

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ALBANY COUNTY - 8753

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WHO WE SERVE

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

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

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

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

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- CCE assisted over 300 adults and 100 youth with financial literacy education programs to help them make informed and effective decisions regarding money management. Topics included: planning for college expenses; understanding credit scores; credit and debt management; reducing home energy costs; and creating a budget.
- Thousands of limited resource county residents were aided in applying to receive home energy conservation education, enabling them to file for federal subsidy.
- In the first six months of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, residents in 383 homes learned about a number of healthy home topics including: lead poisoning prevention; asthma trigger reduction; indoor air quality; and fire, child, and home safety. Working closely with an Albany County Department of Health asthma educator, follow-up visits were made to approximately 20% of the homes where at least one person with asthma resided.
- Ninety-five youth ages 6-12, 15 counselors-in-training, and 44 junior and senior counselors participated in the 4-H Summer Scene program. The theme, Making A Difference, focused not only on environmental education and the importance of

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being good stewards for a healthy planet, but youth who attended also learned that a healthy body is essential to a healthy lifestyle. Teen counselors also applied job readiness skills as part of their participation in workforce development.

- To date, 40 caregivers and 40 youth have participated in the Strengthening Families Program. Locations have included LaSalle School in Albany, Colonie Senior Center, Cohoes Community Center, Albany Jewish Community Center, Hackett Middle School, and the CCE Urban Outreach site located at 230 Green Street in Albany.
- The Urban 4-H program brings after-school and summer 4-H programming to youth at prevention provider sites and youth agencies throughout Albany County in partnership with the Albany County Department of Children, Youth and Families. A total of 61 Urban 4-H meetings were attended by 345 youth at numerous sites.
- Teens involved in the 4-H Youth Community Action Network (Youth CAN) identified, planned and implemented a number of community improvement projects in the City of Albany. One collaboration between Youth CAN members and residents at Thurlow Terrace Senior Apartments included the design and completion of several building and grounds improvements and the construction of raised beds for the residents to grow fresh food. Youth CAN is funded through a Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) grant from USDA/NIFA, and is conducted in partnership with the Albany Boys and Girls Club and the Schenectady County Community College–Albany campus.
- As a result of attending CCE's 7th Annual Winter Green-Up Grazing Conference, 74% of the over 140 attendees will make changes in their marketing strategies and farming practices and over 50% of the attendees said their knowledge of pasture-based farming had increased.
- CCE educators presented a Beef Quality Assurance program where over 30 beef cattle producers received their Level I and Level II certification, assuring a quality beef product sold locally.

2017 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- CCE staff will continue to participate on three school district wellness committees in Albany County, acting in a consultant capacity to assist in their pursuit of healthful dietary and fitness approaches to help students and their families make better choices more easily.
- Staff plans to expand the "Preserving the Garden" educational programs, providing strategies for families to preserve and consume nutrient dense produce.
- Educators will provide residents with current and accurate information regarding the link between optimal health, sound nutritional habits and opportunities for creative application of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- CCE educators will continue to provide quality, available, and effective community-based educational programs designed to improve the health and wellness of community residents.
- Financial literacy programs will be expanded to provide consumers with the tools and knowledge to cope with economic stress, improve spending habits, and manage and reduce debt.
- Healthy Neighborhoods programming will be expanded to educate more than 600 residents in targeted neighborhoods of Albany County how to have a healthy and safe living environment. Priority issues to be addressed will include asthma trigger reduction, pest management, and lead poisoning prevention.
- Entering its third year, the 4-H Youth Community Action Network (Youth CAN) will continue to provide urban 4-H teens with an opportunity to develop civic engagement and leadership skills.
- The 4-H "Grows True Leaders" campaign will inspire youth to become leaders and make a positive impact in their clubs and communities. A strategic marketing plan will be implemented to recruit new 4-H youth and volunteers to participate in this research-based youth development program.
- The Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan will be revised and updated in collaboration with the Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board to demonstrate the need for increased Agriculture Economic Development centered on agriculture locally.
- In collaboration with New York State Agriculture and Markets veterinarians and the County District Attorney's office, specialized trainings will be held on how to recognize animal abuse and how to respond to emergency situations that relate to livestock and equine.

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SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES: The 2017 Executive budget for Cornell Cooperative Extension does not include any substantive programmatic changes.

Master Gardener Program... Since 1977, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardeners have been volunteering to advise and educate the public to garden more successfully and sustainably. Each year, CCE Horticulture staff and Master Gardener volunteers answer more than 6,000 consumer calls and test over 600 soil samples for pH through participation at flower shows, fairs, farmers' markets, a garden helpline, and a variety of presentations to garden clubs all over the Capital Region. Composting is the cornerstone of sustainable gardening practices and the Master Gardeners help to demonstrate possible ways to compost kitchen and yard scraps, saving space in the landfill and creating a nutrient rich soil amendment. In 2017, the volunteers will continue garden-based education at St. Anne's Institute, a residential and community-based prevention service agency in Albany. This unique opportunity allows the youth to learn the basics of greenhouse work, seed starting techniques, and valuable life skills, all while participating in a safe and nurturing environment.

A8753 Cornell Cooperative Extension				2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2017	2017
				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
Contractual Expenses										
A	8753	44476	Cooperative Ext Serv Assoc			\$901,349	\$987,006	\$987,006	\$987,006	\$0
A	8753	44480	Weatherization			\$395,591	\$956,687	\$115,782	\$115,782	\$0
Subtotal for: Contractual Expenses						\$1,296,940	\$1,943,693	\$1,102,788	\$1,102,788	\$0
Total Appropriations						\$1,296,940	\$1,943,693	\$1,102,788	\$1,102,788	\$0
Revenue										
A8753	02418	Rent Cooperative Extension				(\$246,552)	(\$246,552)	(\$246,552)	(\$246,552)	\$0
A8753	04950	Weatherization				(\$395,591)	(\$956,687)	(\$115,782)	(\$115,782)	\$0
Total Revenue						(\$642,143)	(\$1,203,239)	(\$362,334)	(\$362,334)	\$0
County Share						\$654,797	\$740,454	\$740,454	\$740,454	\$0