

Department Name	Cornell Cooperative Extension
Account(s)	8753

Department Function
Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) works to enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. Extension staff and trained volunteers deliver educational programs and trainings, conduct applied research, and encourage community collaborations. CCE educators connect people with the information they need on topics such as: agriculture/horticulture; food-systems; nutrition and health; youth and families; financial and energy efficiency; economic and community development; sustainable natural resources, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship. Through our ability to link land-grant systems and university resources with community needs, CCE plays a vital role in the lives of individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout Albany County.

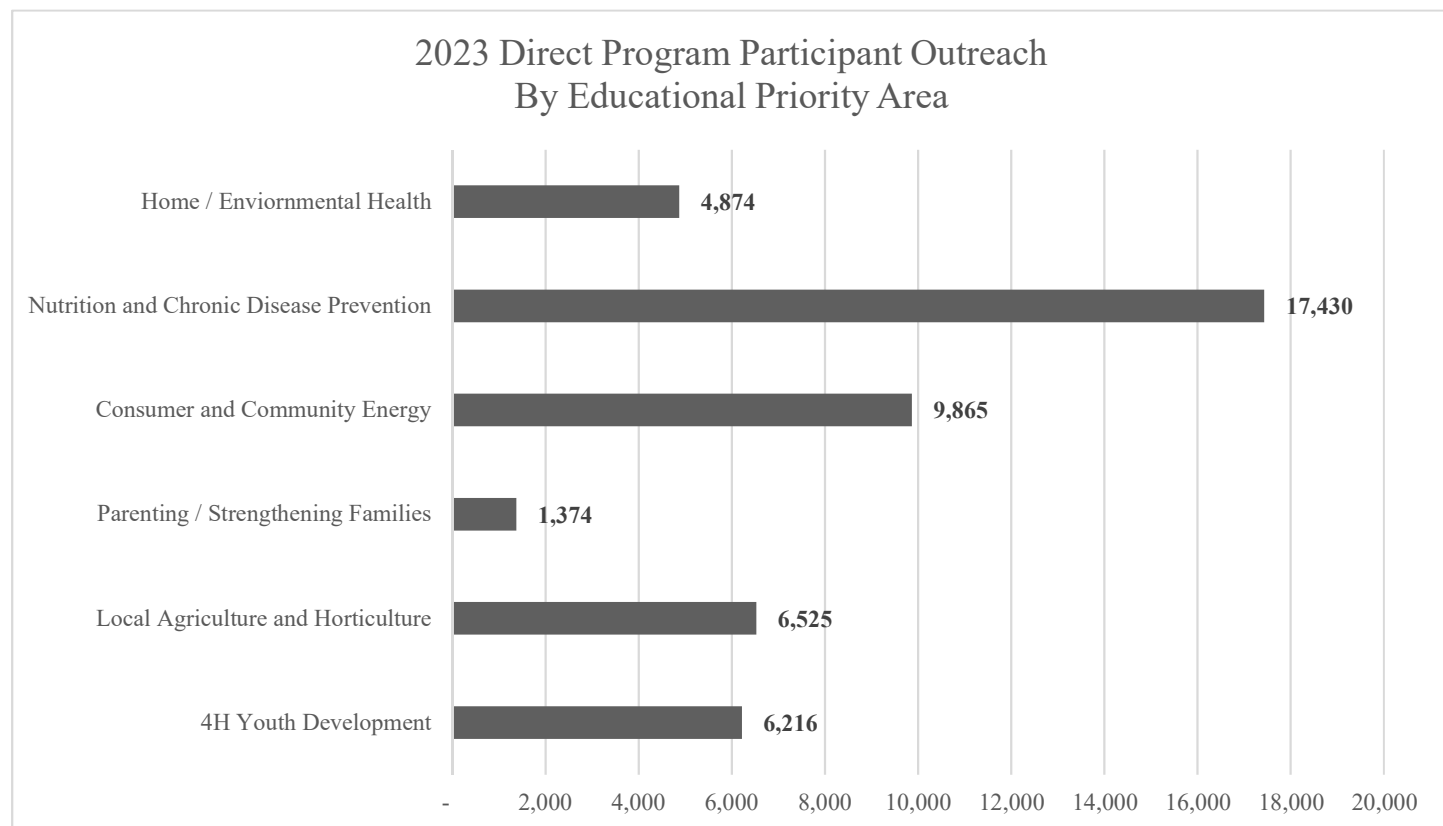
Current Year Highlights
• 1,450 youth participated in Urban 4-H programs focused on numerous STEAM and healthy living topics. • 585 2nd grade students from the Albany City school district visited the Normanskill Farm to learn about agriculture. • New York State Dairy in the Classroom funding provided the opportunity for 3,860 youth to learn about the dairy industry. • CCE worked with Albany County producers to place more than 76,300 acres in an Agricultural District. • Family Farm Day was hosted by the C.N. Tommell Cattle Company, LLC with 967 participants in attendance. • Energy educators engaged in more than 60 outreach events connecting 5,000+ residents with information and education on their energy needs and concerns. • The gardening hotline and horticulture lab assisted 1,700 homeowners with gardening questions and analysis. • 504 caregivers participated in the 6-hour parent education programs where 356 were awarded a certificate of completion. • 158 people attended financial literacy education programs. • HEAP assisted over 2,200 in person applicants with varying energy related needs, including providing general information to assist in the prevention of utility shut offs as well as making sure households have safe and operable heating and cooling systems. Additionally, CCE responded to over 5,000 phone calls addressing HEAP questions and concerns. • Over 3500 residents learned about the Hudson River Fish Advisory during tabling events at farmers markets, fall festivals, and fairs. 200+ new arrivals participated in ESL, ENL and HSE presentations. • 2,000+ people learned how to preserve food while observing demos and displays at farmers markets and the county fair. 12 hands-on food preservation classes were taught on canning, pickling, jam making, and fermenting for 200 people. Over 50 people attended the Cornell 3-day Master Food Preservation training this spring. • Dining with Diabetes, Eat Smart for Brain Health, Mediterranean Cooking, Heart Healthy Diets, Eating Healthy for Less, the Spices around the World Series and many other classes were taught both via Zoom and in-person at churches, community centers, libraries and senior sites to over 750 people. • The Healthy Homes Program visited and educated 400 Albany County residents, providing them with essential products to improve the health and safety of their living environment. • The EPA Lead Renovator Certification program conducted 55 initial training courses and 12 refresher training courses educating approximately 400 contractors, construction workers, and property owners in lead safe work practices.

Next Year Projects
• With the hiring of a climate educator, CCE will be looking to expand community-based outreach education in this arena. • CCE 4-H educators will continue to offer on-going STEAM, healthy lifestyles, environmental stewardship, and career education to youth throughout the county. • Parents will continue to learn how to manage the impact of stressful life events on children, youth, and families through various Strengthening Families programs and parenting workshops. • Farm to School funding will continue to support work with Albany County school districts, connecting students to local foods. • Master Gardener Volunteers will continue to support Veteran gardening projects as well as urban gardening initiatives. • Energy advisors will continue to connect residents to cost saving energy solutions through the Capital Region Clean Energy Hub. • CCE will continue to provide the Healthy Homes Program to improve the health and safety of Albany County residents. • CCE's EPA certified trainers will assist Albany County with their expanding LEAD prevention efforts. • Agriculture and horticulture specialists will continue to educate producers (and consumers) about invasive species, integrative pest management techniques, applied research strategies and critical farm business approaches for new and existing farms.

Link to Website	http://albany.cce.cornell.edu/
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Programmatic Highlights



Farm-to School Program

CCE Albany County received a Farm-to-School grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in 2023. This two-year initiative provided an opportunity for educators to work with the Bethlehem and Voorheesville school districts to promote the importance of consuming local products. The Bethlehem School District serves students in five elementary schools, one middle, and one high school while the Voorheesville School District serves students in one elementary school, and one middle and high school. Through educational presentations and taste-testing activities, more than 12,000 students learned about the benefits of buying and eating fresh, local farm products as well as the many careers related to agriculture. Linkages were made between schools and producers with opportunities to provide farm fresh produce to the student populations.

Parenting and Strengthening Families Programs

- Positive Parenting and Strengthening Families programming, partially funded by Albany County Department of Children Youth and Families, is an initiative that empowers families by providing tools and resources to communicate effectively, foster emotional resilience, promote healthy relationships, and inspire family cohesion and well-being. Approximately 1,300 parents/caregivers participate annually in these educational workshops and activities.

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