


**Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Chemung County**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



 <https://chemung.cce.cornell.edu/>

 425 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira, NY

## **Cornell Cooperative Extension | Chemung County**

**Since 1913, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County (CCE-Chemung) has responded to the needs of local residents with unbiased, research-based information, tools and education that people have come to depend on and trust. Our programs are developed in direct response to community input and are based on the most current information available from Cornell and other Land Grant universities from across the nation.**

**The mission of Cooperative Extension is to enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. Extension staff and trained volunteers deliver education programs, conduct applied research, and encourage community collaborations. Our educators connect people with the information they need on topics such as commercial and consumer agriculture; nutrition and health; youth and families; community economic development; and sustainable natural resources. Our ability to match university resources with community needs helps us play a vital role in the lives of individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout Chemung County.**

# Table of Contents

Welcome from the Board President

2022 Board Members

Director's Letter

Advisory Committee Members

Financial Summary

Program Summaries

    4-H Youth Development

    Agriculture, Horticulture and Local Foods

        South Central Dairy and Field Crops Program

    Community and Economic Vitality

    Natural Resources

        NYSERDA – Community Energy Engagement

    Nutrition

2022 CCE Chemung Sponsors

---

## Welcome

As we close out 2022, it may be remembered as one of the most turbulent, change-filled years that CCE-Chemung has faced. We were just coming off COVID-19 restrictions, mask mandates, no in person meetings, working off site, PPE funding, and budget woes.... just to name a few challenges!

Problems both large and small faced our new Association Executive Director, Michelle Podolec, as she took the helm in November of 2021. She leaned on Paul O'Conner, the Cornell University System Extension Specialist (SES), CCE Chemung's seasoned staff, and an excellent Board.

There was a light at the end of the tunnel, and perseverance made it brighter. Sasha Dietrich and Elaine Nobel of the 4-H Youth Development Program brought home National and State 4-H Awards and were recognized for their achievements by Proclamations from the City of Elmira and Chemung County. Jennifer Trimber in the Natural Resources Program was recognized for her work in Energy Conservation. Toni Gardner of the Natural Resource Program held and coordinated many recycling events with CCE Chemung and the County. Summer market season opened with the help of Leah Sorensen from the CVAC program and new staff member Jean Koski of Horticulture and Local Foods. Debbi Fry was joined by news staff member Chef Eric Powers on the Nutrition/SNAP-ED team. Market was busy with presentations by SNAP-ED, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), the Master Gardeners with their travelling seed lending library and give-away Container Gardening kits. Master Gardeners were busy again with beautification and education, helping young gardeners at EOP and teaching the public about gardening by supporting the rainwater education garden at the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District log cabin at the fairgrounds during the Chemung County Fair. Well-deserved retirements came for Carol Houssock and Andy Fagan, Jennifer Trimber, Ethel Stroman, and Debbi Fry. New staff member Jackie Spencer joined us from CCE Tioga. Her work has begun to take the results of the Move Forward research and frame next steps Chemung County in Poverty Reduction. The NYSERDA grant ended and started again in a new shape with the NYSERDA regional energy hub, bringing Rebecca Spallone to join our team.

All staff worked hard to achieve these highlights. Michelle, with a sharp pencil, eraser, and calculator, was supported by Joann Evans's monthly reports and Terri Bommarito's organizing skills. Michelle's report to the Board was always followed by the words, "I'll find the money, I'm looking into another grant. "

Additional recognitions go to the many staff who helped made this year a success; Jingjing Yin (Horticulture) , Eileen Hanrahan (NYSERDA), Danielle Howie (CVAC), Liz Alexander (Agriculture), Jazmyne Passmore (SNAP-ED), Liv Lovejoy (Natural Resources Intern), Bonnie and Kilea (Youth Bureau 4-H Youth Development Summer Interns), Ray Ray, Viva, and Fletcher (Move Forward Cornell University student interns), Melanie Beach (Horticulture and Local Foods Casual Employee), Maria Noble, Fred Kennedy, Dana Alison, Kimberly Rymer, Tara Kneebone, and Trever Baughman (4-H Youth Programs 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program), Olivia Stutzman and Justine Cobb (SNAP-ED regional team), Anne (AIM program staff member), and the South Central Dairy and Field Crops Team Members Peter Landre, Fay Benson, Janice Degni, Betsy Hicks and Ellen Fagan. I want to especially recognize the retirement of one of the most stable and influential mainstays of the organization over the years, Ethel Stroman, Operations Coordinator. CCE Chemung was fortunate to have Katie Curren join our team as the new HR/IT Office Coordinator in April. CCE Chemung faced ten staff turnovers due to five

---

retirements or re-retirements (!!), job advancements and program changes. Turbulent ... to say the least! But as I have mentioned above, Michelle and the staff have kept the organization together and growing. Thus ... the light has brightened.

I cannot thank the Board enough for their support, hard work, and hundreds of hours they have given to this organization. Michelle stands with me as we look back to the hours spent on committees, phone calls, zoom meetings, and committee work - taking these dedicated people away from their families not only during the day but on weekends and late into the evening. I so appreciated the diligence and dedication of the Board keeping this organization afloat and successful. Thank you! Barbara, David, Rhonda, Reverend Arthur, Shelia, Rodney, Tanya, Sandy, and Judy. You have given your all and it was appreciated.

Having said this, I again bring up the turbulence. For as with the staff, we are experiencing board change, with four of our members stepping away. A special thank you to Tanya, Rhonda, and Sandy for their service to the Board. Hopefully our new board members will keep the light shining.

Best wishes to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Hyde". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Russ Hyde  
Board President

## 2022 Board of Directors

Russ Hyde  
Barbara Classen  
David Boor  
Tanya McGee  
Rhonda Schweiger

Judy Mather  
Sheila Washburn  
Rev. Arthur Jones  
Sandy Jessup

Rodney Strange, Chemung  
Co. Legislator  
Paul O'Connor, Cornell  
University State Extension  
Specialist

---

## Director's Letter

Dear friends and neighbors,

On November 16, 2021, I started my journey with you. In my interview, I presented my dream for CCE Chemung – a strong, resilient association with deep roots in our community, and the capacity to make big positive changes in people's lives. In the past year I have been blessed to start to see that dream come true. I've learned so much about CCE Chemung's caring community, our outstanding staff, the dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to support our missions. As we've grown and shifted during this year of change, I've been excited to meet each challenge with the support of my incredible board and advisory teams, community government representatives, and non-profit organizations. I have so much more to learn and do, and I couldn't ask for a better team to work with.

As I complete this first year at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County, I am so grateful to reflect upon the many people who made this year special. To our retiring (or re-retiring) staff Andy Fagan, Jennifer Trimber, Ethel Stroman, Carol Houssock, Debbi Fry – thank you for your support, encouragement, and contributions throughout the year! To all those CCE Chemung staff who have moved on to their next career move, thank you for all the work you've done to support CCE Chemung, keep in touch, and let's grow our network together! And to all of you who have supported us in any way – through your time, donations, calls, attendance, suggestions, contributions and hopes – THANK YOU. Our association exists to help grow the knowledge of our community, and your successes are our best outcome.

I hope you enjoy learning about our activities in this annual report, and recognize your friends and neighbors in our volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We're all learning and growing – there are many new staff, we're busy opening doors once more, and trying new things all the time. I invite you to call me or stop by to talk about what you would like to see come next for CCE Chemung. Thank you all for an amazing first year, it's an honor to work for you.

With kindest regards,



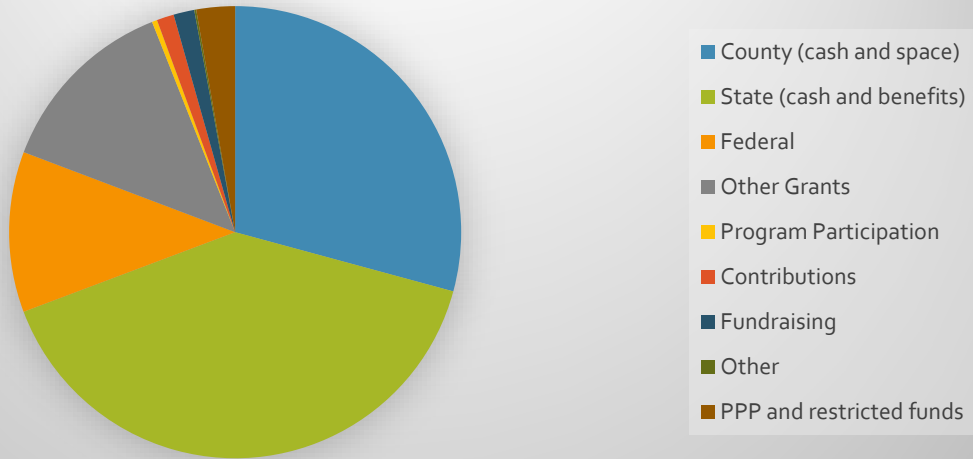
Michelle Podolec  
Association Executive Director

## Advisory Committees

Thank you to the members of our advisory committees! These dedicated volunteers help guide and advise CCE Chemung programs.

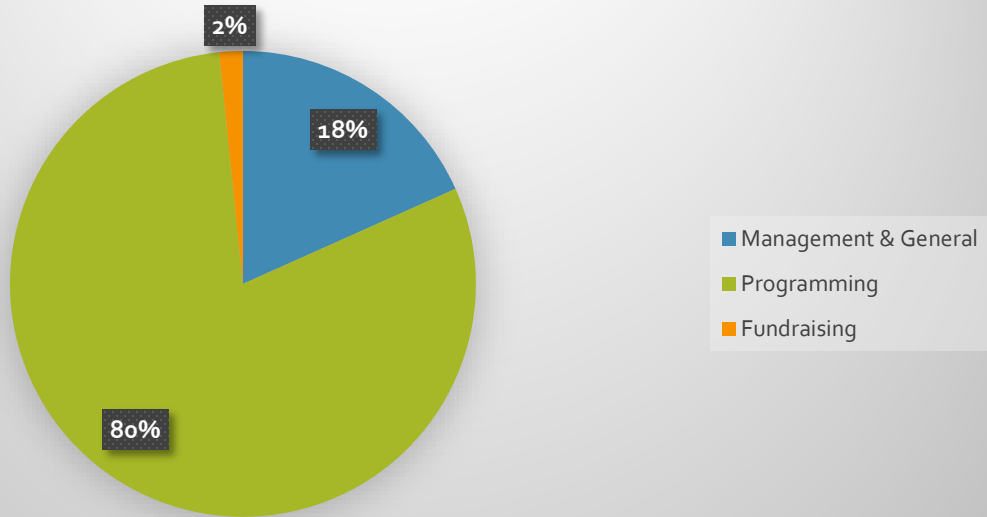
- 4-H Advisory Committee
  - Community and Economic Vitality Advisory Committee
  - Master Gardeners
  - Environment Management Council
-

## 2021 CCE Chemung Revenue



Revenues	Amount	%
County (cash and space)	398,350	29.22%
State (cash and benefits)	546,076	40.05%
Federal	156,723	11.46%
Other Grants	180,643	13.25%
Program Participation	5,056	0.37%
Contributions	16,751	1.23%
Fundraising	20,287	1.49%
Other	1,891	0.14%
PPP and restricted funds	37,654	2.76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,363,429</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## 2021 CCE Chemung Expenses



Expenses	Amount	%
Management & General	24,6727	18.00%
Programming	1,078,715	80.00%
Fundraising	21,986	2.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,344,314</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Net from operations & transfers	16,484	



## 2021 CCE Chemung Program Budgets



- 4 -H Youth Development
- Administration
- Agriculture, Horticulture and Local Foods
- Community and Economic Vitality
- Natural Resources
- Nutrition

## 2021 CCE Chemung Program Budgets

Program	Amount	%
4-H Youth Development	46,8572	33.45%
Administration	22,6071	16.14%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Local Foods	111,133	7.93%
Community and Economic Vitality	156,549	11.18%
Natural Resources	209,050	14.92%
Nutrition	229,327	16.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,400,702</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Program Reports

### 4-H Youth Development

**Staff:** Sasha Diederich, Elaine Noble, Marie Noble, Fred Kennedy, and REACH employees Kim Rymer, Dana Allison, Trevor Baughman, Tara Kneebone (program ended June 2022)

### Advisory Committees and Volunteers

- 4-H Advisory Committee  
Chairman- Josand Campbell  
Secretary- Sarah Collier  
Members- Amy Stranger, Niki Swimelar, Amy Colussy, Kristie Crossley, Anne Marie Kyes  
Board Representative- Russ Hyde  
Youth Members- Megan Shultz and Emerson Swimelar
- Numerous club and project volunteers.

**Overall Objective:** 4-H is a positive youth development program focused on individual personal growth through positive relationships with adult volunteers. Youth gain life skills such as leadership, communication, responsibility, and topic knowledge through hands-on experiential learning activities led by caring, knowledgeable adults.

### Informing Policy and Legislation:

- Ag Promotions Membership
- Quarterly Reports to Youth Bureau
- Quarterly Reports to the CCE Board
- Attendance to and collaboration with Chemung County Ag Society

### Changing Organizational Practice:

- Training and program development guidance with My Brother's Keeper
- Grant development with GST BOCES and 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Our impact on organizational impact has created a place for

### Fostering Coalitions and Networks:

Collaborations with: Soil and Water, Ag Promotions as it made transitions Farm Bureau CONNECT 21<sup>st</sup> Century as it made its transition, Sportsman Groups.

These networks have brought educational and financial resources to our program. One example is 4-H Day Camp Outdoor Science workshops being put on by member of local sportsman groups and Soil and Water District.

### Educating Leaders or those in a position of influence:

- 2022 was a year of change and education of new program leaders.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partners
  - Dave Ellis, Chemung County Youth Bureau Director
-

- Jay Hillman, Elmira School District Director of Educational Services
- Board member participation in 4-H events
- These connections and education of leaders have opened new resources to our program including event space, grant partnerships and understanding.

#### **Educating the Community:**

- 4-H Programming has worked within the community at fair, farmers markets and many promotional events.
- Total Indirect Contacts- 57,771

#### **Increase Individual Knowledge and Skills:**

Youth were taught in a variety of modes, afterschool programming, ag literacy, traditional 4-H programming, summer camp and other direct outreach.

- 6,147- Total Direct
- Traditional Members- 149
- Volunteer Leaders- 20

#### **Funding Support:**

- Fundraising- Snack Shack, Gertrude Hawk, FLX Gives, Cheese Curds
- Individual Donors
- 4-H Exhibition Sponsors
- Endowments – Kerms Kids and Marjorie Stermer
- Tractor Supply and JoAnns Campaign Funds
- County Funds

This past year we made our “Health Rocks” and teen mentoring a priority. We were able to hold meetings more routinely as we started to move away from Covid induced restriction and quarantines.

Our teen mentors returned this year with plans and visions to work with their mentees. They held a snail mail campaign for their mentees, (who doesn’t love to get a note addressed to them). Many of our mentors also served as counselors for our 4-H Explore Camp.

This year in April, two of our teen mentors were given the opportunity in cooperation with the NYS 4-H office and a Walmart grant to attend the 4-H Healthy Living Summit in Washington DC. While there, our delegates met with other youth delegates from all over the country. During the 3-day Summit, youth were introduced to the reality of the lack of services relating to health than many of our youth have throughout the county.

In one session youth delegates went through a SNAP and welfare simulation where they were given “new identities: and had to apply for benefits and pay their bills. Our youth delegates came back with an appreciation for the complexity of this system and the many challenges that face our citizens that qualify for these programs.

---

In addition to the healthy living activities and presentations, youth delegates also participated in a hands-on scavenger hunt at the Smithsonian museums and enjoyed and toured other cultural activities and landmarks including the monuments. For our program we had two teen mentors who went out of their “comfort zone” to travel by airplane for the first time, to a major city in our country and not only meet and work with teens from all over the country but who returned home to enlighten others about their experiences.

To end our “program year” a school community “Carnival” was planned by mentors/mentees in cooperation with REACH staff, Chemung CCE 4-H/Youth Development Staff and staff from Tioga Opportunities. This was an all-hands-on deck project. Ideas were generated by youth and with the assistance from staff, as well as mentors and mentees, props and supplies were created. Mentors helped man stations for games and activities. Nearly 75 families came out for this inaugural event.



Figure 1 4-H Youth from 2022 Day Camp.



Figure 2 4-H teens at 2022 National 4-H Healthy Living Summit in Washington D.C



Figure 3 Kids from the Health Rocks Carnival in May 2022

## Agriculture, Horticulture and Local Foods

**Staff:** Liz Alexander (left September 2022), Jingjing Yin (left December 2021), Jean Koski, subject educator

### **Advisory Committees and Volunteers:**12 Master Gardener Volunteers

**Objective:** To provide the public with unbiased, research-based information and sustainable management practices in horticulture suitable for home gardens, local landscapes, urban environments, and the community. To increase awareness of and access to support services, local foods, horticultural skills, and growing knowledge for community residents. To seek a broad range of feedback and information gathering to understand the current needs of the community in the areas of horticulture and local foods.

**Changing Organizational Practice:** Working to flesh out a newly organized shared position designed to address issues and educational opportunities in two counties (Chemung/Tioga) in the areas of horticulture and local foods.

**Fostering Coalitions and Networks:** Working in Chemung and Tioga counties with CCE staff, non-profit agencies, farmers, farmers' market managers, Master Gardener Volunteers and others to explore effective avenues to help farmers, increase local foods distribution and access, and to increase food security networks across both counties.

**Educating the Community:** (Total Indirect) 17,572 people received gardening articles, fact sheets, Farmers Market news and updates from Facebook, CCE Chemung and email list serves.

**Increase Individual Knowledge and Skills:** (Total Direct) 1654

- Master Gardeners contributed 694 volunteer hours in total to the community in 2022.
- 300 people received container gardening kits and container gardening educational information during follow up phone conversations with Master Gardener volunteers In July and August.
- 45 individuals received assistance from the Master Gardener Hort Help Line and direct emails.
- 26 People participated in horticulture tours
- 461 people were able to use SNAP at Wisner and Eastside Farmers Markets.
- 45 People participated in FMNP education and sampling
- 63 People took advantage of the seed library resource
- 20 People participated in a floral arranging workshop

**Funding Support:** Chemung Co., Farm Credit East, Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) New York State Agriculture and Markets.

### A New Location, A Successful Market Season

CCE Chemung supported farmer's markets in Elmira at Eastside and Wisner Farmers' Markets. Eastside moved to a new location at Brand Park on the Southside, which opened the market to a new neighborhood while maintaining a strong connection with the Eastside.

The farmers' markets provided opportunities for people to access to fresh produce. CCE Chemung supported access to produce through WIC, SNAP dollars, senior nutrition dollars, the Farmers Market

---

Nutrition Program (FMNP), SNAP-ED nutrition program, and Farmers Market Prescription Program (FMRx).

Eastside Market provides access to fresh produce in a low income, low access food zone. Wisner and Eastside market provide business opportunities for local farmers and vendors.

CCE Chemung supports WIC, senior nutrition dollars, and SNAP benefits to purchase fresh and local produce at the farmers' markets. Extension supports educational outreach through the Master Gardeners, CCE Chemung Seed Lending Library, SNAP-ED, and Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

Markets allowed those eligible for SNAP benefits to purchase \$4,451 worth of fresh produce from local sources. CCE Chemung provided \$1,780 in additional benefits in the form of FMNP coupons.

Partners included the Brand Park Trust, Elmira Downtown Development, SNAP-ED, FMNP, FMRx

Thank you to funders NYS Ag and Markets, Farm Credit East, sponsorships from Brand Park Trust, Guthrie, Cameron Manufacturing and Design, Economic Opportunity Inc, Hesselson's, Hilliard Corporation, Kennedy Valve, Lights Bake Shop.



Figure 4 2022 Summer 2022 Eastside Farmers' Market

## *South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops*

**Staff:** Peter Landre, Fay Benson, Janice Degni, Betsy Hicks and Ellen Fagan

This past year had its share of ups and downs for dairy farmers. While milk prices reached record highs, much of the margin was consumed by rising input costs driven by inflation and supply chain issues. Employee management is a growing concern for large and small farms alike, who face climbing labor costs and a competitive labor market. Organic dairy producers experienced perhaps the most challenging year in their history due to a leap in organic input costs, flat milk prices, and a drought that cut short the grazing season. In the face of these challenges, our South-Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team continues to be a trusted source for timely, research-based education and support to help local dairy and crop farmers achieve their goals. This year the team delivered a wide range of virtual and in-person programs to meet the diverse educational needs of our dairy and field crop community.

### **Program Highlights:**

**FIELD CROP MANAGEMENT** - Producers learn ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at Winter Crop Meeting.

Farmers have an important role to play in developing and adopting climate solutions. To do this, they need information about the complex relationships between climate change and agriculture. Under Janice Degni's leadership, our annual Winter Crop Meeting tackled this need head-on with expert Cornell faculty presenting the latest science on greenhouse gas emissions in dairy and field crop production systems. Offered as an accessible series of one-hour virtual meetings, topics included an introduction to emissions, practical tools for monitoring, strategies for reducing emissions, and markets for carbon offsets. In total, 97 attendees benefitted from this 5-part series.

**DAIRY MANAGEMENT**- Workshops and applied research projects help farmers improve herd health.

Lameness is one of the costliest herd health issues on dairies. Producers continuously work to reduce lameness by improving herd management protocols and facilities. This year, we offered a virtual workshop in collaboration with PRO-DAIRY educators that explored the research on lameness, its causes, and mitigation strategies. The 150 participants learned about practical solutions they could implement right away.

Building on this successful winter program, Betsy Hicks organized a summer discussion group around the Economics of Lameness with funding from the Dairy Advancement Program, in collaboration with Lindsay Ferlito from Northern NY. Nine dairies tracked costs related to lameness and hoof trimming for three months. Each farm received a whole-herd lameness assessment at the beginning and end of that period. The group met for discussion using a report that compared each individual farm to the rest of the group. By linking economic data with lameness assessments, the Economics of Lameness Discussion Group provided actionable information that motivated farms to make management changes. The results from this applied research project will be published so any dairy farm can use the same methods to assess lameness and compare their own performance to our industry benchmark.

**ORGANIC DAIRY EDUCATION & SUPPORT** - Organic Dairy Task Force influences USDA to even the playing field for NY Dairies.

---

Under Fay Benson's leadership, the NY Organic Dairy Task Force has educated and empowered producers to address industry issues for more than 16 years. The task force includes farmers, milk cooperatives, and other supporters of the state's organic dairy industry. This year the group achieved a major victory. After studying how the USDA Organic Standards were being upheld more strictly in the Northeast region versus the West and documenting higher production costs for NY dairies as a result, the task force pressured the USDA to clarify the standards to ensure fair and equal treatment across the country. Five months later, in March of 2022, the USDA adopted changes to the Origin of Livestock rule that eliminated loopholes and improved the competitiveness of organic dairies in New York.

**FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT** - Statewide collaboration delivers results with CCE Farmer Tax School.

Farm Business Management Specialists across the state collaborated to launch the CCE Farmer Tax School in the winter of 2021-22. Mary Kate MacKenzie provided leadership for the 3-part Income Tax Planning for Farms that File a Schedule F workshop, which empowered 88 attendees with skills and knowledge to better understand and manage their tax obligations. Other workshop topics included Farm Financial Records for Tax Management; Tax Management for Beginning and Small Farm Businesses; and Farm Specific Tax Code Benefits. Each course included a robust curriculum with analysis, discussion of real-world cases, resource sharing, and ample time for interactive Q&A. More than 400 farm operators from across the state benefited, and almost 10% of participants were from our SCNY region.

**GRAZING MANAGEMENT** - Pasture walks support farmer-to-farmer grazing education for a diverse audience.

This summer our team collaborated with county association staff to offer five pasture walks across four counties, featuring dairy, beef, sheep, hog, and poultry producers. Our involvement in planning, promotion, and day-of facilitation enhanced the turnout and educational value of these programs. Our specialists delivered presentations and supported peer-to-peer learning about rotational grazing, soil health, pasture compaction, custom grazing, and stockpiling forages for winter grazing. Paul Gier from Tompkins County SWCD shared his appreciation: *"I wanted to give thanks and a big positive shout out on the outstanding grazing tour yesterday in Candor! I got a lot of takeaways from this tour, not just on grazing but on the support infrastructure as well. Thank you again for organizing this event. Yes, please, to more of these on-farm, in-field events! Can't beat the outdoor classroom."*

**HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** - Train-the-trainer workshops strengthen our local agricultural workforce.

Employee turnover adds costs and creates management challenges for farms. Dairies that offer effective training can boost employee satisfaction and performance while reducing turnover. In August 2022, we hosted Richard Stup and Kaitlyn Lutz to present the Growing Great People: Training Skills for Dairy Farmers workshop in English and Spanish at two locations in our region. The workshop featured hands-on activities, including practice developing a training plan that participants could use back at work. Thirty-one participants from 16 farms attended, with one third requesting Spanish translation. With participating farms managing over 440 employees and 26,000 cows, any improvement in training skills has the potential to impact many farm workers.

---



## Community and Economic Vitality

**Staff:** Jackie Spencer, Andy Fagan (retired September 2022), Carol Houssock (retired September 2022), Leah Sorensen (left July 2022), Danielle Howie (left January 2022), Terri Bommarito

Chemung Volunteer Action Corps program of CCE Chemung connects individuals with volunteer opportunities throughout the county. Members receive information about community needs and personal development topics through the Thrive Newsletter, opportunities to connect through social events, and recognition of their contributions. This effort is supported by county allocated special funds designated to support emotional well-being by reducing isolation and increasing a sense of belonging in the community.

Chemung County, NY has identified the need for a high level of volunteerism to support the network of non-profits and community support organizations operating in the community. The county has a poverty rate slightly higher than the state and median income is \$54,000. Mental health is a primary concern for both the aging population and those who are disconnected from regular employment for a variety of reasons.

194 CVAC members reporting over 21,000 hours of service to their communities during the 2022 Federal Program Year. 77 were new to the program. Members served the community in a variety of ways including constructing ramps for seniors in need, working at food pantries and delivering meals to homebound seniors, creating handmade items such as blankets, hats, and adult clothing protectors for local causes, leading Bone Builders sessions for seniors, assisting at libraries and historical societies, and more. A joint recognition event was held with the Dept. of Aging for Older Americans Month in May 2021.

CVAC Volunteer Bone Builders Instructors engaged 47 seniors engaged in ongoing sessions this past year. One instructor took the initiative to convert her sessions to a virtual format and assisted her participants in learning to use the platform. Participants have shared that the program has increased their mobility, helped them incorporate calcium rich foods in their diets, and reduced feelings of isolation. Sessions that had been paused during the pandemic were able to start up again and new participants have joined the groups.

Collaborators include Chemung County Dept. of Aging and multiple community entities that welcome volunteers. Special funding sources include OMH funding allocated by the county and a United Way grant.

---



*Figure 5 Elmira Animal Shelter staff and a resident kitty receive hand crafted mats that provide comfort and warmth while the animals await their forever homes.*



*Figure 6 CVAC Sewers & Knitters gathered this fall to share project ideas and community needs with each other.*



*Figure 7 Charlie Lechliter from Artic League picked up children's hats, mittens and scarves crafted by CVAC members using donated materials as part of a local effort to keep kids warm this winter.*

---

## Natural Resources

**Staff:** Toni Gardner, Jennifer Trimmer (retired April 2022)

**Advisory Committees and Volunteers:** The Environmental Management Council of Chemung County (EMC), Chemung Volunteer Action Corp volunteers, and over 200 volunteers that are active in the Adopt-A-Highway program sponsored through Chemung County.

### Objectives:

- To provide up-to-date information to community leaders and residents related to current environmental issues or concerns.
- To promote responsible waste management in Chemung County through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Education, Chemung County's Household Hazardous Waste collection events, Chemung County's Adopt-A-Highway program, and other programs for local municipalities.
- To coordinate and facilitate leadership discussions around energy and the environment.
- To educate leaders, community members, and children about environmental principles and best practices.
- To encourage residential energy conservation

**Informing Policy and Legislation:** Cornell University and the United States Department of Agriculture; in accordance with Subdivision 8(b) of Section 224 of the County Law as amended.

To extend the educational resources of Cornell University and the New York State Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Ecology and Veterinary Medicine, the Land Grant university system, and other educational institutions, to the people of Chemung County to foster economic, social and environmental improvement.

**Changing Organizational Practice:** Change will be employed through community outreach and education. Through presentations, social media, and static displays the Natural Resource program reaches out to individuals, coalitions, and networks, as well as county and city leaders. We partner with Cornell University and other educational institutions to provide verified, peer reviewed research to our constituents.

**Fostering Coalitions and Networks:** The Natural Resources department collaborates with a wide range of coalitions and networks. This includes the Chemung County Planning and Health Department, as well as the Chemung Soil and Water Conservation District, the Stormwater Coalition and Southern Tier Central Planning. We partner with numerous Chemung County municipalities, private companies, and local school districts. We share projects and events with Corning Community College and Elmira College, along with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). We worked closely with our cohorts such as 4-H and our Agriculture and Horticulture Departments. Educators stay current as members of NYSAR<sub>3</sub> (New York State Association of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). We also work closely with other CCE entities.

**Educating Leaders or those in a position of influence:** The EMC provides white papers and reports to the County Legislators and the County Executive. The Natural Resources team has attended planning and coalition meetings including Stormwater, Lead, Water Quality, and Community Energy as new

---

solar arrays are built. We purposely include as many decision makers and leaders as we can identify to include in our outreach: whether it is for newsletters and program announcements, webinars, or workshops. We also make a point to meet with solid waste vendors and recycling companies to stay current with those partners and their practices.

**Educating the Community: (Total Indirect)** Natural Resources has indirectly reached over **25,000** people through our website and the Chemung County Website, Facebook, and other social media posts. We pass on information through TV, radio, newsletters, brochures, and flyers.

**Increase Individual Knowledge and Skills: (Total Direct)** We have directly reached **2,775** people through our programs provided through outreach and education events, newsletters, local markets, social media, etc....

**Funding Support:** We receive funding through Chemung County, Cornell University, NYSERDA, Private firms, and grants.

4H youth and Natural Resources work together to create a recycling ad

With the Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant funds from New York State DEC that was awarded to the County, the Natural Resources Team and the 4H team and 4H youth were able to collaborate on a public ad about Recycling. The ad focuses on four major impacts related to Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. This :30 commercial ad was filmed at the Chemung County Fairgrounds on November 11<sup>th</sup> and is airing on WENY, ABC and EENY CBS beginning November 19<sup>th</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>.



Figure 8 4-H youth Amani and Mischa film their segment of the advertisement.





*Figure 9 Alivia films her segment of the commercial.*



*Figure 10 Carley tapes her section of the commercial.*



*Figure 11 ACTION! 4-H youth run during the taping of the commercial.*

*NYSERDA- Community Energy Engagement (grant ended June, 2022) and NYSERDA Regional Energy Hub (new grant started September, 2022)*

**Staff:** Eileen Hanrahan (CCE Chemung to September 2022, CCE Tioga) and Rebecca Spallone

**Advisory Committees and Volunteers:**

**Overall Objective:** Provide outreach and education to the LMI community regarding home energy efficiency and grant funding available through NYSERDA for home energy upgrades and clean energy heating and cooling.

**Informing Policy and Legislation:** Our work serves to inform local and statewide leaders regarding barriers to access energy efficiency measures and clean energy opportunities available to LMI residents and, thereby, policies to provide that access.

**Changing Organizational Practice:** Change is employed through community outreach and education. Through presentations, social media, and static displays the Community Energy program reaches out to individuals, coalitions, and networks, as well as town and city leaders. We partner with NYSERDA to provide verified, peer reviewed research and education.

**Fostering Coalitions and Networks:** The energy program collaborates with numerous agencies throughout four counties including The Southern Tier Food Bank, Department of Social Services, HEAP, NYSEG (New York State Electric & Gas), Office for the Aging, Habitat for Humanity, numerous energy efficiency contractors and local leaders to foster community outreach, education, and access to energy service programs throughout the region.

**Educating Leaders or those in a position of influence:** Community Energy works with other clean energy programs to inform local leaders regarding grant funding that is available to help in their communities to implement energy efficiency measures such as home and public building energy assessments, installation of heat pumps, and access to funding and contractors to do the work.

**Educating the Community: (Total Indirect)** The CCE Energy Department provided information to the public via our own dedicated website, Smartenergychoices.org, Cornell Cooperative Extension website, social media, newspapers, and flyers reaching 298 people across the county.

**Increase Individual Knowledge and Skills: (Total Direct)** We have directly impacted 58 people through food line outreach and presentations.

**Funding Support:** Funding is provided by NYSERDA primarily with additional funds provided by NYSEG, HEAP, and Weatherization Assistance Programs.

---

Nutrition (SNAP-Ed New York- Southern Finger Lakes Region)

**Staff:** Debbi Fry, Nutritionist (retired November 2022), Eric Powers, Nutritionist, Jassmyn Passmore (left October 2021)

**Advisory Committees and Volunteers:** N/A

**Overall Objective:** To prevent and/or postpone the onset of diet related chronic disease among the SNAP and SNAP-eligible population by providing nutrition education and obesity prevention services.

**Informing Policy and Legislation:** Partnership with Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) and the Chemung County Health Priorities Coalition provide opportunities to inform policy and legislation through supporting data that shows the need for nutrition education, access, and food security in Chemung County.

**Changing Organizational Practice:** N/A

**Fostering Coalitions and Networks:** SNAP-Ed participates in various coalitions and collaborations to support efforts in Chemung County, including the Chemung County Hunger Coalition, the Chemung County Health Priorities Coalition (as a contributor to the County's Community Health Improvement Plan), the Chemung County Poverty Coalition, and various Wellness Committees to support local schools in implementing required Wellness Plans.

**Educating Leaders or those in a position of influence:** SNAP-Ed offers technical assistance and professional development and opportunities for human service professionals who work directly with the SNAP-eligible population. Through this work, professionals are provided with education on local food access and needs, as well as strategies to help with addressing such needs.

**Educating the Community: (Total Indirect)** 43,077

**Increase Individual Knowledge and Skills: (Total Direct)** 1,052

**Funding Support:** NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

The Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program (FVRx) launched in Chemung County in 2022. This program, which was first piloted in the County in February, works directly with patients of Arnot Health's Eastside Primary Care office to provide nutrition education and vouchers to purchase fresh produce. Providers at the clinic identified patients based on food insecurity and the need for a healthier diet to prevent or treat a chronic condition. These patients were then enrolled in 5-6 weeks of SNAP-Ed nutrition classes. After attending each class, participants were provided with vouchers to redeem at local vendors for fresh fruits and vegetables, totaling \$120 at the end of the series. Participating vendors included Eastside Farmer's Market, Muddy Fingers Farm, Save-A-Lot, and Tops. Series were completed in February/March and August/September 2022, reaching a total of 6 patients for this initial year of offering the program in Chemung County.

---



*Figure 12 Debbi teaching a class to local community members.*



*Figure 13 Eric creating a yummy dish during a SNAP-ED class.*



## 2022 CCE Chemung Sponsors

United Way of the Southern Tiers  
Tioga Downs Regional Community  
Foundation  
Chemung Canal Trust Company  
Community Foundation of Elmira, Corning,  
and the Finger Lakes  
Feehan Family Foundation  
Visions Federal Credit Union  
Vulcraft of NY  
Farm Credit East  
Gary Brouse  
Hilliard Cooperation  
Kennedy Valve  
Suzanne Oparil  
Kathryn M. Muccigrosso  
Hesselson's  
Farmers Markey Federation of NY  
Lawrence Morley  
Andrew Fagan  
Cameron Manufacturing & Design, Inc.  
Carol Ochab  
CCE Rensselaer County  
DOJO Ventures, LLC  
Economic Opportunity Program  
Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyor  
Geoffrey Crossley  
Jackson Welding Supply Co.

Michelle Peters  
Nobledale Farm  
Joyce Budney  
Jubilee Foods  
Light's Bakery  
S M Mochaitis  
Eleanor MacRoberts  
Barbara Rhodes  
Vincent Giannini  
Donna Schnautz  
Bell's Country Coffee  
Upstate Brewing  
Gold Silver & Diamond  
Wegmans  
Sam's Club  
Keira Marie Design  
Corning Museum of Glass  
Tanglewood  
Red House Ranch  
Knapp Farm  
Sunset View Creamery  
Scott & Lisa Bush  
Jolly Farmer  
Turks  
Byrne Dairy

---

# CCE Chemung Staff Chart 2022

11.28.22

**Cornell University Cooperative Extension**  
 Director: *Chris Watkins State Extension Specialist*  
 – *Paul O'Connor*

**Board of Directors**  
*Russ Hyde, President*

**Executive Director**  
**Michelle Podolec**  
 37.5 hrs; Exempt

**Shared Business Network**  
*Beth Roberts – Lead*  
 HR – *Jerilynn Cross, Tracy Sanford*  
 Finance – *Gretchen Uhler*  
 IT – *Adam Bredesen, Gale McArdeall*

**Support Staff**  
*Katie Curren 37.5 hrs; Office Coordinator*  
*Joann Evans 35 hrs; Finance Lead*

**4-H Youth Development, Children, Youth & Families**  
**Sasha Diederich** Resource Educator; Exempt

**4-H Youth Development**  
*Elaine Noble 37.5 hrs; 4-H Program Coordinator*  
 4-H Volunteers

**4-H Casual**  
 Maria Noble

**4-H After School Programs**  
*Kim Rymer 18.5 hrs; Waverly*  
*Dana Allison 18.5 hrs; Spencer*  
 Van Etten

**4-H Advisory Committee**

**Agriculture, Horticulture & Local Food**

**Agriculture**  
 TBD 37.5; Ag Educator

**South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team**  
*Janice Degni, Betsy Hicks, Mary-Kate McKenzie, Fay Bensen*

**Regional Dairy Advisory Committee**

**Horticulture & Local Foods**  
*Jean Koski; 20/40 hrs; Horticulture and Local Foods Educator*  
 Master Gardeners

**Horticulture & Local Foods Casual**  
 Melanie Beach, Ethel Stroman

**Community & Economic Vitality**  
**Jackie Spencer** Resource Educator, Exempt

**CVAC**  
*Terri Bommarito 18.5 hrs; Temp Office Coordinator*  
 CVAC CCE Volunteers

**CEV Advisory Committee**

**Environment and Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change**

**Natural Resources**  
*Toni Gardner 37.5 hrs; Solid Waste & Recycling Educator*  
 TBD x hrs; EMC Educator  
*Liv Lovejoy 18.5 hrs; Temp Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Intern*

**Natural Resources Casual**  
 TBD

**Environmental Management Council (EMC)**

**NYSERDA Clean Energy Hub**  
*Rebecca Spallone 20 hrs; Community Energy Advisor – Chemung Co.*

**NYSERDA Clean Energy Hub Project Leadership Team at CCE Tompkins**  
*Meg Cole, Karim Beers*

**Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, and Obesity Prevention**

**SNAP-ED**  
*Debbi Fry 40 hrs; Nutritionist to 12/1*  
*Eric Powers 40 hrs; Nutritionist*

**ESNY Project Leadership Team at CCE Steuben**  
*Justine Cobb, Olivia Stutzman, Robert Shirley, Tess McKinley*

**Nutrition Casual**  
 TBD



# Thank You



To the Staff, Board  
Members, Advisory  
Committee  
members,  
Volunteers,  
Sponsors and the  
community



Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by calling 734-4453 prior to attending a program.