

# Response



## Director's Message

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County's entire team is working to address the critical issues facing our community caused by COVID-19 and begin the process of strategic recovery efforts. This issue of **Response** highlights the work of our team during these challenging times as we focus on serving Broome County.

Recently, we joined Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) staff from across New York to thank our farmers and farmworkers for working throughout the pandemic to keep our food system safe. We came together, virtually, to say, "Thank you farmers!"

While reopening has been on everyone's mind, New York's farms never closed. Farmers never stopped working to feed and nourish our community. So, thank you Broome County farmers for keeping us safe, for keeping us fed, for all the sacrifices you've made in these uncertain times. Check out CCE's YouTube thank-you to farmers (photo clips above), with a special 'thank-you' from Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Chair, Committee on Agriculture, at: [bit.ly/37VXRxO](http://bit.ly/37VXRxO)

And a big thank you to all who supported this year's Cutler Botanic Garden Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale. To ensure everyone's safety this year, we scheduled appointments to the sale, donned our face coverings and maintained social distancing throughout the sale. The result? With the terrific response of our community, we came within just a few hundred dollars of our fundraising goal. 100% of the proceeds from the sale directly support the operation of garden. If you haven't visited the Cutler Botanic Garden recently, we encourage you to visit soon!

We hope you'll give us a call, explore our website, or connect with us through Facebook and Instagram. We're here for you! Please let us know how we can assist you.



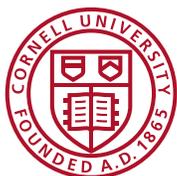
Sincerely,

Beth A. Roberts  
Executive Director

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Binghamton, NY 13905-1566

607-772-8953

[ccebroomecounty.com](http://ccebroomecounty.com)  
[www.facebook.com/ccebroome](https://www.facebook.com/ccebroome)  
[www.instagram.com/cce\\_broome](https://www.instagram.com/cce_broome)





## Broome County Regional Farmers Market

840 Upper Front St., Binghamton  
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Selected Broome County Regional Farmers Market samplings and outdoor dining—large parts of the Farmers Market experience—have resumed! The Markets' vendors have created their own online stores and offer both delivery and pre-order options. Customers say they are grateful to have a safe way to shop for fresh, local products. Check out the Farmers Market Vendor Directory for pre-order and delivery options at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/111FwmGe-Wsh-vuZy9le0VH4wfb9rMfBxMXolJx6kAyo/edit?usp=sharing>.

Other special Farmers Market events, such as The Cutler Flea, a monthly antique and collectibles market, have also been allowed to restart. The next Cutler Flea is Sunday, July 12, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! Check out the Market's Facebook page for more information at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BroomeCountyRegionalFarmersMarket/>

And more good news! The Farmers Market is happy to announce that they received a grant from Farm Credit East. The grant allows the Farmers Market team to focus on ways to help vulnerable families access fresh food and increase their SNAP redemptions at the Market. Thank you for your support Farm Credit East!



## Taste NY

840 Upper Front St., Binghamton  
Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
For curbside pick-up, call 607-584-0475

Taste NY continues to be an essential part of supporting local farmers, agribusinesses and small businesses in Broome County, as well as being a safe place to shop for farm-fresh, local products. Now that it's grilling time, check out some of the local grilling barbecue sauces and marinades available at Taste NY. You can call ahead for curbside pick-up at 607-584-0475, or place online orders with Taste NY at: <https://www.facebook.com/TasteNYBroome/>

## Agriculture & Agribusiness

CCE Broome's Agriculture Team is hard at work supporting Broome County agriculture during COVID-19 to assist farmers and ensure food safety by working with Cornell University's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, NY Farm Bureau and the NY Extension Disaster Education Network (NY EDEN). For the most accurate, up-to-date COVID-19 information, see: [ccebroomecounty.com](http://ccebroomecounty.com)

New York State requires all businesses to have specific business safety plans in place during the COVID-19. This includes all farms, both food and non-food producing.

CCE Broome's Ag Team was part of a Cornell Task Force recently convened to develop materials to directly support farms in the plan writing process. Our Ag Team co-led webinars to walk retail farms through the process of completing safety plans, as required by all businesses for compliance with NY Forward, demonstrate project tools developed by Extension to write and complete a plan.

Over 75 farms from across the state attended this webinar. Responses from attendees showed that over 90% were aware of the Forward NY initiative, but did not have a plan. But at the conclusion of the webinar, 97% felt more comfortable in creating a plan for their farms—and CCE Broome's Ag Team will continue to provide support for Broome County's farmers in finalizing their plans.

## Ag in the Classroom

Ag in the Classroom has a new website [aitcbroome.org](http://aitcbroome.org) which is updated weekly and a new AITC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Ag-in-the-Classroom-Broome-106574761061050/> updated daily. The AITC Facebook page includes: Meet the Teacher Monday, Trivia Tuesday, What if Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Field Trip Friday. The AITC educators are working hard on outreach to the AITC students through YouTube, Zoom field trips, the new AITC Facebook and AITC website. In just the last three months AITC has conducted 46 Zoom field trips with students from 15 of the AITC school districts—wow!

Check out a recent visit to a family with 4-H'ers, *A Day on Martin's Family Farm*, (see video clip photo right) for a tour of a sugar shack and demonstration of how maple syrup is made <https://www.aitcbroome.org/martin-family-farm.html>

## Horticulture

The Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale was held June 4 and 5, was a huge success. Customers needed to register for a time to shop to limit crowd size, protocols to keep volunteers and shoppers safe and comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Feedback about the new procedures was very positive.

Produce from the Cutler vegetable garden was harvested and delivered to the CHOW Food Bank. Master Gardener Volunteers Sue Kost (right) Jane Olsa (left) are shown with the harvest of lettuce, kale and other salad greens donated to the CHOW Food Bank.

The Master Gardeners continue to answer questions for home gardeners. Post your questions at: <http://ccebroomecounty.com/gardening/ask-a-master-gardener> Or for more information, contact: Linda Svoboda at: [ljs322@cornell.edu](mailto:ljs322@cornell.edu) or phone: 607-584-5016.

## 4-H Youth Development

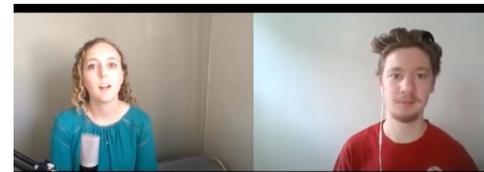
While the announced cancellation of the Broome County Fair was disappointing for 4-H'ers, the 4-H'ers' creativity and dedication are shining through in their plans to move forward with the 4-H Project Showcase.

4-H families, volunteers, and staff are brainstorming new ways to celebrate the efforts of Broome County 4-H'ers and showcase their hard work. Stay tuned for a combination of virtual and in-person opportunities at the end of the July.

## Environment

Food waste has garnered extra attention during the COVID pandemic. Recently, Josh Enderle, CCE Broome's Recycling and Composting Educator visited three VINES Community Gardens at Abbott St., Corbett Ave. and Park St. in Binghamton to assist with starting and maintaining composting bins. The VINES Community Garden Coordinators learned how to best to accept and manage food waste from garden members. Electronic and hard copies of CCE Broome's food composting handouts were shared. Josh is busy at work, creating a series of "how-to" videos demonstrating best management practices for composting.

Check out a recent Vermicomposting Q&A on YouTube that Josh recorded with Jessica Brewer, Broome County Recycling Coordinator. Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4SLh9IUak&list=PLthrqwXX-E9f09Oa0dErYXq0BTtTwstS5&index=6&t=0s>





## ***Empire State Afterschool Program/RootED***

*RootED on Tour* is well underway! We've begun hearing from the RootED youth about their adventures with their RootED educators emojis through the new RootED Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/RootEDafterschool/> Looks like RootED educators Miss Morgan and Mr. Jake are having fun blowing giant bubbles with this RootED youth!

The RootED team continues to produce two videos each week with easy to follow STEAM/STEM activities. Check out: *Make an Origami Butterfly* at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1\\_0nan3BLKU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_0nan3BLKU) and *DIY Sidewalk Chalk* at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlbrTyumMDk>



## ***4-H UNITY Endicott***

The 4-H UNITY Teen Leaders, students at Union-Endicott High School, continues to host bi-weekly regular Zoom meetings between the project staff (Kelly M, Cindi and Asia), UNITY Teen Leaders are planning for their summer work experience. They are going to be creating a website to serve the Endicott community. In addition, they are working a workshop on 'Race and Reconciliation' (photo right from the 2019 Race and Reconciliation Summit) for the 4-H Civic Engagement Program Work Team's Virtual Conference, August 7. We're thrilled that the UNITY Teen Leaders will be partnering with the Village of Endicott Police Department on this workshop!



## ***Nutrition Education***

Food security for continues to be a top priority for CCE Broome's nutrition educators. The nutrition educators helped serve and/or deliver over 1,500 food boxes to food insecure families in partnership with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Binghamton Food Rescue and CHOW. The nutrition educators helped the Johnson City Senior Center package hot meals for seniors and distribute yogurt, generously donated by Byrne Dairy, to the food pantries at the Lee Barta Community Center and Saint Michael's Church. What big hearts!

The nutrition educators are also working with families to plant vegetables in the Liberty Street Community Garden. Families can sign up for grow beds and take care of their own plots. For those without a plot in the garden, the nutrition educators donated grow bags of basil and tomato plants for the Lee Barta Community Center to distribute.



## ***CareerBound Workforce Development***

CareerBound is hard at work connecting virtually with CareerBound participants through Zoom calls to assist them their employment needs and offer career guidance. With the support of CareerBound team and virtual mock interviews, Kurtis (photo left) secured his first job. Kurtis says, "CareerBound helped me a lot with filling out applications. If they can help me look for a job, then they can help anybody who is looking for a job. I'd tell people, just don't give up!"

Call or text Holly at 607-760-2568 or email her at [hsb48@cornell.edu](mailto:hsb48@cornell.edu) for more information about CareerBound's workforce development program.



## ***Parent Education***

CCE Broome's parent education continues to be a resource for vulnerable families struggling with isolation, lack of resources, lack of child care and a sense of being overwhelmed by parenthood. Weekly, families are supported virtually on an individual basis. In addition, parenting tips are shared through the United Way's *Eat Well, Play Hard Binghamton* Facebook page, see: <https://www.facebook.com/eatwellplayhardbinghamton/>

CCE Broome offers free parenting classes in *Conscious Discipline*, *Discipline is Not a Dirty Word*, *STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting)*, *Parenting 101* and more. To learn more, contact Cindi Conway at [cac365@cornell.edu](mailto:cac365@cornell.edu)