

ANNUAL REPORT

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY



4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Youth raise an animal for the purpose of providing a high-quality meat product to the consumer. 4-H members develop the valuable life skills of financial management, marketing, communication, goal setting, animal production, and record management. Thirty-nine members auctioned 118 beef, lambs, hogs, and meat birds, generating a gross auction income of \$256,322.

Six youth raised 4-H Charity Market Animals, sold them at the 4-H Market Animal Auction, and donated 100% of the sale proceeds to local charities of their choice. In total, \$106,000 was raised for six worthy non-profits.

We would like to thank all the individuals and businesses that either purchased an animal or made a bid on one. The success of the auction and that of our 4-H members market animal projects would not be possible without you!



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CCE 4 C'S: CURATING – CONNECTING – COMMUNICATING – CONVENING

Thank you to our volunteers, contributors, partners, and entire community! Cornell Cooperative Extension – Livingston County continues to find success through service through:

- **curating** research, resources, and experiences,
- **connecting** individuals, groups, and organizations,
- **communicating** information, insights, and opportunities,
- **convening** learning experiences, collaboration efforts, and community events.

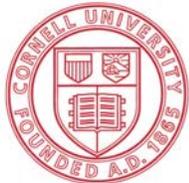
Through these 4 C's, our committed and dedicated staff facilitated another great year of quality programming, beneficial experiences, and numerous opportunities in 2023. We are truly fortunate and immensely grateful for the boundless energy, unwavering support, and impactful contributions of all those involved with our collective efforts to elevate, captivate, and accelerate life-long learning through our agricultural, youth development, nutrition, family education, and traffic safety programs.

Please join us in celebrating the many successes in 2023 highlighted in this Annual Report. CCE-Livingston remains proud of our progress and eager to continue finding ways to curate, connect, communicate, and convene to serve our amazing community. We look forward to all that lies ahead in 2024.

Best Wishes,



Matt Cole,
Executive Director

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AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Each year, we participate in the statewide Ag Literacy event which helps connect students with local agriculture. Volunteers are welcomed into classrooms throughout the county to read and lead a hands-on activity with students in grades PreK-3. This year, students planted tomato and basil seeds to grow in their classrooms. Roughly 1,500 students in eight school districts participated in the festivities.



EMBRYOLOGY

The Incubation & Embryology project is a favorite among staff, teachers, and students! This year, 76 classrooms participated in the project. Students learned how to candle their eggs and observe the developing embryo, explored the different parts of the egg, participated in virtual farm tours, and were able to watch their chicks hatch. We are looking to expand the project next year!

DAIRY IN THE CLASSROOM

In collaboration with New York Ag in the Classroom and Noblehurst Farms, we welcomed teachers and other Extension educators from across the state to a professional development on the farm. Teachers toured the many operations at Noblehurst Farms and participated in lessons that they could bring back to their classrooms - such as making mozzarella cheese. They also had the opportunity to learn about different types of cheeses through a taste-testing led by East Hill Creamery in Perry, NY. The program was provided by a Dairy in the Classroom grant, funded through the Dairy Promotion Order.



AG PROGRAM

Thanks to a regional training program, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County now has 10 Master Gardener volunteers. These trained volunteers share their horticultural experience with others through articles, classes, 1:1 assistance, and more. Julie-Brocklehurst-Woods, one of our longest serving volunteers, retired from the program this year!

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our monthly
newsletter,
LivCo Farm &
Home News!



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has spent the past 20 years sharing her love for gardening and empowering fellow enthusiasts to discover the joy of nurturing plants.

Throughout her 20 years of service, Julie has become a pillar of support and knowledge for countless individuals seeking guidance in their gardening endeavors. A firm believer in prioritizing and simplifying gardening tasks, she has made it her mission to assist others in identifying tools and strategies that will lead to their success.

In addition to her hands-on involvement, Julie has also embraced the role of an educator. She has conducted gardening classes and, for the past 12 years, been writing a column to share her insights and experiences. Her dedication to teaching and learning has not only enriched her own life but has also empowered countless individuals to embark on their own gardening journeys.

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods is an extraordinary individual whose commitment to gardening and her community is truly commendable. Her 20 years of distinguished service as a Master Gardener Volunteer has left an indelible mark, inspiring gardeners of all levels to discover the beauty and fulfillment that comes from cultivating the earth. With her friendly and approachable nature, Julie continues to make a significant impact, transforming the lives of those around her.



AG PROGRAM

During our pasture walk at JoGlenn Farms, participants explored best management practices and tools for effectively managing pastures. One of the highlights was their rotational and track pasture system, which proved to be a valuable approach in optimizing grazing efficiency and overall pasture health. Additional programming is planned for 2024.



SAVING SEEDS

Petra Page-Mann from Fruition Seeds came to the Livingston County Conference Center for her program, Saving Our Seeds; Saving Ourselves. Petra's commitment to seed saving and sustainable agriculture has not only transformed her own life but also inspired countless others to embrace a more eco-conscious way of living.

Petra's presentation began by highlighting the power of seeds as symbols of growth and potential. She reminded us that just like seeds, our dreams and aspirations start from humble beginnings. During her presentation, Petra shared her own experiences of tending to seeds and witnessing their transformation. She candidly admits that on her hardest days, she longs for immediate results, for the confident and healed version of herself. Petra also emphasized the importance of community and the role it plays in our personal growth. Petra's words encourage us to appreciate the impact of those who have helped shape us and to actively engage in growing each other.

Throughout her presentation, Petra draws a parallel between saving seeds and saving ourselves. She beautifully articulates how the act of seed saving mirrors our own journey towards resilience and sustainability. Just as seeds possess the potential to adapt and thrive under various conditions, so do we. Petra's words inspire us to become stewards of the Earth, nurturing not only the seeds we save but also our own well-being and the well-being of our environment.



4-H PROGRAM

This was the third annual Cupcake Showdown at the Hemlock Fair. The event saw it's largest number of participants to date. Youth brought pre-baked cupcakes and homemade icing, along with display settings and decorations, to create a two-foot-tall display of 24 cupcakes with a safari theme. The contest offers members the chance to practice mastery of a skill while developing poise, confidence, expressing creativity, and problem solving.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Livingston County**



GUIDING EYES

During this Activity Night, youth learned about the Guiding Eyes for the Blind organization, met three of the dogs, and sewed blankets that were donated to the new puppies starting their training. Members were able to attend regardless of their age or sewing ability.

FOOD DEMOS

Twenty-eight Livingston County 4-H members participated in the annual Produced in New York Food Demonstration event. Creative use of a New York ingredient was evident as 4-H members prepared a recipe in front of judges and answered questions from the judges and audience members. The event offers a chance to learn about New York food products and demonstrate culinary skills. It also serves as a fun introduction to presenting in public. Since several 4-H members present at the same time, this event can help youth build confidence in a less stressful setting. Madelyn Burdick and Hannah Gall participated in PINY at the New York State Fair.



OUTSTANDING 4-HER AWARD

Audrey & Rian de Wit have been named this year's Livingston County Outstanding 4-H Members - the highest award given for 4-H achievement and overall involvement. The siblings have participated and excelled in the poultry, goat, rabbit, public speaking, STEM, sewing, leadership, and community service project areas. They have taken part in a variety of county and state events including Public Presentations, PINY, STARR, Career Explorations, and the Hemlock and State Fairs. Audrey and Rian have even qualified for the National 4-H Poultry Contest - twice!



RUSSELL B. ACE SCHOLARSHIP

Alyssa Healy, Carly Lang, and Molly Milliken have been named the recipients of the Russell B. Ace Memorial Scholarship. The award recognizes current 4-H members who have demonstrated leadership skills and served their community through participation in the Livingston County 4-H program. Winners are awarded a one-time scholarship of \$1,000 to be used toward a secondary education program.

- **Alyssa** has been an active Livingston County 4-H member for eight years. She completed work in the rabbit, beef, dairy, sheep, swine, community service, and leadership project areas. Alyssa has also been a Teen Council member for six years, serving as President for the majority of that time.
- **Carly** has been an active 4-H member for 12 years - completing project work in the rabbit, pet, poultry, sheep, swine, cavy, goat, dairy, photography, crafts, and community service project areas. Carly was a 4-H Advisory Committee member for four years, serving as Vice Chair for two years.
- **Molly** has been a Livingston County 4-H member for six years and a Teen Council member for five years. She has completed project work in the photography, visual arts, community service, leadership, and public speaking areas. As a Teen Council member, she served two years as Vice President and two years as Secretary. Molly has also coordinated and led many activities and community service projects.



NUTRITION PROGRAM

Our programming is provided thanks to a grant received by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Our educator works with individuals, families, and older adults. Classes are provided free of charge in person and online. This year, we reached more than 1,500 people through our programming options.



FOOD DISCOVERY

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." - Benjamin Franklin

Nutrition education is much more than simply educating people on healthier food choices, it is about rethinking and changing behaviors. Simply educating and attempting to persuade people to change lifelong eating habits and lifestyle behaviors is challenging.

This year was the first full year for SNAP-Ed programming in Livingston County. Through the six-session Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program, participants were encouraged to increase their consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains; use low fat dairy; and vary protein choices. The program encourages participants to become more involved in food preparation, explores the importance of increased physical activity, builds skills in food budgeting, and introduces food preservation techniques. To help increase fruit and vegetable consumption, participants were provided with \$15 vouchers (per session completed) to purchase fruits and vegetables at their local grocery store.

Since January 2023, there have been 18 classes held in Livingston County (presented across nine communities) with approximately 280 people attending.

Adults were not the only ones who received nutrition programming this year. Three school districts, along with multiple after school and summer recreation programs, enjoyed fun activities about choosing healthier food options and eating a more colorful diet! Some of these lessons were provided in conjunction with programming offered by our Traffic Safety Education Program.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Through our Child Passenger Safety grant, we ensure families are using the correct car seat for the height/weight of their child. We also provide qualifying low-income families with a new car seat at no charge. In 2023, we held 13 Car Seat Check events and conducted individual appointments for those in need. Altogether, we inspected 158 car seats and distributed 200. One-third of all inspected seats were discarded.



BIKE RODEOS

Bike safety rodeos are about more than what you can do, they are about conquering what you can't do!

Each bike safety rodeo consists of an introductory conversation about general bicycle safety before the youth, divided into small groups, rotate through a combination of hands-on learning stations, a helmet inspection, and the bike course.

As the students at one summer recreation program began navigating the course, we noticed one girl off to the side. The director shared privately that she did not have a helmet. No helmet? No problem! Together, we selected a new helmet and showed her how to adjust and properly wear it. However, she returned to the playground instead of riding the course. We later learn that the youth is embarrassed that she does not have a bike and as a result can't ride the course.

With some individual support, the youth is encouraged to find a bike from the selection of gently used bikes (donated to our program) that seemingly fits her skill level. Visibly nervous, she attempts the course. However, it is apparent that she does not know how to balance on the bike. Our educator intercedes to work with her individually, during which the youth sheepishly shares that she doesn't know how to ride a bike.

Quickly and respectfully, a different bike (one with training wheels) is offered as a starting point for her to learn how to distribute her body weight on a bike. Slowly increasing in confidence and balance, the girl demonstrates that she is eager to learn more and returns to the initial bike she selected. Taking it to a separate area nearby, the young girl determinedly master's the art of riding a two-wheeled bike independently. By the end of the program, she radiated with proud smiles - and got to keep the bicycle!

NWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & FIELD CROPS TEAM



WINTER CONGRESSES

We were back in-person after two years of virtual programming. Corn Congress (Jan. 5-6) and Soybean & Small Grains Congress (Feb. 15-16) were held in their normal Batavia and Waterloo locations. This enables growers and ag industry representatives from our nine partner counties to reasonably reach one of our meetings. These events are the largest commodity specific programs for corn, soybean and wheat in NY.

This year's programs looked at addressing new pest issues and providing potential crop management options for growers to continue to succeed in 2023. We had specialists from Michigan State, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, and the Miner Institute along with Cornell faculty and regional CCE specialists. Forty different industry sponsors set up booths to support our programs and educate growers.

Almost 750 participants attended the four congresses. We were also able to introduce the new Cornell weed scientist and honor two retiring faculty who have been tremendous contributors to our programs for 40 years.



IMPROVING DAIRY FARM RECORD MANAGEMENT

Consolidation of the dairy industry means more cows per farm, making robust record management systems imperative. Dairy Comp 305, known as DC305, is the record management system with the largest market share on dairies in NYS. As dairies consolidate and agricultural labor pools decline, we concurrently see an increase in the number of dairy farm employees whose first language is Spanish. Unfortunately, Valley Ag Software, the parent company of DC305, does not have any training materials available in Spanish.

To start addressing this issue, the NWNY team developed a "Dairy Comp 305 for Spanish Speakers" virtual workshop. On April 19th, twelve employees from seven dairy farms across the region representing 10,500+ cows (as well as one management consultant) joined the workshop. The group learned the basic language behind DC305, the importance of consistent data entry, and how data is used to make management decisions.

NWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & FIELD CROPS TEAM



DUNG BEETLES

Dung beetles have many positive environmental attributes in cattle pastures. They help recycle manure into the soil, increase water infiltration by creating macropores, and return needed nutrients for grasses to grow. Just as important, dung beetles help reduce populations of horn and face flies that develop in the manure. In ideal situations, dung beetles can reduce horn fly populations by 95% (depending on the species in the pasture) and compete with gastrointestinal nematodes (GIN).

A statewide study was conducted by 7 educators with federal funding. Three farms were sampled weekly in Livingston, Ontario, and Wyoming Counties. Of the 15 species of dung beetles found in the state, 8 were found regionally. Two participating farms used a product to control GIN; preliminary analysis of these farms' samples showed reduced dung beetle populations.

More data analysis is needed, with the possible goal of finding species that could be reared in a lab setting and released. This would be a tool for natural pest control and reduce the need for insecticides and possibly deworming products.



FERTILIZER AND HERBICIDES

Producers continue to look for strategies to ensure they can pay for all of their essential crop inputs even as the cost of those inputs increases during periods of higher volatility. In March, around 80 participants from across the NWNY region learned about the terminology frequently referenced around fertilizer purchases, how to calculate fertilizer blends based on ratios and units, and how to understand formulations and the chemistry behind their fertility and herbicide recommendations. A lot of our producers rely on crop consultants and industry salesmen to prescribe their crop inputs. With newer technologies and auto-simulations, a lot of people don't know what it takes to arrive at the correct formulation/blend they're requesting when they call in an order. As our producers sat through this educational training, you could see the "light bulbs" going off in their heads when they put it all together and could understand how to arrive at a correct formulation. Many participants went home and utilized these resources to look over/adjust their management decisions at the start of the 2023 planting season. Our producers would like to see this program return next year with breakout sessions.

OTHER PROGRAMMING



SAFETY & WELLNESS FAIR ON MURRAY HILL CAMPUS

This year's event featured 30 interactive stations that encouraged discussion on a variety of topics geared toward educating parents and their children about community health and safety resources and programming. Winners of our Safety on Wheels Coloring Contest were presented with their new bike and helmet. Our event was held in conjunction with the county's Al Lorenz Park Family Fest.



ACTIVITY NIGHTS

The Livingston County 4-H Program holds monthly Activity Nights (animal and non-animal related). The programs allow 4-H members from across the county to learn something interesting while making new friends! Topics/activities include quilling, glow in the dark painting, gardening, wool felting, injections, dissection, and more.



SUMMER YOUTH NATURE PROGRAM

The free program, ran weekdays from July 5 through August 15 at the Chip Holt Nature Center in Vitale Park, Lakeville. The program featured hands-on, nature-related activities for children ages 5+. In total, the program had more than 400 youth contacts. The program is sponsored by the Chip Holt Nature Center and the Town of Livonia.



FARM FEST & GENESEE VALLEY HUNT RACES

In collaboration with the Livingston County Farm Bureau, our Ag in the Classroom Program offered a variety of hands-on activities in the Children's Tent at Farm Fest. Youth had the opportunity to make butter, create milk art, learn about dairy cattle nutrition by making a TMR trail mix, and make their own test tube hydroponic system. Similar options were offered at the Genesee Valley Hunt Races in October.



NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY & EGG CONFERENCE

4-H members Emily Vattimo, Audrey de Wit, and Rian de Wit represented Livingston County at the National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference in Louisville, KY. Audrey de Wit competed in the Egg Chef Challenge and placed second. Emily Vattimo competed in the Turkey BBQ - also placing second. Rian de Wit competed in the Chicken BBQ, earning fifth place. Educators Jenn Schwab and Renee Hopkins served as the coaches.



THANK YOU DONORS!



*We apologize if
anyone was left off
this list. Thank you
for your support of
our association!*

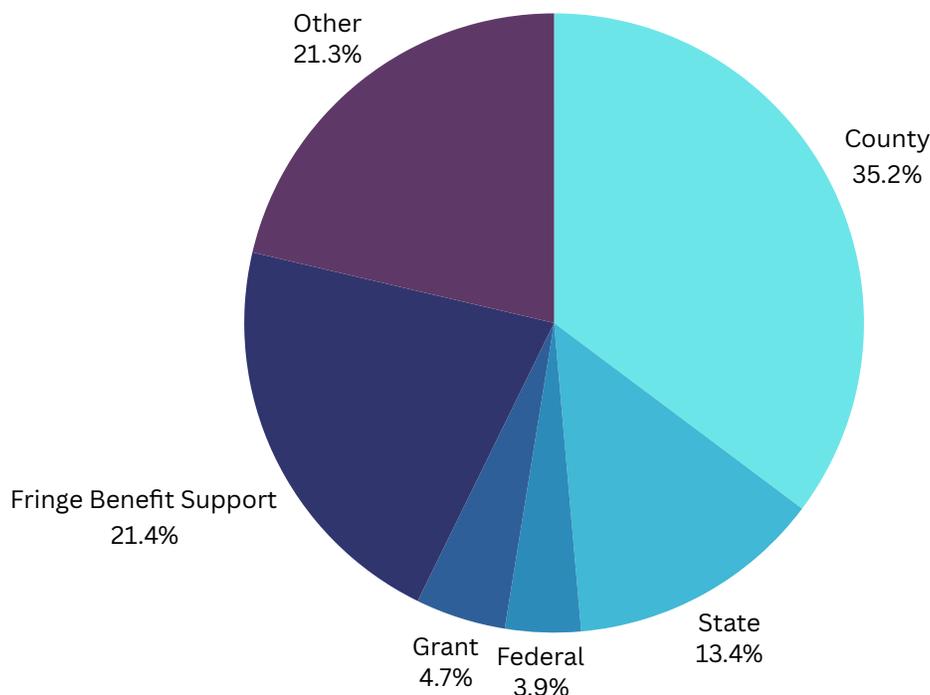
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FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
County	\$512,502	\$512,502	\$527,500	\$542,500
State	\$50,174	\$105,415	\$145,607	\$205,872
Federal	\$73,415	\$107,498	\$81,850	\$60,727
Grant	\$212,730	\$173,422	\$118,500	\$72,516
Fringe Benefit Support	\$406,135	\$364,235	\$387,233	\$329,575
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$158,269</u>	<u>\$302,726</u>	<u>\$357,539</u>	<u>\$328,513</u>
Total	\$1,413,224	\$1,565,796	\$1,618,229	\$1,539,703

2023 FUNDING ANALYSIS



OTHER WAYS TO HELP!

- 4-H Animal Science Program Sponsorship (Dairy & Livestock, Horse, or Sm. Animals)
- Assist with the purchase of new bicycles for our Safety on Wheels Coloring/Writing Contest Winners (Awarded during Safety & Wellness Fair in May).
- Financial donations to any of the program areas mentioned in this report.
- Donate door prizes/gift baskets for our Safety & Wellness Fair (Held in May) or our Annual Meeting (Held in November/December).
- Donate gently used bicycles (in good working order) and/or training wheels for our Bicycle Rodeos.
- Donate goods or services needed to provide educational programming.

Contact us at 585-991-5420 or livingston@cornell.edu to find out more information about how you can support our programming and educational efforts.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Livingston County**

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