

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ALBANY COUNTY (CCE) 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, Family Farm Day, Shooting Sports, Dog Obedience/Agility, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM), Financial Management Education, Workforce Development, Emergency Preparedness, Healthy Starts At Home.
- **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, 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, Hudson River Fish Advisory, and Regional SNAP-Ed.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- CCE educators trained over 100 landlords, code officials, maintenance workers, and residents on how to implement rodent exclusion methods. As a result of using this IPM (Integrated Pest Management) technique, pests are significantly reduced or eliminated in living and work environments.
- Extension educators offered more than 40 EPA lead trainings resulting in 516 individuals learning how to prevent lead poisoning and becoming EPA certified renovators.

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- CCE educators collaborated with dozens of organizations and helped coordinate a variety of housing programs and services to more than 200 families through the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). Residents were educated on energy efficiency measures, lead poisoning prevention, mold reduction, and asthma trigger elimination to help make their homes healthy living environments.
- Community nutrition programs, open to all county residents, featuring a variety of emergent topics were delivered in 81 locations throughout Albany County.
- CCE staff assisted 2,902 Albany County households in applying for HEAP benefits and linked them to many additional educational opportunities offered through CCE including: Eat Smart New York (ESNY), Financial Education, Farmers Markets', Emergency Preparedness, 4-H Youth Development, and the Healthy Neighborhoods program.
- Master Food Preservers extend extension's education programs in food preservation to adults and youth. The Master Food Preserver serves as a volunteer resource in the community to provide the public with research-based information. Two 35 hour Master Food Preserver trainings were held to certify 38 participants.
- CCE is bringing the New York State Department of Health Hudson River Fish Advisory education to the most vulnerable county residents with over 1,000 participants receiving this consumption safety education this year.
- Thirty financial literacy programs were provided, in collaboration with community-based organizations, reaching over 250 participants through a variety of workshops including basic budgeting and credit/debt management.
- The Albany Youth Community Action Network completed its 5th year of programming with youth at Arbor Hill Community Center, Ezra Prentice and the Tony Clement Center for Education. The teens participated in several community service projects, including donating lunches to the Capital City Rescue Mission, and creating bedding bags for young children entering the foster care system and activity kits for children in Albany Medical Center.
- More than 1,000 individuals and families participated in hands-on activities at the 2nd annual Cornell Cooperative Extension Family Farm Day event. Attendees toured the Tommell Beef Farm and gained knowledge in how local agriculture plays a key role in providing food for the residents of Albany County.
- A panel educational session was held on Growing Industrial Hemp which provided 101 growers with information on the pros and cons of growing and marketing this new crop.
- More than 1,800 urban youth participated in programming related to environmental sustainability, science and technology, and healthy eating and the importance of regular physical activity.
- The Master Gardener program devoted more than 690 hours to engaging youth throughout Albany County in garden-based learning experiences. Additionally, more than 1,000 Albany County residents attended Master Gardener volunteer presentations and workshops, while an additional 3,750 consumers were reached through tabling events, email and web inquiries.
- Over 700 youth in grades 2-4 from nine City of Albany schools attended educational programs at the City of Albany Normanskill Farm. CCE coordinates the event annually with six staff members and three interns teaching at the various environmental and agriculture educational stations.

2020 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- To help comply with recent New York State legislation regarding children's elevated (lead poisoned) blood level, CCE educators will become EPA certified as lead risk assessors and provide education and trainings.
- CCE will educate several thousand Albany County and capital region residents on living safer and healthier in their homes through the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Radon programs, and EPA lead trainings. Furthermore, CCE educators will continue to partner with the regional Red Cross to provide hundreds of smoke detectors and fire safety education to residents.
- CCE's partnership with the New York State Department of Health and will expand delivery sites to provide Hudson River Fish Advisory information to Albany County residents, anglers and consumers through 2020.
- Healthy Starts At Home, a program funded by Blue Shield of Northeastern NY will provide families with a series of interactive workshops that help parents/caregivers and their youth (ages 8 -14) create healthy homes and lifestyles.
- Agriculture and horticulture educators will offer new and existing workshops that help producers, municipalities and consumers to promote local agriculture, facilitate niche and expanding markets, and support various county identified initiatives (i.e. new farm start-ups, HEMP, conservation, IPM, pollinators, etc.).

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- The 4th annual Family Farm Day event will provide an additional avenue to educate families in sustainable agriculture, local production of food, and the importance of supporting local farms.
- Extension staff will continue working with Albany County school districts, Menands Market and local producers to foster farm to school initiatives that result in establishing connections to purchase local food for school lunches.
- Quality, interactive nutrition education will expand based on consumer demand. Hands on classes, tailored to specific audience needs will be offered to all county residents.
- Thanks to the support of the Albany County Youth Bureau, CCE 4-H educators are providing STEM programming, environmental education, and healthy living workshops to youth involved in summer programs throughout Albany County and will continue these opportunities to schools and afterschool sites throughout the year.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2020 Executive Budget for CCE does not include substantive change.

Healthy Starts at Home, presented in partnership with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York, provides a series of educational opportunities for parents/caregivers to spend special time interacting with their youth and learning together to create a safe and healthy home environment. Program topic areas include: good nutrition, healthy meal preparation and the importance of regular physical activity; stress management and mindfulness; home safety, understanding peer pressure and avoiding risky behaviors. Since inception this spring, the program has reached 119 families, successfully enhancing family communication providing prevention education as well as the importance of wellness and well child visits, and creating opportunities for joint learning to foster a healthy family.