



Cornell Cooperative Extension Schuyler County 2022 Annual Report



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!





Our CCE Schuyler Team

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 REACH After School Program Coordinator

Paula Goodrich

Parenting Educator

Erica Herman

HeatSmart FLX South Campaign Director

Dayna Karius

Program Assistant - 4-H

Todd Knobbe (Thru 9-22)

Clean Energy Communities Coordinator

Joan Martin

SNAP-Ed NY Nutritionist SFLX Region

Virginia Montopoli

Administrative Assistant

Alec Moore

Commercial Agriculture Educator

Susan Neal

Finance Manager

Marissa Nolan

Composting, Horticulture & Local Foods Educator

Melissa Schroeder

Interim Association Director & Association Issue Leader

Kim Seaman

WG REACH After School Program Coordinator

Ryan Staychock (beginning 12-1)

Environmental/Natural Resources

Educator - Schuyler, Seneca, and Cayuga

Isaac Thomas

4-H Program Coordinator

Shawn Tubridy

Parenting Educator

Jessica Westlake

Food Waste Mgt. Volunteer Coordinator

A Message From Our Board President

On behalf of the Schuyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension's Board of Directors, I'd like to offer our profound thanks to the following:

To the CCESC Team: 2022 threw so many curve balls your way yet you not only survived but thrived. The level of professionalism and commitment you have for both the organization and your area of expertise is extraordinary.

To our Volunteers: I believe you are the heart and soul of the organization. Your willingness to contribute your knowledge, time, and service can be a thankless role yet you continue to step up. Without your support, an organization like this could not survive.

To Members of the Community: Your interest and engagement in our numerous programs and activities continue to provide fulfillment and enrichment to the CCESC staff and volunteers.

To our Partners: The symbiotic relationship we have with you is deep rooted and allows us to prosper along with the community we impact.

To the Schuyler County Legislature: Your continued support of CCESC is simply unparalleled. We deeply value the resources you provide to the organization and look forward to an even stronger relationship in 2023.

- Chad Hendrickson, Board President



As I reflect upon the past year at Extension it is often hard to believe that December has arrived. Our year has been filled with workshops, home visits, earning American Camp Accreditation for Hidden Valley, farmer's markets, farm trail weekend, happy campers, agritourism events, and several pool improvement projects.

As you explore the highlights in our yearly review, the stories bring our work in the community to life. We are celebrating the work of our volunteers this year. Our Master Garden volunteers have dedicated 1622 hours over this past year. We had 17 volunteers at camp support master camp programming, camp store, the kitchen and offering extra help with counselor staff. Our Board of Directors and members of Program Advisory Committees continue to provide expertise to program staff, local connection, and insight to our work. On behalf of our entire CCE team, I express our gratitude to the time that each person spends volunteering, we all appreciate your contribution.

As I have stepped into the role of Interim Director it has been joyful to watch the work unfold with an engaged and knowledgeable staff who work together across program areas supporting each other and the community. Our Annual Report comes to life through the work of our staff and by the creative assistance of our Communications Coordinator, Danielle Cook. When I think of our staff I am reminded of a quote by Brene Brown, "Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; it's choosing what's right over what's fun, fast or easy and practicing your values."

Our programs would not be possible without the people who take part in - extending sincere gratitude to the individuals and families who take part of what we provide, you are why we do the work. We also value our collaborative relationships in our community, statewide, our campus partners, and to the Schuyler County Legislature who continue to support our work in many ways.

- Melissa Schroeder, Interim Association Director & Association Issue Leader





CCE Schuyler Board

CCE Schuyler Board of Directors

Chad Hendrickson President

Paul Bartow
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Adam Hughes
State Extension Specialist
Cornell University
ex. officio member

Volunteers / Award Recipients

Volunteers

John Ball
Debbie Ball
Becky Bowers
Gavin Bowers
Karen Cartwright
Paul Cartwright
Ezra Delaney
Antionette Di Caccio
Jean Gardner
Joseph Giles
Mary Goodnow
Kyle Holmes

Iris Huisman
Bas Huisman
Kate Lamoreaux
Gary Lewis
Mary Lewis
Kathy Nyquist
Lara Rodwell
Deborah Schadel
Erin Spencer
Karen Stark
Rebecca VanBrunt
Rose Wincek

2022 Annual Meeting Awards

Friends of Extension Award RecipientsBob Romick

Jim Nolan

Stacey Mallette

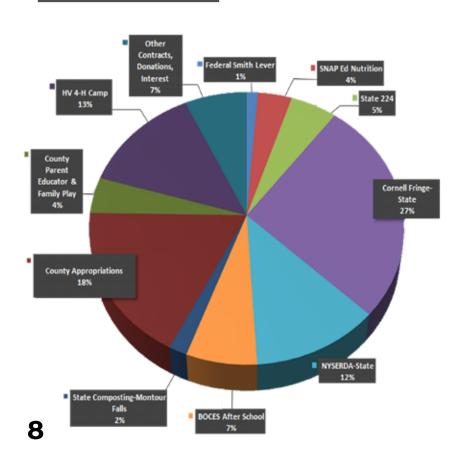
Recognition Award RecipientJordan Robinson

RISE Award Recipient
Brett Chedzoy

6



2021 Revenue Sources



- Federal Smith Lever
- SNAP-Ed NY
- State 224
- Cornell Fringe State
- NYSERDA State
- BOCES After School
- State Composting Montour Falls
- County Appropriations
- County Parent Educator and Family Play and Resource Center (FPRC)
- HV 4-H Camp
- Other Contracts, Donations, Interest



"Angela and I would like to thank you for the education and support you have given us throughout this whole experience! Our deepest thanks.

Being a transplant here in Schuyler from another state with no family, and given the situation we were in, you did not judge and stood by us; educating A 50 year old first time parent in child care, safety, development, nutrition, and just great parenting skills.

Even though this situation is finally coming to an end we will always carry you in our hearts.

And to (CCE Schuyler), thank you for having such a compassionate and dedicated parenting educator. If there were more like her, so many families would conquer the obstacles that present themselves throughout their lives!"

- Tracy and Angela Welch And La'Lah Moon Welch

Impact

"CCE Schuyler has been a major player in marshalling and mobilizing key resources for our parents and students at Hanlon Elementary. I want to say thank you to Mel and the team for always putting students first in all that they do. Our county is lucky to have CCE Schuyler as a key advocate for the advancement of our community."

- Dr. Rob Francischelli Principal, Hanlon Elementary

1315 youth participated in over **6 hours** of **4H programing**.

2659 individuals attended our **Ag and Natural Resources tours and workshops**.

58 individuals worked with our **Parenting Education Program.**

4-H Youth Development

Melissa Schroeder - mcs35@cornell.edu Paula Goodrich - pg347@cornell.edu Dayna Karius - dk576@cornell.edu

4-H creates opportunities for youth to develop skills, leadership abilities, and practical knowledge through observing, doing, and living. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults.





4-H SafeR Spaces Curriculum

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging work is so important to the work that we do within 4-H and beyond.

This past season we pilot tested four lessons co-created by Mel Schroeder and our seasonal Hidden Valley Staff for our NYS 4-H SafeR Spaces curriculum.

Our staff provided thoughtful feedback and indicated that the sessions were helpful, and provided useful strategies.

Local Food Fun: Exploring Culinary & Culture at Camp

This year saw the creation of the Chris Kimball Peterson Local Foods Culinary Program Fund. Chris was a truly amazing 4-H program volunteer with a passion for teaching youth about local products and table setting and design.

Collaboration with our AG program, local farms, and camp provided a strong opportunity for helping campers learn about using what is in season and the way foods are connected to culture. Campers shared their culinary skills and what they learned about food displays with a small brunch highlighting Chris's work with 4H.

Welcoming Our New 4-H Program Coordinator

On November 28th we welcomed our newest staff member to the 4-H team, Isaac Thomas. Isaac has a Bachelor of Science from Wells College, is a former Eagle Scout, First Robotics Competition (FRC) high school competitive team member and Youth Court member.

While at Wells College Isaac joined the FORCES club, which focused on the environment through conservation and community outreach and has a strong passion for both the outdoors and working with young people.



Hidden Valley 4-H CAMP 4-H CAMP 4-H CAMP

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

Since 1945, Hidden Valley 4-H Camp has provided the experience of a lifetime to children from the Finger Lakes region and beyond. Camp is open to all youth ages 6-16, not just 4-H members. We are proud to celebrate 76 years of Hidden Valley Camp in 2022!

Hidden Valley Gains ACA Accreditation!

The American Camping Association visited us to tour the camp and review our application and accreditation paperwork. We are proud to announce that we were successful, and Hidden Valley 4-H Camp is now an ACA-accredited summer camp.

Thank You to Our Supporters

We hired 34 part-time and seasonal staff who worked tremendously hard each week, providing campers with exciting experiences. We also welcomed volunteers and former alumni to share talents with our campers, along with the creation of Master Camps in Music, Culinary, Fishing, Glass Mosaics, Backpacking, and Bubble Science. We also held a Fall Teen Leadership Camp Weekend and had 14 teens participate.

This was our second season operating amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and we were happy to hear strong reviews from families around our handling of an outbreak during weeks 1 and 2. We were grateful for the support and collaboration from Schuyler County Public Health that supported testing. Our season was largely successful due to trusting parents, eager campers, and a creative team!

77 Seasons and Counting

Hidden Valley 4-H Camp opened for its 77th season with 476 campers; 352 stayed overnight, and 124 attended day camp. We operated for six weeks at around 50% capacity due to staffing issues and were full each week with a robust waiting list, particularly our day camp, as it was in high demand.









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

REACH is an after-school program funded by the American Rescue Plan and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. Partnering with Watkins Glen School, Odessa Montour, and CCE Schuyler, we provide tutoring, enrichment activities, and recreation for students in grades three through six.





Watkins Glen Students "Walk for Ukraine"

In April, the Watkin's Glen School REACH Students held a "Walk for Ukraine" Walk-a-thon. Thirty eight students walked a total of 43.5 miles and raised over \$1,000 to help children and families displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Funds were used to provide clean water, shelter, and additional assistance for relocation. Helping these families aligned with our 21st Century Community Learning Center goals by teaching students empathy for others, financial responsibility, and learning about other cultures.

Odessa Montour Students Experience New Cultures!

This year, Odessa Montour REACH Students participated in a Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Enrichment program. This offered them the chance to develop friendships with children in other parts of the world.

Our previous spring session featured a young person from Germany using the zoom platform to communicate with 4th grade students and connect as pen-pals. One of the things that the children most enjoyed, and was a surprising revelation to some, was how alike we all are; from loving ice cream, to playing soccer and video games; and cuddling our pets!

15

Parenting Education (PEHV)

Paula Goodrich - pg347@cornell.edu Shawn Tubridy - slt22@cornell.edu Melissa Schroeder - mcs35@cornell.edu

CCE Schuyler offers a variety of programs for parents and caregivers through a Home Visitor program. These programs meet families' individual needs and seek to promote positive parenting, and ultimately healthy family and child development.

Parents or caregivers that participate in our Home Visitor program receive at least six hours of content delivery from various researched based curricula.

Home Visitor Program and NYSPEP Credentialing

Our NYSPEP (New York State Parenting Education Partnership) credentialed Parenting Educator received forty-five family's referrals from The Schuyler County Department of Social Services for parenting education. Families were engaged with our home visitor throughout the year and received strategies on building from their strengths in the areas of discipline techniques; understanding of their own parenting style and the developmental stages of their child(ren); the importance of routines; how to establish a routine; responsibilities for children; and family togetherness.

Parenting Educator, Paula Goodrich, was invited to serve on the State Community Connections Coalition, sponsored by NYSPEP, as a peer reviewer of other candidates applying for accreditation. Being a credentialed parenting educator has provided connection to statewide resources that are often used to benefit the families of Schuyler County.

Collaborations with Community

Through the Early Childhood Coalition (ECC) collaborations with BC Cate elementary school and the Family Play and Resource Center have been underway to better meet the needs of families. The activity kits, started during the pandemic, continue to be requested because they work well with the families of toddlers and preschoolers. The kits include activities crafted to engage and encourage families to spend time informally learning and playing together.



Our Parenting Educators have provided educational support to 58 individuals who received a minimum of 6 hours of education totaling approximately 332 hours.



Commercial Ag

Alec Moore - ahm245@cornell.edu Cathy Barnes - cab377@cornell.edu Brett Chedzoy - bjc226@cornell.edu

The Commercial Ag Program supports in the areas of commercial agriculture, agroforestry, and agritourism enterprises. In addition to assisting with the implementation of Schuyler County Ag and Farmland Protection Board recommendations, Commercial Ag works as a resource for farmer payment programs, grants, and other funding and ag economic development opportunities.





Popular Pruning Workshop Returns to CCE Schuyler

CCE Schuyler and local farmer Rick Reisinger partnered to bring back our popular Fruit Pruning workshop on March 19th and 26th at the Apples and Moore Orchard. Last held in 2019, the workshop attracted over 50 participants from the surrounding area.

While apple trees were the focus of the workshop, other topics such as basic tree care, grafting and proper pruning techniques were on display. At the end of the demonstration period, participants were

encouraged to bring forth their questions for the CCE Educators and former orchard owner, Rick Reisinger.

"This pruning workshop covers a lot," said past participant Debbie Ball. "I've attended it several times and gained something new at each workshop."

Due to the success of this revitalized event, plans for another Fruit Pruning workshop in Spring 2023 are underway.

Horticulture

Marissa Nolan - mn623@cornell.edu Cathy Barnes - cab377@cornell.edu Brett Chedzoy - bjc226@cornell.edu

The Horticulture Program
encompasses a wide array of topics.
The Horticulture Educator leads
woods walks, organizes workshops,
and coordinates larger events such as
Pop-up Farmers Markets and the
Annual Farm Tour Weekend. They
also train and manage Master
Gardener Volunteers and work to
keep the Teaching Garden looking
beautiful.

Pop-Up Farmers Markets

CCE Schuyler and Harvest Schuyler held two Pop-up Farmers Markets. The Spring Pop-up Market was outside at the Montour Falls Fireman's Field and the Thanksgiving event was inside at the Watkins Glen Performing Arts Center. Vendors at both had good sales and attendees appreciated the ability to buy local products.

Woods Walks

A new offering from CCE Schuyler, Woods Walks, were held at the Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. The May program focused on spotting wildflowers and was a great companion to the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) birding walk that morning. In October, participants learned about tree identification by color while admiring the fall foliage.

Master Gardener Volunteers

Schuyler County Master Gardener Volunteers (MVG) reported more than 1500 volunteer hours! Most hours were spent in our Teaching Garden and participating in Cornell's Vegetable Variety Trials. MGVs allowed our garden to thrive despite drought. They continue mulching and composting this Winter to make sure the Teaching Garden flourishes come Spring!



"This year CCE Schuyler's FLX
Gives event raised \$540 for upgrades
and educational signage to the
CCE Schuyler Teaching Garden."



Natural Resources

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

Schuyler CCE makes critical contributions to enhanced woodland productivity and resilience through education, demonstration, and applied research. These forest resources provide durable and significant environmental and economic benefits to their owners and communities.





Silvopasture Showcase Tour

The Silvopasture Showcase Tour on September 15th & 16th highlighted another busy year of agroforestry extension events. The tour brought over 150 practitioners and professionals from numerous states and countries to Schuyler County to see and learn about some of the area's best grazing farms using silvopasturing.

Forest Regeneration

Schuyler CCE currently supports five state and federally-funded research and extension projects that address the growing challenges to sustaining forest resources. Examples include the expanded use of "slash walls" (www.slashwall.info) to protect vulnerable young trees from deer.

Based on work pioneered and refined in Schuyler County at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, the adoption of slash walls is quickly spreading across the Eastern Hardwood Forests.

"Terrestrial LiDAR" Tech Helps Owners

Emerging "Terrestrial LiDAR" developed and tested by Cornell experts with Schuyler CCE's support will provide an invaluable new tool to efficiently and accurately measure key forest metrics. This will allow professionals and woodland owners to improve and target management for greater outputs and benefits including enhanced carbon capture and storage.

Agritourism

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Schuyler CCE strives to help put the spotlight on farms and educate the community about what they do.

Through various events like on-farm classes and farmers markets we highlight the importance of agriculture in Schuyler County and support the county as a premier agritourism destination.

Farm Tour Weekend

In September of 2022 Schuyler CCE held the 3rd Annual Schuyler County Farm Tour Weekend.

This event puts the focus on the counties small farms drawing attention from the local community and the tri-state area. It acts as a showcase for many of the other amazing products Schuyler County has to offer, outside of the national attention already received for our wineries and breweries.

Thirteen farms at nine locations offered participants various activities including guided farm tours, classes, animal interactions, and product samples. New additions to the tour were Wixom Farms with their Highland Cows; the Arnot Forest offered tours of the Maple Lab; and a local farm market, Yesterday's Roots, held a Chicken BBQ and offered samples from local farms.

According to the Farm Country app, the event brought thousands of attendees to Schuyler County. This event is made possible through the collaboration with the Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce and as a result of the growth and interest we continue to work with our community collaborators to plan for 2023.



Thank You to Our 2022 Participating Farms:

Apples and Moore Arnot Research Forest and Maple Lab Bartlett Family Farm Four Seasons Alpacas and Rug Weaving Muddy Fingers Farm Puttin' on the Mitts Russell's Alpaca Acres Shtayburne Farm Creamery Seneca Sunrise Coffee Sunflower Dairy Sunset View Creamery Wixom Farms Yesterday's Roots



Environment

Marissa Nolan - mn623@cornell.edu

The Environment Program focuses on educating the public on the topics of composting and recycling.

Using workshops, outreach tabling, and informational flyers the program has increased the use of community drop spots for food scraps and proper recycling.







BC Cate Students' Composting Brings Results

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year the first purple bin was dropped off at the BC Cate Elementary School. Within a few weeks the children mastered separating their compost and garbage materials. The second-grade class had composted 2.5 tons of food scraps by the end of the school year, which diverted 2.5 tons of CO2 from the atmosphere. Instead of becoming garbage, those food scraps were composted by local business Finger Lakes Compost.

The program is continuing this year with a new group of second graders. In addition to collecting their materials, students will be learning more about the composting process through educational activities, culminating in a field trip to the Finger Lakes Compost facility to see their lunch scraps turned into soil.

SNAP-Ed NY



SNAP-Ed NY of the Southern Finger Lakes is a Regional Program.

Project Director - Justine Cobb Patterson
Senior Nutritionist - Olivia Dates Stutzman
Regional Environmental Nutritionist - Kelsey Monks
SNAP Ed Nutrition Educator - Joan Martin - jdm458@cornell.edu

SNAP-Ed's goal is to prevent the onset of chronic disease by providing nutrition education and obesity prevention services in Schuyler and Yates Counties

SNAP-Ed "Rethink(s) Your Drink" at Family Fit Fest!

On September 17th, CCE Schuyler and other local agencies participated in Cayuga Health's 3rd Annual "Schuyler Family Fit Fest" at the Montour Falls Fireman's Field. Over 250 people participated in activities focused on fitness, nutrition, and education.

CCE's booth offered multiple activities covering a variety of our programs. Visitors were greeted with SNAP Ed's educational activities, including "Rethink Your Drink", a game which asked players to look at a row of beverages and choose the healthiest. Visitors were also offered healthy smoothie and flavored water recipes, along with other tip sheets, nutritious choices, and use the fresh produce available from local vendors.

Bradford Students Learn About Healthy Meal Planning and Budgeting

Seventeen students from Amy Torpy and Bev Matern's Finance class at Bradford High School worked with SNAP-Ed to learn about healthy meal planning and budgeting. The 3-session series wrapped up with a store tour and a \$10 grocery challenge at the Walmart in Painted Post.



"Joan keeps students engaged while learning how to stay healthy and active by making it meaningful and fun."

> - Kim Seaman, WG REACH After-school Program Coordinator





Erica Herman - eh649@cornell.edu

HeatSmart FLX South provides equitable support to residents, small businesses, and non-profits to access weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades to ultimately adopt heat pumps for clean heating and cooling which lower energy cost burdens for consumers and greenhouse gas emissions in our communities.





A Summer of Open Houses

HeatSmart FLX South held its 1st Heat Pump Open-House series, showcasing 11 sites throughout our 4-county region. This was the largest series ever statewide!

Attendees came to see their neighbors' and local small business' systems and discover why they decided to "Heat Smart, Cool Smart." For those who may have missed the open house events, virtual tours and case studies are available online or via mail.

HeatSmart helps to "EmPower" Veteran

This year HeatSmart Campaign Director, Erica Herman met Sam, a disabled vet, in tears applying for HEAP and dealing with a scam, while taking care of her 2 daughters - one approaching college age.

After listening to Sam's needs, Erica worked with her to apply for NYSERDA's EmPower NY program. Within a month Sam had \$10K of no-cost weatherization work completed by FLX South contracting partner, Helco.

HeatSmart by the Numbers:

In Year 2 HeatSmart FLX South had over 240 enrollees, with 89 installations, compared to 24 installs in Year 1.

Over \$800K of NYSERDA and other incentives went out to 68 households that benefited from weatherization and/or heat pump installs.

Over 50 households were limited income.

Over 1,500 people were reached via 50 outreach events.

Clean Energy

Todd Knobbe (Thru 9-22)

The Southern Tier Clean
Energy Communities team
helps local governments
create healthy and sustainable
communities by investing in
future-focused clean energy
solutions. CCE-Schuyler's
Clean Energy Communities
Coordinator serves Chemung,
Schuyler, Steuben, and
Tioga County.

CALS & CCE Welcome New Intern for Solar Leasing Study

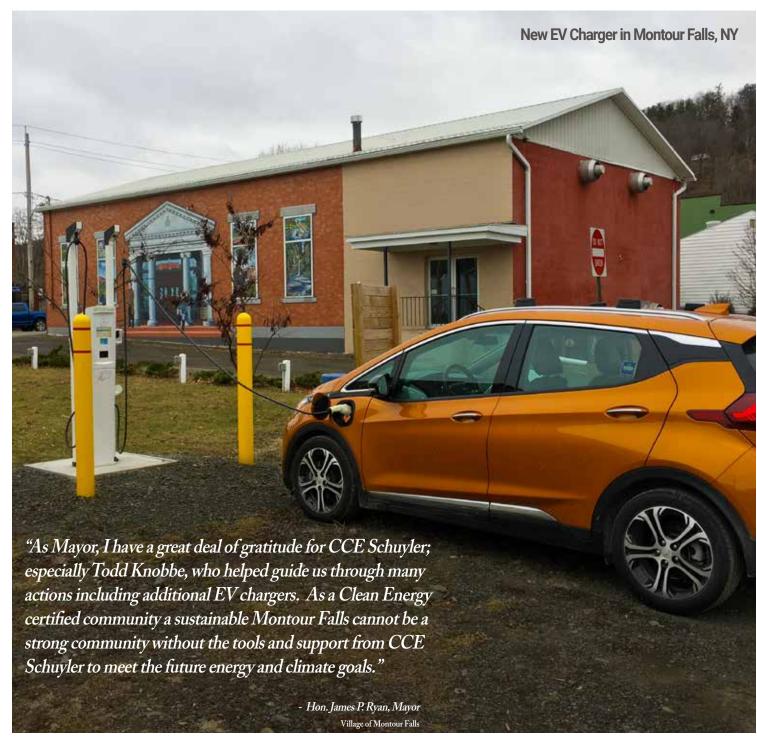
This summer CCE and CALS (Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) received extra help from a new intern: Cornell Atmospheric Science undergrad, Nicole Collins.

Nicole met with farmers and landowners to record their experiences with leasing land for solar development. These interviews were used to create case studies that educate others about the process of leasing land.

New York State has seen an increase in farmer/landowners being approached to lease their land for solar development. CCE Schuyler made a proactive decision to document this experience and provide a better understanding of the process to the greater community. Nicole's work increased the educational resources available to farmers and landowners as they navigate the new world of land leasing for solar. This will give them another tool for determining if leasing is a good choice for their property.

Clean Energy Teams Secures Grants for Charging Stations

In 2022 the Clean Energy Communities team assisted with both Montour Falls securing \$30,000 in CEC grants for the Schuyler County's first Direct Current Fast Charging EV station; and the Village of Horseheads receiving \$15,000 in CEC grants to install their first level 2 charging station. Installation of these stations will begin soon.









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