

### **2018 Annual Report**

#### 2018 Director's Message

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County has had an eventful year. In my report last year, I mentioned the work being done to move into the Homer Avenue shopping center with three other non-profits. Though we continue to be excited about supporting the introduction of a farmer's market and commercial kitchen, the move to Homer Avenue proved to be too expensive to make. Therefore, we continue to be located in the County Office Building.

I promised last year that this would be a year of change, and it has been. After continued flat funding from the county and state, a tight budget was developed with few fringes. Though it's working, it required us as an association to focus on additional funding. We have received two small grants for Integrated Pest Management and Relatives as Parents Programming (Heather and Barb will fill you in), Fay and Abbie have been focusing on grants to support their work, and I have just completed a grant request to New York State for funding to support a Farm-To-School program in collaboration with Main Street Farms and Seven Valleys Health Coalition. I will be completing a Federal USDA grant to support the Farm-To-School program in December. Additionally, I wrote a grant to support infrastructure work at 4-H Camp Owahta, focusing first on rebuilding our water system and kitchen improvements.

Through all of this, CCE-Cortland continues to work toward its mission: CCE-Cortland 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. As you will read in this Annual Report, that translates into passion and resolve to improve the lives of Cortland residents, from farms to youth to families. I am proud of our community, our staff, and the dedication I see in the work being done. CCE Cortland is a great place! David Rutherford, Executive Director

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#### **Our Mission**:

Cornell Cooperative Extension 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.



























## **4-H GROWS HERE**



2018 District Public Presentations: Illustrated Talks Elsie Donlick and Caylene Russell

#### **4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:**

Rebecca Ireland-Perry, 4-H Team Leader

Generosity • Community Service • Leadership •Hands-on • Belonging • Life Skills

- Communication Citizenship Mastery
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Public Speaking Agriculture Healthy
   Lifestyles Career Exploration Independence

The primary goal of 4-H is to develop citizenship, leadership and life skills in youth through experiential learning opportunities and a positive youth development approach.

Today's 4-H program has three primary initiatives:

- Citizenship
- Science, technology, engineering, & math
- Healthy living

In the 2017-18 program year, our 4-H Youth Development Program engaged over 2661 youth throughout Cortland County in informal educational opportunities and hands-on learning through these services:

4-H Clubs: There are currently fourteen active 4-H clubs in Cortland County, and a total 4-H enrollment of 292 youth. 4-H clubs are the traditional method of youth development, with a diverse offering of projects to develop or enhance necessary life skills.



School Enrichment Programs: Youth programs targeted 1901 Cortland County Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Programs such as Ag Literacy, AgStravaganza, McMahon farm tour, incubation and embryology class projects, and Conservation Field Days provide exposure to agricultural education.



**Cortland County Jr. Fair:** A strong component of the 4-H Youth Development program, the 4-H Fair serves as the culmination of a year's worth of 4-H club activities. 4-H members showcase their projects, animals, and the valuable leadership skills they have developed during the past year. Participating in the fair provides opportunities for teaching youth responsibility and decision-making skills, as well as providing an educational experience for the general public. 173 youth exhibitors having approximately 1000 total exhibits made this year's fair a success. Over 150 exhibits went on to the NYS Fair for further evaluation.



4-H Teens Visiting Albany – 2018 4-H Capital Days Cortland County: Michaela Eichorst & Donovan Allis

**4-H Youth Development** provides a unique learnby-doing model that teaches our youth essential and transferrable skills that they'll use throughout their lives, such as communicating, problem solving, decision making, coping, and responding to the needs of others. In addition to mastering a variety of important life skills, 4-H members connect with caring adults in their community and make friendships that last a lifetime.

#### **4-H CAMP OWAHTA:**

#### Maria Gimma, Director

2018 marked the 66<sup>th</sup> summer for 4-H Camp Owahta, with its successful integration of tradition and innovation under the direction of Maria Gimma. It was a summer filled with fun, outdoor activities, leadership development, and the creation of long-lasting friendships for campers and counselors alike. May and June, open houses were held to meet and greet our director as well as the staff. Visitors were able to explore the camp grounds, participate in fun activities.

This year, our 6 weeks of camp saw 105 day campers, along with 274 residential campers.



"Farm to Garden" This being our 4th year for farm to garden planting and cooking from the vegetable garden. In addition to physical improvements, work is underway to develop programs and connect within the community, yet keep the traditional experience of camp that so many love as well as extend the reach of camp into the spring and fall months.



Magic Academy and Caribbean Mystery Cruise Weeks were well-loved this year, along with Olympics week, which is traditionally the most popular week of camp. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year with Tent Camp, a great intensive program where campers sleep in a tent outdoors each night and have their own special campfire each evening. The campers had the opportunity to cook meals over a campfire and learn outdoor living skills. In addition to our traditional themes, nature activities, swimming, boating, and trips, 4-H Camp Owahta is a place for children to be children – to play, relax, and develop relationships with counselors and adults in the community.

4-H Camp Owahta hosted SWCD Conservation Field Days and Environthon - which exposed camp to over 300 camp aged children. We also hosted a number of weekend groups and the Hamm radio club's annual international emergency preparedness awareness meeting. Join us for Camp! Information can be found on our website at www.4-Hcamp.org and Facebook page!

#### **HORTICULTURE:**

Claudia Hitt, Horticulture Program Educator



Adult and youth education classes focused on Horticulture have taken place through community organizations. The Horticulture office has focused on customer services, youth and adult education, with Master Gardener Volunteer supervision, and community outreach.

Helping the consumer and the Cortland County Environmental Health Department to identify pests from insects to plant diseases to weeds and Ph testing and soil type identification has been an ongoing service provided to homeowners and gardeners across the county.

This year 946 kids were taught in classes that lasted from 20 minutes to one hour, 107 adults

engaged in fun hands on activities, and 62 community calls were answered.

Learning or rekindling interest in growing ornamental plants with purpose such as gourds was one focus of the Heritage Garden. The Heritage Garden is the 4-H garden at the fairgrounds. Youth and Adults created crafts and gifts using gourds and gourd materials. A trip to Gourdlandia in Ithaca was exciting and inspirational to get 4-Her's growing their own gourds. In todays 'plugged in' world, it is important for youth to make the connection with nature.

"What better way than through a garden".

#### **HUMAN ECOLOGY PROGRAM**

Barb Henza, Subject Educator II

**Independent Living Skills** - Independent Living Skills (ILS), is a program for youth ages 14 to 20 vears old. Funded by a contract with DSS, the program provides a series of classes that teach the vouth life skills necessary for them to start their adult lives once they leave foster care. Topics covered in the classes include employment readiness (resumes, interview skills, dress, completing required forms to start a job and reading a paycheck stub), exploring possible careers, financial management/basic budgeting, what are credit reports and why they matter, identity theft awareness, choosing a place to live, tenants' rights, connecting with community relationships. healthy resources. conflict resolution, dealing with emotions in a positive manner, nutrition and team building exercises. The youth also learn about nutrition through the preparation of a healthy meal at the beginning of each class. There were 10 youth in the 2017-2018 class. A new class for the 2018-2019 school year started on October 9.

Family Budget Education Program - The Family Budget Education program is provided in a one-on-one setting for individuals and families who are experiencing financial difficulties. The program's focus is to assist the participants in finding possible solutions and then developing a course of action to begin to resolve the situation. Participants in the program learn how to work with creditors, read a

credit report, establish a budget that meets their needs, prioritize their financial obligations and programs available to them in the community. Past participants in the program find the information provided to be practical and useful in helping them gain control over their personal financial situation and in building confidence in their ability to manage their finances in the future. In addition to the one-on-one sessions, Access to Independence requested a presentation on budgeting for their clients. The class was held as a lunchtime presentation with both clients and staff attending.

**Credit and Job Seekers** Credit and Job Seekers is provided weekly as a component of a workforce readiness program held at the Cortland Works As employers may check an Career Center. applicant's credit report and use the information in the report in hiring decisions it is important for those in the job market to know what is in their report. The workshop teaches program participants how to obtain their report free of charge, what information is found in a credit report and where it comes from, what to look for in the report, how long negative information can remain in the report, who typically provides information to a credit bureau, the steps to take to dispute inaccurate information and have it removed from the report and the responsibilities of an employer if the report results in the individual not being Participants in the workshops offered a job. frequently take the opportunity to ask questions about other financial related issues such as how credit scores are calculated, when can wages be garnished, what actions a debt collector can take, how to re-establish or build a positive credit history and what is the difference between a credit union and a bank. Over 100 individuals have taken part in the class this year.

#### National Endowment for Financial Education High School Financial Planning Program

CCE Cortland works with the New York State Credit Union Association to train teachers around the state to implement the free High School Financial Planning Program in their classrooms. The program materials are provided by the National Endowment for Financial Education. It has been used with the ILS class and is also used in the Dryden School District.

#### **Financial and Consumer Education Program**

The Financial and Consumer Education program of Cornell Cooperative Extension Cortland County works to strengthen the financial well-being and stability of families and individuals through programs that build the knowledge and decision making skills of participants.

Parenting Education - Parenting education is once more part of the CCE Cortland County Human Ecology Program area. The Parents Apart program was introduced in 2017 and the Relatives as Parents program (RAPP) will be added later this year.



**Parents Apart** -The Parents Apart program is currently offered four times a year. Two Parents Apart classes have been held in 2018 with more scheduled in October and November. The classes consist of either two - 3 hour sessions held in the evening on two consecutive Thursdays or an allday Saturday session to accommodate parents who cannot make a week night class. Participants have been referred to the program through the court system, DSS and the Public Defender's office. At the end of the class, each participant receives a certificate and for those who are court ordered to attend, CCE staff provides documentation of their completion to the courts. Parents Apart had 7 attend to date, with positive feedback from them as to how they are using what they have learned to make things better for their children. One attendee shared that she had given the workbook provided at the class with her children's father and they are using the practices presented, resulting in a less stressful environment for their children.

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) - Cortland staff submitted a grant proposal to the Bridgestone Foundation out of New Jersey for start-up funds to bring a Relatives as Parents Program to Cortland County. In August notification was receive that our proposal had been accepted. CCE Staff will be attending a mandatory training in Teaneck, New Jersey October 25th through 27th, with work

beginning on the program in November. The Dept. of Social Services and the Area Agency on Aging have both expressed a need for this program and will actively be involved with its implementation.

#### SOUTHERN-TIER SNAP-ED EAT SMART NEW YORK - CORTLAND COUNTY

Neisa M. Pantalia and Liz Coffey, Nutrition Educators

## **Expanding Nutrition Education in Cortland County**



The Southern-tier Eat Smart New York team has been continuing as well expanding its reach in Cortland County through the effort of its educators and collaborative partnerships. Nutrition educators Neisa Pantalia and Liz Coffey visited many different sites on a regular basis, delivering programming to residents of all ages.

- ♣ Career Works implementing MyPlate and healthy budgeting education by referrals to help participants during transitioning into work with financial planning, affordable healthy meals.
- Pop Up Tour at the Cortland Library to participants guiding with a Health Insurance rep and identify pros and cons of produce, and whole grains for healthy meals.
- Loaves and Fishes weekly visits helping implement nutritional recipes and educational support to participants.
- **↓** GEMS (Girls Empowered Motivated Successful) YMCA group with teaching hands-on cooking skills & techniques.
- Area of Aging Seniors-delivered nutritional education, cooking demonstrations and to simply recipes for setting of one or two members. Providing guidance with recipes monthly.
- WIC clinics, helping participants focus on food that is available and vouchers and nutritional education support.
- County and Rural Food pantries providing nutritional education and recipes.
- The diabetes group at Cortland-Chenango County Rural Services also enjoy cooking demonstrations and nutrition education. This group meets once a week and although no medical information is exchanged, participants learn new

ways to incorporate more whole grains, lean protein and fruits and vegetables into their diet. Physical activity into their daily routine.

#### **AGRICULTURE:**

Heather Birdsall, Sr. Team Leader

**2018 Agriculture Annual Report** CCE of Cortland Agriculture Program continues to wear several hats. The Agriculture program educates the nonfarming community about agriculture, educates non-dairy livestock community about production, management and marketing of their livestock and also provides diverse programs for the multitude of land based enterprises that abounds in our County. To better serve the needs of farmers and rural land-owners in Cortland, CCE is a partner in the South Central NY Area Ag Team (SCNY Ag Team) which serves Cortland, Chemung, Tompkins, Tioga and Schuyler Counties. Extension Agriculture Educators provided researched based information on sustainable production, management and marketing practices in livestock, vegetable, fruits, agribusiness and agro-forestry through workshops, office and farm consultations, webinars and special events.



Because of this unique relationship with the SCNY Area Ag Team, Cortland County residents have the ability to acquire the most up to date educational information that pertains to their land based enterprise.

Non-Dairy Livestock Education: In 2018, workshops geared towards Backyard Poultry, Bascis of Expected Progeny Difference (EPD's), and USDA Feeder Calf Grading to just to name a few, were provided for to over 600 non-dairy livestock producers throughout New York. Always a highlight is working closely with non-dairy livestock producers with their unique questions regarding their operations. Topics ranged from setting up their own USDA Processing Plant to Transitioning from Dairy Farming to Beef Farming.

Also, falling under livestock education is the involvement with 4-H. In conjuction with Broome County 4-H, a 4-H Beef Cattle Showmanship clinic was held to help teach youth about proper showing techniques at the Cortland Jr. Fairgrounds. Both the 4-H educator and Agriculture Team Leader were certified to teach the Youth Quality Care Assurance Program to our 4-H youth that exhibit livestock. Three workshops were held during the NYS Fair where over 30 youth became YQCA certified.

Educational Agriculture Awareness: Do you know where your food comes from?? Here at CCE of Cortland, we provide a host of educational events that encourage a better understanding of agriculture by the general community. Over 2000 youth and adults in 2018 have been connected with this important agriculture information. Some of the programs geared towards the youth in our community include a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Ag Literacy program, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Ag-Stravaganza, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Dairy Field Trip, and 4-H Camp Owahta Farm to Garden program.

Educational Programs for Diverse Land-Based Enterprises: Even though the dairy in Cortland County is ranked as the #1 industry, there is a multitude of land based agriculture enterprises in our county. In 2018, the Agriculture program ventured into several new programs outside the area of livestock and dairy.



CCE of Cortland was awared a NYS IPM Community Education grant and with this Tick Awareness Education will now be provided to K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in area school. Our agency has had the opportunity to serve on several panels and or speakers for conferences ranging from Agriculture Employment to Land Conservation. And lastly, had the privilege to become certifed as a Produce Safety Alliance Trainer to aid local produce farmers with GAP certification.

Local Foods: Over the past year and a half, educators from CCE of Cortland have begun working closely with Seven Valley's Health Coalition and Cortland Harvest to help promote Cortland County Local Foods and their producers. Farmer Networking meetings were held to meet up with farmers and hear their needs and ideas. A Local Food Trail Map is being designed and printed to highlight many of our farms with local markets, CSA's, and u-pick for consumers. And the highlight in the Local Foods area are the Local Food Fests. where community members are invited to a local venue to enjoy music from local bands and savorer the bounty of our locally produced foods.

Agriculture and all of our farmers play a significant role in Cortland County economy, we at CCE were pleased to once again co-host the Cortland County Agriculture Celebration Dinner and the Farmer Appreciation Luncheon.

#### **SOUTH CENTRAL DAIRY & FIELD**

**CROPS** (Broome, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Tioga & Tompkins)

#### Farm Business Management Specialist,

Mary Kate Wheeler is a welcome addition to the team in 2018.

Dairy and crop farmers are familiar with tight financial margins and price highs and lows.



What is different in 2018 is the length of the low price cycle.

Milk price received this year is less than 99.9% of producer's costs. This follow two years of barely break even prices. Unfortunately, not only is milk price poor, crops and beef are also at low points.

The current conditions create an xxx need for a specialist to address financial and business management.

Mary Kate joined the SCNY Dairy and Field Crops team in May from the NYS Beekeeper Tech Team, where she provided one-on-one business development support and conducted applied business management research with honey producers. She is excited to use her financial analysis and business planning skills to support our dairy and crop producers.

Mary Kate has an M.S. in Applied Economics and Management from Cornell University and a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College. During her graduate program she spent time in Peru working with farmers on issues of agriculture and climate change. Mary Kate grew up outside Ithaca, NY and now lives in Newfield, where she just welcomed her first beef steers.

**Hands-On Training that Directly Impacts Producers' Bottom Line** - Feed is more likely than not the highest expense on dairy farms today. Producers realize the importance the role of feeder has on the farm for more than one reason-not only do the people performing in this role impact shrink, but how well they perform directly impacts how well cows can perform. In this way, feeders can impact the bottom lines of dairies on two levels: minimizing costs by maintaining low levels of shrink and overfeeding expensive grain, and maximizing milk receipts when they feed consistently, allowing cows to stay healthy and productive. Because of the importance of the role, producers want to make sure their feeders understand the importance of their job and willingly send their employees to job-specific training to enhance their duties back on the farm.

The team offered a **2-day Feeder School** where this type of employee could come to learn the "how" and the "why" behind the things they do every day. Morning classroom sessions explained how the rumen works, why making a consistent Total Mixed Ration (TMR) is important and incorporated several aspects of cow behavior so that feeders more fully understand the animal they are feeding.

The afternoon sessions focused on how feeders can better manage their bunks, assess wear in their mixing equipment and other hands-on activities. The school culminated in a "feeder challenge" where they incorporated what they had learned from both days of the school to answer questions,



assess bunks, and make dry matter feed adjustments. Over 20 employees or owners of dairies attended the school, representing over 13,000 lactating cows. In evaluation, all participants stated they learned new information at the school and would recommend participation to others. Specifically, feeders stated they learned about bunk safety, being precise on measurements, scale calibration, dry matter adjustments, and mixer maintenance. Classroom sessions of nutrition and dry matter were ranked a 4.6 out of 5, with 5 being most informative.

The Feeder School generated follow up calls. One farm that was only able to send feeders to the second day invited Betsy to come to the farm to do a select teaching from the day they missed to their whole feeder crew. This has since evolved into a facilitator role for Betsy, as the farm utilizes two different nutritionists and the feeder crew and nutritionists will sit down in the shop to overcome bottlenecks. Another farm has invited Betsy and Melanie out to go over their routine in delivering feed to their cows. Performing TMR Audits to ensure feed wagon accuracy was a concern on a separate farm that contacted Betsy for follow-up. On-going communication in these areas will be a focus for the next few months; it offers farms a means to control costs, utilize Extension Specialist expertise, and maximize cow health production – a win for all!

#### Program Geared to Help Combat Low Milk Price

As educators in Extension, our program has always focused on bringing new ideas and technology to our producers, while emphasizing how important doing the basics right is to a producer's bottom line. Our program in this first quarter further underlines the importance of these principles. Knowing how much stress our producers are under right now has led us to further emphasize how focusing on doing the day-in and day-out tasks to the best of their abilities will have a long-term positive effect on their business. Cash flow is extremely tight; with limited access to funds producers need to feel like they can make positive strides in their business without having to spend money. As such, the winter program utilized a few different forms to reach out to producers.

The Dairy Manager's Discussion Group met formally with professors Andy Novakovic and Tom Maloney from Cornell University to talk about current trends in prices and labor, and then toured three different dairies in the following two meetings to gather ideas and learn from their peers.

A Heifer Workshop held at the Vet School Dairy on campus emphasized to participants that their bottom line is affected by the heifer program that they run, and gave options for reducing total costs while advancing genetic potential of the herd more rapidly, all while maintaining the health of the heifer herd.

Lastly, **Herd Manager Training** offered a two-day course to bring producers up to speed on ways to protect the health of their herd, as well as giving specifics on records to maintain to protect their business. Both of the days emphasized points with



an on-farm tour and allowed for ample discussion between host farms and participants to encourage peer learning.

Many of the strategies talked about at meetings and program this season did not focus on buying new equipment, implementing expensive programs or utilizing next steps that would cost the dairy money. The ideas discussed involved changing habits, adding sound management strategies and focusing on doing the basics right. The discussion between producers was invaluable and did not focus on how poor milk price was; producers were focused on how they can make their dairy better.

#### Industrial Hemp - The Potential of a New Crop

This NYS initiative has generated a lot of excitement from rural landowners, sustainability enthusiasts and local economic developers.

Recognizing the



potential in the Southern Tier Janice was appointed as one of the first **CCE Hemp Technical Specialists**.

As a new crop, Cornell researchers and Extension needed to learn the best agronomic practices as well as pest complexes. During the growing season of 2017 Janice visited and scouted fields across the region to survey for pests as part of a statewide effort to collect preliminary data. A new disease on hemp was discovered at Nanticoke Gardens (NG), one of the growers she worked closely with. In the fall of 2017, she organized an open house with NG to show their production system to others and update folks on the permit process administered by NYS Department of Ag and Markets. During the winter of 2018, Janice held 3 discussion group meetings for permit holders to create a forum to share information and learn from each other. This has been a step in community building among the growers.

<u>Public Outreach</u> - Ag Awareness Education events are held across our region. The yearly staples of Cortland's AgStravaganza with 4<sup>th</sup> graders and McMahon's EZ Acres 5<sup>th</sup> grade Dairy Farm tour were big hits. The team educated the students throughout planned stations at Onondaga's Ag

Awareness Day with 4<sup>th</sup> graders and Chemung County's Old McDonald's Farm with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

#### **SMALL DAIRY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Fay Benson, Small Dairy Support Program Director Abbie Teeter, Small Dairy Support Program Coordinator

## Supporting the Northeast Grass-Fed Milk Market with Education and Benchmarks



As consumers continue to want to understand the production practices of the products they are purchasing, there is an increase in the demand for niche products, including 100% grass-fed milk. This is milk produced from cows on an all forage diet. In Cortland County we have two farms now producing 100% Grass-fed milk. The benchmarks from the study detailed below has allowed us to help farmers interested in this production system make informed decisions and be better prepared for the challenges that may arise.

The New York Small Dairy Support Program has continued its work to provide information to all sectors of the industry, including the consumer, dairy retailers, dairy processors and the farmers. In 2016 the program, along with the University of Vermont, was awarded a three-year Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Grant to study 100% grass-fed dairy farms in New York and Vermont with a project titled *Supporting the Northeast Grass-Fed Milk Market with Education and Benchmarks*.

The first goal of the project sought to get a snapshot of the management used to produce 100% grassfed milk. To do this the group developed and sent out an initial survey and a follow up survey to all 100% Grass-fed producers in the Northeast with assistance from Organic Valley and Maple Hill

Creamery. The initial survey was sent to 120 farms in the Northeast and vielded over 80 responses. Of those responses, 60 farms agreed to participate, bringing in 40 follow-up surveys.

The second goal of the grant was to get in-depth data on the management of these farms. The team selected a group of 20 farmers to participate in a monthly data collection tool called the "Grass-fed Monitor". In April 2017, we began sending out Grass-fed Monitors monthly to this group of yearround grass-fed dairy farmers to record monthly milk production, forage consumption and changes in herd inventory. We now have 18 months of data from the farms and will continue for the next 6 months. Each month, the participants are given a series of graphs showing their production level compared to the prior months as well as their current production in comparison to the other farms in the study.

This information is important to gather and analyze because as the consumer demand for grass-fed products increases, the supply must increase as well. Transitioning animals to an all forage diet can include risks such as loss of body condition, poor conception rate, metabolic problems, and poor performance of replacement stock. Our initial survey gave us a snapshot of how these farmers are managing their farms, and filling out the Grass-fed Monitor each month requires farmers to review and reflect on their progress.

Both the demand for this product and the supply has increased since the beginning of this project. Recently, Fay Benson and Abbie Teeter, of the Small Dairy Support Program, were invited to celebrate with Byrne Dairy at their Ultra Dairy Plant in Syracuse as they announced the entrance of six new SKU's into Wegmans. From Byrne Hollow Farm in Cortland Organic Whole, Organic 2%, Organic 1%, Organic Skim, Organic Grass-Fed Whole and Organic Grass-Fed 2% milk can now be purchased at local Wegmans Stores.

Another activity of the **Small Dairy Support** is the Dairy Grazing Apprentice Program. State wide Abbie and Fay work with 20 approved Masters Graziers. There are 7 grazing dairy farms with apprentices including 2 in Tioga County, 1 in Onondaga Co, 1 in Cortland, 1 in Allegany Co, 1 in

Washington Co and 1 in Tompkins Co. For more information go to: www.DGA-National.org

#### On the Road with the Soil Health Trailer

An education to understand the components of healthy soil. The program went to locations through-out the year for 2018.



#### October 2017

17<sup>th</sup>Healing Our Waters Tour, Holland, NY  $19^{th}$ Groton High School Ag Class, Groton, NY

#### November 2017

Female Land Owner Tour, Mt. Morris, NY

#### January 2018

 $11^{th}$ Catskill Ag Days, Delhi, NY

#### **April 2018**

 $14^{\text{th}}$ Tompkins County AgStravaganza, Ithaca Commons May 2018

12<sup>th</sup>Pasture Walk - Spas Family, Ashville, NY 16<sup>th</sup>NRCS Soil Health Training, Aurora, NY

#### **Iune 2018**

 $2^{nd}$ Cortland Water Works, Cortland, NY 21<sup>st</sup>Tioga Co. S& W Conservation, Owego, NY

#### **July 2018**

11<sup>th</sup>Pasture Walk - Rivington's Family, Hamilton, NY

19<sup>th</sup> Pasture Walk - Ziehm's Family, Hoosick, NY

26<sup>th</sup>SARE pasture Walk, Laurens, NY

27<sup>th</sup>Broome County Fair, Whitney Pt., NY

29th Sundaes on the Farm, Whitney Pt., NY

#### **August 2018**

8 - 9<sup>th</sup> Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls, NY

Kings AgriSeed Field Day, Interlaken, NY 22<sup>nd</sup>

 $30^{\text{th}}$ Pasture Walk, Interlaken, NY

#### September 2018

SUNY Cortland Students, Cortland, NY

 $6^{th}$ Twilight Pasture Walk, Deansboro, NY

24-25th Conservation Field Days, Green County

27<sup>th</sup>Delaware Co. Pasture Walk

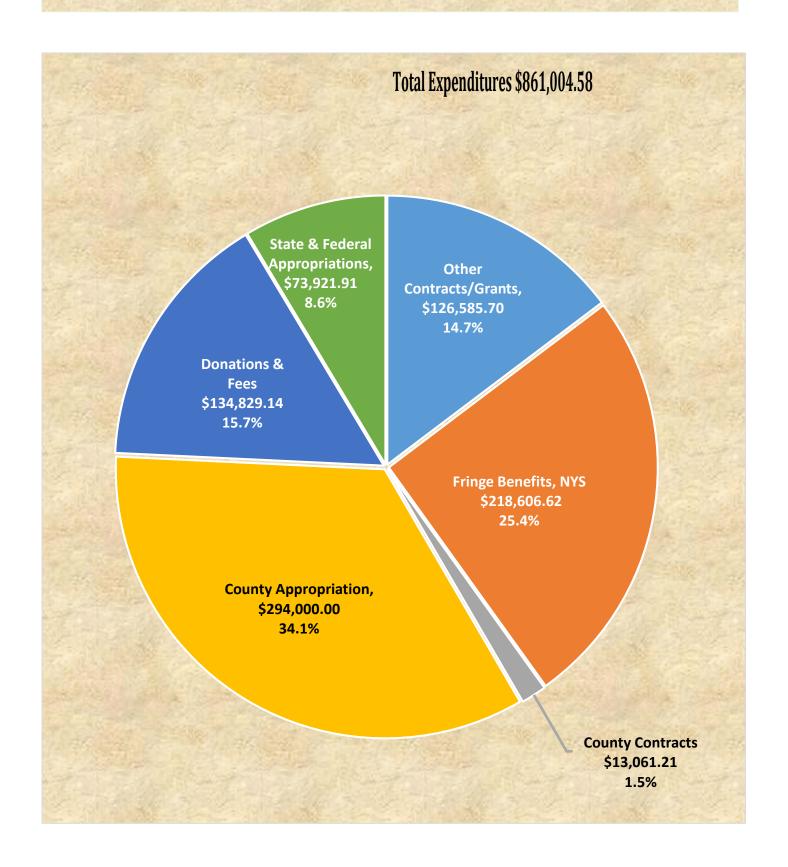
#### October 2018

NYS Assoc. for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling,

Cooperstown, NY



# Cooperative Extension Leveraged the Following Support in 2017



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## **CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF CORTLAND COUNTY**

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#### **SCNY DAIRY AND FIELD CROPS**

A. Fay Benson **Abbie Teeter Janice Degni Betsy Hicks** 

**Melanie Palmer Mary Kate Wheeler**  **Small Dairy Support Specialist Program Coordinator** Team Leader/Area Field Crops **Area Dairy Management** Specialist **Agriculture Educator Farm Business Management Specialist** 

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