Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County has enjoyed another year of impactful programming in Onondaga County!

Our four main program areas are Agriculture, Environment, 4H Youth Development and Nutrition/Health.

While our subject matter is diverse, our mission is the same: to bring research based knowledge to the citizens and communities of Onondaga County to apply to everyday life. It is education for everyday life.

This is how we impact everyday life:

• Helping parents source healthy food for their children
• Getting the information to dairy farmers to convert to organic farming
• Providing life skills to our youth
• Teaching Onondaga county residents how to preserve their own food
• Supporting new farmers
• Protecting farmlands
• Managing the impacts of invasive species
• Bringing community vitality to our urban communities
• Cutting energy costs for families

In 2016, CCE continued to expand 4H Youth Development programing in our urban communities while maintaining our rich 4H tradition in rural communities.

This has set the stage for exciting new collaborations and partnerships in 2016.

CCE Onondaga joined the South Central Dairy and Field Crops Team to better support our dairy farmers and Onondaga’s $200 million/year dairy industry.

Joining the team has afforded Onondaga County with a wider variety of agriculture expertise, including field crops and organic dairy farming.

CCE facilitated the first county-wide farm tour in collaboration with the Onondaga Ag Council, I-Heart Media, Onondaga County Planning, and Onondaga Soil and Water. The event was attended by 1,500 residence and connected people with working farms in Onondaga County to foster a connection and appreciation for those who feed us.

2017 will be another great year as we plan to expand our 4H Youth Development Program and Agriculture programming with the Regional Ag Team.

Please stay in touch with us by sending us your email. You will receive updates and notifications on our events and programming. To connect, sign up on our Facebook page or email us at onondaga@cornell.edu.

David Skeval
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.

2016 RESOURCES

Other Sources of Support 28%
County 1.7%
Federal 52%
State 3%

2016 ALLOCATION

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FINANCES

STAFF DIRECTORY

EDUCATOR STAFF

AGRICULTURE & A & H DEVELOPMENT

KRISTINA FERRARE, EXT. 231
2016 AD/H TEAM LEADER
2017 FORESTRY RESOURCE EDUCATOR
ERIN HUI*
AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR
YVETTE MICHNA
GIRL SCOUTS U EDUCATOR
MELANIE PALMER, EXT. 228
AC BUSINESS SPECIALIST
THERESA SAVIK
4-H PROGRAM EDUCATOR
JULIANA QUARESMA, EXT 244*
2017 4-H RESOURCE EDUCATOR

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

KATHERINE KORBA, EXT. 250
ENVIRONMENT TEAM COORDINATOR
KAREN BISHOP, EXT. 236
MASTER GARDENER COORDINATOR
CLARE CARNEY, EXT 265
NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATOR
DERIN CONANT, EXT. 227
NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATOR
JUSTIN MAKAYKOWOSKI, EXT. 250
FORESTRY EDUCATOR, SAVE THE RAIN
JESSI LYONS*
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR
JESSICA MAXWELL*
URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM EDUCATOR
AARON ROSS, EXT. 233**
2017 URBAN AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR
ROY WIDRIG, EXT. 232
WATER QUALITY EDUCATOR
DAVE RYAN
TEMPORARY NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANT
KIM ZHANG*
VERNON COFFEY*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHAEL MATHES-ROGERS, EXT. 225
ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE
HILLARY CHARTRON-BATHTOLOMIEW, EXT. 254
ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATOR
MICHELLE BOUCHARD, EXT. 226
PROGRANM ACCOUNTANT
DIANA LAMSON, EXT. 222
FINANCE MANAGER
AUDREY CLARK, EXT. 260
FINANCE ASSISTANT

*DENOTES PERSONS NOT CONTINUING ON STAFF IN 2017
**STAFF JOINING IN 2017
Cornell Cooperative Extension supports equal educational and employment opportunities. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, religion, political belief, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender/gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Cornell Cooperative Extension is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.
Eat Smart New York’s (ESNY) goal is to promote health for low-income individuals through education, policy support and system changes that promote healthy food choices and opportunities to lead physically active lifestyles. Poverty is a risk factor for numerous health problems including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, poor pregnancy outcomes, and obesity. Positive changes in nutrition and physical activity are needed to avoid negative consequences of these health conditions. In collaboration with our community partners we can help to reach and teach the 140,000 residents living at or below the poverty level (14%) in our Southern Tier Region.

**WHO WE REACH**
- Low income:
- Families with children
- Individuals
- Youth
- Seniors (60+)

**WHAT WE DO**
Facilitate workshops, events, and help our partners create health promoting policies that support people to:
- Increase consumption and variety of vegetable and fruits
- Choose smaller portions
- Reduce sugar, fat and salt
- Decrease consumption of sweetened beverages
- Increase engagement in physical activities

"Our teachers will be so much better equipped to engage youth in active play! These resources and techniques from this CATCH PE training will make all the difference!" -SCSD PE

"I’m going to teach my brothers what I learned! Yuck- there is so much sugar even in Gatorade!"
- 4H Youth at NYS Fairgrounds

"Just wanted to share that Leigh has really been paying attention to you and enthusiastically coming home to share recipes and healthy eating tips. Thanks so much!"
- Parent of 2nd grader participating in CATCH program
Onondaga County is the tenth largest agricultural county in New York. We have a distinct urban center which makes our large economic role in agriculture truly unique. This creates both challenges and opportunities for both our farmers and consumers. Onondaga County has lost half of its farm land to development since 1965. Farmland protection is an important priority identified by county stakeholders. CCE Onondaga continues to work with the Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Association and Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation District to help protect farmland. In 2016 CCE conducted workshops to assist farmland owners and agriculture producers with completing farmland protection paperwork to develop site plans for their farms. 28 applications were submitted to Onondaga County and four successfully competed at the State level leading to the protection of over 1000 acres of farmland. The site plans produced were an important part of securing State funding to protect the farmland.

I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2016 was a year of expanding programs for Onondaga County 4H Youth Development. Our goal was to expand our 4H programming into our urban communities while maintaining strong programming in rural communities. With 169 different youth activities and over 5,000 youth participating, the youth enjoyed the fun activities that were infused with the development of life skills. This is the purpose of 4H Youth Development, to develop life skills to prepare youth for careers, families and serving their communities.

Our 4H clubs continue to set the bar high for youth development with HORSE, GOAT, ROBOTIC, and GENERAL CLUBS. Our horse clubs and our goat club have produced STATE CHAMPIONS but, more importantly, the life lessons that come from training and caring for animals create champions in life. 4H succeeds because of our dedicated adult volunteers who continue to give their time and expertise to make CCE Onondaga’s youth programming a success.

CITIZEN U

CITIZEN U has continued to engage high-need, low income youth in the City of Syracuse in developing COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, and PUBLIC SPEAKING skills, SELF-CONFIDENCE, SELF-ESTEEM and INCREASED EDUCATION and CAREER ASPIRATIONS. Several youth from the previous year returned to the program and are interested in issues such as poverty, food accessibility and food justice, and integration of Syracuse’s new American communities with other low-income communities in the urban center.

CITIZEN U: EMPOWERS some of the most underserved youth in our City to work on issues important to them and their families and communities. It supports a true youth voice in the community. Our young citizens become leaders and contribute to the creation of the diverse and inclusive communities necessary for a safe and productive life.

Improving farming techniques and business practices is also a way to protect farmland. Annie’s Project is a program that develops the business talents of woman farmers. Women are an increasing demographic of our farming profile. In 2016 CCE Onondaga conducted a series of workshops to develop and enhance the business knowledge of this important group of farmers.

There are nearly 450,000 people in Onondaga County, and yet only 1% are farmers. Only 650 farming families feed our local population. CCE Onondaga in collaboration with the Onondaga County Ag Council held the first ever Onondaga County Farm Tour. Seven family farms opened their doors to the rest of Onondaga County so they could understand the effort it takes to run a farm. Over 1,500 people toured farms and came away with an appreciation and sense of stewardship for those who feed us.

In addition to the Farm Tour, CCE held 36 other educational events for farmers with 254 farmers in attendance. The workshops included farming technology, like the integration of GIS systems into harvesting and fertilizer applications, and the conversion of traditional dairy to organic dairy farming.
KIRK PARK EDIBLE GARDEN
CCE educators continued collaborations with City Parks to provide support and educational programming for youth at the Kirk Park edible garden. A total of 16 youth participated in the spring and summer sessions, and 5 Master Gardener Volunteers assisted with the program delivery with the addition of a large raised vegetable bed this growing season.

2ND ANNUAL FOOD JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM
The 2016 Food Justice Symposium, held at United University Methodist Church on November 16th, hosted a total of 118 Adults and 36 youth for a total of 154 PARTICIPANTS in all. Through this year’s symposium we achieved our goals through information-sharing with dynamic guest speakers from around the region, CCE Onondaga Master Gardener Volunteers, CYFAR (Children, Youth, and Families at Risk) teens, and CCE Onondaga Nutrition educators who provided educational sessions for youth, parents, teachers and community members.

FRUIT TREE GRAFTING WORKSHOP
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County hosted a fruit tree grafting workshop featuring Sam Van Aken. The workshop included a detailed presentation on grafting techniques and a hands-on grafting demonstration using a variety of techniques. The participants had the opportunity to then graft their own plum trees on antique heirloom varieties to take home with them.

URBAN FRUIT TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP
In 2016 CCE Onondaga lead a Fruit Tree Pruning workshop with Newell Street Community gardeners and Syracuse grows members to demonstrate pruning techniques and to guide participants in successful pruning of young urban apple trees and pear trees in the Southside of Syracuse.

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY FARM
Urban Agriculture educators continued to provide support at the Southwest Community Farm through service learning to the Urban Delights youth staff with hands-on opportunities to improve gardening skills and knowledge.

The Master Gardeners Volunteers of Onondaga County strive to help gardeners of all ages and backgrounds increase their knowledge and enjoyment of gardening. The benefits of gardening are numerous; whether your goal is to produce some of your own fresh, organic FOOD or to landscape with NATIVE PLANTS to ATTRACTION POLLINATORS, and PROVIDE HABITAT for birds and other animals in your yard.

Master Gardeners help with community gardens, school gardens, and home gardens by sharing their knowledge and experience. In 2016, Master Gardener Volunteers ANSWERED OVER 2,000 GARDENING QUESTIONS at several local venues, such as the regional market, the vegetable garden at the zoo, at local festivals, and from calls to the horticulture hot-line. In addition, 1,500 visitors stopped by the Master Gardener booth at the NYS Fair.

Volunteers engage with the public through numerous programs. Master Gardeners worked with 50 youth in vegetable gardens, gave over 25 presentations to community groups in 2016, taught seed starting to seniors, and helped start a vegetable garden at the Food Bank and a native plant garden at a local elementary school.
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

We continued to monitor 100 hemlock trees planted across 4 sites within the Skaneateles Lake Watershed in partnership with Cornell University, the city of Syracuse, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation Service. The trees will be used to rear biological controls that will help to combat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in response to preserve our hemlock resources.

“Project Watershed”

Project Watershed is a water quality education and community outreach program that engages Onondaga County high schools, middle schools, and teachers in water quality monitoring, stream ecology, pollution, and conserving local streams.

- 15 STREAM SAMPLING EVENTS
- 10 DIFFERENT WATER BODIES
- 425 YOUTH INVOLVED
- 68 ADULTS INVOLVED

In 2016 the program also worked to incorporate invasive fish DNA sampling at 5 events. No invasive fish DNA was discovered, but Buttertern Creek had an explosion in rusty crayfish population.

Youth on the Fly

29 YOUTH and 8 adults were instructed and educated on and knowledge gained in FLY FISHING, FLY TYING, FISH IDENTIFICATION, WATER QUALITY, AND ENTOMOLOGY. Half of the youth that participated were inner city youth with 3 of them being of “At Risk” status with a handful that had never fished before. This year we had an increase in girls who participated from 1 last year to 5 this year.

Two volunteer youth were cultivated and aided in delivering the program. Youth visited five Onondaga County streams to practice casting techniques, fish, and learn water quality and stream ecology. Many fish were caught, including sunfish, small mouth bass, brown trout and rainbow trout. Several youth verbally expressed that if they had access or owned fly fishing and tying equipment they would engage in the activity more frequently.

Emerald Ash Borer

In 2016, CCE Onondaga and Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District partnered to organize a tree planting event for this Spring to help replace some of those trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer. 31 youth volunteers from FFA, Future Farmers of America, helped plant 130 trees in Onondaga Lake Park as an effort to restore canopy that was lost due to EAB in the park. CCE Onondaga provides a monthly EAB newsletter to the task force network that provides EAB forestry news and updates from professionals in the region, tree planting events, grant opportunities and EAB related articles.
COMMUNITREE STEWARDS
In 2016, 16 new volunteers joined the program. Throughout the season, Tree Stewards provided hands-on training on 13 tree pruning projects, improving the form and structure of 516 young urban trees, and maintained 4 city rain gardens. Tree Stewards participated in 7 community events planting 245 new trees in the City and County. These Stewards along with 26 Alumni participated as crew leaders throughout the year, assisting with community plantings, other urban forestry activities and sharing their knowledge with the community.

COMMUNITREE BUY
Seven Onondaga County municipalities and organizations purchased a total of 100 bare root trees at a lower cost due to the Community Tree Buy program organized by CCE Onondaga. These trees were distributed at the Department of Public Works (DPW) location in the Village of Fayetteville. CCE Onondaga has organized the Communitree Buy for the past 6 years. This program lets people take advantage of group purchasing, enabling them to pay a lower price per tree, making it a great benefit to communities.

MUSHROOM GROWING & TICK DRAGS
Steve Gabrielle from Cornell’s Agroforestry program delivered a mushroom growing workshop to eager fungi lovers in September. In about one year, participants will see the “fruits” of their labor by harvesting shiitakes from their very own inoculated log.

Educators trained community volunteers to reduce exposure to ticks and lessen the chance of tick bites through a series of workshops and publications emphasizing proper outdoor dress and yard landscaping. In some communities, volunteers were trained by staff to survey tick populations through “tick drags.” Ticks gathered were counted and submitted for testing for diseases.

SAVE THE RAIN HIGHLIGHTS
The Strathmore Neighborhood Tree planting Event resulted in 143 volunteers planting 96 TREES IN 2 HOURS on November 5th, 2016. The volunteer participants including Neighborhood Residents, SUNY ESF students and professors, Master Gardener Volunteers, Area Business Employees, Communitree Steward volunteers and Certified Arborists from National Grid. Throughout the year CCE along with Onondaga Earth Corps conducted door to door outreach, knocking on 331 doors, and speaking with 85 residents to obtain 89 site approvals.

VOLUNTEER PLANTING EVENTS
In 2016 the STR team held seven community tree planting and maintenance events with 243 VOLUNTEERS. These events resulted in 546 volunteer hours! Our annual Arbor Day event was held at Webster Elementary School with twenty-five 5th grade students who learned about the importance of trees as green infrastructure, their beneficial impacts on our watershed, and concluded with the planting of 13 trees on school property. We also trained 13 crew leaders how to lead a group of volunteers during the Strathmore Neighborhood Event.

VOLUNTEER PLANTING EVENTS
Maple
The first ever celebration of maple season in the city brought 150 kids and parents out to Thornden Park for tree tapping demonstrations, tasting sap, a discussion of buckets versus tubing systems, and visits to the Thornden Park Sugarbush. The Mobile Maple Exhibit from Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Future Farmers of America (FFA) was there with a mini evaporator, boiling sap from park trees and discussing the details of the sap house operation. City Parks came prepared to keep the crowd exercising with fun field games to enjoy the sunny day. Sharing this right of spring in the City is an important link connecting youth and adults to agriculture and forestry activity, important to the New York State and Onondaga County economy.
**Funders, Partners, Supporters & Donors**

ALDEN STREET FOUNDATION  
ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMING SYRACUSE  
BASCOL  
BRADY FAITH CENTER  
BREWERTON FOOD PANTRY  
CITY OF SYRACUSE WATER DEPT  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
CORNELL GARDEN BASED LEARNING  
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FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST  
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HELPING HANDS URBAN FARM  
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NEW YORK STATE DEC  
NEW YORK STATE FAIR  
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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NOJAIM BROTHERS SUPERMARKET  
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ONONDAGA COUNTY AG COUNCIL  
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ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
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ONONDAGA COUNTY SCOPA  
ONONDAGA COUNTY SWCD  
ONONDAGA EARTH CORPS  
ONONDAGA COUNTY WEP  
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
PRICE CHOPPER  
SHARE OUR STRENGTH  
SUNY ESF  
SUNY UPSTATE HOSPITAL  
SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SYRACUSE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & Youth Programs  
SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
SYRACUSE GROWS  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY CANARY PROJECT  
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MAT Bank  
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