

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Onondaga County

ANNUAL

20
22

REPORT

6505 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057

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www.cceonondaga.org

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CCE Onondaga has continued to excel in providing innovative and impactful programming to our County. Our programs have adapted to reach more residents by using virtual tools to complement and enhance our excellent in-person educational events. More important than ever, we have been able to bring research-based education to our community and meet the diverse and ever-evolving needs of our communities in 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 - what we anticipate to be - a fantastic 2023.

With gratitude,
 David Skeval, Executive Director

A YEARS REVIEW

CCE ONONDAGA STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

David Skeval, Executive Director
 Hillary Chartron-Bartholomew,
 Director of Human Resources,
 Information Technology, Communications,
 & Operations
 Diana Lamson, Finance Manager
 Michelle Bouchard, Program Accountant
 Micheal Mathews-Rogers, Account Representative
 Jean Kessner, Communications Assistant

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Cindy Albro, 4-H Program Leader
 Robin Bartholomew, Club Coordinator
 David Scholl, 4-H Educator

AGRICULTURE

Jenny Smith, Ag Communications Specialist

NATURAL RESOURCES

Thomas Cross, Team Leader
 Kathleen Burns Copeletti, Master Gardener
 Program Coordinator
 * Ryan Fawcett, Natural Resources Educator
 * Kristina Ferrare, Forestry Resource Educator
 * Kayo Green, Urban Agriculture Educator
 * Jean Kessner, Community Energy Educator
 Camille Marcotte, Water & Ecology Educator
 Leanna Nugent, Community Forestry
 & Natural Resources Educator
 Xinyuan Shi, Urban Agriculture Educator

NUTRITION & HEALTH

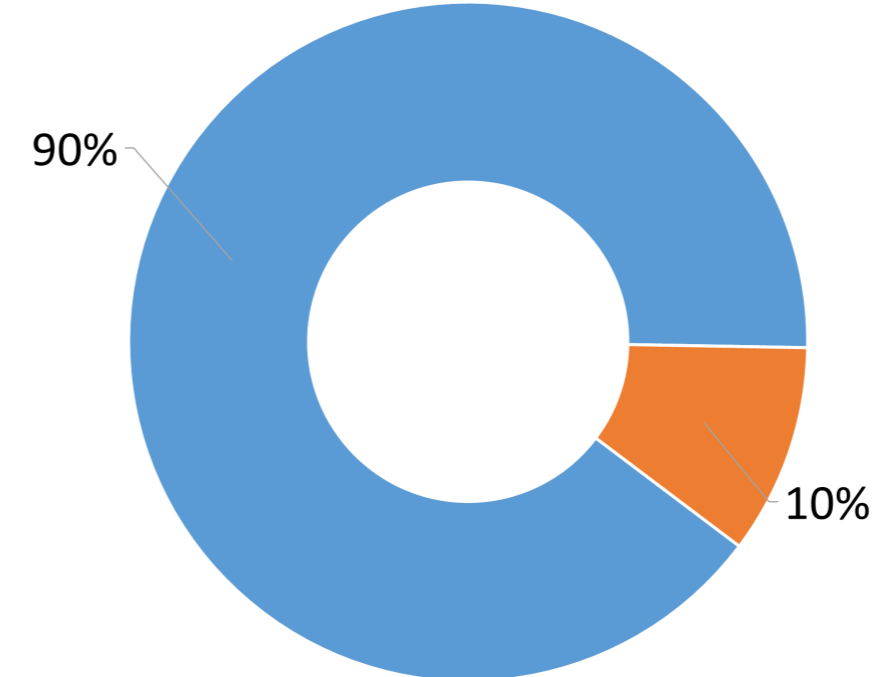
Kathleen Bump, SNAP-Ed Team Leader
 Anita Bono, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
 Mallory Burnham, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
 * Amie Chambers, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
 * Katie Oja, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
 * Kirstin Lyons, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
 Margaret Jones, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
 Elizabeth Seeley, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

*Denotes staff member not continuing in 2023

FINANCES

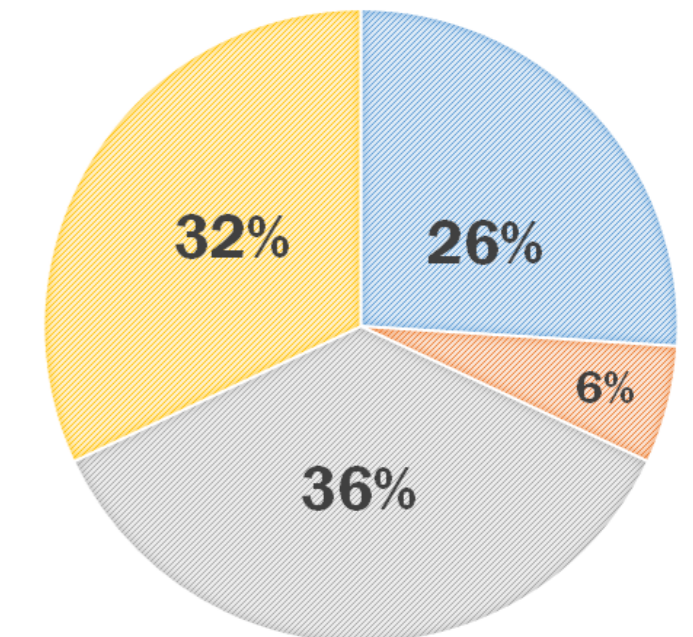
2022 ALLOCATION

■ Programming ■ Administration



2022 RESOURCES

■ County ■ State ■ Federal ■ Other Sources of Support



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



2022 Program Highlights:

Onondaga County 4-H welcomes young people ages 5-18 from all backgrounds, empowering them to ultimately create positive change in their communities. 4-H youth learn leadership, civic engagement, and life skills necessary to succeed in life, such as communication and public speaking, goal setting, problem solving, collaboration, teamwork and social interaction. In doing so, they develop self-confidence and compassion for others in a supportive, hands-on, experiential learning environment, and establish connections with caring adults who help them positively contribute to their communities.

Here are some 2022 Highlights:

- Number of youth participating in key 4-H annual events (Public Speaking Presentations, 4-H Youth Fair, Onwego Dairy Day and 4-H NYS Fair) were higher in 2022 than in any previous program year
- Pollinator Habitat Grant Award from Cornell University (only eight sites selected Nationwide), enabling four 4-H and three “Leadership” youth to serve as members of the Onondaga County Pollinator Habitat team and attend the National 4-H Agri-Sci Summit in Bethesda, MD
- 4-H held a week-long Nature Camp at Pratt’s Falls in July and re-dedication of Camp Brockway to Onondaga County 4-H
- 4-H Club “Candy Cuties” participated in 4-H International Student Exchange program, welcoming Wako Ohigashi from Japan to Onondaga County for three weeks. This club also met Governor Kathy Hochul at the welcoming ceremony at the NYS Fair.

The “Leadership to Strengthen Our Communities” program is offered to Onondaga County youth between the ages of 13-18, focusing on low income, minority, and under-served populations of the county by partnering with current youth development programs to recruit youth (ie. Onondaga County Parks & Recreation, Onondaga County Public Library system, Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and the Syracuse City School District). This program aims to support youth in Onondaga County by helping them analyze their own personal strengths and challenges, identify their “Sparks” (special interests, talents, what interests, motivates, and inspires them), set personal and educational goals, and practice action planning which will enable them to carry them out. Youth work with 4-H and host organization educators to plan and implement local school/community service projects at each program site. This program empowers youth as they take their next steps toward becoming responsible, productive adults who actively contribute to positive change in their communities.

In addition to adding new program sites and rising attendance numbers, participant behavioral outcomes have improved significantly. Due to growing program interest in the “Leadership to Strengthen Our Communities” program, we have been approached by recent program graduates to implement an “Advanced Leadership” - Part II program, which is currently under development. This program will take Leadership - Part I graduates’ skills to the next level, apply more opportunities for real-life “hand-on” skills practice, school/community leadership involvement and field trips to specified community organizations/agencies (ie. Onondaga County Legislature, City of Syracuse Youth Advisory Council, etc.).



2022 Highlights

25,274
Total Direct Contacts

53,000
Total Indirect Contacts

324 Events



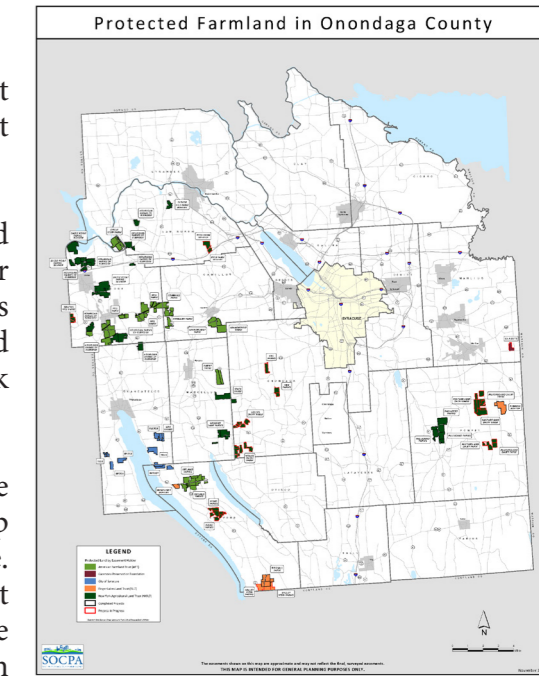
2022 Program Highlights:

Onondaga County is rich with agriculture and farming. Across the county we are surrounded by natural resources that help aide and support productive agriculture. Fresh water and rich soil create excellent conditions for farming. Almost 70% of the soils are ranked nationally as important to farming in Onondaga County.

As you drive around the county and see vast farmland for acres - it is not just vacant lots, but it is ground that is cared for and managed by stewards of the land, our Onondaga County Farmers. The lands in this county provide food for our consumption as well as for animals which then produces food for us. In Onondaga County, our highest selling products are dairy, grains, poultry and eggs. Agriculture in Onondaga county has \$178 million in market sales and farms send another \$178 million into the economy. Farmers ship goods to market and offer jobs to the community. Across New York State, we have seen a decrease in farmland as land is sold for development.

New York State has created Farmland Protection which is a grant funded program that allows landowners to sell the development rights of the land they own to help keep it as farmland. This is a great opportunity for landowners to help

keep farmland in agriculture and resist the developmental pressure. Agriculture land is a wonderful asset in Onondaga county as it offers to the beauty of the landscape and vistas in the region. The Farmland Protection Implementation Grant has been offered in New York State since the 1990s. Onondaga County has been very active over the years in partnering and facilitating farm owners access to the program. Over 12,000 acres have been permanently protected and each year we have more applicants to protect farmland. The process can be long, but the reward is worthwhile as more land is protected to stay in agriculture as farmers continue to be stewards of the land with conservation, sustainability, and economy in mind.



**2022
Highlights**

**233
Total Direct Contacts**

**21,989
Total Indirect Contacts**

72 Events

We here at Cornell Cooperative Extension work with landowners in creating effective and meaningful workshops to go over the basics of Farmland Protection, assist in the application process, work with site planning and future goals, and work alongside the landowner for what will be best for the land. If you have any questions or interest in learning more about Farmland Protection and keeping the vital farmland in agriculture please contact our agricultural specialist, Jenny Smith via email at jtm286@cornell.edu or phone (315) 424-9485 ext. 228. You can also visit <https://plan.ongov.net> and click on Pan On agriculture to see the updated plan for the future success of Onondaga County or stay up to date with agriculture by visiting: <http://cceonondaga.org/agriculture/farmland-protection>

NATURAL RESOURCES

2022 Program Highlight:

Our waterbodies, including Skaneateles Lake are vital, shared natural resources for Central New York, providing recreational, aesthetic, and financial value to the community. Skaneateles Lake also serves as the primary drinking water source for residents in the watershed and the City of Syracuse. Water quality issues like invasive species and toxic harmful algal blooms (HABs) are threatening the health of the lakes and waterbodies in Onondaga County, and all that they provide for our local communities. Non-point source pollution and sediment and nutrient loading from surface water runoff are major contributors to water quality issues, including HABs. Native landscape design is recently very popular, and homeowners and landscape professionals are increasingly interested in professional development opportunities and educational training on principles, techniques and ecology of native landscaping. As we experience more heavy precipitation events in the northeast due to the changing climate, homeowners are looking for ways to stabilize soils and capture stormwater runoff on their properties before it enters the lake. By better understanding the principles and techniques behind native landscaping, professionals and property owners will be able to better implement effective native landscape designs throughout the Skaneateles Lake watershed to protect water quality.

The land around our local lakes and waterbodies is threatened by development and non-point source pollution. Education for all community residents and landscaping professionals working in the watershed is key to implementing best management practices related to water quality.

CCE Onondaga's Skaneateles Lake Education Program provides trainings and educational events for residents and stakeholders in the Skaneateles Watershed to help protect the lake's water quality. In recent years, programming has involved a mix of in-person and virtual educational events. New this year, was a designed educational series that provided information on native landscape design with each session building upon previous sessions.

The four sessions offered included:

- Meadow, Thicket, Woods, and Water: The Patterns of Native Landscape Design (virtual)
- Planning for the Unplanned: Native Design as an Ecological Process (virtual)
- Ecology Based Design: In the Field (in-person, outdoors)
- Filter your Pollution through a Beautiful Rain Garden (in-person)

The first two sessions were held virtually and focused on the patterns of native landscaping and ecological processes behind native design. Speaker Larry Weaner, of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, presented case studies that showed how native landscaping can be applied on a variety of landscape scales and settings. The third session was interactive and outdoors at the Doce Lume Farm/ Go Native! perennials property with speakers Sam Quinn, from the SUNY ESF Restoration Science Center, and Larry Weaner. Attendees were able to examine a native plant meadow up close, and even assisted in seeding a future native plant meadow. The final session featured presenter Emily Garavuso from EDR, who spoke about green infrastructure practices, like bioswales, rain gardens and green roofs, and how they can help slow the flow of water to improve stormwater quality.

Through this collaborative initiative, ten partners in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed came together to provide information and training for landowners and landscape professionals on native landscape design. Feedback on the series was very positive, with many requesting follow-up programming in the future. With a combination of virtual and in-person events, programming was accessible to folks wherever they reside, while also offering hands-on technical training. Over the course of the four workshops, there were 332 participants, specifically 237 unduplicated participants.

**2022
Highlights**

**3,300
Total Direct Contacts**

**716,332
Total Indirect Contacts**

125 Events





NUTRITION AND HEALTH

2022 Program Highlight:

In 2022, the nutritionists of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) have transitioned back to in-person nutrition education. The SNAP-Ed nutritionists welcomed the face-to-face contact with program partners and participants and hands on activities with cooking demonstrations after the long hiatus of virtual and hybrid nutrition education due to the COVID pandemic.

One significant 2022 highlight of the SNAP Ed program took place at Interfaith Works Center for New Americans. Our nutritionist facilitated a series consisting of five workshops using the Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshop curriculum. Participants were all women that had children at home, and came to the United States from Congo and Somalia in Africa.

The women were actively engaged in all of the workshops and learned many new concepts including how to use the Nutrition Facts Label to select healthy foods, selecting healthier beverages, importance of whole grains, and how to incorporate more plant based proteins into meals. We were fortunate to have a Swahili interpreter present for the workshops to enhance the learning experience for the nutritionist and participants.

The participants enjoyed watching the food demonstrations and trying new recipes. One participant commented...

“We eat garbanzo beans, but never from a can or cold in a salad. It is very good and so easy! I will make this at home.”

Questions and comments regarding how they were exploring new items in the grocery store and looking for healthier items occurred every week.

The finale of this nutrition education series was a feast of traditional African foods to share. One participant demonstrated how to prepare Fufu a staple of their culture that is made from cassava flour. Other items that were sampled were Pongu (cassava leaf stew), Madesu (beans) and a traditional salad of cabbage, onion, carrot, and tomato. These workshops were a wonderful learning and sharing experience!



2022 Highlights
3,905 Total Direct Contacts
1,478 Total Indirect Contacts
474 Events

FUNDERS, PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS & DONORS

PETER BACOLA – IN HONOR OF WEDDING COUPLE (RACHEL & DAVIS CUMMINGS)
CITY OF SYRACUSE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
CORNELL GARDEN BASED LEARNING
FEEHAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
DANIEL FILIP
IHEARTMEDIA
SUZANNE GENDER – IN HONOR OF WEDDING COUPLE (RACHEL & DAVIS CUMMINGS)
LORI GRIPPO
MICHAEL KERNAN
LAFAYETTE APPLE FESTIVAL
NATIONAL 4-H FOUNDATION
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
NEW YORK STATE AG & MARKETS
NYSERDA
NYS 4-H
HELEN MIERZWA
MARY MURPHY – IN HONOR OF WEDDING COUPLE (RACHEL & DAVIS CUMMINGS)
MARY NELSON – IN HONOR OF WEDDING COUPLE (RACHEL & DAVIS CUMMINGS)
NEW YORK STATE DEC
NEW YORK STATE FAIR
NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
NYS OFFICE OF TEMPORARY DISABILITY
ONONDAGA COUNTY

ONONDAGA COUNTY AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
ONONDAGA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ONONDAGA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
ONONDAGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER
ONONDAGA COUNTY WEP
ONONDAGA COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU
ONWEGO HOLSTEIN CLUB
REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SELF EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM
SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SYRACUSE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, & YOUTH PROGRAMS
SYRACUSE ONONDAGA PLANNING AGENCY
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WEGMANS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

4-H VOLUNTEERS & CLUB LEADERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMUNITREE STEWARDS
MASTER FOREST OWNERS
MASTER GARDENERS

2022 PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

2022 4-H Youth Fair
2022 4-H Public Presentations
2022 Annual Meeting
4-H Spring Fling
Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
Ask the Experts: Invasive Species!
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
Closing your Garden for the Season
Ecology Based Design: In the Field
Farmland Protection Program
Filter your Pollution through a Beautiful Rain Garden
Gardening in a Time of Climate Change
Houseplant Pests Bugging You?
Leadership to Strengthen Our Communities
Master Gardener Programming
Native Plants & Creating a Backyard Habitat
National Pollinator Week
OnFarm Fest 2022
Our Changing Menu: How Climate Change is Impacting the Foods We Love and Need
Planning for the Unplanned: Native Design as an Ecological Process
Planting Wildflowers in Your Home Garden
Preparing for and Accessing Wool Pools in NYS

Preparing for Shearing Day
Rain Barrel Education Sessions
Responding to the Rain
Road Salt Impacts on Water Quality - A Case Study of Mirror Lake
Skaneateles Lake Nine Element Plan Public Meetings
SNAP Educational Programming
Vegetable Gardening 101
Winterizing Your Garden
Youth Lantern Project
Meadow, Thicket, Woods, and Water: The Patterns of Native Landscape Design

RUNNING 36 PROGRAMS

779 EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

**DIRECTLY IMPACTING
32,000 PEOPLE IN ONONDAGA
COUNTY**

**INDIRECTLY INFLUENCING
1.4 MILLION PEOPLE**

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