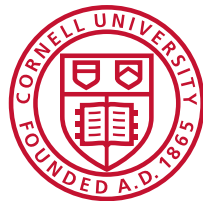



Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Putting Knowledge to Work
Since 1913.

A black and white photograph of a large agricultural field. In the foreground, there is a field of tall grass or grain. In the middle ground, several pieces of farm machinery are visible, including two large tractors pulling trailers, and a smaller tractor with a trailer. The background shows a flat horizon under a clear sky.

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www.cceonondaga.org

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A YEARS REVIEW

The 2021 year truly showed how CCE is innovative, action-oriented, and impact driven. This year, as progress was made to contain the global pandemic, we found we were able to safely return to in-person programming. Often, we used innovative tools and hybrid formats to reach all Onondaga County residents. More important than ever, we were able to bring research-based education to our community and meet the needs of Onondaga County.

We could not have been such a success without the support of our funders, donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff. Thank you for your continued support. Please stay connected by following us on Facebook, YouTube, and through our newsletter. Be sure to join us for all the amazing 2022 programming we have in store.

With gratitude, *David Skeval*
 Executive Director

CCE ONONDAGA STAFF

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 SNAP-Ed Team Leader

Anita Bono
 SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

Amie Chambers*
 SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

Katie Oja
 SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

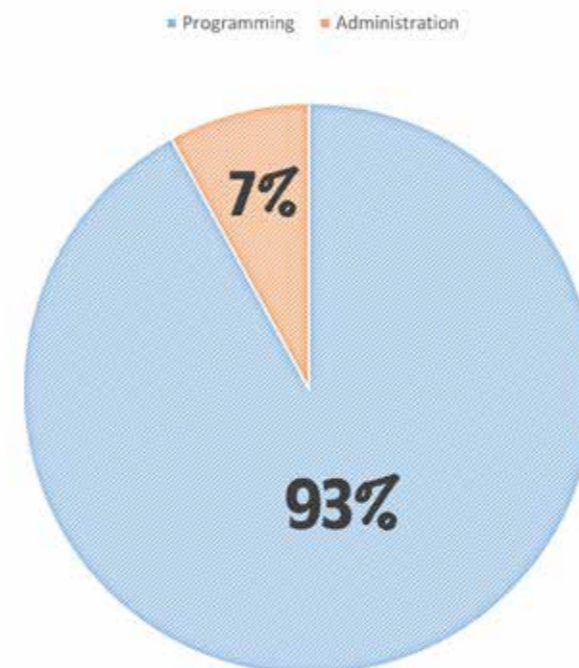
Kirstin Lyons
 SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

Margaret Jones
 SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

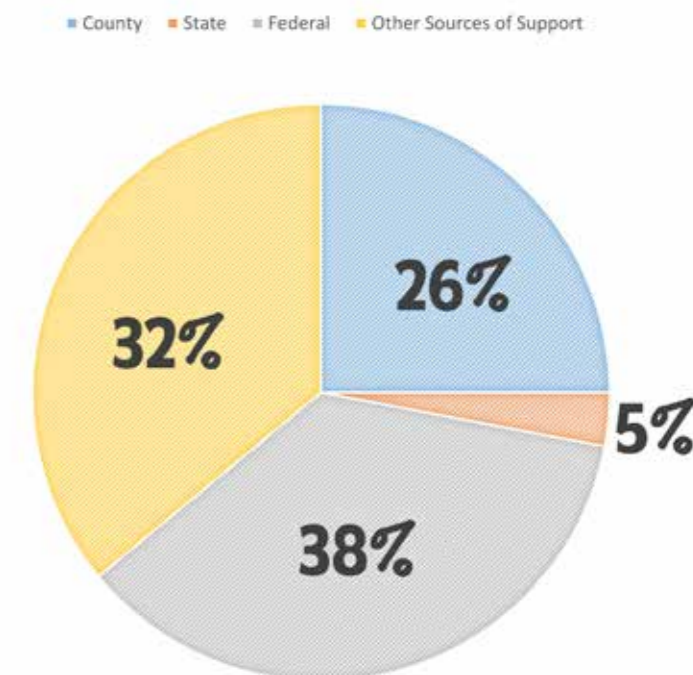
*Denotes staff member not continuing in 2022

FINANCES

2021 ALLOCATION



2021 RESOURCES



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2021 Program Highlights:

A main highlight of the 2021 program year was the annual 4-H Youth Fair, held July 27th – 31st at the New York State Fairgrounds. Over 450 youth, families, exhibitors and other spectators attended the five day event, the largest turnout in recent years! Onondaga 4-H hosted several animal clinics leading up to the event, to help prepare youth to show their horses, goats, dairy cows and chickens for judging at the Youth Fair. New to the Youth Fair this year was the Cavy judging, Pet Parade and Family Fun Day culminating event on July 31st. 4-H hosted the Onwego Dairy show on Friday, July 30th, boasting a record number of entries and attendees for this event, with over 200 participants. 4-H youth worked throughout the 2021 program year to submit 100 projects to be judged, and participated in the Produced in New York (PINY) cooking demonstrations. Onondaga County 4-H looks forward to further expanding the Youth Fair event in 2022.

Additional 4-H program highlights in 2021 included youth Public Presentations, where a record number of 37 youth participated in either public speaking or Produced in New York (PINY) presentations. Public Presentations are an annual 4-H event, designed to improve youth communication skills and build confidence in public speaking.

Onondaga County 4-H has built a collaborative partnership with the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in 2021, where the zoo currently serves as a site for the “Leadership to Strengthen Our Communities” program (funded by a grant from the Syracuse/Onondaga County Youth Bureau), as well as a site where a new 4-H club was formed, serving youth in the city of Syracuse. In addition, we are proud of our continued collaborative programming with our CCE counterparts, including filming of the Watershed video with CCE Water and Ecology, and building of raised bed gardens as part of the SOW (Seeds of Wonder grant initiative, funded by a grant from Cornell University) with the CCE Master Gardeners and Forestry Resource Educator.

Also in 2021, Onondaga County 4-H participated for the first time in the annual Empire Farm Days event, held August 3rd- 5th at Pallindo Farms in Pompey, where 4-H saw over 1,400 visitors in the 4-H tent display over the three day event.

4-H is a **community** of **young people** across **America** who are learning **leadership, citizenship and life skills.**



Head to clearer thinking.



Heart to greater loyalty.



Hands for larger service.



Health to better living.

2021 Highlights

12,387
Total Direct Contacts

28,787
Total Indirect Contacts

220 Events





2021 Highlights

3,926
Direct Contacts

44,599
Indirect Contacts

2021 Program Highlights:

Regional Dairy Educators Create a New Podcast Series to Expand Virtual Learning Capabilities

Podcasts are one of the fastest growing forms of communication, especially with younger producers. This format was new to CCE dairy educators but they were motivated to learn the technology behind the scenes to offer this format for the farm audience.

Since the pandemic limited gatherings of people for workshops this offered an opportunity for Regional Dairy Educators with CCE across the state to work together to create a new podcast series entitled, Dialing into your Best Dairy. Initially there were eight episodes in the series that focused on strategies and best practices that high performing herds use to be successful. The series later expanded to 16 episodes. The dairy educators worked together to create content, record, edit each recording and produce each episode. Soundcloud hosts the podcast, and was shared via Cornell PRO-DAIRY's e-leader email list, as well as in team blog posts, and newsletters.

Between SoundCloud and YouTube there have been over 3400 plays through the fall of 2021. Hoard's Dairyman Intel, a weekly e-newsletter, featured the podcast in several different articles. Hoard's reaches several thousand people weekly across the nation, and highlighted many of our episodes as they were released weekly.

Covid Vaccinations for Farm Workers

In early 2021, Central New York agriculture faced a health care challenge...our farm workers were not prioritized for Covid vaccinations. In concert with Onondaga County, Onondaga County Farm Bureau, the Finger Lakes Health Network, the LaFayette Apple Festival and Onondaga County Legislator David Knapp; CCE Onondaga facilitated a Covid vaccination clinic for CNY farmworkers. As a result, over 100 farm workers were vaccinated against COVID. Logistical issues, such as documentation of migrant farm workers, Spanish translation, scheduling, and transportation -as well as a second follow up clinic- were all managed in an efficient and professional manner. Thank you to all those who volunteered.

Crop research

Onondaga County Farmers depend on timing to maximize crop yields. This applies to alfalfa crops used to feed to feed our dairy cows. CCE Onondaga Ag staff as well as specialist from the Regional Ag Team selected 18 different alfalfa sites to measure during the Spring of 2021. The sites were at a variety of elevations and latitudes. This data and data from sites across Central New York was posted weekly for all crop farmers to utilize in making harvest timing decisions. Dairy farmers work on very small profit margins. Maximizing yield plays an important role in a farm's ability to stay in business.

Farmland Protection

CCE Onondaga in conjunction with the Onondaga County Planning Department and the Onondaga County Farmland Protection Board work at finding ways to protect our precious farmland from being converted to other uses. Having lost half of our farmland between 1965 and 1995, the County has stemmed the loss and has gained back over 10,000 acres in farmland. CCE Onondaga's agriculture programming worked to secure long term protection by educating and facilitating the participation in New York's Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program (FPIG) as well as facilitating the update of the County Farmland and Agriculture Plan.

ON Farm Fest and Onondaga Grown

After taking one year off due to COVID, CCE Onondaga arranged and facilitated tours on ten Onondaga County farms in September of 2021. The tours included five new farms and attracted over 9,000 visitors. The ON Farm Fest tours are different than any other agriculture tour in the United States because it makes available commercial farms representing each of our major areas of agriculture production. Onondaga County is unique in its large, diverse and productive agriculture land that surrounding a large urban and suburban community. Developing and maintaining an appreciation and understanding between our residential communities and our farming community is essential for a healthy agriculture and food system.

NATURAL RESOURCES

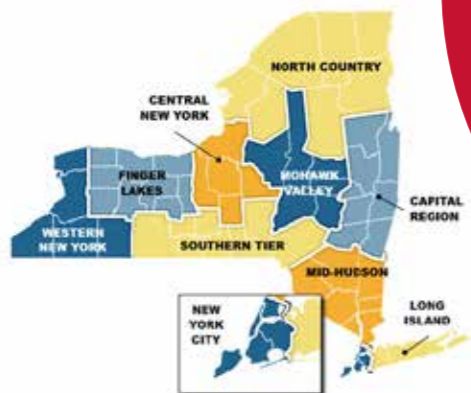
2021 Program Highlight:

The Community Energy Engagement Program (CEEP) is New York's "boots on the ground" effort to reduce the use of fossil fuels and fight climate change. CEEP implements NYSERDA programs that increase energy efficiency for residents of Onondaga and Oswego counties. CEEP's EmPower program covers all of the cost of insulation, air sealing, lighting and heating systems for low income recipients. Moderate income residents share the cost of energy upgrades with New York State. CCE Onondaga participated in the final year of a three-year NYSERDA contract and helped hundreds of renters and homeowners lower heating costs; switch to renewable energy alternatives; and enjoy their green and cozy homes.



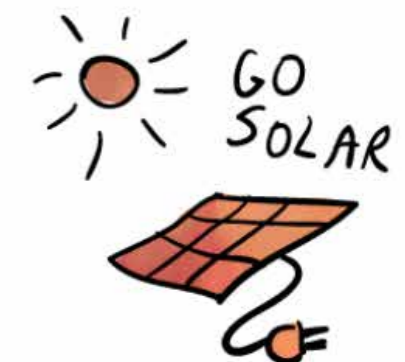
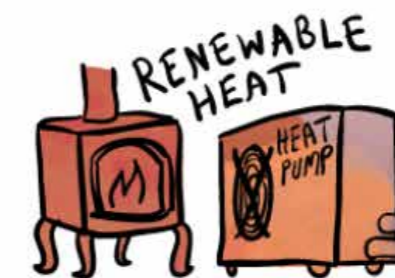
Energy efficiency is the quickest, cleanest and least expensive way to meet Central New York's energy needs, avoid dangerous pollution and reduce heating and electricity bills for residents and businesses in our community.

Implementing this CEEP program will help boost economic opportunities and job creation while continuing to move Central New York toward a sustainable future.



2021 Highlights
8,552 Total Direct Contacts
207,003 Total Indirect Contacts
269 Events

Program helps homeowners become energy efficient and for some it's free



NUTRITION AND HEALTH



2021
Highlights
 1,735
 Total Direct Contacts
 8,585
 Total Indirect Contacts
 407 Events



2021 Program Highlight:

Onondaga County is one of the top 6 arrival counties in New York State for refugee resettlement from many countries. CCE Onondaga SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) nutritionists collaborated with the CCE Natural Resource department and the RISE agency (Refugee and Immigrant Self-Employment), to work with a group of New Americans. RISE offers the SyRAP agricultural program, which is a 3-year training program offered to New Americans who are interested in starting their own farming business. The New Americans learn about vegetable and/or goat farming. The vegetable farmers are given a 1/4 or 1/8 acre plot of land to farm, which allows them to grow varieties of vegetables that are specific to their cultures such as dinosaur kale, cilantro, chili peppers, and a variety of greens, and allows them to employ some of their traditional farming practices.

New American residents are vulnerable to food insecurity and lack stable access to healthy foods. National data indicates that low income, multi-ethnic, refugee adults and school aged children are also at risk for obesity. Limited understanding of, and access to, healthy foods contribute to obesity for both youth and adults. Focusing on these issues, the SNAP nutritionists worked together with SyRAP to provide four nutrition education lessons, which were delivered to immigrant farmers at Salt City Harvest Incubator Farm in Kirkville, NY, during summer 2021.

The SNAP Ed nutritionist’s lessons engaged the 30 farmers in food safety principles and the importance of decreasing sugary sweetened beverages and saturated fats. Helpful tips were given to select healthier food/snacks for themselves and their families. Lesson materials were adapted using visual posters, food models, and hands-on activities to promote learning for all learner types. Interpreters for several languages, as well as Nepali and American Sign Language interpreters, were present during these sessions to communicate the nutrition information as well as to communicate any questions participants had for the nutritionists.



The New Americans expressed shock and surprise when learning that their favorite sweetened beverages contained 18-20 teaspoons of sugar - as the nutritionists measured it out in front of them. After watching the demonstration, several participants said that they were only going to drink water or unsweetened teas from now on!

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 APPLE ACRES
 ARC HEALTH FOOD PANTRY
 BALDWINVILLE PEACE F. PANTRY
 BASCOL
 BLESSED SACRAMENT F. PANTRY
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 LEARN AS YOU GROW
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 4-H VOLUNTEERS & CLUB LEADERS
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 COMMUNITREE STEWARDS
 MASTER FOREST OWNERS
 MASTER GARDENERS

2021 PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

2021 4-H Youth Fair
 2021 Annual Meeting
 4-H Info Session
 4-H Leadership Series
 4-H Public Presentations
 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Planning and Management in Skaneateles
 iMapInvasives Training
 Keep Forests Healthy Workshop
 Lake Friendly Living Awareness Week - Landscaping for Cayuga Lake Shorelines
 Master Gardener Presentation: Closing Up Your Garden
 Master Gardener Presentation: Companion Planting
 Master Gardener Presentation: Container Gardening
 Master Gardener Presentation: Creating a Friendly & Ecological Bird Garden
 Master Gardener Presentation: Creating a new garden using a no till method
 Master Gardener Presentation: Gardening 101 for Vegetables
 Master Gardener Presentation: Gardening in a Time of Climate Change
 Master Gardener Presentation: Gardens of Homewood: Vegetable Growing 101
 Master Gardener Presentation: Growing Plants Under Lights
 Master Gardener Presentation: Herbs in Colonial Times: Locktender's Gardening Series
 Master Gardener Presentation: Natural Methods of Weed Control
 Master Gardener Presentation: Raised Bed Gardening
 Master Gardener Presentation: Shade Gardening Challenges & Rewards
 Master Gardener Presentation: Planting Wildflowers in Your Home Garden
 Navigating Solar Lease Agreements
 OnFarm Fest 2021
 Public Information Session for EarthTec Treatment of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in Skaneateles Lake
 Shoreline Plantings for Central New York Lakes
 Spotted Lanternfly Information Session
 Streams 101 for Skaneateles Lake
 Tick Bite Prevention Virtual Workshop
 Transitioning Your Lawn to a Meadow
 Tree ID Walk & Tick Talk
 Tree ID Walk in Rand Tract

Running 38 Programs
Directly Impacting 32,202 People in Onondaga County
Indirectly Influencing 1,335,597 People

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