johnson.

Classrooms were able to virtually tour the apple farm, learn how to tell when apples are ready for harvest, how to correctly pick apples, how apples are sorted and made ready for purchase. Prior to the virtual field trip, 60 classrooms received apples from Apple Hills so that students could participate in an “apple crunch” at the end of the tour. In addition, students received gift certificates from Apple Hills for fresh donuts in the Apple Hills Café.

The visit to Apple Hills was a wonderful experience! We really appreciate the benefit of “touring” somewhere local without the constraints and complications of trying to do multiple field trips. Another bonus is because it is a local business. Students can go and experience Apple Hills with their families at another time. We appreciated the apples to taste and the coupons so that parents could learn about the apple farm we “toured”. These real-life experiences are very valuable to our learning in the classroom. It is an added benefit to our Cornell Cooperative Extension visits and enhances the learning with do with those fantastic people! Kindergarten teacher, Maine Memorial.



South Central New York Dairy & Field Crops

Cornell Cooperative Extension’s South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops (SCNYD&FC) team provides educational opportunities and technical assistance to assist agricultural producers with emerging issues, production bottlenecks and new technologies. The SCNYD&FC’s primary audiences are dairy and field crop producers as well as agri-service providers with secondary audiences of the media, non-farm residents and consumers to improve farm profitability, since farm financial success is a key to maintaining a viable dairy and field crops industry.

The coronavirus pandemic brought unprecedented challenges and uncertainty to agriculture. One of the strengths of the SCNYD&FC program is its ability to respond quickly to emerging issues and develop educational programming that address evolving industry needs. The SCNYD&FC team’s actions, presentations and seminars continually illustrate their adaptability and responsiveness to the needs of Broome County farmers. Take for example, the SCNYD&FC team’s efforts to create a new podcast series to expand virtual learning capabilities.

Podcasts are one of the fastest growing forms of communication, especially with younger producers. However, this format is relatively new to CCE dairy educators. Due to issues associated with the pandemic, many producers and educators were motivated to learn about the technology of doing podcasts in order to have the skills needed to offer this format to younger farm audiences, as well as established farmers.



Since the pandemic limited gatherings of people for workshops this offered an opportunity for SCNYD&FC team, partnering with CCE educators from across the region to work together to create a new podcast series entitled, Dialing into Your Best Dairy. Initially there were eight episodes in the series, focusing on strategies and best practices that high performing herds use to be successful. The series soon expanded to 16 episodes. The dairy educators worked together to create content, record, edit each recording and produce each episode. SoundCloud hosts the podcasts and are shared via Cornell PRO-DAIRY’s e-leader email list, as well as in team blog posts, and newsletters.

Between SoundCloud and YouTube, there have been over 3,400 plays through the fall of 2021. Hoard’s Dairyman Intel, a weekly e-newsletter, has featured the podcasts in several different articles. Hoard’s reaches several thousand people weekly across the nation, and has highlighted many of the SCNYD&FC team’s episodes.

The success of these efforts resulted from the collaboration of Kathy Barrett & Rob Lynch, Cornell PRO-DAIRY; Lindsay Ferlito & Casey Havekes, CCE NCRAT; Alycia Drwencke, CCE SWNY DLFC Team; Dave Balbian, CCE CNY DLFC, Melanie Palmer and Betsy Hicks, CCE SCNYD&FC and Margaret Quassdorff, CCE NWNYS DLFC Programs.

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Much Ado in the Garden

In July, Much Ado in the Garden, a Shakespearean-themed festival, returned to the Cutler Botanic Garden and the CCE Broome campus. The festival is a collaboration between the Binghamton Shakespeare Club, Whitney Point Shakespeare Club and Master Gardener Volunteers. A scavenger hunt activity to find plants mentioned in Shakespeare's works introduced visitors to the diversity of the garden. Costumed actors and musicians performed throughout the garden, and vendors sold refreshments. Despite somewhat inclement weather, an estimated 350 adults and children attended. Funding for the festival was provided in part by a grant from the Broome County Arts Council United Cultural Fund.

Invasive species discovered in Broome County: Horticulture's response

The Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect, first discovered in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2014, was detected in Broome County in 2021. The species is a threat to a number of New York crops; grapes, apples and hops are particularly threatened.

CCE Broome County was alerted to the infestation by NYS Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in September. Partnering with NYS IPM, NYS Department of Ag and Markets and the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), information about the Spotted Lanternfly was shared with county leaders and a public awareness campaign was begun. Postcards were mailed to all residents within a one-mile radius of the initial outbreak, and information about the Spotted Lanternfly was shared with Broome County Parks Department, VINES, Waterman Conservation Education Center, 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow, widely through CCE Broome's community partners and social media, and at Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally.



Horticulture

Throughout 2021, Cutler Botanic Garden saw a marked increase in visitors as it became a refuge for exercise, fresh air, sunshine and the therapeutic benefits of nature. Maintained by CCE Broome County and 82 Master Gardener Volunteers, the 3.5 acre demonstration garden thrived as tourist destination, a venue for weddings, prom pictures and other celebrations.

During 2021, the Master Gardeners contributed over 6,000 hours of service and the broader community with an estimated value of more than \$171,000. Fruits and vegetables harvested by the Master Gardeners from the Cutler Botanic Garden were donated weekly to CHOW and Binghamton Food Rescue, donating over 600 pounds of fresh produce throughout the growing season.

In 2021, seven Master Gardener Volunteer trainees, John Kuhn, Gary Wisniewski, Genie Fyodorova, Linda Cooper, Linda Edwards, Kenyon Merriwether and Jill Bender successfully completed the comprehensive, year-long Master Gardener Volunteer training, gaining skills in plant identification, collection techniques, pruning, proper planting and propagation techniques. In addition, 16 new Garden Assistants were enrolled in the Master Gardener Volunteers training for 2022.

Working in partnership with the Horticulture Department offered public classes online and in-person. Eleven online classes were attended by 124 adults. In addition, one of our Master Gardener Speakers Bureau volunteers, Tony Antes, presented 46 classes via Zoom to garden clubs throughout the state. In addition, CCE Broome's Horticulture Department responded to 491 calls, visits, emails and Facebook posts, providing free diagnostic assistance with plant and insect identification, plant diseases and questions from home gardeners.

During 2021, the Master Gardener Volunteers completed two community garden beautification projects, one at Recreation Park in Binghamton and the other at senior housing site Nichols Notch Apartments in Endicott. The Master Gardeners worked with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Juniors Division to establish a memorial garden for two young lives lost, Maddie Shaw and Harper Stantz. Master Gardeners Rick Tinder and Sarah Hodder oversaw plant selection, spacing and acquisition for the memorial. In addition, the Master Gardener Volunteers completed a community beautification project, requested by Jean Newton, a resident at Nichols Notch Senior Housing in Endicott. Annual and perennial plants were purchased and planted at the entrance to the apartments.



Environment

News coverage of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's alarming climate report along with wildfires and record heat across the county have made efforts to address climate change urgently important. Increasing number of people are looking for ways to reduce their own impact on climate change.

For example, individuals living in apartments or houses with limited backyard space may be unable to have their own compost bins. As one community member explained to CCE Broome's Environment, "I have been interested in composting for a while but lacked both the knowledge and the space to do so, since I live in an apartment with a limited outdoor area."

CCE Broome County's We Compost Collective is conveniently located next to the Broome County Regional Farmers Market to provide Broome County residents an option for dropping off their food scraps at the We Compost Collective site to be composted.

Master Composter-Recyclers is a group of community volunteers who are trained to educate the public about composting, recycling, and waste prevention through various means. Training with CCE Broome's Recycling and Composting Educator includes ten class sessions, as well as hands-on training through class projects and volunteering in the community. Classes focus on instruction about composting and the importance of proper waste management. In addition, trainees receive instruction on how to be effective teachers for different age groups in a range of settings. Guest speakers from the Cornell Waste Management Institute, CCE Tioga, and the Broome County Division of Solid Waste Management lead interactive, hands-on classes.

Ten of the 12 Master Composter-Recyclers trainees in 2021 indicated that they were not composting before joining the program, but had an interest in reducing their environmental impact, wanted to live a more sustainable life and wanted to learn how reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill. With the comprehensive knowledge gained through classes coupled with teaching experience, the Master Composter-Recyclers have the tools needed to become recycling and composting advocates in their communities.



4-H Youth Development

4-H SPARK Club

In 2021, Broome County 4-H responded to the isolation caused by the pandemic and got creative by providing new opportunities for young people with the 4-H SPARK Club. With many youth-serving programs placed on pause, many youth felt lost, disconnected, without a sense of purpose or support. A sense of belonging and purpose are part of what youth need to thrive.

CCE Broome's Broome's 4-H SPARK Club was created so that youth, 5-18 years old, would have a place to belong, explore hands-on activities, discover their sparks and thrive. The 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development defines sparks as self-discovered skills, talents or interests that come from deep within and provide energy, joy, purpose and direction in one's life.

During 2021, 4-H SPARK Club offered over 35 different topic areas events. Sessions were offered as one-time special event, all-day events, events spread over several days or long-term events. SPARK Club events were offered during the day, evenings and weekends to meet the needs of youth and families. One youth participated in the sign language classes so that she could communicate with a deaf teacher in her school. Through CCE Broome 4-H's Feeding Wild Birds virtual sessions, families received kits that allowed their children to learn about birds and build different types of bird feeders.

In 2021, Broome's 4-H SPARK Club program had 119 youth enroll and increased Broome 4-H overall membership by 31%. Families said their children developed a sense of belonging in the SPARK program. As one parent explained, "Last week's walk was wonderful. My son came home and told me all he had learned and explored. Our whole family has benefited tremendously from your programming."

By keeping a close connection to 4-H's principle of "learn by doing," CCE Broome's 4-H SPARK Club has been a great success.

The 4-H SPARK Club is supported by CCE Broome educators in Nutrition, Environment, Agriculture, CareerBound and 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow. Other 4-H SPARK collaborators include: David Black Entertainment, NYS 4-H Computer Science Program, NYS 4-H Geospatial Program, Broome County Parks and Recreation, Wild Birds Unlimited, Windsor School District, Catskill Cattle Company and Weis Markets.





4-H UNITY

4-H Urban Neighborhoods Improved Through Youth (UNITY) promotes civic engagement, workforce preparation and asset development among high need youth, 14-18 years old, in Endicott and Rochester, through Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Signature Program, Youth Community Action. 4-H UNITY is a Children, Youth and Families At-Risk (CYFAR) Program, Sustainable Community Project. The project is supported by Smith Lever funds, NIFA, USDA, Cornell University, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research and NYS 4-H.

In 2021, CCE Broome County's 4-H UNITY Teen Leader, Brianna Attey Mouanjo, won the 2022 4-H Youth in Action Award, National 4-H Council's highest honor for a young person. CCE Broome is honored to be the only Extension office in the nation with three Youth in Action Award winners. Bri was recognized for her anti-racism workshops. Her workshops have spearheaded 4-H in CCE Ulster, CCE Orange and CCE Suffolk counties to start their own anti-racist programs for young people.

The UNITY Endicott Teen Leaders initiated and/or completed a number of community improvement projects with the Union-Endicott High School, Endicott Proud, Endicott Mayor's Office, Endicott Police Department and Endicott Fire Department:

- Initiated plans for a Diversity Café at Union-Endicott High School to encourage better understanding, diversity and inclusion in the school and community.
- Completed beautification projects in collaboration with Endicott Proud at an Endicott park on West Main Street and at Union-Endicott High School.
- Conducted 4-H UNITY Feeds the CommUNITY, a food drive address food insecurity and collected over 500 lbs. of food for local pantries.
- Presented *Connecting during the pandemic: Maintaining engagement and relationships (now and in the future)* for the CYFAR's Professional Development Event, focused on transitioning back to in-person programming.
- Conducted *UNITY Grows the CommUNITY* in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and distributed 50 grow bags to Endicott families, as part of UNITY's ongoing food security projects.
- Hosted a series family engagement "cook-alongs" via Zoom and in person in partnership with CCE Broome Nutrition. Families learned about grocery budgeting, making healthy food choices.
- Developed and carried out a series of nutrition-focused community improvement projects, in collaboration with CCE Broome's Farm to School NYS Initiative.
- 4-H UNITY welcomed CYFAR Community Coach, Kerri Ashurst, University of Kentucky, for a CYFAR site visit, meeting with the CCE Broome, CCE Monroe and NYS 4-H campus teams. A delegation of the 4-H UNITY Endicott Teen Leaders spoke about their community improvement projects and what they have gotten out of being in UNITY. Nicole Wolfe, Superintendent Union-Endicott School District and Endicott Police Chief Patrick Geary joined the meeting via Zoom to speak about the multiple ways UNITY is benefitting the community.
- Collaborated with the Civic Engagement PWT, Cornell University to develop and conduct the Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) series, *Rooting 4-H in Food Justice*.



RootED

Binghamton City School District (BCSD) restored funding for the RootED Afterschool Program to serve BCSD's seven elementary schools for 2021 through 2024.

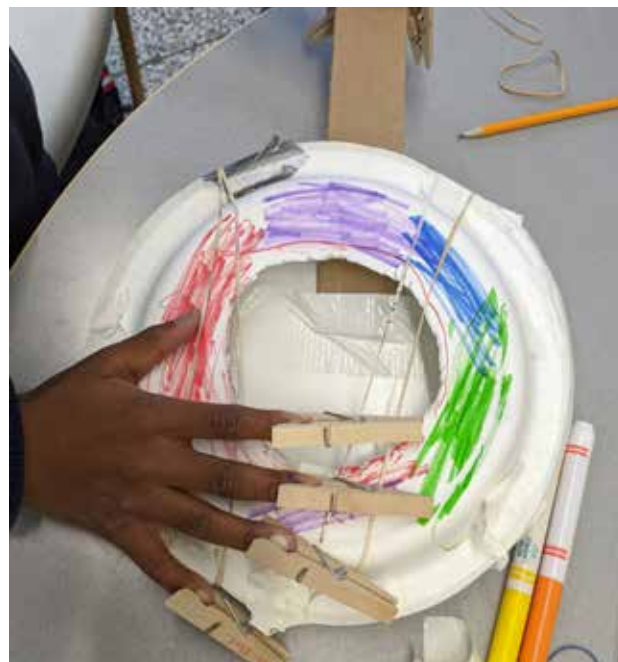
RootED connects elementary school youth to the community and aims at inspiring future careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Agriculture and Math (STEAM). RootED is a year-round program, providing both afterschool and summer programming.

Five new educators, Caitlin Callanan Stephanie Carollo, Joe Seif, Gulzara Tokhtamysheva and Kate Turrell began on November 4. Kelly Mabee, RootED 2 coordinator, organized all aspects of training and getting the program up and running within a very short timeframe, setting up the new RootED offices, onboarding the team and coordinating "Restorative Practices" training with Sheli O'Hara, Community School Coordinator, BCSD. RootED programming began successfully in all seven elementary schools on November 15.

Four students at Binghamton High School (BHS) were recommended by BHS Guidance Counselors, were hired as RootED Program Assistants. They completed training and began working with the RootED educators at all the BCSD elementary schools.

Session 1, "EcoFriends" focused on the environment, recycling and activities using scientific observations. In Session 2, "Jam with RootED," the students learned about sound, the fundamentals of music and percussion, made electronic pianos with Makey Makey kits, cards with LED lights and their own musical instruments with paper plates, cardboard and various decorations. Looking ahead, Session 3, "Full of Life: Mind-Body Connections" will focus on health and wellness. Session 4, "Let's Build It!" will be challenged to think outside the box, learn about rocketry, catapults and drones.

In December, the RootED 4-H educators took part in CCE Broome's "Market Kids Club" at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market. Their activity, "Making Festive Party Horns," drew large crowd and was enjoyed by both children and parents.



4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow

Throughout the pandemic, CCE Broome County's 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow continued providing opportunities for youth and families to connect with nature. The 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow team collaborated with Broome County Parks, Recreation and Youth Services to provide engaging, hands-on experiences at the parks through *Weeks Without Walls: An Outdoor Learning Adventure*.

Free, interactive walks were offered at the 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow and at five Broome County Parks, Otsiningo, Nathaniel Cole, Greenwood, Dorchester and Hawkins Pond Nature Area. CCE Broome's Finch Hollow 4-H Educator, Tom Tasber led seven experiential opportunities for *Weeks Without Walls: An Outdoor Learning Adventure*.

Tracks and Traces, Spring has Sprung and Guided Nature Walks were introductory guided nature walks exploring the ecosystems of the parks, including the trees, birds, wildlife, insects and plants. *Discovering Dragonflies* provided families with opportunities to learn about the lifecycle of dragonflies and damselflies, their adaptations and how to safely catch, hold and release them. *Family Pond Safari* provided opportunities for families to explore and learn about the animals in and along the water. The *Frog and Toad Jumping Contest* was held at Nathaniel Cole Park. Families learned about the ecosystem while searching for frogs and toads and having a lesson on the lifecycles of these athletic amphibians. The experience culminated with a friendly competition where families got rooted for their favorite frog and toad jumping contestants. Families enjoyed the *Guided Nature Paddle*, a leisurely kayak and canoe paddle at Dorchester Park. Everyone was thrilled to see three juvenile bald eagles during the paddle.

Families thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Broome County Parks and signed up for multiple events at Finch Hollow throughout the year so that they could continue exploring nature in experiential ways. CCE Broome 4-H educators at Finch Hollow look forward to continuing to build relationships with youth, families and educators, as they offer creative ways to explore nature and support Broome County families and youth. A total of 17 outdoor, nature-based programs in Broome County Parks were completed by 80 young people and 48 adults.

As one mother explained, "Our entire family had such a great time 'playing in the mud', looking for and collecting all kinds of aquatic creatures we got to learn about. My son can be quite hesitant to explore and touch certain textures and creatures. But the entire teaching staff were supportive and encouraging, without pressuring him. They really made it a positive and safe experience for him to explore. It was really fun—and we all learned so much!"





Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

During June 2021, NYS announced that there were nearly 3 million SNAP recipients in the state, an increase of 1.9% from 2020. In the Broome County, food insecurity rates grew by nearly 5%. The state responded by allocating additional funding to expand SNAP benefits. Those in the most need include low-income families with young children and diverse, marginalized populations.

CCE Broome SNAP-Ed educators deliver virtual and direct interactive programs to youth, adults, and families throughout Broome County. Without the ability to enter the classroom for youth programming due to COVID-19 restrictions, the SNAP-Ed educators focused on adult and family education. Broome County Office for Aging, American Civic Association, Lee Barta Community Center and CHOW provided opportunities to connect with potential SNAP recipients.

SNAP-Ed educator Kathleen Cook began teaching once per month at each of the eight Broome County senior centers, once they re-opened to the public in June of 2021. During the last four months of 2021, 254 seniors participated in 26 different programs. During the months when in-person programming was not permitted CCE Broome SNAP-Ed provided nutrition education materials via the *Senior Health Tid-Bits* newsletters, delivered bi-weekly to each of the centers, with 480 newsletters distributed monthly.

Through a partnership with the American Civic Association, CCE Broome Nutrition classes were offered to individuals, studying English as a Second Language. Nutrition classes focus on identifying foods and healthy eating behaviors and help participants develop their conversational English and learn about food culture in the U.S. Fifteen classes were conducted with 85 participants.

A new program, Lunch and Learn, was developed in collaboration between SNAP-Ed and the Lee Barta Community Center in Binghamton. Individuals could participate in nutrition education classes followed by recipe preparation in the kitchen. During 2021, 47 people participated in the Lunch and Learn classes at Lee Barta.

CHOW provided 1,500 meal boxes this summer to food insecure families. Meal boxes consisted of a variety of shelf-stable foods and were distributed to families through the Summer Meal program for youth at Binghamton City Parks, other distributions sites and through referrals.

In 2020, CCE Broome Nutrition partnered with Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Broome-Tioga BOCES and CHOW on the Holiday Giving Box project. Holiday Giving Boxes helped feed nearly 200 food insecure families during the holidays. CCE Broome's Nutrition Educators developed a special holiday cookbook to compliment with the ingredients in the Holiday Giving Boxes.



Nutrition

Community Nutrition

CCE Broome provides ServSafe training to organizations and individuals throughout Broome County. CCE Broome's Nutrition Educator, Ann Supa is a ServSafe expert and trained to teach various ServSafe programs such as ServSafe Food Manager and ServSafe Food Handler. For individuals looking for employment working with food, the ServSafe certificate can be a real plus to employment. For organizations serving food to the public, ensuring that the individuals preparing the food know the procedures and protocols to keep the food safe and free of disease-causing microorganisms is crucial to public health—especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During 2021, CCE Broome partnered with three local organizations to provide ServSafe training. Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse's (CHOW) workforce development program, CHOW Works, hosted several ServSafe classes this year. Individuals attending the program are interested in having this certification so that they can find jobs in the food service industry. CCE Broome workforce development program, CareerBound, provided ServSafe training for interested program participants attending CareerBound's four-week program. Three people

at the Lee Barta Community Center completed the ServSafe training and found employment in the food industry. At the Family Enrichment Network's Housing Connections, a supportive program for individuals experiencing homelessness, CCE Broome conducted the ServSafe Food Handlers program for eight individuals. One woman who worked in food service at Binghamton University attended the ServSafe training in hopes of getting a promotion with the ServSafe certification, and encouraged others to attend the trainings, as she realized the advantages having a ServSafe certification offers.





Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) supports participants' efforts towards self-sufficiency, nutritional health and well-being. Approximately 80% of EFNEP families live at or below 100% of the poverty level.

Through EFNEP, CCE Broome Nutrition works with adults and families from eight to ten weeks, and school-age youth for six weeks. When community partners can provide support, it contributes greatly to EFNEP's success. During 2021, Nutrition partnered with Whitney Point Community Schools, a Binghamton University program.

Partnering with EFNEP, Whitney Point Community Schools supported a series of virtual evening classes for families by providing participants with \$10 vouchers each week at Gregg's Big M in Whitney Point to buy ingredients for each week's cook-along lesson with CCE Broome's Nutrition Educators. Whitney Point Community Schools helped recruit families and follow-up to ensure program success. One mother said that her family usually only ate noodles and meat for dinner, but after the program they began eating vegetables every night.

During the summer, the EFNEP educators created a new program, *Teen World Cuisine*, and partnered with the Lee Barta Community Center and Housing Connections to host two groups. Each group met for six weeks to explore the world of food with recipes from France, Greece, China, Brazil, Thailand and Mexico. In addition, the United Way of Broome County partnered with *Teen World Cuisine* donating backpacks, filled with new school supplies for the youth who completed the program—a valuable incentive for recruitment and retention.



Healthy Lifestyles Coalition

For the past seven years, the United Way of Broome County's Healthy Lifestyle Coalition has focused on improving the health and wellness of individuals living on the north and east sides of Binghamton. This community has been referred to as a 'food desert', or an area with limited access to nutritious and affordable foods. In addition, the community has some of the highest rates of obesity in the county.

During 2021, the Healthy Lifestyle Coalition shifted its focus to include not only Binghamton's north and east sides, but to other vulnerable communities in the county. Due to the stresses associated with the pandemic, there was a noticeable shift in many students' academic performance. This shift led in CCE Broome Nutrition's programming for the Healthy Lifestyle Coalition—with the addition of STEM-based incubation and embryology lessons at various locations.

Incubation and embryology encourage scientific observation and help develop critical thinking skills. Over the course of three weeks, students observe the development of chick embryo within the egg until they hatch. Students were very engaged in the program, amazed at being able to watch the development of a chick embryo. During 2021, these STEM-based, incubation and embryology lessons were presented to 225 students in four school districts, Binghamton, Whitney Point, Union Endicott and Maine Endwell, as well as several Catholic Schools of Broome County.

Workforce and Community Development

CareerBound

CCE Broome County's CareerBound uses a personalized, one-on-one approach to help out-of-school young adults overcome the barriers they may have faced to achieve self-sufficiency by providing the workforce readiness training and guidance they need to realize their goals. CareerBound assists young adults developing the skills needed to secure meaningful employment or enter post-secondary education. CareerBound is a partnership between CCE Broome and Broome-Tioga Workforce NY.

With the start of the pandemic, CareerBound pivoted from in-person training to a hybrid model. By the middle of 2021, more business and organizations began to re-open and the CareerBound educators were able to hold in-person training, while abiding by all COVID safety guidelines. To recruit young adults eligible for the program, the CareerBound team partnered with CCE Broome's network of community organizations, such as Life Choices, Department of Social Services, Broome County Health Department, Broome County Probation Department and area high schools. In addition, CareerBound partnered with the Lee Barta Community Center to conduct work readiness trainings at their facility in Binghamton.

In 2021, 30 CareerBound participants secured full-time employment, many in higher paying jobs than they had ever had before. CareerBound's training led to participants earning CDL-A commercial driver's licenses through Sage Truck Driving School, barbering licenses from New York Beauty and Barbering Academy, and training through Broome-Tioga BOCES Manufacturing and Construction Welding. CareerBound provided funding for the young adults to attend these trainings, giving them the opportunity to move forward with their career path and their road to success.

Sasha was referred to CareerBound through Broome-Tioga Workforce NY. Sasha applied and was accepted into a three-week manufacturing training provided by Broome-Tioga Workforce and SUNY Broome, made possible through the Opportunity Impact Training Program. Sasha successfully completed the training in August 2021, found the training so fulfilling, that she made the decision to enroll in SUNY Broome's Manufacturing Technology Program. Sasha began classes at SUNY Broome. With CareerBound's support, Sasha found a part-time job that did not conflict with her college courses. The CareerBound educators continue to provide Sasha with supportive services.

Noah relocated to Broome County in early 2021 and started his job search right away. His job search led Noah to interviewing with Foland Lumber which ultimately led Noah learning about CareerBound and enrolling in the program. Noah began his On the Job Training (OJT) with Foland Lumber in April 2021 as a yard worker and successfully completed the training in July 2021. He has maintained employment with Foland Lumber and has expressed that "Everything is going phenomenal. Things are going very smooth, and I am really enjoying working here!"



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Parent Education

Parent education is an essential component for building strong families and strong communities.

Research shows that high quality parent education programs strengthen parent-child relationships and prevents child abuse and neglect.

In 2021, CCE Broome County's parent education programming was funded through a Town of Union Community Development Block Grant, Strengthening Endicott Parents and Families. Parent education programming is offered to vulnerable families with children, grandparents parenting their grandchildren and/or foster care parents who are residents of the Town of Union.

Throughout the year, CCE Broome's parent education team offered strength-based programming designed to keep children and families together, reduce foster care and improve children's health and well-being through referrals, nutrition education and one-on-one mentoring.

During 2021, CCE Broome's parent education provided free parenting classes virtually and as feasible, in-person classes in Conscious Discipline, Discipline is Not a Dirty Word, STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) and Parenting 101. Families are supported on an individual basis with phone calls and Zoom-based meetings. Research-based resources from Cornell University's Parenting Education Program Work Team are shared when appropriate, and information is routinely shared with families about how to access other community resources to assist with food, clothing, health and employment services. During the year, a number of parents expressed their appreciation for the variety of program delivery options offered by CCE Broome's parent education program.

In order to continue building and strengthening community relationships and creating new partnerships, several new collaborations were established with a number of Town of Union community centers, primary care doctors' offices, churches, mental health organizations/services, child care centers and community members. Notable new partnerships/collaborations were established with the Southern Tier Community Center; Freedom Morehart, Opportunities for Broome; Family Enrichment Network; and Chris Murdock, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director, Union Endicott School District.

These new partnerships/collaborations are facilitating new outreach efforts with Town of Union families through CCE Broome's participation in community events, such as the Union Endicott School District's "Harvest Fest." In addition, the monthly Family Engagement Dinners, conducted in collaboration with CCE Broome's Nutrition Educators, continue to be an outstanding way to engage Town of Union families in learning about making healthy choices, food safety and food shopping on a budget.



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