

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Schuyler County



2021 Annual Report



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We R.I.S.E to Our Values:

We are Resilient: As individuals, and as an organization, we are agile and able to adapt; we embrace challenges as an opportunity to learn and continually improve.

We are Innovative: We are committed to unearthing untapped potential by exploring alternatives and constantly seeking and offering new solutions.

We practice Sustainability: Our 100+ year commitment to sustainability is in our DNA. We believe in using what history has taught us while thinking strategically about our future.

We Educate: This is CCE's foundation - it is what we do! We are committed to providing conventional and alternative ways of educating a cross-generational community of people interested in and committed to learning and putting knowledge to work to enrich their lives.

CCE Schuyler accomplishes so much because of the support of our community. Together, we can make it through challenges and find innovative solutions. Together we will accomplish even more.

Together we RISE!



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2021 has been an eventful year for all of us here at CCE Schuyler. Many of us had hoped that we would be putting the pandemic behind us, but unfortunately we are still working with and around it. But CCE Schuyler is resilient and we RISE to the challenges we face!

Thanks to our dedicated and committed staff, we were able to open and successfully run Hidden Valley 4-H Camp (with zero incidence of Covid among campers or staff), as well as offer our other high impact 4-H youth programs. We offered pop-up Farmer's Markets and ran a very successful Farm Trail Weekend showcasing the diversity of agriculture in our county. Our

educational workshops on parenting, nutrition, composting, forestry, and energy efficiency continued, as well as the Master Gardener and Heat Smart programs. The CCE Schuyler team was all-in on providing our services to the residents of our county.

For me personally there has been a steep learning curve in my first year as Executive Director, but I have enjoyed the challenge and enjoyed working with our incredible staff, as well as a very dedicated Board of Directors and community. Based on all that we accomplished this year, I can't wait to see what we will collectively do next year!

- Nathan Scott, Executive Director
nks46@cornell.edu



Reflections

The collective hope of 2021 was that this year would bring us back to normal. Yet, for many, the year brought continued change. The experience of returning to normal as an individual, community, and organization did not always align with our expectations. How could it? We are not a people who move backwards. Instead, our resilience, patience, and drive usher us forward in times of change -- toward ever evolving new normals.

For CCESC, our new normal meant welcoming a new Executive Director and new team members, celebrating retiring colleagues, and learning how to operate under new circumstances. The lessons we've learned in the midst of transformation are

making us stronger and have fortified our resolve to meet our highest aspirations.

Driven by a deep sense of purpose, what the CCESC team and association has accomplished in 2021 is remarkable. With our sights set on our mission and with our core values of Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability and Education as guideposts, CCESC will – as we have for over 100 years – continue to meet whatever changes and challenges lie ahead as we deliver on our promise to sustain and support our community through collaborations that put experience and research to work

- Sarah Agan, CCE Schuyler Board President



Board Members

- Sarah Agan, President
- Alexandra Bond, Vice President
- Chad Hendrickson, Treasurer
- Taylor Cartwright, Secretary
- Paul Bartow
- Howard Cabezas

- Dominic Costa
- Adam Hughes
- Michael Lausell
- Leslie Morris
- Rick Reisinger

CCE Board



Cathy Barnes - Program Assistant - Agriculture

Brett Chedzoy - Sr. Resource Educator in Agriculture

Bruce Condie - Hidden Valley 4-H Camp Manager

Danielle Cook - Communications Coordinator

Ceridwen Dickerson-Stermer - OM After School Program Coordinator

Paula Goodrich - Parenting Educator

Erica Herman - HeatSmart FLX South Campaign Director

Dayna Karius - Program Assistant - 4-H

Todd Knobbe - Clean Energy Communities Coordinator

Joan Martin - SNAP-Ed NY Nutritionist SFLX Region

Virginia Montopoli - Administrative Assistant

Susan Neal - Finance and HR Manager

Marissa Nolan - Composting, Horticulture & Local Foods Educator

Roger Ort - Local Foods & Agriculture Educator (Retired Nov. 2021)

Melissa Schroeder - Senior Issue Leader

Nathan Scott - Executive Director

Kim Seaman - WG After School Program Coordinator

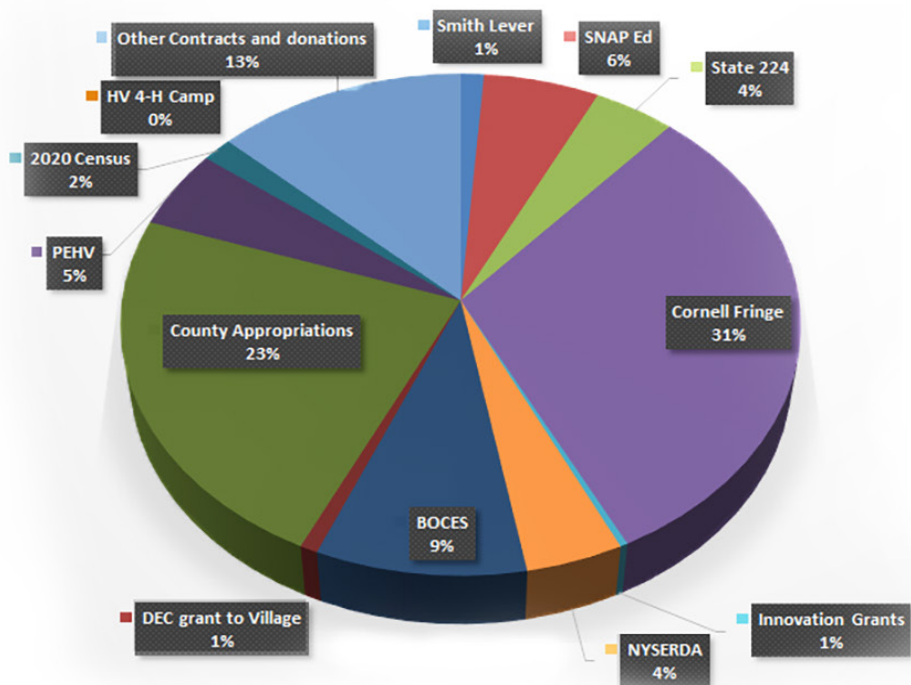
Lisa Shrout - 4-H Program Educator

Cate Sirek - IT Lead (Retired Oct. 2021)

Shawn Tubridy - Parenting Educator

Jessica Westlake - Food Waste Mgt. Volunteer Coordinator

CCE Team



2020 Revenue Sources

- Smith Lever - 1%
- SNAP Ed - 6%
- State 224 - 4%
- Cornell Fringe - 31%
- Innovation Grants - 1%
- NYSERDA - 4%
- BOCES - 9%
- DEC Grant to Village - 1%
- County Appropriations - 23%
- PEHV - 5%
- 2020 Census - 2%
- HV 4-H Camp - 0%
- Other Contracts and Donations - 13%

Finances



Reimagining 4-H

Reimagining became the theme for our 4-H program throughout the past year. Creativity, collaborations with families, sharing resources with homeschool groups and providing hybrid supported learning experiences became key to reaching young people.

Learning Pods, Activity Kits, and More!

We provided hands on 4-H programming on Wednesdays at the Learning Pod in Watkins Glen. Through resources provided from National 4-H Council, take home activity kits were made for all 4-H families. The kits had several themed projects complete with instructions and materials and were complimented by 4-H connections through Zoom. Working virtually with the REACH 21st Century programs provided an opportunity to engage with both families and school staff. As the weather turned warmer, we delivered 4-H programs at Hidden Valley. The Culinary Master Camp received rave reviews, had a waiting list, and is sure to return next season. In October we held an open house to invite new families to learn about 4-H and spark interest in joining in our 4-H community.

We are excited to offer programs in person again!

 4-H Youth Development

Melissa Schroeder - mcs35@cornell.edu / Lisa ShROUT - lr79@cornell.edu
Paula Goodrich - pg347@cornell.edu

75 Seasons of Memories

Hidden Valley 4-H Camp celebrated its 75th season with 410 campers, 306 of which stayed overnight, while an additional 104 attended day camp. We operated for 6 weeks at 50% capacity and were full each week with a robust waiting list. The day camp in particular was in high demand.

Helping Hands

We hired 28 seasonal staff along with 6 part time kitchen staff who worked tremendously hard each week to provide campers with exciting experiences. We welcomed volunteers and former alumni to share their talents with our campers, and aid in the creation of Master Camps in Music, Culinary and Fishing. Later in the Fall, we held a Junior Leadership Camp Weekend with 30 participating teens.

Staying Safe While Having Fun

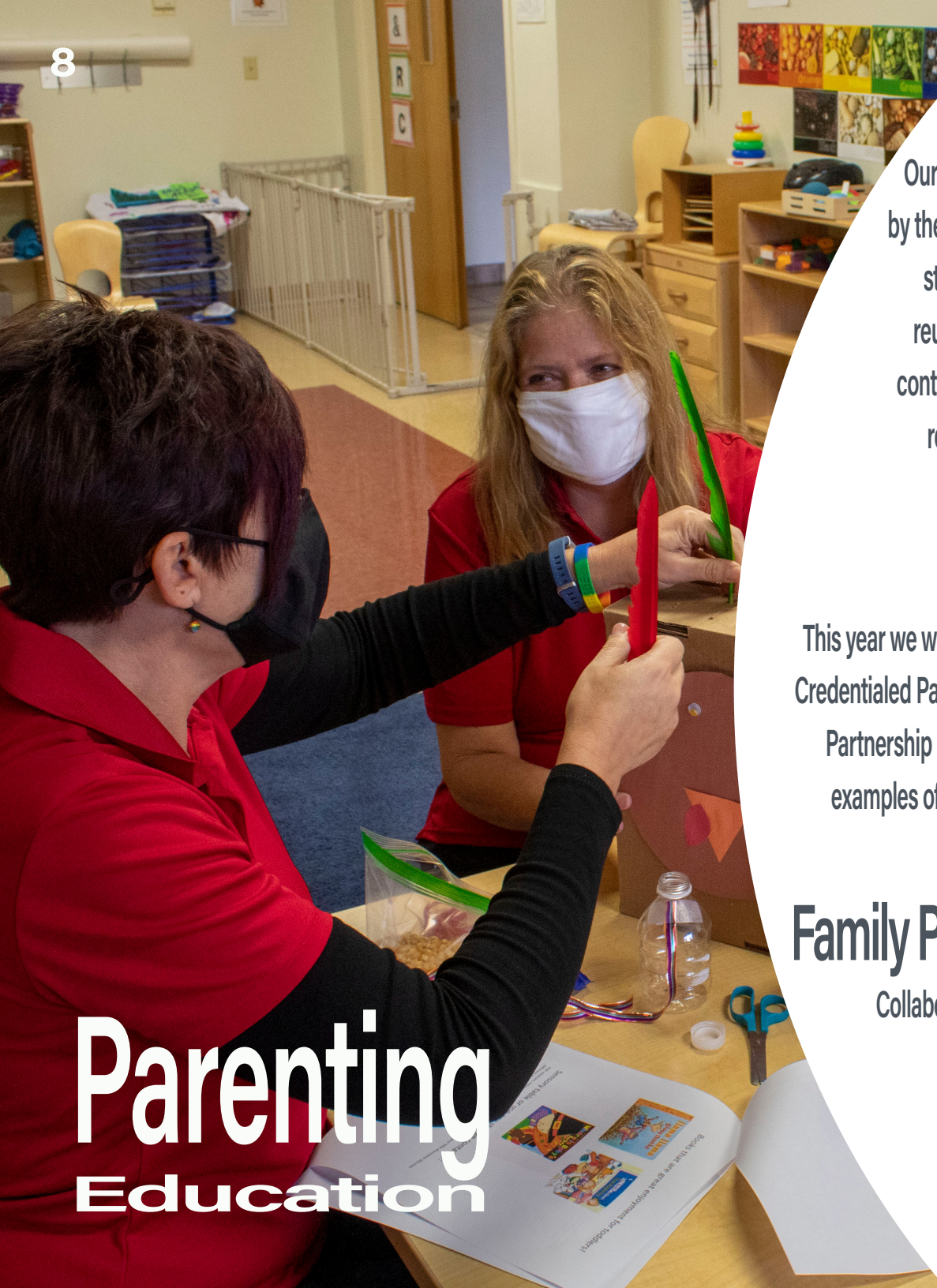
Since we were operating amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, we were pleased to hear strong reviews from families around our mitigation practices. We were also grateful for the support and collaboration from Schuyler County Public Health that supported testing. Our season was successful in large part to trusting parents, eager campers, and a creative team!

Bruce Condie - bcc5@cornell.edu / Melissa Schroeder - mcs35@cornell.edu
Dayna Karius - dk576@cornell.edu



Hidden Valley 4-H Camp





Parenting Education

Home Visitor Program

Our Parenting Education Home Visitor Program assisted 47 families referred by the Department of Social Services. Families learned new skills designed to strengthen their understanding of parenting practices and, in some cases, reunite them with children placed in relative or foster care. Parents needed continued support amid the Covid-19 pandemic with families navigating both remote schooling and the return to school. The support provided through parenting education helped families navigate the uncertainty.

Additional Educator Credentialing

This year we were pleased to celebrate with educator, Paula Goodrich, as she became a Credentialed Parenting Educator (CPE) through the New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP). The process was completed through submission of trainings, examples of how the 12 core competencies of parenting education is used, an ethics statement, work philosophy, and 2 letters of recommendation.

Family Play & Resource Center Collaboration

Collaboration with the Family Play and Resource Center expanded resources to families. At home activity kits for toddlers and preschoolers providing S.T.E.A.M. fun were well received. The kits continue despite the return to school and receive funding from the Schuyler County Youth Bureau.

Melissa Schroeder - mcs35@cornell.edu / Paula Goodrich - pg347@cornell.edu

Watkins Glen Summer Program

The Watkins Glen Summer Program was a huge success. Running for 6 weeks, the program served 60 students (44 families). Students were able to learn life skills like sewing and fishing.

Student Showcase

We held a Student Showcase Family Night on August 11th to celebrate the summer and had a record turnout for the event. 63 people representing 18 families came to see the art show, play Family Feud, and try coleslaw made with products from our Kid's Farmers' Market - a weekly student run market.

School Year Program

The School Year program currently has 60 students enrolled. We provide tutoring, cultural enrichment, hiking, and 4-H activities. The Science and Discovery Center has been working with students to make glider planes of different shapes while learning about the forces exerted on airplanes, such as gravity, lift, thrust, and drag.

Melissa Schroeder - mcs35@cornell.edu / Kim Seaman - kns57@cornell.edu
Ceridwen Dickerson Stermer - ced233@cornell.edu



18 U.S.C. 707

REACH





Natural Resources

A Steller Year for Education

Silvopastures and Slash Walls have headlined a busy year of education that, to date, has offered over 30 events reaching nearly 2,000 farmers, woodland owners and professionals. A number of the in-person events drew large crowds from multiple states, while several of the virtual events were presented to international audiences.

“Tree to Table” Workshop

The October 30th “Tree to Table - Turning Your Trees into Usable Lumber” event brought over 50 participants to Cornell’s Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Cayuta to learn about small-scale harvesting and lumber milling.

Forest Restoration Field Practicum

September’s calendar featured several trainings for professional audiences including the Annual Forest Restoration Field Practicum that brought 65 land managers and agency experts from 5 states to Schuyler County, and a special training on agroforestry systems for Soil and Water Conservation District personnel from around New York.

Brett Chedzoy - bjc226@cornell.edu / Cathy Barnes - cab377@cornell.edu

Master Gardeners

This year we virtually trained 50 New Master Gardener volunteers for the 4 county region, with 10 being Schuyler County volunteers. This brings our Master Gardener volunteer base to 20! Our Volunteers worked at our 2 Pop-Up Farmers Markets, the Schuyler County Plant Sale, and volunteered many hours in the Schuyler County Teaching Garden.

Father's Day Plant Sale

On June 19th CCE Schuyler hosted a "Father's Day Plant Sale" with 24 unique vendors offering plants, pottery, herbal products, birdbaths, and much more. Attendees topped a 1000+, and thanks to 14 Volunteers who donated their time we had a successful day!

Virtual Small Fruits Classes

Local Foods and Agriculture Educator, Roger Ort offered 2 "Small Fruits" classes virtually on February 18th and 23rd for the Broome County CCE and Eastern NY Horticultural team, respectively. Both events had amazing online attendance with the first hosting 73 people and the second an impressive 119!

Marissa Nolan - mn623@cornell.edu / Cathy Barnes - cab377@cornell.edu



Horticulture



Local Foods

Farm to Chef Cook-Off

210 community votes were cast for our favorite Chefs Contest showcasing our area's local farm products and our top "buy local" chefs. Chefs from Idlewild Inn, Finger Lakes Wine Flour, Hidden Valley 4-H Camp, Nickels Pit BBQ, and Ryan William Vineyard participated. The dish voters nominated as "most likely to try" went to Ryan William Vineyard, while the "best presentation" dish went to Finger Lakes Wine Flour.

Holiday Pop-Up Farmers Markets

Thanksgiving 2020 and Easter 2021 Pop-up Markets were held at the Watkins Glen Performing Arts Center in Watkins Glen, where 187 and 103 people attended respectively.

2nd Annual Farm Trail Weekend

Sept 25-26th saw the return of the Farm Trail weekend, with the following 10 great farms participating: Sunset View Creamery, Muddy Fingers Farm, Ort Family Farm, Shtayburne Farm, Apples and Moore, Russel's Alpaca Acres, Hawk Meadow Farm, Seneca View Dairy, Four Season Alpacas and Cheerful Cherry Farm. We averaged 105 visitors per farm, with 210 attending the most popular locations.

Marissa Nolan - mn623@cornell.edu / Cathy Barnes - cab377@cornell.edu

2021 Composting Workshops

This summer we held 3 workshops demonstrating the steps of composting at home. Participants learned how to begin composting and how to keep it happy. They also discovered the benefits of compost for the environment and their wallet.

Harvest Festival Sustainability Showcase

2021 saw Montour Falls hosting a Harvest Festival Sustainability Showcase, highlighting all the great work Montour Falls has done to become a more sustainable community. The event featured our compost and recycling program booth and "Compost Theatre" put on a performance for kids. We distributed compost caddies stuffed with information to increase compost and recycling outreach.

Composting Drop Spots

The Village Board funded 3 drop spots for residents to bring their compostable materials. Finger Lakes Composting, a local woman-owned business, was contracted to service these drop spots. By diverting food waste and other compostable items, the village has prevented more than 20 tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere.

Marissa Nolan - mn623@cornell.edu



Sustainability



Montour Falls Farmers' Market

"Small but lively" characterizes the Montour Falls Farmers' Market - and the SNAP-Ed New York program couldn't wait to get back to the Market in 2021. A perfect setting for sharing nutrition information, SNAP-Ed Nutritionist Joan Martin attended 4 markets throughout the season, reaching 52 people. With money saving tips and topics such as summer food safety, market-goers were provided with recipes and resources to help make nutritious choices and use the fresh produce available from local vendors.

Collaboration

Attending the Markets also offered opportunities to work collaboratively with Schuyler County partners to promote health and safety in the community. Agencies such as Schuyler County Public Health (HEAL Schuyler), the Montour Falls Library, Schuyler County Office for the Aging - and more - came together at the Fireman's Field to not only provide education to residents, but also enjoy all that the Market brings to the Montour Falls community.

SNAP-Ed NY



Joan Martin - jdm458@cornell.edu

Year One Success!

HeatSmart FLX South has had an amazing first year! We connected 18 Households to \$184,234 worth of incentives throughout Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben and Yates Counties. We recruited 189 program participants, performed 94 Energy Audits/Heat Pump site visits, completed 25 installments and continue to work with over 40 partners!

A Success Story:

Nancy and her husband, Charlie, of Burdett connected to HeatSmart FLX South in December 2020. They had three different types of heating systems, but their Seneca Lake cottage was still cold during the winter. With help from FLX South, they gained access to \$26,176.42 in weatherization work and an air source heat pump, completely free of charge. The installation was just in time for the hot summer heat, and as seniors they now feel like they can more easily afford to stay in their home.

Erica Herman - eh649@cornell.edu



HeatSmart FLX South

A person wearing a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down, with their hands resting on a large, dark solar panel. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. The solar panel has a grid pattern of thin white lines.

Clean Energy

Leadership Round

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round launched this year on January 26th and opened up over \$880,000 in grant funding for local governments in the Southern Tier.

Over \$100,000 in Grant Funding

Since the program launch, our team has engaged with 44% of Southern Tier communities and has helped local governments bring in \$140,000 in grant funding to support clean energy programs, projects, and initiatives.

Community Campaign Success

Over 21 community campaigns are active in the Southern Tier, helping households gain access to clean and green energy!

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to extend heartfelt and deep appreciation:

To the CCESC Team: Your commitment, patience, agility, and tireless pursuit to bring our mission to life is a testament to the impact of purposeful work that makes a tangible difference in people's lives.

To our Volunteers: Your service is foundational, in some ways you are invisible heroes; without your generosity (time, talent, resources) we would not be able to do what we do.

To Members of the Community: Your participation and engagement in CCESC programming helps remind us that the work we do matters - we hope it enriches you and your lives as much as it enriches us.

To our Partners: Your collaboration, guidance, expertise, resources, and often even the processes and structures you provide, make our work possible.

To the Schuylers County Legislature: Your support to - and of - CCESC in numerous ways is critical; through financial support, advocacy, and continued recognition of CCESC as a key partner in helping create Schuylers County as the special place we are all so fortunate to call home.

- Sarah Agan, CCE Schuylers Board President



Thank You



Help Support CCE Schuyler!

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

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|--------------------------------|--|
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