Success Story: Well Water Testing

Success Story: Workforce Development at 4-H Camp

Success Story: High Tunnel Best Management Practices Yield Results
Dear Friends of Extension,
Cornell Cooperative Extension is proud to provide our 2017 Annual Report. The incredible work of our volunteers, participants, and staff is highlighted throughout the report in the areas of Agriculture & Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, and Parenting. This year’s Annual Report has been designed to highlight how programs have impacted our participants. The examples we provide are only a very small fraction of the impact we provide the residents of Ontario County by working together with our local, county, regional, state and national resources.

The CCE of Ontario County association benefits tremendously from dedicated volunteers who provide an incredible amount of expertise, time, and program leadership. Our volunteers significantly multiple the number of participants we reach, expands the number of programs we offer and provides the needed expertise to identify and develop new programs. Volunteers also share their administrative, finance, facility, human resource, and fundraising expertise by serving on our Board of Directors, People and Program Committee, Finance and Facility Committee and 4-H Camp Capital Campaign Committee. Our volunteer base – part of our “cooperative” of CCE - remains a vibrant and critical component of our association.

Note our community partnerships continue to grow as our programs bring additional Cornell University and other land-grant university resources to Ontario County. While we continue to provide these resources directly to program participants, we are expanding our reach by partnering with community agencies to reach new audiences. Bringing university resources – the “extension” part of CCE – opens a number of opportunities for us to address emerging needs in each of our program areas.

A special thank you to our Board of Directors, 4-H Camp Capital Campaign Committee, and staff for their successful efforts to provide a significant facility upgrade at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. Aging bathrooms that no longer met the needs of campers, staff, and community groups were replaced with new “Greener, Cleaner, Better” facilities. These new bathhouses are accessible to all participants, provide increased privacy while allowing for better supervision, are significantly easier to clean and maintain, and are more energy and water efficient. We are especially thankful for our lead donors – Dale Hemminger and William E. & Mary Cockram Morse, as well as an anonymous family– for their extremely generous support in our providing new bathhouses, expanded water system, and a new septic system.

Contact us if you have any questions regarding our 2017 Annual Report or if there is an opportunity for Cooperative Extension to support you, your family, or your community. Together, we are “Putting Knowledge to Work.”

Sincerely,

Peter Maslyn  
President, Board of Directors

Timothy S. Davis  
Executive Director

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Extension’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Impact

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ontario County collaborates with Cornell University to bring leading technologies, resources, and information to the agricultural community of Ontario County. CCE Ontario Agriculture Team, in partnership with campus-based faculty and regional CCE specialists, creates useful and inclusive educational programs which focus on the current agricultural education needs of the community. As a result CCE Ontario has been an essential component and driving factor in improving agricultural production efficiency, food quality, and food safety. This results in better production practices and has a positive impact on the economic return for farmers. It also has a direct impact on the quality and safety of the food our community eats. As a trusted and respected resource in the Ontario County community, CCE Ontario makes a concerted effort to listen to community needs and interests, consistently tailoring programs to current wants and needs of community members. CCE Ontario also addresses substantial issues, such as environmental impacts of agricultural wastes and strives to implement innovative programs to help farmers combat these issues in easy and effective ways.

Ontario County Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener volunteers are a critical component in extending knowledge about consumer horticulture within our county. There are currently 39 active Master Gardener volunteers in Ontario County. They volunteered 1125 hours, offered 22 programs that reached 2662 youth/adults and had direct contact with an estimated additional 1560 Ontario County residents. Each May, our volunteers host a popular Plant Sale to generate scholarship funds for eligible student awards at Finger Lakes Community College and 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. The action-oriented Inside Dirt newsletter is distributed to more than 105 subscribers and complimentary copies are provided to county supervisors, CCE Board of Directors, libraries and town halls throughout Ontario County. Inside Dirt, is packed each month with articles about homes and grounds.

Every day, the Agriculture and Natural Resources staff assist county residents with inquiries related to agricultural production, natural resources, marketing, local foods/food safety, consumer horticulture, well water and much more. Over 2588 individuals received consultations through telephone, email, and in person discussions. Staff conducted 20 programs reaching 1760 county residents.

Master Gardeners host the Annual Plant sale each year in May.
Ontario County residents should test their well water for potability (Coliform Bacteria and E.coli) to insure they have safe drinking water for their family. Contaminated water has no smell or taste.

Residents that get their water from a well are responsible for their well. Wells can become contaminated. Dug wells are shallow wells that are fed with surface water and are susceptible to contain Coliform Bacteria and E.coli. Drilled wells can also be contaminated; the casing could become cracked as it ages and surface water could enter the well. Also, the well cap could allow insects in the cap. Private wells are not regulated by any state agency.

CCE Ontario has written a grant for a number of years for money from Ontario County Water Resources Council to reimburse residents with a rebate for testing their water. Well Water Testing Program information is on the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County website. When people google testing well water, our information is the first one to come up. Also, posters are sent to all the town/city/village halls and libraries with tear off slips for people to take to call about the well water testing program. If residents well water tests positive for Coliform Bacteria, CCE sends them remediation information and information about wells and how to protect them.

Residents fill out a Household Water Survey to be able to receive the rebate ($15 for potability and $25 for potability and nitrates). It is a helpful to CCE as it requests information about the well:
Residents of Ontario County have a need to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronic waste in an environmental and responsible way. In 2017, there have been 2 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days and 1 E-Waste Collection Day and another scheduled for December. 955 households participated in the two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days and 475 households participated in the E-Waste Collection Day.

People are concerned about how to dispose of household hazardous waste items because they don’t want to put them in the landfill. Also, households don’t know where to dispose of all the electronic equipment when it is no longer useful. These two type of events assist the public on their concerns.

At the January 21, 2017 E Waste Collection Day, 36 tons of electronic equipment was diverted from the landfill. 475 residents brought TVs, computers, etc. Every township had residents participate. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 22, there were 497 households participated by bringing paint, gasoline, auto products, cleaning products, batteries, etc. Every township was represented. Products delivered again diverted these going to the landfill or dump other places. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day event on September 16, 2017, 458 households participated. Again the majority of products were paint, automobile fluids (gasoline, motor oil, etc.), and cleaning supplies. One resident commented, upon registering for the event, that “I am cleaning out my parent’s house and I didn’t know what to do with all the items left behind.” Residents appreciate the opportunity to dispose of their unwanted products in an environmentally responsible way.

Collaborators on this project included Ontario County Planning Department, Casella Waste Management, Clean Harbors, Town of Bristol (September 16, 2017) and E-Waste+. 
Customers want to connect with local food and local farmers. Local farmers want to find and connect with their customers. However, this can be tricky for both customers and farmers. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Ontario County wanted to close this gap. Together with partners the Cornell Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team and the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart William Smith College, CCE Ontario offered the first Meat & Greet Farmer and Chef Fair to make buying local meats easier for customers and farmers.

On March 11, 2017 at Hobart William Smith College in Geneva, the Meat & Greet Fair gave 20 regional farmers the opportunity to showcase their product directly to prospective customers. Attendees to the event were able to speak directly with local livestock farmers to learn more about their products, including different types of meat, cuts of meat, and the farming practices behind how the animals were raised.

Kyli Knickerbocker participated in the Meat & Greet as co-owner of Firestone Farms. “At our booth, we saw a steady stream of consumers from the area who wanted to hear about our pasture-raised livestock and our farm,” said Knickerbocker. “It goes a long way when we’re able to explain and show the care we put into our animals and the sustainable practices we use, such as supplementing feed with scratched or bruised produce from our fields and local grocery stores, and how we work with local breweries and distilleries to reuse their spent brewer’s grain for cattle and pig feed.”

In addition to learning about buying local meat, the approximately 80 people who attended the Meat & Greet were also treated to live cooking demonstrations. The recipes featured local meats from farmers at the event which was arranged with support from Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty. Chefs from Verasions Restaurant at Glenora Wine Cellars, Ravenous Kitchen at Ravine Wine Cellar, Fox Run Vineyards, and Geneva Inn on the Lake all donated their time to make the cooking demonstrations possible.

In a follow-up survey to Meat & Greet attendees, respondents rated interactions with farmers as their favorite aspect of the event. The majority of guests who took the survey said that they learned about new farms at the Meat & Greet and 71% said that they intended to buy local meat from farms they met at the event in the future. Being able to offer an educational event that also provides local farms with a platform to market and gain customers made the Meat & Greet a success. CCE Ontario County and its partners are looking forward to the second Meat & Greet Fair in 2018!
Pesticide Applicators Training

Educational efforts in core pesticide training has resulted in 44 agricultural producers receiving New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Private Pesticide Certification in 2017.

Statewide agricultural producers face a multitude of pest pressures (weeds, insects, and diseases) in growing crops. Chemical pesticides are a vital tool in the management of such pests and may require the use of a restricted pesticide. Crop losses can be significant without the use of these products. In order to purchase and apply restricted pesticides the agricultural producer must be a New York State certified private pesticide applicator. Such individuals must recertify every five years after receiving their license.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County agricultural educator provided a series of four classes each 2½ hours for a total of 10 hours of instruction over 4 weeks. Training included pesticide laws and regulations, mixing and calibration of the pesticides, environmental considerations, how to read and understand a pesticide label, first aid, how to use and maintain personal protective equipment, spray drift prevention, pesticide disposal and storage, pesticide formulations and toxicity, pesticide exposure and risk along with much more.

27 agricultural producers received recertification credits and 46 took the DEC pesticide core and category exams. 44 took the exam and 96% passed and received New York State private pesticide certification.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total public outreach: 37 programs
Total Instructional Hours: 92 hours
Volunteer Hours: 1165 hours

As of 2016 there were 853 farms, totaling 192,616 acres; about 46% of Ontario County land is farm land.

Of the 192,616 acres:

44,300 acres were producing 3,289,000 bushels of corn.

Ontario farmers planted 27,100 acres of soybeans, those acres yielded 807,000 bushels total.

From 21,000 cows 450,500,000 lbs. of milk was produced.

Local staff:
Russell Welser, Senior Resource Educator
Marie Anselm, Senior Resource Educator
Agriculture Economic Development
Nancy Anderson, Senior Administrative Assistant
The focus on farm food safety to minimize risk has been in the spotlight for years now. As new research has shed light on improved practices around the farm, the Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) has been there providing training and assistance to growers. A Northeast Center for the Advancement of Food Safety grant obtained by the CVP has allowed for further investigation into better methods of cleaning vegetable wash equipment and to improve efficiencies in the pack shed.

This past spring a workshop was held in Geneva highlighting some of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were developed through this research. Area farmers attended learning some of the techniques. One of the farmers asked if we could come to his farm and look at a space he wanted to set up for a wash/pack line. Other farmers were interested in seeing this. So a few days later at a farm in Shortsville, NY, there was an impromptu assessment for wash/pack design for the implementation of food safety BMPs.

Farm food safety practices require knowledge, some capital investment, but mostly time. This means it definitely has a significant cost to carry out. Farmers need the education to feel comfortable implementing the practices to incur the expense. The benefits are knowing they have a safer product and this allows for greater market access. Farm food safety can open doors to new buyers and improve their profitability. Several Ontario County vegetable farmers have stated they are now selling to new outlets because they have invested in farm food safety practices learned from CVP training and assistance.

Farmers learning about the proper use of sanitizers for their vegetable wash water through an on-farm program by the CVP. Photo by R. Hadad
High tunnels are cropping up on farms across Ontario County as vegetable growers seek to extend the season and increase yields. To meet the demand for increased high tunnel research and education, Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) specialist Judson Reid has led a project to develop best management practices for high tunnel soil health and nutrient management. The project compares soil, water and foliar analyses and current management practices with economic yields in high tunnels across the state over several years. This research provides a foundation for a set of management practices that support long term productivity from intensively cultivated high tunnels.

Four of the thirty cooperating growers in this statewide project are located in Ontario County, including two farmers who participated in a roundtable discussion to determine future educational priorities for high tunnel growers statewide. Vegetable growers participating in this project have improved their ability to manage soil and nutrients through reduced and more targeted fertility inputs and incorporation of practices like cover cropping to scavenge nutrients and increase soil organic matter. In the first year of the current project, growers reported an average increase in net high tunnel income of 13.3% over the previous growing season. As the 2017 harvest wraps up, CVP staff are working on further analyses of project results to share with growers at several educational workshops in winter 2018.

Judson Reid studies best management practices for high tunnel soil health. Growers reported an average increase in net high tunnel income of 13.3% over the previous growing season. Photo by C. Machanoff
Finger Lakes Grape Program

One of the most significant disease issues that growers and winemakers deal with during harvest season is staying ahead of the development of sour rot, which turns the sugars in ripe fruit into alcohol and vinegar, making it useless for processing into wine or for fresh consumption. There have been no effective controls to manage this disease in the vineyard except to drop the fruit before harvest or to sort it out at the crush pad. The loss of yields to growers can have a significant impact on their bottom line.

Recent research conducted by Megan Hall (graduate student) and Wayne Wilcox (Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Interaction Section) from Cornell has resulted in new recommendations to reduce sour rot development in the field by focusing on the control of fruit flies, which spread the organisms responsible for the disease from infected to healthy clusters. The FLGP worked with Hall and Wilcox to communicate these new practices with growers during the 2017 season, which had the potential to have heavy sour rot infections due to the abundant rainfall. These practices were promoted during Tailgate Meetings throughout the region (including at Len Barron’s farm near Canandaigua on June 20), at our Spring IPM Meeting, in newsletters, and during individual grower contacts in person, via email or over the phone.

An informal survey of growers who implemented these practices this season indicated that they all believe that the new practices helped to keep sour rot levels significantly lower than they would have been without them. More follow-up work is still needed to further refine these recommendations, but early indications are that these practices have already had a significant benefit to growers in the Finger Lakes.

Sour rot can result in significant yield losses and have negative impacts on fruit and wine quality. Recent research by Cornell and extended to growers by the FLGP helped to reduce its impact in 2017.

Photo by Megan Hall.
Academy for Dairy Executives

The Academy for Dairy Executives returned to Western New York during the winter of 2016/2017 to provide young farmers with the opportunity to improve their management skills. The NWNY Team paired up with PRO-DAIRY and educators to offer the program. Twenty-six farmers from across the region met for three two-day sessions. The program targets the next generation of dairy farmers, especially those who are transitioning into a management role.

Participants heard from excellent speakers and participated in group exercises to learn about communication and conflict resolution, managing vs. doing, budgeting and making financial decisions, and other topics. Participant evaluations were extremely positive, including responses such as “Great! Very action based and people based, I want to go and try the stuff I learned right now,” and “The whole farm budgeting was very eye opening and helped me to realize I need to become more involved in the budgeting process. Also, family business conflict resolution and communication was an amazing conversation.”

The participants represent 20 farms (3 farms and 1 agribusiness from Ontario County with a total of 7 people) and 2 agribusinesses that milk 21,125 cows, positively impacting the local community through collectively selling $86.5 million of milk annually. Together these farms employ 400 people and utilize the services of many local agribusinesses. They protect the environment and maintain green spaces in their communities through managing 49,000 crop acres. Skills that the participants learned will enable them to lead their businesses to continued success for future generations.
4-H Youth Development

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to create supportive learning environments in which diverse youth and adults reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring citizens. Youth in 4-H Programs range from five to nineteen years of age. In Ontario County the 4-H program priorities are Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Workforce Development; and Positive Youth Development. There is a full range of delivery methods that includes: traditional 4-H clubs; a 4-H camp; after school programs in Geneva; school enrichment through Conservation Field Days, and community outreach through workshops like Tractor Safety.

4-H Camp Bristol Hills offers an outdoor camping experience integrated with top rated educational programming. Summer camp extends several choices for camper participation that include: day, overnight and specialty camps. Educational classes include programs in outdoor adventure, nature and science, sports and creative arts as well as a continued focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Cornell University outreach continues to be a major component of the camp program during 2017 with Cornell interns based at camp during the summer.

Local Staffing:
Tim Davis, Executive Director/4-H Youth Issue Leader/ Camp Administrator; Jim Hooper, Resource Educator; Jennifer Jensen, Resource Educator; Amy Morrisey, Program Educator; Ellen Martin, Administrative Assistant Camp; Susan Angell Administrative Assistant 4-H Club Matty Brooks, North Street School 4-H Coordinator; Pat Blakeslee, West Street School 4-H Coordinator; Jessica Middleton, Summer Camp Director.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total 4-H Clubs: 43
Total Members in Organized 4-H Clubs: 284
Number of youth in 4-H After School Programs: 68
Total Number of 4-H Youth: 352
Number of youth attended 4-H Camp Bristol Hills 2017: 1116
Number of Volunteer Hours: 9600

In 2017, 4-H youth projects involved horticulture, food and nutrition, geospatial science, science, textile, robotics, rocketry, woodworking and animal science. Hallmark educational events of the 4-H Club Program include Harvest Food Fest, Public Presentations, Tractor Safety, the Ontario County Fair and the New York State Fair.
Ontario County is proud to be home to an outstanding 4-H member who has been nicknamed “Mr. Poultry” in the eyes of 4-H members in New York State. Richard Lawson III began his 4-H career as a little toddler following his sister to 4-H meetings and then just growing with the program. He became interested in all areas of 4-H during his discovery years of being a Cloverbud. The interest in flower and vegetable gardening, woodworking, food and nutrition, rabbits and poultry all began at this early age. As Richard did yearly projects he always incorporated community service into his 4-H Club work including gleaning local vegetable fields for donation to needy families.

Richard always challenged himself to new and different projects including hickory bark syrup that he had to research and experiment with. Teaching himself to use the scroll saw gave him the ability to make delicate wooden projects for exhibition and gifts.

His active interest in poultry gave him the desire to apply the written word to hands on activity with the many birds that he owned and showed through his 14 years as a 4-H member. Being active in the county poultry show challenged him to show at state and regional shows, participate in the poultry science activities at county and state levels and to be a knowledgeable teen leader assistant at the county and state poultry areas. Richard was also able to represent New York State at the National Egg and Poultry Conference in the areas of Poultry Science, Avian Bowl and the Turkey Barbeque Contest.

Richard learned the value of giving back to the community through his community service. This past summer he gave over 100 hours back to the Ontario County Fair as a part of a major building renovation project which included updating the dairy and beef barns, constructing a new show ring and a new 4-H Dairy Bar. He has done this because he wants future youth to experience the greatness of 4-H that he has been able to have.

Richard Lawson, dubbed the “Mr. Poultry” of Ontario County 4-H’ers.
Jim Hooper,
Resource Educator
4-H Camp Bristol Hills

Debbie Huls
Finance Manager

Susan Angell,
Administrative Assistant
4-H Camp Bristol Hills

Jennifer Jensen,
Resource Educator
4-H Youth Development

Amy Morrisey,
Program Educator
4-H Youth Development

Ellen Rosenbarker,
Administrative Assistant
4-H Camp Bristol Hills

TARIO
Ontario County 4-H members participate in events all year long. 16 youth went to the District Presentations event in March to speak on topics ranging from Farming in a Growing Community to a demonstration called “To Infinity and Beyond”. We have members that represent us at Horse Bowl and Horse Hippology in March where Amberlea Atwood was selected to be on the regional Hippology team at State Fair. The Tractor Safety program held in the winter had one of its participants, Tanner Huttar, participate at the NYS Tractor Driving competition in August at Empire Farm Days where he placed first in the state.

Many of our youth participated at State Fair with exhibits of 4-H projects and animals as well as in many contests. Gracie Nicol will be attending the November National Egg and Poultry Conference in Louisville as a participant in the chicken barbeque contest while Mackenzie Lill will be doing the Avian Bowl contest. Also attending the National Livestock Exhibition in Louisville will be Annaleigh DeBoover as a member of the NYS 4-H Livestock Skillathon team after placing first at the state fair event. Other youth recognized at state fair were Mercie Nicol placing second in the junior Avian Bowl, and Wyatt Wadams for placing 5th in the Novice division of the Rabbit Decathlon.

Youth recognized for outstanding building exhibits were Shyla Luna for Photography, Richard Lawson for Woodworking, Noah Czadzack for a costume, Annaleigh DeBoover for knitting and Gracie Nicol for her poem. Recognition of our youth at regional and state events is wonderful for our Ontario County 4-H members who put many hours into their 4-H projects and learning all they can about their animals and the exhibits they bring before the evaluators at all levels.
The Partnership for Ontario County provides services to young adults between the ages of 12 and 21 years, living in the Geneva area, through the EPIC Zone Program. The program is funded through a NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services grant and is geared towards the reduction of substance and alcohol use. Young adults are invited to a place where they have the opportunity to develop pro-social skills that promote long term health, wellness, recovery and a drug free lifestyle.

The Ontario County 4-H Program provides EPIC Zone participants with regular programs on Cooking Skills (Saturdays) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (weekday nights). Jessie Middleton, our 4-H Camp Director, shares her youth development and education expertise by leading classes based on Cornell University and 4-H curriculum. Participants learn how to safely prepare snacks and meals with commonly found items in their household and that STEM activities are engaging and a great option for an education and career path.

A major goal of EPIC Zone is for participants to determine how their program is run and what activities they participate in. The young adults work with Middleton to select what foods they will make each week and what STEM activities they do. Types of foods they have made include pretzels, perogies, oven fried chicken, and sesame chicken with fried rice. The EPIC Zone recently moved into a house so recipes have gone from being individually based to featuring sit down, family style meals. Participants have enjoyed learning new techniques in the kitchen and cooking for their peers.

During the weekday their STEM activities have included building catapults, designing and constructing marble runs, and tinkering with electricity by making mini toothbrush robots. The STEM activities often feature some degree of friendly competition once the projects are constructed. For instance, when the toothbrushes robots were built, the participants then tried to race their robots through a maze.

The Ontario County 4-H Program is excited our activities and curriculums can be used in a non-traditional setting with new audiences. Our EPIC Zone participants are gaining the skills and knowledge that we know will contribute to their success as adults.
4-H Camp Bristol Hills is one of the largest employers of young adults in Ontario County. We recognize our role in recruiting and training young adults to be effective employees not only during their camp employment, but in their communities and careers in the future. This year saw significant new efforts to enhance the staffing plan for the program.

A 2006 study of over 400 employers identified four critical skills that individuals should possess as they enter the 21st-century workforce: professionalism/work ethic, oral and written communications, teamwork/collaboration, and critical thinking/problem solving (Casner-Lotto et al., 2006). The research showed that these skills, more so than traditional reading and math skills, are valued by employers. High school and college graduates, however, have typically scored below satisfactory levels in each of these competencies. Duerden et al. (2014) show that employment in residential summer camping programs resulted in staff developing stronger interpersonal (conflict management, empathy), communication (listening, sharing thoughts and feelings, public speaking), problem solving, leadership (mentoring, responsibility), and empathic skills.

4-H Camp Bristol Hills has been focusing on the importance of staff recruitment, retention, and training on the effectiveness of camp counselors as they carry out the mission work of 4-H Camp Bristol Hills and CCE Ontario. At the core, Camp has typically recruited heavily from it’s Counselor-in-Training program to bring new counselors onto the staff. An extensive Staff Training program, held immediately before camp, has provided staff with a solid foundation in the broad variety of skills necessary to be a strong camp staff member. This training is supplemented with subject-specific trainings for select staff (First Aid and CPR, Lifeguarding, Archery, Riflery, Ropes Course and more) in order to be fully prepared and engaged in the success of camp. A partnership with Cornell University’s Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research has provided camp with the opportunity to work with a Cornell University intern on a video feedback project called the Connections Work Group (CWG). This project, initiated in 2016 for camp, is a strengths-based approach to professional development for adults who work with youth. In the project, staff have the opportunity to review videos of their interactions with campers, and to evaluate themselves within a framework of interpersonal relationships to identify positive factors of the engagement, and be more intentional about creating similar opportunities for youth in future interactions. This year’s CWG cohort consisted of ten staff, two interns and one faculty member, and was
very successful in training staff to identify the skills that make these informal interactions so positive for youth.

Each year, new efforts are made to enhance the staffing at camp, and this year was no different. Camp took new steps in recruitment, attending summer jobs fairs and career fairs at Keuka College, SUNY Cortland and SUNY Brockport, as well as partnering with local high school guidance counselors to identify strong potential camp staff candidates. In 2017, nearly 100 applications for employment were received, and 41 young adults were hired to deliver the program.

New in 2017, a New Staff Orientation program was piloted on May 25, with five new staff members and five veteran staff members participating. This orientation program was designed to give new staff members a chance to familiarize themselves with the camp facility, begin to understand some of the cultures and traditions of camp, and begin to develop relationships with veteran staff who exemplify the characteristics of strong staff members. Staff members who attended this orientation demonstrated a positive transition into the staffing family; they assimilated into the camp culture, and were able to participate in the mandatory staff training program without feeling isolated from the rest of the staff who already had a strong sense of connection with one another.

Several years ago, through an Americorps position, camp was able to develop a Workforce Competency Model, which illustrated a broad variety of skills and abilities that camp staff have and/or are expected to develop through employment experiences at camp. In 2017, this Model was incorporated into the staff training and performance review of each staff person. Using this strategy, Camp Director Jessica Middleton was able to highlight for staff those skills which they were exemplifying, as well as those skills that would be opportunities for staff to grow and further develop in the future. The Model is a visual representation for staff to map out their progress not only in the current season, but also moving into the future. The goal is for staff to be able to see camp as not only a valuable summer work experience, but also as a place where they can gain new skills each year. The expectation is that this model will help with staff retention, as many staff feel pressure to “get a real job” after working for a summer or two with camp. We will be tracking staff retention over the coming years to determine the effectiveness of this strategy, but staff this summer responded well to this format of performance review.
4-H Camp Bristol Hills serves over 1000 youth each summer through a variety of organized summer camp programs. In the Fall of 2016 and into the Spring of 2017, Camp completed the largest facility improvement in the camp’s 92 year history, replacing the two existing bathroom facilities with three brand new bathhouses. The improvements provided a much needed upgrade to the cleanliness of the facility and the camper experience, and also included a total overhaul to the water treatment and septic systems, as well as an upgrade in the electrical systems. The impact of these enhancements will become evident for years to come, but the initial response has been extremely positive. Camper enrollment increased more than 11%, resulting in the highest enrollment in the past 30 years. Additionally, the feedback received on camper and family surveys were extremely favorable on the new bathhouse facilities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County (CCE) is presently in the middle of a community-wide fundraising effort in support of these new facilities at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills.

We are working toward a fundraising goal of $800,000 for the capital improvements made at camp this year. CCE of Ontario County has received lead gifts from local businessman Dale Hemminger and former resident Mary Cockram Morse as well as a third anonymous donor. Mr. Hemminger is the President and owner of Hemdale Farms and a former CCE Board member. Ms. Cockram Morse is the daughter of Edward Cockram who served as 4-H Agent of Ontario County from 1940-1978.

Presently, we have raised more than half of our fundraising goal. The campaign will continue and will reach out to everyone in the community who has benefited from the many programs and services of 4-H Camp Bristol Hills and CCE of Ontario County.

This past September, we held an Alumni Weekend at Camp with all the proceeds benefiting the 4-H Capital Campaign. More than 13 families attending and $1500 was raised. Camp families, along with former Camp Staff, participated in a wide-range of camp activities along with all the fun traditions
that campers have come to expect. It was a great weekend! We are looking to host another Family Weekend at Camp in the fall of 2018.

The 4-H Alumni Weekend was so successful that efforts are being made to create the 4-H Camp Alumni Committee. The committee will be launched in 2018.

The committee members are: Chair: Haley Bickel, Erin Altman, Sam Casella, David DeCourcey, Jennie Erdle, Mary Gleason, Eric Hansen, Karen Higman, Jerry Killigrew, Andrew Kittleson, Pete Maslyn, and Beth Webster. Staff Support by: Tim Davis, Jim Hooper and Erin VanDamme
Parenting Skills Workshop Series

Being a parent can be one of the most satisfying roles in our lives, while also being one of the most frustrating. Each age and stage of growth presents unique joys and challenges. There are times parents need guidance and support to help navigate the ever changing challenges. Through a collaboration with the Ontario County Department of Social Services our Association provides the Parenting Skills Workshop Series (PSWS) to court mandated parents and other interested participants.

PSWS is a seven week program that focuses on developing the skills that will assist parents in dealing more effectively with challenging parent-child/teen situations. The series is offered three times a year; once at the Geneva Child Care Center and twice at the FLCC Child Care Center in Canandaigua. The teen session is offered once in Geneva and once in Canandaigua on the same dates and times as the parent programs are offered. Trained facilitators teach the skills associated with encouragement, can-do, choices, self-control and respecting feelings techniques. Parents and caregivers review these techniques through group discussions and role playing.

Program evaluations show that parents gained significant improvement in three areas:

- **Having more patience with their children**
- **Believing they have the skills necessary to be a good caregiver**
- **Feeling there are people around them who listen when they are feeling low**

One of the participants responded to our survey by stating that “I have used the skills that I learned in the classes at work with my co-workers as well, they tell me they can see a positive difference in me with self-control and anger issues”, while another said “It is an excellent program! All the skills you learn in the classes are helpful in parenting”.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension also provides online resources for parents at [https://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/engagement/parenting/parents/pages](https://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/engagement/parenting/parents/pages). Articles include:

- *Why Spanking Should Be Discouraged*
- *Children and Video Games*
- *Teens and Technology*
- *Parenting Teens – The Latest Research*
- *Babies Are Born To Read*
- *Creating Literacy Rich Play At Home*
- *Choosing A Child Care Center*
- *Recommendations for Grandfamilies*
- *Recommendations for Families with an Incarcerated Parent*

**Local Staffing:** Amy Morrisey, Program Educator; Anne Lahr, Parenting Skills Workshop Educator; Robert McCarthy, Parenting Skills Workshop Educator; Pat Owens, Parenting Skills Workshop Educator
Advisory Committees & Volunteers

Board Committees

Finance & Facilities
Kerry Adams, Chair; Sue Craugh, Don Jensen, Jr., Sue Shively, and Charles Van Hooft

People & Programs
Nina McCarthy; Chair, Sally Mueller, Andy Fellenz, Alfredo Resendiz, Pam Tichenor, and Lori Weykman

Nominating Committee
Sue Shively, Chair; Casey Kunes, and George Mueller

Agriculture Economic Development Advisory Team
George Ayres, Sam Casella, Andy Fellenz, Eric Hansen, Fred Lightfoote, Jim Peck, Maria Rudzinski, and Josh Watkins

Capital Campaign Committee
Haley Bickel; Chair, Erin Altman, Sam Casella, David DeCourcey, Jennie Erdle, Mary Gleason, Eric Hansen, Karen Higman, Jerry Killigrew, Andrew Kittleson, Pete Maslyn, and Josh Webster.

Master Gardeners
Carol Altemus
Lindsey Ayers
Pat Bartholomew
Sophie Bennet
Sandra Bierbrauer
Pat Blakeslee
Vaughn Buchholz
Dawn Carter
Jane Sheetz Clark
Sarah Claeyson
Sandra Ebberts
Judi Ferman
SK Ferris
Jane Ferraina
Stacy Fox
Christen Groeling
Bob Haggett
Rose Hancock
Kenneth Harbison
Lucy Ignizio
Dana Kincaid
Scarlet Lampier
Julie Macko

Helen Pellett
Sue Perkins
Tom Poplasky
Maria Raczka
Stan Raczka
Leslie Rice
Marge Shanahan
Cathy Simpson
Candi Smith
Nancy Stelynk
Pamela Tichenor
Jeanne Totman
Heather Tucker
Stacey Van Denburgh
Shelley Van Lare
Roger Van Nostrand
Sandra Voigt

Master Forest Owners
Dean Faklis
Ronald Gay
Harry Heuer
Dale Schaefer
Jeff Thompson

4-H Leaders & Volunteers
Allyson Adam-Anderson
Kay Aman
Dana Atwood
Deanna Bagley
Haley Bickel
Jenny Bingham
Gail Bishop
Pat Blakeslee
Sherry Blanco
Lauren Bolanda
Barb Bolton
Heather Bond
Matty Brooks
Calvin Brown
Debbie Brown
Krista Brown
Lisa Burley
Sam Casella
Sarah Claeyson
Lynne Colacino
Sara Cowan
Edwina Czadzceck
Brenda DeBoover
David DeCourcey
Dawn Dennis
Kathleen Draper
Heidi Durkee

Mark Eltz
Jackie English
Jennie Erdle
Tami Farnsworth
Frank Fessner
Eric Fiegel
Alysse Foster
Shari Garver
Mary Gleason
Lisa Grefrath
Barbara Grube
Jay Harris-Maxwell
Katie Harris-Maxwell
Kara Helstrom
Becky Hill
Shana Jo Hilton
Kathleen Hoven
Lynda Iler
Betsy Jensen
Dawn Jensen
Eileen Jensen
Timothy Jensen
Carmen Johnson-Lawrence
Rachel Jones
Jerry Killigrew
Madeline Kinnear
Melinda Kinnear
Andrew Kittleson
Darryl Kramer
Gracie Seeley Kuhner
Jesse Lambert
Roger Lambert
Scarlet Lampier
Richard Langkamp
Carolyn Lawson
Kendra Legters
Ann Lil
Peter Luna
Tonya Luna
Julie Maslyn
Brandi Mastin
Marsha Mason
Nina McCarthy
Beth McClung
Sara McLaughlin
Jill McLellan
Megan Miller
Jennifer Moore
Sally Mueller
Sharon Mumby
Amber Murphy
Margaret Murphy
Mary Murphy
Amy Nichol
Debbie North
Elin Orman
Theresa Paré
Rebecca Parshall
Erin Patterson
Sharon Pierce
Suzanne Pohorence
Susan Randall-Bullock
Irene Reed Schutt
Christie Richards
Mary Riley
Diane Roberts
Joanne Roe
Megan Roman
Kimberly Rosini
Karen Rugenstein
Brittany Rutz
Kelley Sacchitella
Debbie Sanders
Lucy Schram
Mary Seeley
Michael Shaughnessy
Claire Sheppard
Susan Shively
Aimee Simmons
Kellie Simpson
Ethan Smith
Hadley Smith
Haley Smith
Patricia Smith
Rose Smith
Brooke Smithling
Doreen Smithling
Jessica Spence
Emily Staychock
Jean Storie
Kimberly Stryker
Carol Stutzman
Sherry Thompson
Pam Tichenor
Sara Tompkins
Jennifer VanHouten
Cathy Walker
Danielle Washburn
Joseph Washburn
Candace Watkins
Andrew Wayne
Russell Welser
Nathan Westerman
Lori Weykman
Janet Wheeler
Mary Ann Whipple
Dave Willet
Shanna Williams
Kim Yerkes
Robert Yerkes

Casella Farms
Casella Waste Management
Center for Dispute Settlement
Sue Chapman
Pam Chiverton
Cindy’s Pies
Clearview Farms
Clifton Springs Methodist Church
CCE Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus,
        Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston,
        Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Seneca,
        Wayne and Yates
Coldwater Pond Nursery
Community Bank NA
Constellation Wines
Cornell University
        Agriculture Experiment Station
Cornell Agriculture, Food &
        Technology Park
Cornell Reduce Tillage –
        Vegetables Team
Cornell Soil Health Team
Cornell University Departments of:
        Animal Science
        Crop and Soil Science
        Entomology
        Food Science
        Horticulture Science
        Human Development
        Physics
        Plant and Pathology
        Textile Sciences
Cornell University Center for
        Materials Research
Cornell University Institute for
        Resource Information Sciences
Cornell Vegetable Program
Corwin Press
Country Corners Nursery
Country Max
Crop Production Services
Custom Trophy
Tim Davis
DeBoover Family Farm
Disney Corporation
Dom Vedora
Dottie Bandermer

Community Partners
1420 WACK Radio
Abbot’s Ice Cream
Amanda’s Garden
American Equipment Company
Amberg’s Inc.
American Camp Assoc
Amy Cornwall
Applebee’s
Arbor Hill
Artic Refrigeration
Bank of the Finger Lakes
BASF
Bayer Crop Science
Bejo Seeds
Bennett Farms
Bioworks
Black Brook Farms
Bloomfield Central School
Blowers Agra Services Inc.
B.O.C.E.S.
Borglum’s Iris Farm
Breaktime Anytime, LLC
Bristol’s Garden Center
Cal and Krista Brown
Sandra Button
C & R Foods
Calexis Livestock Farm
Canandaigua Chrysler Dodge/Jeep
Canandaigua Duck Hunters
Canandaigua National Bank &
        Trust
Canandaigua Rotary
Canandaigua City School District
Canandaigua Watershed Alliance
Cargill Foods
DuPont Crop Protection
Dudley Poultry
ESI, Inc.
ESL
Empire State Potato Growers
Empire Tractor
FABA Farms
Farm & Country Insurance
Farm Credit East
Farm Fresh First
Farmers Markets: Bloomfield,
 Canandaigua, Canandaigua VA,
 Cheshire, Clifton Springs,
 Geneva, and Victor
Farmington Historical Society
Faro’s Pizza
Fellenz Family Farm
Felt Lay
F.F. Thompson Foundation
Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart
 William Smith College
FLCC Association Inc.
FLCC Child Care Ctr.
FL Outreach Agency Ties
FL Teen Pregnancy Prevention
 Task Force
Finger Lakes Adoption Program
Finger Lakes Coffee Roasters
Finger Lakes Community College
Finger Lakes Grape Program
Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange
Finger Lakes Radio Group
Finger Lakes Visitors Connection
Finger Lakes Workforce
 Development
Firefly Farms
Fish Farm Market
Fisher Hill Market
Frantz’s Christmas Trees
Fresh Ayr Farm Market
Five Star Bank
Furmano Foods
Gale-Wyn Farm
Gannett Hill Gardens
Genesee County Ameri-Corps
Genesee Valley Bean
Geneva Chamber of Commerce
Geneva General Hospital Child
 Care Center
Geneva City School District
Gentner Precision Components
Golden Oaks Farm
Good Earth Greenhouse
Gorham Library
Goya Foods
Robert Green
Ground Water Systems
Growmark FS
Half Dutch Farm
Michael A. Hannen
Ed Hansen Farms
Happiness House
Harmony Circle
Harris Seeds
Hemdale Farms
Helena Chemical
Hill Cumorah Pageant
Hilton Farms
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Hollow Creek Farms Inc.
Honeoye Central School District
Hopper Hills Floral and Gifts
Horning Greenhouse
Inglis Holstein
Rebecca House
James Gray Agency
Kimberly Jaronsky
Java Farm Supply
J.D. Rugenstein & Sons, Inc.
J. Minn’s Farm
Jerome’s U Pick
JoAnn Fabrics
Susanne Kennedy
King Cole Bean Co
Lakeview Mental Health
LandPro
Legacy at Fairways
Legal Assistance of WNY
Liberty Stables
Life Science Labs
Lighthouse Gardens
Lightland Farms
Ann Lill
Lilies of the Field
Linholm Farm
Little Science Wizards
Ken Livermore
Lowes of Canandaigua
Lowes of Geneva
Lucas Greenhouse
Maggie’s Mustards
Maple Ridge Farm Greenhouse
Mayflowers Nursery & Garden
 Center
Memorial Art Gallery
Mental Health Assoc. of Rochester
Miller’s Farm and True Value
Monica’s Pies
Monroe Tractor & Implement
Mary Cockram Morse
MVP Health
Phil and Sandy Munson
Naked Dove
Nana’s Garden
Naples Community Garden
NEA4-HA-NYANYSACAA
Barb and Kevin Nedrow
NE-SARE
NWNY Dairy, Livestock a Field
 Crops Team
NY Bean, Inc.
NYCAMH
NY Cabbage Research &
Development Fund
NY Farm Bureau
NY Vegetable Research Council
NY Wine & Culinary Center
NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets
NYS Dept. of Environmental
Conservation, Wildlife,
Pesticide & Forestry, Rogers
Environmental Ctr.
NYS Dept. of Public Health
NYS Dry Bean Industry Advisory
 Committee
NYS Fair
NY Forest Owners Assoc.
NYS 4-H Educators Assoc.
NYS 4-H Foundation
NYS 4-H Program
NYS IPM Program
New York Life Insurance Co.
NYS Maple Producers Assoc.
NYS Onion Industry Council
NYS Vegetable Growers Assoc.
NYSSED Office of Ed, TV & Public Broadcasting
Northeast Weather Assoc. (NEWA)
- Geneva
Ontario Co. Ag Enhancement Board
Ontario Co. Board of Supervisors
Ontario Co. Children’s Fund
Ontario Co. Emergency Mgmt
Ontario Co. Family Court
Ontario Co. Farm Bureau
Ontario Co. Fair Board
Ontario Co. Mental Health
Ontario Co. Office for the Aging
Ontario Co. Office of Economic Development
Ontario Co., ARC
Ontario Co. Dept. of Planning & Research
Ontario County Public Health
Ontario Co. Dept. of Social Services
Ontario Co. Sheriff’s Office
Ontario Co. Water Resource Council
Ontario County Youth Bureau
Ontario Finger Lakes Beekeepers
Ontario Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
Oriental Garden Supply, LLC
Palmiter’s Garden & Nursery
Palmyra Macedon Schools
Debbie Palumbo-Sanders
Senator Pam Helming
Partnership for Ontario County
Pat Pavelsky
Pedersen Farms
Phelps Cement Products, Inc.
Phelps-Clifton Central School
Phelps Community Center
Phelps Historical Society
Phelps Mercantile
Phelps Supply Inc.
Pictometry International
Profac Cooperative, Inc.
Quail Summit
Quackenbush Hardware & Lumber
Rainbow Junction
Randall Farnsworth Auto Group
Red Jacket Community Library
Red Jacket Orchards
Red Jacket Schools
Reid’s Seeds
Reisdorf Seeds
Rice Foundation
Rochester Civic Garden Center
Roger VanNostrand Landscape Design
Richard Russell
Running’s
S.A.L.T.
The Salvage Gallery
Sam’s Club
Lee Schutt Memorial
Carolyn Scott
Seager Marine
Seedway Inc.
Seeking Common Ground
Self Help Sewing Group
Seneca Foods, Inc.
Shepard Ford
Siegers Seeds
Smithling Family
Sonnenburg Gardens & Mansion
Springdale Farms
Spring Hope Farm
Spring Valley Greenhouse, Inc.
Stage Struck Puppets
Stargazer Property Group
Stokes Seeds
Storybook Farm Veterinary
Stony Brook Oils
Stony Brook Wholehearted Foods
Mark and Kim Stryker
Sugar Hill Farm
SUNY – Cobleskill, Morrisville, Geneseo, Alfred, Cortland
Sweet Expressions
Syngenta Crop Protection
The Birketts Mills
Thompson Grain Inc.
Todd & Jeanne Totman
Town of Bristol
Town of Canandaigua
Tractor Supply Canandaigua
Treasure Valley Seeds
Turner’s Agway
UAP Distribution
USDA - FSA
USDA - NRCS
United Way
Upstate NY Potato Advisory Committee
Upstate Niagara Cooperative
UR Thompson Hospital Foundation
Usborne Works
USDA
VA Medical Center
Erin VanDamme
Victor Historical Society
Victor Central School District
Village of Victor
Wegmans Food Markets
Wendy’s, Canandaigua
WNY Crop Management Association
WNYFL Solid Waste Management Authority
WXXI Public Broadcasting Council
Western NY & Finger Lakes County Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Williams Farm
Willow Bend Farm
Wohlschegel Maple Syrup
Zoetis, Inc.
SUMMARY OF RESOURCES & SUPPORT

County Appropriation $435,493
State
- 224 Funds $ 61,806
- Fringe Benefits $356,189
- University Resources $183,984
Federal
- Smith Lever $ 10,454
- Fringe Benefits $ 11,380
- University Resources $ 114,936
Grants and Contracts $70,351
Capital Campaign $51,318
  (Camp Bathrooms)
Other (user fees, rent, fundraising,
donations, etc) $574,326
Volunteer Support
  (value of time/expertise for 10,765 hours
  of volunteer time at $24.14/hour per The
  Independent Sector) $259,867.10
TOTAL: $2,131,104.10
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

Peter Maslyn, President, Farmington
Kerry Adams, Vice-President, Shortsville
Nina McCarthy, Vice-President, Geneva
Sally Mueller, Secretary, Clifton Springs
Charles Van Hooft, Treasurer, Clifton Springs
Sue Shively, Nominating Committee, Gorham
Sue Craugh, Canandaigua

Andy Fellenz, Phelps
Don Jensen, Jr., Stanley
Alfredo Resendiz, Clifton Springs
Pam Tichenor, Canandaigua
Lori Weykman, Clifton Springs
Fred Lightfoote, Supervisor Representative
Charles Fausold, State Extension Specialist

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION STAFF

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Russell Welser, Senior Resource Educator
Marie Anselm, Senior Resource Educator Agriculture Economic Development
Nancy Anderson, Senior Administrative Assistant

CORNELL VEGETABLE PROGRAM
Julie Kikkert, Commercial Vegetable Program Specialist *
John Gibbons, Field Technician*
Angela Parr, Administrative Assistant*

NWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & FIELD CROPS
Libby Eiholzer, Dairy Management Associate *

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Jennifer Jensen, 4-H Resource Educator
Amy Morrisey, 4-H Program Educator
Susan Angell, Administrative Assistant

4-H CAMP BRISTOL HILLS
Tim Davis, 4-H Camp Administrator
James Hooper, 4-H Resource Educator
Ellen Rosenbarker, Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION
Timothy S. Davis, Executive Director
Erin VanDamme, Association Administrator
Debbie Huls, Finance Manager
Joe Torres, Facilities Supervisor

*Multi-County