

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ALBANY COUNTY - 8753

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WHO WE SERVE

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

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

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

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

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- As a result of attending CCE's 9th Annual Winter Green-Up Grazing Conference, 75% of the 150 attendees report their intent to make changes in their production and/or marketing practices and plan to utilize social media and on-line resources more for marketing their products in the future.
- CCE worked closely with the New York Beef Producers Association to divide the state into 14 regions from the original structure of six regions which will allow Extension to deliver more targeted educational programs in the regions.
- The Albany County Pest Management Committee, chaired by CCE staff, worked with the Cornell Community Integrated Pest Management Program to sponsor a workshop: *'Stop Pests in Urban Housing.'* Detecting and controlling bed bugs was the main topic with over 50% of attendees learning proper techniques to control bed bugs.
- Over 700 youth in grades 2-4 from eight city of Albany schools attended educational programs at the city of Albany Normanskill Farm. CCE coordinates the event annually with five staff teaching at various educational stations. Meeting the farm animals and learning where their food comes from, along with bees, nutrition and blacksmithing were topics of interest for the children and teachers.
- CCE staff participated in a Garden-Based Learning Certificate Program in response to the surge in program inquiries related to garden education and food sustainability. 4-H staff, Consumer Horticulture staff, and Master Gardener volunteers are currently involved in more than 20 on-going gardening projects throughout Albany County.
- The 4-H Youth Development Program has partnered with a number of not-for-profit agencies, schools and county organizations to bring environmental and health programming to more than 560 youth in Albany County.

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- 2017 marks the 45th year of the 4-H Summer Scene Day Camp that takes place in Ridgefield Park in the City of Albany. Programs help youth make a difference in their communities, for the environment, and for themselves. More than 140 campers and junior and senior counselors will participate in this year's educational activities.
- Nutrition workshops over the past year have addressed more than 630 county residents from toddlers to senior citizens. These hands-on classes address health concerns such as obesity prevention and eating well with diabetes and allow participants to expand nutrition knowledge and gain cooking skills.
- This year, Extension educators provided 36 financial literacy workshops reaching close to 340 participants. CCE Albany County collaborates with a wide-variety of community-based organizations and currently offers twelve workshop options covering a range of financial literacy topics.
- The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a collaboration with Albany County Department of Children, Youth and Families and the City of Albany Department of Youth and Workforce Services. SYEP provides summer employment and training for income eligible youth, ages 14-21. Ten worksites (in southern Albany Co.) were developed and 44 youth were employed for nine weeks with a financial literacy component enhancing the workforce training. An Introduction to Banking session, provided by National Bank of Coxsackie, will allow youth to explore the importance of banking, savings accounts and the wise use of credit.
- CCE educators with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program received extensive training in asthma trigger reduction, fire safety, and pest management. This knowledge was passed along to Albany County residents in 880 homes helping them live safer and healthier lives.
- More than 580 contractors, landlords, code officials, and trades people received the required U.S. EPA renovator certification as a result of participating in an EPA training offered by CCE.
- CCE staff assisted over 2,400 Albany County households in applying for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits and linked them to many additional educational opportunities offered through CCE including: nutrition and wellness programs, financial education, 4-H Youth Development, weatherization and healthy homes.

2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- The County Agriculture and Farmland Protection board, an ad hoc agriculture advisory board, and a private consultant are working to complete the Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan by early 2018. A key component of the plan is economic development centered on agriculture.
- A grazing study will be conducted on Albany International Airport property to demonstrate how sheep can be used to control tall weeds in the runway protection zone which is a wetland that cannot be sprayed or mowed. If successful, this research could lead to a permanent flock of sheep at the airport.
- A 1st Annual Family Farm Day will be held at a local dairy farm to highlight the importance of agriculture in Albany County. Guided tours and a youth educational area will offer hands-on learning opportunities to foster an understanding of where food comes from and how the environment plays a role in sustaining our food supply.
- Albany Youth CAN will continue its partnership with Arbor Hill Community Center and Ezra Prentice Homes (in cooperation with AVillage, Inc.) to assist teens in developing their leadership skills through civic engagement and community service.
- 4-H Youth Development STEM-based programming will feature animal science and environmental education for youth of all ages which will increase enrollment in these programs throughout Albany County.
- Safe home food preservation instruction will continue to grow based on consumer demand. These hands-on classes provide training in safe methods of freezing, canning, fermenting and dehydrating of many types of foods.
- Educators will partner with the New York State Department of Health to provide Hudson River Fish Advisory information to Albany County anglers and consumers.
- CCE will expand upon the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in an effort to reduce the incidence of asthma and also decrease the frequency of emergency room visits and hospital stays. Educators with the Asthma Project will identify asthma triggers and help to facilitate simple repairs to eliminate these triggers.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES The 2018 Executive Budget for CCE does not include substantive change.

Healthy Neighborhoods Program...Albany County's Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP), offered in conjunction with the Albany County Department of Health, helps residents live safer and healthier lives in their homes. CCE educators are trained in a variety of indoor environmental issues...lead poisoning prevention, asthma trigger reduction, indoor air quality, and fire, child, and home safety...and convey this knowledge during a home visit. In addition to the education component, the program offers home assessments, cleaning products, safety items, resources, and referrals, and participates in over 50 community events annually. In the past year, more than 880 homes were visited, educating approximately 2,000 Albany County residents.