

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Wyoming County



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Creative Youth Livestock Programming

Each year the youth livestock program strives to deliver creative programs in order to engage youth participants. These programs give participants the opportunity to acquire new knowledge in the fields of animal science, business, time management and leadership. This year, the 4-H program offered fifteen program opportunities for livestock members with 406 member contacts. Programs included topics like meat cut identification, halter making, skillathon, marketing basics, quality assurance, and tours.



Dog Photography

The youth dog obedience program has been striving towards developing new ideas to involve youth in year-round canine activities that complement the 9 week obedience program. Numbers neared 40 participants in the program this year. New activities included a Pet Photography Clinic, and a Spring Kickoff workshop. Plans are in place to continue these projects and more in the coming 4-H year.



Win-A-Calf

From January until September, youth participated in the Win-A-Calf Program. Throughout this project, they learned a great deal about raising a calf and the record keeping involved with the dairy industry. They were required to calculate monthly expenses and research current topics in the dairy industry. At the end of September, we awarded a winner, Travis Lester. Travis won \$750, donated by the Bank of Castile, to purchase a registered calf. Travis is interested in purchasing a Guernsey.



Foods & Nutrition - 4-H International Food & Fun Project

In 2017, 454 Wyoming County 4-H'ers were enrolled in the food and nutrition project area. In addition to participating in food projects within the club setting, youth participated in activities such as the 4-H Produced in NY State Foods Contest and various workshops throughout the year including holiday breads, yeast breads, spices & herbs, pie making, and summer grilling 101.

To expand our 4-H'ers knowledge about the lands that have given us so many of our favorite foods and customs, the 10th annual 4-H "International Food & Fun Night" was held Tuesday evening, June 6th at the Legion Hall in Warsaw. Seven clubs participated this year.

All of the 4-H clubs did a fantastic job putting together very attractive and informative displays highlighting their



Wyoming County 4-H hit a major milestone this year, topping 1,000 youth members and finishing out the year with 1,004 total enrolled youth! There are 188 enrolled volunteers!

country and presented an overview of what they learned from their involvement in the project to the rest of the audience! At the conclusion of the evening, everyone enjoyed sampling various foods and dishes representative of the various countries! It was truly an evening of entertainment, educational awareness, food, and fun!



Connecting Youth to Nature

Building on 3 successful years with this program, Camp hosted another 75 urban youth from Buffalo and Rochester. These campers spent a full week at camp participating in a variety of programs and activities including: ecology, archery, boating, outdoor skills and swimming each week. So far, Camp Wyomoco has hosted 275 campers in this program. We continue to build relationships with community partners in both Erie and Monroe Counties.



International Camp Staff

In 2017, camp was able to bring 7 amazing international staff members from several countries including England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand. They each brought a variety of skills to their jobs at camp. Some worked as a part of the waterfront team while others taught in the horsemanship program, outdoor skills and sports. The addition of international staff brings new ideas and great cultural exchange to our campers and families.



Friends and Family Camp Weekend

In September, Camp Wyomoco hosted several families for our Friends and Family Weekend. Families spend 3 days enjoying all the fun activities that campers get to do during the summer, such as boating, hiking, fishing, sports, archery, campfires, arts and crafts and family game night. This year the weather was amazing and our friends and families had a wonderful time and some awesome camp experiences including a hike to the gorge.



New Leadership Week

2017 saw the addition of a leadership week at camp. Campers ages 14 to 16 that completed the Counselor-In-Training Program were eligible to return for a week dedicated to learning more about leadership both at camp and in the world. Guest speakers presented sessions. We held an etiquette dinner to help the CITs learn how to present themselves in a public setting. Campers and staff prepared presentations on a variety of leadership topics including communication and teambuilding. 39 returning campers and 21 staff made this week memorable.



AmeriCorps

2017 marked the 11th summer that Camp Wyomoco has partnered with AmeriCorps. This year AmeriCorps members provided campers with a variety of Environmental Stewardship activities including purifying drinking water, amphibian study, terrariums and more. Campers also completed 10+ physical activities as a part of the Healthy Futures program. AmeriCorps staff helped campers to carry out service projects for elderly residents that take part in the meals on wheels program.



Camp Enrollment

Our camp enrollment saw a double digit increase over 2016 numbers, rising by over 10 percent in 2017. In addition to our normal summer resident campers, Wyomoco also hosted campers through the 4-H Connecting Youth to Nature program and Camp-Get-Away. Wyomoco is also starting to welcome a variety of rental groups that are using camp including the Wyoming County Shooting Sports Club, Erie County 4-H, Family reunion groups, and the American Camp Association.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM



Incubation & Embryology

Incubation and Embryology is one of our most requested projects through Ag in the Classroom. Through this exciting 21-day project students learn about incubating chickens (and sometimes ducks), their life cycles, how to care for these farm animals, and how they are used in agriculture. The project lasts 21 days which includes the hatching of 12 fertile eggs from local sources, an embryology lesson in which the eggs are candled in the classroom, and many other lessons and activities if requested. This past spring more than 50 classrooms participated in the project. Incubation and Embryology is a very successful project which teaches students responsibility, comradery, and the knowledge of yet another aspect of our agricultural community.

Expansion

The Ag in the Classroom program has continued to expand throughout 2017. Educators worked with 24,067 students through 1,297 lessons. The program has reached over 15 schools and many others are planning to join in this new school year. Ag in the Classroom of Wyoming County has also hired a new educator and will be holding a training conference for all interested educators in Western New York in the coming school year.



Enviroscope

The Enviroscope is another popular lesson through Ag in the Classroom. The lesson allows students to get dirty while learning about pollution, the water cycle, their local watersheds, and the role of agriculture in environmental stewardship. The project consists of a large model of a watershed which is then “polluted” by the students. The class discovers common pollutants in our environment, where they come from, and how they can harm our planet. At the end, a “rain storm” hits the watersheds and shows how erosion and chemical runoff can affect our waterways. The students then brainstorm ways of preventing this from happening through sustainable farming. The Enviroscope is an interactive way to expose the next generation of possible environmental hazards and shows another side of agriculture.



Prospect Elementary's Back to the Farm Day

On Tuesday, June 13th Ag in the Classroom was represented by 5 educators at Prospect Elementary's Back to the Farm Day in Attica, NY. The entire day included tractor demonstrations, live animals, games, exhibits, and many local farms. Ag in the Classroom presented 24 lessons including Dairy Cows, Honey Bees, Where is Ag?, Corn Mosaics, and Wind Energy to classrooms in grades Kindergarten through fourth. Ag in the Classroom has been extremely interested in helping Attica increase their awareness of our agricultural community within the classrooms. Back to the Farm Day was a success and is already in the planning stages for its second year in 2018.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM 2017 IMPACT

24,067

Students Reached

1,297

Classroom Lessons



Beekeeping and Pollinators

Beekeeper and Pollinator presentations included programs at the Covington Historical Society, the Silver Lake Experience at the Institute, and Garden Bounty at the Ag Center. Materials handed out involved native plants and trees that are beneficial to honeybees and all pollinators. Beeyard walks involving hive package installation and other honeybee management meetings were held throughout the county, and a Wyoming County bee tree article was published in Cornell Small Farms Quarterly. An impressive group of local honey and honey products were entered at the Wyoming County Fair, which attracted much interest from folks both inside and outside the county seeking local producers. Entries included light spring honey, beeswax, creamed honey, and other honey products.

CDL License Instruction

41 students completed the Fall 2016/Spring 2017 CDL Instruction classes with practical road time in the new Boces road tractors, and over half of the group achieved their CDL licenses.



Genesee Valley Regional Marketing Authority High Tunnel Project

This year's Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority Grant (GVRMA) is focusing on refining 2016 growing practices and marketing. Realizing the crops grew too large last season, work focused on plant size manipulation, container growing, and introduction of new crops to assess their growth alongside seed collection and marketing.

Oyster mushrooms were changed to warm weather strains to combat summer temperatures. Past temperature shifts between night and day made for inconsistent fruiting. Mushrooms were fruited indoors to compare yields.

Shiitake Mushroom Viability and Support Mushroom Growing Workshops

CCE Wyoming is a partner in the Cornell Small Farms Mushroom Viability Project, a two-year project funded through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant to support the development of a new niche crop in New York State; log-grown shiitake mushrooms.

Three workshops supported this project by introducing new and



Maple

The WNY Maple School included classes such as Production for Beginners, Marketing, Safe Chainsaw Operation, and Using Reverse Osmosis Filtering. Fall maple meetings resulted in the Maple School having a change of venue for the next school, to Attica, NY.

The Fall maple workshop was held at the Merle Maple production facility, and centered on Value Added Maple products, techniques and methods. Cornell Maple specialist Steve Childs demonstrated the techniques along with Merle Maple. Molded maple, maple cream, and value added products such as maple BBQ sauce were highlighted.



current small-scale growers to aspects of commercial production. Sessions included resources needed and processes, accuracy and development of an efficient system, and a trip to a commercial shiitake mushroom farm covering layout, fruiting process, schedules, food safety, packaging and marketing.

NWNY DAIRY SKILLS TRAINING

Seminarios Web Manejo de Vacas Lecheras



Webinars in Spanish Reach New Demographic

A new collaboration between Cornell's Pro-DAIRY Program and the NWNY Team offered five dairy webinars in Spanish on topics including milking and udder physiology, calving assistance and reproductive health. Attendance at each live webinar was 10 to 15 people. The recordings, now available on the Cornell Pro-DAIRY YouTube Channel, which is: <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/webinars/spanish-webinars>, have been viewed 1,089 times. Dairy managers' feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and plans are underway to develop more webinars in 2018.



Academy for Dairy Executives Grows Management Skills

Twenty-six next generation farmers met for three two-day sessions. Participants said "Great! Very action based and people based. I want to go and try the stuff I learned right now," and "The whole farm budgeting was very eye opening and helped me to realize I need to become more involved in the budgeting process. Also family business conflict resolution and communication was an amazing conversation." Participants manage 21,125 cows, positively impact the local economy with collective annual milk sales of \$86.5 million dollars. Together they employ 400 people, protect the environment and maintain green spaces in their communities by managing 49,000 crop acres.

Manure Forum

Thirty-four crop crew workers attended a forum on safely handling and transporting manure. Hydrogen sulfide gas, an ever-present threat of stored manure, is of particular concern when people and animals are near during agitating and pumping. Highway safety as manure is moved from the farmstead to the field traversing local roadways was addressed. Law enforcement, DEC,



Heifer Facility Tour Shares Ideas and Answers

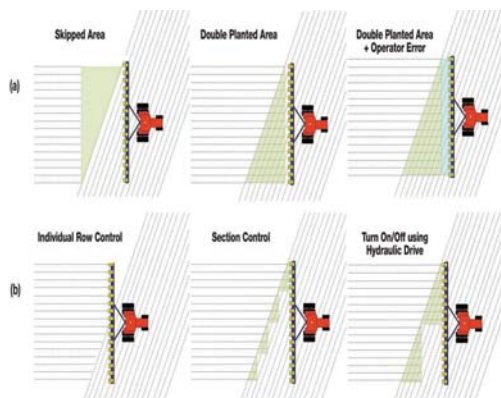
Ninety plus participants attended the Pre-Empire Farm Days "Heifer Housing and Feeding Systems Tour" at Synergy Dairy and True Farms. The liquid feed delivery and barn design on the two farms were contrasted. Novel ventilation designs, comprehensive biosecurity and simple, thorough sanitizing of feeding items were discussed. Facility managers responded with in-depth answers to questions. Dairy producers valued the opportunity to see the facilities, hear from designers, about technologies in use, and people who work in the facilities day-to-day.



local fire companies and contractors shared tips on safely handling manure to reduce crop inputs, maximize nutrient uptake by crops and minimize environmental impact.

NWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & FIELD CROPS TEAM

Wyoming County is a member of the ten-county team that emphasizes farm business management, sustainable resource management and workforce development education for dairy, livestock and field crops farmers.



ACS on Corn Planters: Economic Benefits and Costs

Auto section control (ASC) on corn planters uses information from a global positioning system to switch planter sections on and off. Use of ACS helps achieve greater accuracy in input usage and reduces double-planted areas due to planter overlap. An investment of \$15,000 is required to equip a planter with ACS. Economic and capital investment analysis showed a positive impact on profits in some but not all scenarios. Benefits of reduced operator stress and fatigue are difficult to quantify, but valuable.

Forage Congress Received Positive Reviews

An inaugural Forage Congress, held in February, covered topics identified by NWNY Team's dairy and field crops advisory committees. Both advisory groups felt this type of congress was lacking from the team's arsenal since forages are the base for

Dairy Farm Business Summary Cooperators, a Significant Source of Economic Activity in 2016

Research studies conclude producers using DFBS with analysis achieve greater levels of profit. Estimates using DFBS data suggest the 40 cooperating businesses in the NWNY Region invested \$20.3 million in land, buildings and improvements in 2016, and \$9.2 million in machinery and equipment. These same farms employed the equivalent of 828 full-time workers, excluding operators, and generated \$227.9 million from sales of milk, cattle, crops and other receipt items.

all livestock nutrition. Approximately 75 participants and 20 exhibitors attended the day-long event. Topics covered were: whole farm planning from the ground up, economics of high forage diets, reduced lignin alfalfa with quality grasses, double cropping presentation and panel, and storing quality silage options.

AWDC Labor Roadshow

The NYS Agricultural Workforce Development Council Education Committee organized a "Labor Roadshow" in November 2016. Managing worker housing and ensuring worker health and safety were topics NWNY Dairy Specialist Libby Eiholzer addressed alongside lawyers who specialize in agricultural labor law. 198 farmers attended, 49% were dairy or livestock producers. Managers noted, on an exit survey, conference presentations motivated them toward improving compliance with Department of Labor and Occupational Health and Safety Administration regulations. These changes will help farms to save money, by avoiding fines, and improve the public's perception of agricultural labor practices.



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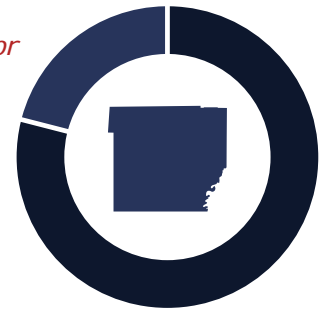
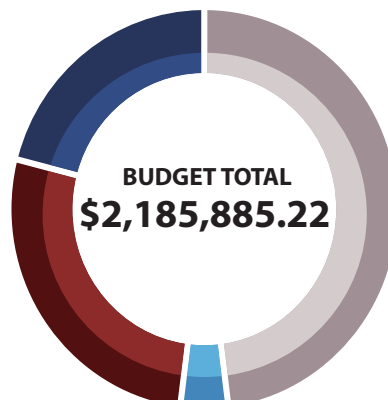
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2017 BUDGET

These charts are a visual representation of the sources from which the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County has gained financial support.



COUNTY 18%
\$390,000.00



STATE 33%
\$721,934.00



FEDERAL 3%
\$63,100.00



GRANT/OTHER 46%
\$1,010,851.22