

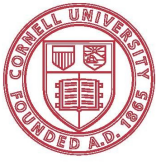


**Cornell University Cooperative Extension
of Chemung County
2012 Annual Report**



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Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Chemung County

Human Resource Center
425 Pennsylvania Avenue
Elmira, NY 14904



Dear Friends of CCE Chemung,

Andrew Fagan

We began our 100th year with a celebration with our staff, volunteers, and local leaders at our “Friends of Extension” dinner at the Elmira Holiday Inn. That evening, we recommitted ourselves to our mission “to enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.” As we reflect on our work for the past year, we can see that we have held true to that commitment through our various programs that are:

- Preparing youth for the future
- Improving individual and community health
- Preserving and protecting our environment
- Supporting and strengthening our local food and fiber system
- Providing and enhancing volunteer opportunities

We are thankful for the continued support of Chemung County, our volunteers, staff, partners and Cornell as we continue to meet the needs and foster the promise of our local residents to succeed in this changing world. Together, we can be proud that our association representing the citizens of Chemung County has served so many, so well, for so long and that with dedication and determination, it will do so for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Andrew Fagan, Executive Director

Will Wickham, Board President

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides Equal Program and Employment Opportunities
Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by calling 734-4453 prior to attending a program.

Tel: 607.734.4453 * Fax: 607.734.7740 * counties.cce.cornell.edu/chemung

4-H Youth Development and School Programs

4-H Clubs and Programs

Enrolled 4-H members participate in organized clubs or as individual members on the county level, with opportunities within the county, district and state. Some youth, who are not enrolled members of the club program, participate in special interest and school enrichment programs. 4-H welcomes all youth regardless of race, economic status or sexual orientation and accommodations are made for those with disabilities. Through projects, young people exhibit healthy lifestyle choices, maintain relationships with caring adults and master skills needed to become successful, contributing adults.

An 80% Program Resource Educator and a 100% 4-H Program Educator implement 4-H programming here in Chemung County.

In Chemung County we maintain a traditional club program as well as offering 4-H members the opportunity to be independent members and shape their own 4-H experiences. In order to serve all of our members, whether club or independent, we offer a County Club that is held once a month and all members are invited. This is a new concept to bring all 4-H members an opportunity to work together. This has allowed for continued growth and personalization of each member's individual 4-H experience. We reach approximately 220 youth through traditional programming.

During 2012, 85 adult volunteers managed clubs, led projects, served as judges and evaluators, or implemented programming. Total volunteer time for 2012 topped **1,000 hours!**

In order to participate with entries at the Chemung County Fair, all participants are required to attend two educational clinics. This program was received with enthusiasm and the youth were able to meet this requirement in a variety of ways including county- led programs, inter-county clinics and Cornell University programs. This requirement has been successful in instilling one of the 4 key elements of the 4-H program and that is Heart - a sense of belonging.

Base Camp - Afterschool Enrichment Programs

This year the 4-H program implemented 5 sessions of 8 week classes for after-school programming in the Elmira City School District. The 4 topics covered in the sessions were: "Food Land People", "Career Track", "Embryology", and "Climate & Energy".

Through these sessions 4-H and other CCE staff worked with nearly 70 students weekly for 8 weeks.

Old MacDonald's Farm

The 43rd annual Old MacDonald's Farm was held from May 29 through June 2, 2012. School visits from the 4th grade Agriculture Awareness Days allowed the program to reach 260 4th Grade students.

This year with help from grant funding we introduced a new 4th Grade Ag Science program. We introduced a "Pizza Farm" component to the Ag Science days during which students planted

"pizza" plants such as garlic, basil, tomatoes and peppers. Over 300 plants were sown and harvested by 4-H and CCE staff, as well as many volunteers. Our produce was then donated to The Food Bank of the Southern Tier.



Elementary and pre-school attendance over 3 days totaled 785 youth. Combined with the general public in the evenings and on the week-

end, the attendance at the annual Old MacDonald's Farm approached 3,500. This program is implemented in cooperation with CCE Chemung staff and the generous contributions of 23 volunteers who offered more than 425 volunteer hours during the weeklong event. Our Family Day event was held in cooperation with "Farm City Day" this year. This event grew to include educational activities from area non-profits for the young people of the community to enjoy, as well as craft, food, and farmers market vendors, making it a huge attraction in the area.

Regional Programming

We continue to work with neighboring counties on regional programming. In the spring it was decided that just three counties would continue with the regional effort. These counties are Chemung, Schuyler and Tioga. There were several clinics opened to all counties as well as the Lego League and Bug Club offered in all three counties. The regional program also took advantage of working together on programs generally singled out as individual county programs. See below:

County Fair

The 2012 Chemung County Fair boasted entries from over 130 4-H members. Entries included:

Agriculture and Natural Resources

General Agriculture

We have continued our partnership with Coca-Cola and retrofitted nearly 75 used 55-gallon drums into low-cost rain barrels to put in the hands of local residents. These barrels allow homeowners to reduce the amount of water flowing off their property. By capturing and reusing rain water to water the lawn, wash the car, etc. we reduce the amount of water we remove from the tap.

CCE Chemung is also very involved with planning the Southern Tier Nursery and Landscaping Association Education Day. This event serves to educate the local landscaping professionals on new techniques and provide them with necessary DEC pesticide training credits. Sixty individuals participated in the 2012 session which included two concurrent sessions and a trade show.

This year we partnered Farm City Day with the long running Old McDonald's Farm program. This served as a great way for us to advertise and many children who visited Old McDonald's Farm brought their families back for Farm City Day. This event provides an opportunity for Chemung County residents to become more aware of local agriculture and related issues through its displays and activities while they take part in outdoor activities.

Our Taste of Chemung Dinner partnered local farms and restaurants to present a unique dining experience. All the key ingredients came from local farms and businesses. Over 80 people attended the event at Hill Top Inn. Other restaurant partners included Classic Café and the EOP Bistro.

Ag Literacy Week

Students in primary grades learned about NYS agriculture through listening to a volunteer's reading of *Seed, Sun, Soil* by Cris Peterson. Volunteers also prepared follow-up activities to do with classrooms. Each participating teacher was given a resource book, prepared by NYS Ag in the Classroom, with activities to do with his/her students.

Eight volunteers worked with a CCE coordinator to read this book to 474 students in 23 classrooms of seven public and private elementary schools.

In addition to five Chemung County residents the Chemung County Farm Bureau and the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District provided contributions to purchase copies of the book for classrooms and the schools' libraries. From this annual week-long event teachers and children in the participating classrooms gained a better understanding of our earth's recipe for food: seed, sun and soil. The libraries and classrooms of these schools received a total of 30 copies of the book.

Home Economics & Consumer Sciences, Horticulture, Fine Arts, Arts & Crafts, Environment, Livestock, Horse, Dairy, Dog, Rabbit, Poultry, Pets, and Teen Helpers. This year's county fair also became part of the regional effort with several members from the regional program entering in Dairy, Poultry, Goat, and Horse projects. These opened up our 4-H county fair entries to more youth and included educator contributions from other counties.

New York State Fair

This year the New York State Fair also benefitted from regional programming including Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Tioga Counties for all 12 days of the fair. We shared a 2-booth space with county projects on display for the entire time at State Fair. We conducted a S.T.E.M. activity each day in the booth where youth, volunteers and staff from the 4 county effort implemented the activity. Volunteers and members alternated activities between "Temperatures in Time" and "The Incredible Journey". Both activities highlighted the effects of climate; over 2,000 youth were involved in these S.T.E.M. activities during the 12 day period.

4-H Programming 2012 Overview

In 2012 the Chemung County 4-H program partnered with Chemung County Youth Bureau, Farm Bureau, Soil & Water Conservation District, Chemung County Agricultural Society, Dairy Promotion Association, Southside Community Center, Elmira Kiwanis, 21st Century After School programs, Schuyler County 4-H, Steuben County 4-H, and Tioga county 4-H programs. A wide variety of programs were implemented for enrolled members in four counties, as well as many Chemung County school students and numerous youth in the general public.



Science & Discovery Center

The Science & Discovery Center this year serviced eleven GST BOCES school districts in the Southern Tier, and did fun, hands-on science programs with almost 25,000 students.

This summer, the SDC had five summer programs in Addison, NY, and with "Summer of Innovation" at Corning Community College. It was a great success, and included "Biology Explorations", "Exploring Space", "Stop-Motion Animation" and "Invention Week".

Upper Susquehanna Coalition/GIS

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL continues to be a main focus. One staff member leads a team primarily responsible for developing, implementing, and providing input to planning of the Upper Chesapeake Watershed Education Program serving the NY counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We continue to develop GIS-based tools and models used to monitor agricultural best management practices in the region, and educate various audiences on the use of these tools toward reaching NY's water quality goals. This past year saw the development of a state-wide online agricultural best management practice database which the coalition is implementing. New York State is required to submit annual agricultural and stormwater Best Management Practice data through the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN), to support TMDL work for the Chesapeake Bay Program, using this new data management system. We continue to train Soil and Water Conservation District staff throughout the watershed on use of the data management system.

In the past year, we conducted many outreach sessions and field classes relating to different environmental disciplines including water quality, biodiversity, wetland ecology and wildlife management. The coalition finished a long running project that resulted in the publication of a regional field guide to reptiles and amphibians of the Susquehanna River Watershed in New York. The guide will be distributed to schools and nature centers throughout the watershed by Spring. Work on an accompanying curriculum for different age students is in progress. We hope to offer the curriculum to science teachers with the guide.

Master Gardeners

The Katy Leary Community Garden, which now consists of 64 beds and a small orchard of apple, pear, plum, and peach trees has now added a small greenhouse through a grant from Creating Healthy Places. This partnership of Chemung County CCE, Chemung County Soil and Water, River Friends and the City of Elmira has helped to turn a set of abandoned tennis courts into a place where those who otherwise might not be able to garden can now grow their own food. CCE offered several evening seminars at the gardens as educational opportunities. Produce grown in the garden went home with the gardeners or was donated to local food pantries. Several beds were grown exclusively for the food banks.



The Chemung Master Gardeners had another successful plant sale this past May, providing local gardening enthusiasts with beautiful hanging baskets and hard-to-find perennials. With a portion of the proceeds, Master Gardeners enjoyed a trip to Penn State to tour their display gardens and visit with the

team of scientists working to reintroduce blight resistant American Chestnut Hybrids.

This year we branched out and offered several new classes. We get a lot of home orchard questions on the Horticulture Hotline so we decided to offer a class on grafting but it was more than a simple demonstration. Participants practiced their skills and then grafted two apple trees of their own to take home. I had the opportunity to follow up with a few people over the course of the summer and was impressed by the number of grafts that took. We also offered a class on hydroponics for homeowners. Here they learned the basics of soilless culture and practiced building a small system. Due to the high number of sign-ups we had to offer an encore session of the class to accommodate them.

Chemung Ag Resource Group

We continued to facilitate the monthly meetings of the Chemung County Ag Resource Group which is an ad hoc working subcommittee of the Chemung County Ag and Farmland Protection Board. It has been established to help implement the recommendations of the Chemung County Ag Economic Development Plan. In support of the recommendations, CCE wrote and received a \$6,731 grant from the NYS Ag & Markets "Fresh Connect" Program to extend EBT (Food Stamp) benefits to the farmers markets across Chemung County. Prior to this, EBT was only available at Eastside Market. EBT services were extended to Wisner, Grove, and Teal markets. Plans to offer EBT at the Chemung Valley Market were delayed due to lack of the required number of registered producers. However, the market has been running all summer/fall. Decisions about next year will come after a review of the full season and depend on whether the state will offer continued funding for the program. CCE also, with the support of STEG, has written a grant to the NYS Agriculture Development Program to cover costs relating to the development of a regional farmer's market at the fairgrounds. Those monies would cover expanding and growing the existing Chemung Valley Farmers Market, developing a design for a future structure, and the hiring of an Ag Development Specialist. We have yet to hear if it has been approved.

Southern Tier Regional Biomass Project

CCE Chemung has been an active partner along with Cornell University's Community and Regional Development Program in the Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership's federally funded Rural Business Opportunity Grant project. This has resulted in the development of a plan to create a regional biomass industry cluster in the Southern Tier. The Director of the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Board has agreed to take the lead in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the plan with regional partners, including CCE Chemung and CCE Tioga.

Steuben-Schuyler-Chemung Dairy and Livestock Team

Most dairy and livestock producers are happy to have the 2012 growing season behind them. This was one of the most challenging years we in Extension have seen in decades. First many of our growers were inundated with a variety of pests; armyworms, potato leaf hopper, and numerous soybean pest and diseases. The hot, dry summer has led to forage shortages on many of our area dairy and livestock farms, leaving them with few options as we head into the winter feeding season. Throughout the year CCE has strived to educate and inform area producers about services and technologies to help mitigate and manage the various issues facing our local farmers.

The team offered many new programs/activities in 2012. CCE was instrumental in establishing the area's first Winter Farmers Market in the area. Located in Corning, NY the market offers a new marketing option for livestock farmers in Steuben, Chemung, Tioga & Schuyler counties.

Farm Transfer Workshop – offered options for farm transfer, succession planning & estate planning.

Sustainability Series – CCE Steuben offered classes one Saturday a month, geared towards beginner/new farmers in the area. Topics covered included: small scale poultry production, solar energy production, establishing a vineyard, mushroom production & cheese making.



Tillage Field Day – after several successful “hay days” CCE switched gears and offered a Fall Tillage Field Day on the “How & Why Cover Crops Are Important”, focusing interest in planting and growing cover crops for forage. Cornell is currently seeking farms to participate. CCE continued to offer many of our traditional programs: Southern Tier Field Crop meeting in Horseheads, The Local Food Fest in Corning, and the Dairy Farm Business Summary, in which several Chemung County farms participate.

Special Projects - Precision Feed Management (PFM). CCE-Delaware coordinated a statewide project collecting crop, feed, and nutrient data from dairy farms in the NRCS CBWI watershed (that includes portions of Chemung County). Individual farm plans were developed and data on CCE's role in collecting data and developing a farm feed management plan was provided to NRCS. Two farms in Chemung County participated in this project.

SARE Grant “Increasing Freezer Trade Sales for Livestock Producers”. This grant is intended to increase freezer trade sales for livestock farms in our six county region through marketing classes, consumer education, and the development of a website that will facilitate freezer trade sales (the “Meat Suite”). Several Chemung County livestock produc-

ers have participated in the project thus far. The website will be published by January 1st.

Dairy Email Alerts – CCE compiled email addresses from dairy farms in our tri-county area and began sending out alerts and special notices (time sensitive or special priority notices). Faced with the numerous field crop pests this growing season we found this method of information delivery to be very useful and timely to our area dairy producers.

South Central New York Agriculture Team

Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Program works with diverse groups on issues such as wood biomass energy, forest invasive pests and plants, wind and gas development issues, agroforestry and maple production, and wildlife, but the core of the program remains forestry and traditional woodlot management. Over half of Chemung County and much of the Southern Tier is dominated by high quality forest lands and is home to major forest industries. This creates both opportunities and risks for landowners to manage their land in a way that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. The SCNY Ag Team offered more than a dozen trainings and workshops for landowners and professionals in the Chemung County area over the past year toward this goal, and conducted many more follow-up consultations and site visits with participants.

Farm Business and Marketing

The Local Foods Guide was updated and 5,000 copies were printed for use by all offices as the primary outreach tool promoting local farms and food products. The 2012 Farmers Market brochure lists all regional markets, promoting markets to low income residents eligible for FMNP/EBT benefits.

Partnering with Groundswell, we offered training on business legalities and logistics and marketing to 23 individuals. The team taught during the Business Planning workshop held from January to March 2012. Farmer to Farmer Networking meetings were held November to March covering farm accounting and taxes. Additionally there was a HACCP Class for small slaughter facility operators and phone consultation with beginning farmers.

The staff handled requests from farmers' markets in the region, held a market workshop for the region (only seven people attended) to talk about FMPP study results and EBT/FMNP updates. The South Central Ag Team provided funding from a grant to markets for promotional activities. Included were Elmira EastSide Market, Grove Park and Teal Park and others throughout the area. The team participated in the Corning Local Food Fest which included Chemung County farmers in February. A March AED Trip to NYC resulted in buyer connections and helped bring 2 NYC buyers upstate to visit with

farmers in October. This resulted in one of the buyers ordering regularly from at least 3 area producers.

Fruits and Vegetables

Regional Fruit and Vegetable Specialist Molly Shaw left in July to move with her family to New Zealand. The CCE Tioga Board and Director have been working with Extension Administration to review and revise the position and plan to hire a new educator to serve the regional fruit and vegetable farmers by January of 2013.

Community Nutrition and Wellness

EastSide Market

EastSide Market increases the availability of fresh locally produced food in an area of the county where there are many low income households and few grocery stores within walking distance. Fresh produce is easily accessible for recipients of WIC and Senior FMNP (Farmers' Market Nutrition Program) coupons and WIC fruit and vegetable checks and EBT (electronic benefit-food stamps). Another long term goal of the market is to grow the local farm base with small niche crop growers.

Local farmers and backyard gardeners vend their produce as well as any agricultural value added items on Fridays 3:00 to 6:00 PM from mid-June through mid-October. Although this is a traditional outdoor farmers market, customers are able to use both paper and plastic money—cash, WIC and Senior FMNP coupons, EBT, credit, and debit cards. Beginning in July EastSide Market participated in the Fresh Connect state initiative. Whenever a customer spent \$5 of his/her food stamp benefits, a \$2 Fresh Connect check was issued.



One CCE community educator serves as the market manager of EastSide Market. The market partners with the NYS Farmers Market Federation, Holiday Inn Riverview Elmira, Warren's Orchard, Chemung County WIC, and Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care. Other community organizations that were participants during the 2012 market season included the Food

Bank of the Southern Tier, Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley (Traveling Bright Red Bookshelf), St. Joseph's Hospital and Arnot Ogden Medical Center. Other partners included Head Start, Southern Tier Bicycle League, Tanglewood Nature Center, Chemung County Lead Prevention Coalition, Chemung County and the state of Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Programs, along with some of our local 4-H clubs.

A weekly average of 300 customers attended market during the season. There were 10 registered

vendors who came to one or more weekly markets. There was an average of five vendors weekly. Of the 10 registered vendors, three were new to the market and eight were eligible to accept WIC and Senior farmers' market coupons. The remaining vendors sold food and agricultural related items not eligible for the farmers' market coupons.

Attendance at EastSide Market remained fairly consistent with the past couple years. In 2012 approximately \$1,700 was spent at the market by customers using an EBT, credit or debit card. An additional 235 Fresh Connect Checks each worth \$2.00 were redeemed by EastSide Market vendors. The redemption of WIC and Senior coupons continues to be roughly 25% of the produce vendors' income with a very substantial use of the Senior FMNP coupons.

Fresh Connect

The Fresh Connect Program was initiated by Governor Andrew Cuomo this year to help farmers' markets in areas of New York State where there is limited access to fresh local produce. Customers at all farmers' markets in Chemung County had the availability of using their SNAP/EBT (food stamp) card. In addition with every food stamp purchase of \$5, customers received a \$2.00 Fresh Connect coupon redeemable for food stamp eligible items.

Three CCE staff managed the EBT station for the five eligible Chemung County farmers' markets. Beginning in July and not counting EBT sales at EastSide Market, \$650 food stamp eligible purchases were made at Grove Park, Wisner Park and Teal Park markets. A total of 335 Fresh Connect Checks were distributed at these four markets and more than 90% have been redeemed by vendors through the NYS Farmers Market Federation. This reflects additional revenue of more than \$1,000 at our Chemung County farmers' markets.

Home Management Program

The Home Management Program is a series of four-week classes and one-on-one sessions as needed, to teach participants how to create a safe and healthy living environment through discussion, video and hands-on activities. One community educator leads discussions and hands-on activities that focus on the following topics: De-junking, Safety in the Home, Low Cost Non-toxic Cleaning Supplies, Pest Control/Pet Care, Tenants/Landlords Rights and Responsibilities, Proper Waste Disposal and Personal Care. Our partner is the City of Elmira Community Development Block Grant Program. This educational program often serves as a pre-requisite to participants receiving low interest loans or grants to renovate their homes to meet City code guidelines.

Eat Smart New York

Eat Smart New York! (ESNY) is a nutrition program available to participants in the Supplemental Nutri-

Energy and Environmental Education

Adopt A Highway

One community educator serves as coordinator to 15 volunteer groups who work together to keep our local roads free of litter. Each group has an adopted stretch of road consisting of one to six miles and has committed to collect its trash two times a year (Spring and Fall) for two to four years. Coordination of this program includes providing groups with needed equipment and safety education information.

This program continues to thrive with two new groups joining this year. In all, over 200 volunteers participate in this program. While there continues to be trash along our highway roads, some of these volunteer groups have noticed a continued decrease in the amounts collected. The Adopt-A-Highway program partners include Chemung County and the Chemung County Department of Public Works.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Composting Education

This program promotes responsible waste management in Chemung County by delivering Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Composting educational presentations/programs and outreach to the public, schools, organizations, businesses and community/local fairs and events. These include Old McDonald's Farm, Chemung County Fair, Environmental Field Days and the Elmira School District's Water Steward Program with one Community Educator serving this educational program.

Website updates and revisions are done periodically to reflect the most current practices within Chemung County as well as fielding questions, concerns and issues relating to Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Composting. CCE partners with Chemung County and Chemung Landfill, LLC.

Over 3,000 youth and adults have participated in activities planned to help them learn that by practicing the reducing, reusing and recycling of materials, they are able to do their part in preserving our natural resources. They learn the do's and don'ts of composting and the importance of reducing trash volume, replacing harsh lawn chemicals and increasing plant growth.

EmPower NY

The public is invited to attend a free two hour workshop "Save Energy, Save Dollars" sponsored by NYSERDA. The purpose of the workshop is to provide education about free and low cost residential energy saving techniques.

Two community educators held the EmPower NY workshops at which 50 individuals attended during

tion Assistance Program. Federally, this program is referred to as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed).

Eat Smart New York's (ESNY) goal is to promote health by helping low-income individuals establish healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle. 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. With agency support, our nutrition educators teach the important connection between nutrition and health to many of the 15,203 residents living at or below the poverty level (17%) in Chemung County.

The objective of ESNY is to *improve the likelihood that persons eligible for the SNAP program will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and My Plate.*



The goals of the SNAP-Ed program are to promote:

- Eating fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk products every day
- Being physically active every day as part of a healthy lifestyle
- Balancing caloric intake from food and beverages with calories expended

Participation of the nutrition series should result in:

- Increased frequency of eating fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free/low-fat milk products every day
- Increased frequency of being physically active
- Improved selection and consumption of healthy foods within a limited budget

During the year, nutrition education was taught to 113 adult participants. With the adult participants, key successes include:

- 89% improved in at least one behavior construct
- 100% improved in at least one of four nutrition practices
- 84% improved in at least one of four food resource management practices
- 63% improved in at least one food safety practice

Over 140 youth were reached through the ESNY! Program. Through the nutrition classes, the youth showed improvement in increasing their knowledge of the essentials of human nutrition at 48%, and 47% of the youth improved their food preparation skills.

the first quarter of 2012 (the end of the grant funding). After attending the energy savings workshop and receiving a free kit of residential energy savings items, participants were able to make an energy savings action plan and compute actual energy costs of household appliances and lighting. Those who attended the energy workshop and were income eligible for the EmPower NY Program (more than 80% of the attendees) applied for this NYSERDA energy savings program. They qualified for basic residential energy savings measures that included an energy audit, replacement of older refrigerators/freezers, and exchange of incandescent lights for CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs, and other basic low-cost measures.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

These semi-annual events provide a safe drop off site for residents to get rid of their household hazardous waste materials efficiently and at no cost. One community educator coordinates phone registration, education, site planning, signage, volunteer planning and any materials needed. With the help

of a second community educator and several RSVP volunteers who provide over 80 hours of educational service, over 1,000 calls are received with either pre-registration details or questions in regard to proper waste disposal. Partners include Chemung County and Chemung Landfill, LLC.



This year, over 1,000 Chemung County households participated in the Spring and Fall drop off events, safely ridding their homes of hazardous waste. Items that residents were able to bring to this drop off event include, but are not limited to, oil based paint, batteries, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, gasoline and household cleaning products.

Environmental Management Council

The EMC's purpose is to advise County government and to provide a liaison between the community and the County Government. EMC programs often

take the form of studies that provide recommended courses of action for decision makers.

One of the goals of a subcommittee of the EMC in 2012 has been to provide the county with the most accurate information they can obtain on waste water from the natural gas drilling process. The EMC has attended public events providing information about our local environment through PowerPoints



and games for young people along with tabletop displays. We have provided handouts on invasive species and water quality.

Our partners include: Cooperative Extension of Chemung County, CC Soil and Water Conservation District, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning Office, Elmira College and NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

We handed out brochures to over 1,900; through educational presentations, and workshops approximately 400 people have been served. The EMC continues to provide environmental education through after school programs and speaking engagements to various groups.

The council investigated the pros and cons of municipal composting, visiting sites in Endicott and Binghamton. Referrals were then made to the county. Another area where research is currently taking place involves looking at the connections that have been made regarding radiation in waste water.

The EMC is a nine member volunteer advisory board appointed by the county government and has one full time staff member. Monthly meetings are open to the public, and are held every fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:00AM at the Chemung County Sewer District office at 600 Milton Street, Elmira NY.

Energy Commission

The Energy Commission continues to research and meet through 2012. The sub groups: Safety, Workforce Development, Business, Roads, Planning, Outreach, Environment, Water Quality and Enforcement have all taken steps to prepare for natural gas drilling. For instance the Safety subgroup, which works closely with the Emergency Management Department, has prepared their crews with more high angle work training and sent employees to workshops on emergency spill work.

The Workforce Development subcommittee reported on classes offered by Corning Community College and Mansfield University in the oil and gas extraction field. The Roads and Infrastructure subgroup has united towns and villages with a Road Use Agreement Plan. The Environmental Impacts subgroup has reported on experiences in Pennsylvania and other places

across the country as related to natural gas drilling. A planning workshop is ready to be offered to towns and villages. It has been provided by Cornell's Energy group within the Department of Natural Resources.

New hires have been added in enforcement. They are trained in assuring that commercial vehicles

adhere to current regulations. Cooperative Extension of Chemung County's role has been to provide staff to serve on the subcommittees, bringing information from a wide range of sources to the various groups, and serving as a liaison between the county government and the public.

One of the main projects of this group has been to establish a single point of contact system for numerous incoming groups whether they are from the gas industry or other entities such as wind turbine companies.

Most recently the Energy Commission has been focusing on sustainable energy, as it exists on its own, and also innovative uses of alternative energies for the "up-cycling" of natural gas pads for wind or geothermal. The emphasis has been on creative forward thinking toward a sustainable energy future.

RSVP of Chemung County

CCE Chemung has sponsored RSVP of Chemung County, a program of the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS), for 39 years. RSVP offers Chemung County residents age 55+ flexible, challenging and rewarding volunteer service opportunities. Over the past year 887 volunteers contributed nearly 117,000 hours, and 52% of them performed work in one of several high impact areas. The financial impact of their donated service is nearly \$3 million.

Program highlights include:

- Bone Builders, research-based osteoporosis prevention classes, were led by trained RSVP volunteers at several locations throughout Chemung County. Over 350 individuals participated in the 1,200 classes.
- Frail seniors received a wide range of "Aging in Place" services, to help them remain living independently in their own homes, through RSVP's Supporting Our Seniors (SOS) and RIDE programs. The "ramp crew" recently completed their 14th portable access ramp, and RSVP contributions continue to come in for this unique program. We have further expanded our network of community partners, many of whom work as a group to help address needs that might otherwise force individuals into nursing homes.
- RSVP trained its second group of Energy Stewards, in conjunction with CCE Tompkins and Mark Pierce from Cornell. RSVP now has Chemung information, prepared by CCE Tompkins, for use in offering this program.



- RSVP was one of 15 programs in the country to secure a grant from the Medicare Diabetes Screening Program to help increase the number of beneficiaries being tested. RSVP worked with Sonya Islam from CCE Administration, who offered a Cornell perspective at the volunteer training.
- Volunteers whom RSVP transported to and from their volunteer assignments continued to contribute 50% more time than the average for all RSVP volunteers. Many report that they would not volunteer at all, or far less, without this service.



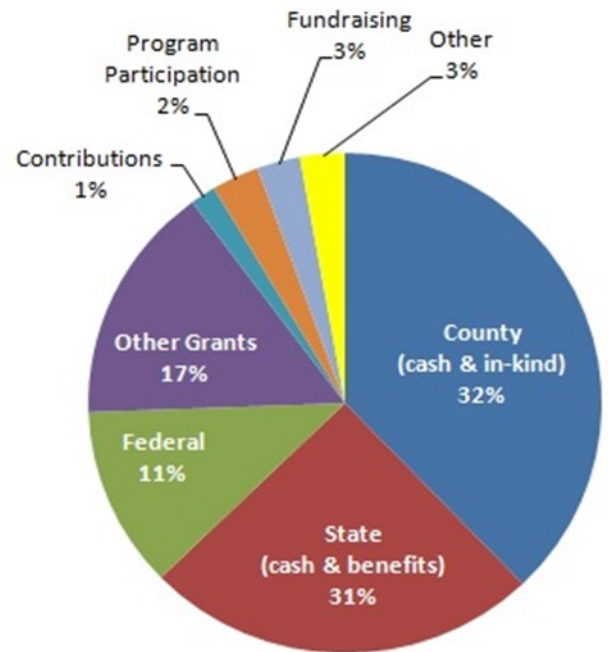
- RSVP also remains active on the Chemung County Coordinated Transportation Committee. Through this affiliation RSVP expanded its diversity and secured a handicap-accessible bus for \$500 from another agency. Those using a walker or wheelchair can now be transported at no cost to increase their social interaction.
- Teachers reported that children in grades K-3 who were helped with their reading by volunteers improved their skills and came up to grade level by the end of the school year. Many have no adults in their lives who will take the time to help their children at home, according to the teachers.

Beginning April 1, 2013 RSVP will transition into the new Chemung Volunteer Action Corps (CVAC). This initiative will involve engaging people of all ages in the county, not just those 55 and older. CVAC will draw upon experience and research-based knowledge, and include a training component for individuals to enhance the valuable services they provide in the community .

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County 2011 Revenue and Expenses

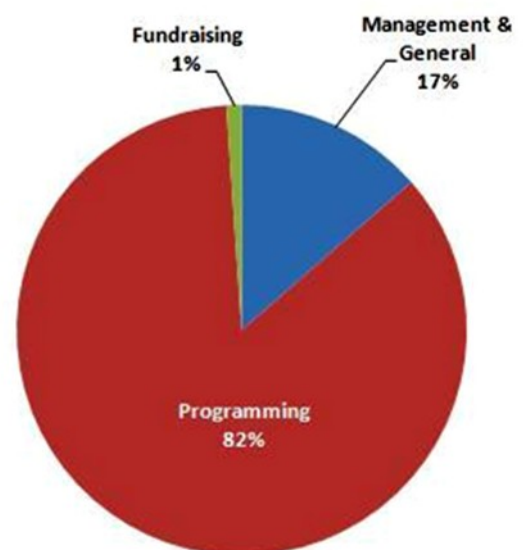
<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
County (cash and in-kind)	409,104	32.10
State (cash and benefits)	388,931	30.51
Federal	141,768	11.12
Other Grants	213,744	16.77
Program participation	29,228	2.29
Contributions	17,354	1.36
Fundraising	36,293	2.85
Other	38,244	3.00
Total	1,274,666	100.00

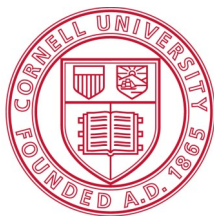
**Revenues
(Based on 2011 Support)**



<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
Management and General	199,491	16.46
Programming	998,067	82.34
Fundraising	14,558	1.20
Total	1,212,116	100.00

**Expenses
(Based on 2011 Support)**





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One Great Idea



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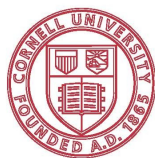
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Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.



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