

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Wyoming County

CCE Wyoming County
2025 Annual Report



Dear Members and Friends of CCE Wyoming County,

Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County wants to express thanks for your ongoing support. CCE Wyoming County is a community led organization which provides community-based education and resources.

This year, CCE Wyoming County focused on listening to each other, resulting in a strategic plan that aligns programs with Wyoming County's needs. Through input from board members, committees, volunteers, and stakeholders the team of board members and staff developed a strategy to guide future action.

In the 2024-2025 program year, over 730 youth engaged in thriving 4-H youth programs, showcasing their skills at the Wyoming County Fair, state, and national competitions. Furthermore, our Agriculture in the Classroom program reached Pre-K to 6th graders, connecting them with agriculture in fun ways.

Adult education participation also grew, with 31 workshops and classes offered. Don provided consultations on various topics, from pest management to maple production. Additionally, the Master Gardener volunteer program expanded. Finally, with the support of Farm Bureau, CCE Wyoming worked together with Wyoming County Office of Emergency Services to provide safety trainings.

CCE Wyoming County continues to work with NWNYS Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops regional specialists and the Western Shared Business Network to enhance area services. The community has positioned CCE Wyoming County to serve the community as it continues to change.

Thank you for all you do to make that possible.



Caron Gala, Lead Executive Director
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County



Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.

Program Goals



Wyoming County Ag Program

- **Enhance Profitability and Productivity:** Boost the economic growth of Wyoming County by increasing the profitability and productivity of family operations, farms, and agribusinesses.
- **Improve Operational Efficiency and Food Preservation:** Enhance the operational efficiency of homestead and agribusiness enterprises to improve food preservation quality and product safety.
- **Ensure Access to Crucial Information:** Provide access to information that supports market innovations, agricultural program participation, and regulatory compliance.
- **Strengthen Community Connections:** Enhance agricultural education and community engagement.



Wyoming County 4-H Program

- **Immerse Youth in Food Security:** Provide hands-on learning experiences in agricultural production, food processing, technology, and agribusiness management to establish a solid foundation in food security.
- **Offer Life Skill Development:** Create and provide affordable or accessible opportunities for youth to develop life skills through informal education in areas such as animal science, economic development, entrepreneurship, leadership, presentation skills, dietetics, food science, crafts, agricultural technology, mechanical skills, agricultural innovation, and outdoor education.
- **Foster Community and Connectedness:** Promote youth engagement, teamwork, collaborative leadership, and lifelong growth through partnerships that strengthen community bonds.



Wyoming County 4-H Programs:

- **80+ hands on opportunities** for youth to engage in 4-H youth development activities from October 1st – September 30th.
- Individual youth contacts through these events exceeded **1,100**

4-H Members:

- **602 Enrolled youth members** ages 8-18 years.
- **120 Enrolled clover bud members** ages 5-7 years.
- **135 Enrolled adult volunteers** serving as club leaders, committee members and general volunteers.
- **53 Active 4-H clubs** focusing on project areas and community building



Ag in the Classroom (AITC)

- Serving **Perry, Warsaw, Wyoming, Attica and Letchworth** School Districts with hands on learning opportunities
- Classes provided to Pre-K – 6th grade, avg. **400 students/school**
- More than **6,500 student contacts** and **450 classroom visits** for the 2024-2025 school year
- **Agriculture Days** supported by Dairy in the Classroom (DAITC)
- Kids go outside to see farm animals, learn from agricultural professionals, and do hands on activities



Animal Science

- **97 Youth** dairy members exhibited **142 animals**
- **169 Youth** beef, goat, sheep, and swine members exhibited **165 non auction animals**
- **60 Youth** exhibited **75 horses** within English, Gymkhana, and Western divisions
- **76 Youth** exhibited **180 poultry and rabbit** projects
- **33 Youth** exhibited **36 dogs** during a variety of shows



\$575,000
Total 4-H Auction Sales
Livestock total sales.

207
Youth Participants
4-H Meat Animal Auction.

Drill Team

- The Wyoming County 4-H Equestrian Drill Team has performed this past club year at several venues, most notably the **Western NY Equifest!**
- A shining example of **Teamwork, Skill, and comradery!**



Fashion & Design

- **Clothing Design and Construction**
- **New workshops** and project ideas include embroidery and up-cycling of garments, home furnishings, and more!



Cooking & Food Prep

- **11 youth** take part in our annual **Produced in NYS Foods Contest.**



And so much more...



Shooting Sports

- **The Wyoming County 4-H Shooting Sports Club** provides opportunities for safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment.
- **Develops leadership skills.**
- **6 youth qualified** at the New York State 4-H Invitation to participate in the **2026 4-H National Shooting Sports Competition.**



Machinery

- **25+ youth** take part in our annual **tractor and farm safety** program, learning small engine maintenance.
- **The National Safe Tractor & Machinery Program** is also offered for ages 14-16.
- **8 youth passed certification requirements** to be able to gain employment on farms utilizing tractors and implements.



Zucchini Derby

- **Event at the Wyoming County Fair**
- Youth participants work in groups to design a veggie car to race down a track.
- Uses **science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM)** to create masterpieces of speed.



Ag Programs

- Maple/Maple Syrup, Honeybees/ Honey
- Mushroom Workshops
- Farm Safety
- Specialty Crops and Season Extension
- Community Gardens and Outreach
- Natural Resources
- Home Gardens and Soil Testing
- Pesticide Certification
- Plant, Insect and Disease Diagnostic

2025 Overview

- 2025 Agriculture Program
151 Enrollees
- Northwest New York Dairy Livestock and Field Crops Team
38 Enrollees
- CCE Wyoming 2025
31 Classes and Workshops
1,450+ Participants
- 2025 Public Outreach Classes and Event Participation
750-900 participants



Maple & Honey – 355 participants

2025 Maple Events



- Partnership with Wyoming County Maple Producers for a hands-on Maple Confection Event
- **27 participants** in a Cornell Maple Update with Aaron Wightman in October



2025 Beekeeper Events

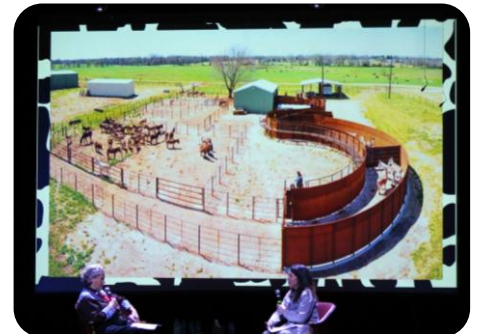


- **20 calls regarding** Bee swarms
- **30 Beekeeper Club members** with 5 meetings so far this year
- Fair booth volunteer coordination



Temple Grandin Lecture

- Inspiring **400+** Attendees at Perry Senior High School
- Discussed topics of **livestock handling and animal welfare.**
- Addressed questions from **the audience about design, teamwork, and working agriculture.**



Farm Safety

FarMedic First Responder Training, Chainsaw Safety, and DOT Regulations

- **25 first responders** - Free 2-day farm safety training offered
- **28 participants** – Chainsaw Safety Level 1 and Chainsaw Basics/Small Engine Safety.
- **35 participants** – DOT Regulations Workshop



High Tunnel and Vegetable Trial

Community Garden Connections

- Addition of a **second** Vegetable Variety Trial Garden at the Oatka Creek Community Garden
- **4 workshops** were held to promote seed starting, basic gardening, and highlight Vegetable Variety Trial project
- **4 garden club presentations** on pollinators, invasive species, pruning, and preparing the garden for winter
- Food grown in community gardens is donated to local food pantries.



Master Gardener Garden Day Plant Sale Fundraiser

- **55 sales** of locally grown vegetables and flowers with primary focus – education and sale of late blight resistant tomato plants

NYS DEC Pesticide Applicator Exam

- **15 participants** took this exam



Mushroom Workshops

- **29 participants** at Spring hands-on Inoculation workshop
- Learn basics of outdoor mushroom production
- Inoculate and take home a freshly inoculated mushroom log to grow at home
- **36 participants** at Hands-on Outdoor Mushroom Cultivation, post-harvest handling, and food safety workshop, covering siting a mushroom laying yard, management of mushroom logs, soaking, fruiting, harvest, and marketing
 - Staff included CCE Wyoming, Cornell Small Farms and the Cornell Vegetable Program

NWNY Dairy Highlights

- **40 participants** in Wyoming County were taught in English and Spanish on transition calf inventory, dairy calf facilities management, health and nutrition.
- **CCE NWNY Dairy Day** held at East Hill Creamery in Perry, discussed automated herd monitoring and transition to milking in a rotary parlor system to **38 attendees** from **across 4 states**.
- **500+** participants attended the **Corn and Soybean & Small Grains Congresses**, with topics covering how to get a drone license, new corn diseases, and good agronomic practices.



Governance

Board of Directors

Louise Herrick – **President-4-H Program Comm. Rep.**
Alton Rudgers – **Vice President**
Shirley Spencer – Treasurer
Kathy Parker – Secretary
Carrie Bartholomew – Director
Chris Smithgall – Director
Daryl McLaughlin – Director
Karen Baker – Director
Eric Dziedzic – Director-Ag Program Comm. Rep.
Bob Ressler/Derek Rechberger – Director - Ag Program Comm. Rep.
Leo Vranich – Director-4-H Program Comm. Rep.
Paul O’Conner – CCE State Extension Specialist
Vanessa McCormick – Board of Supervisors Rep

Agriculture Program Committee

Eric Dziedzic – Chairperson/BOD Rep.
Daniel Chasey – Vice Chair
Derek Rechberger – Committee Member
Meghan Burley – Committee Member
Robert Ressler – Committee Member/BOD Rep.
Jim Kirsch – Committee Member
Emily Richards – Committee Member

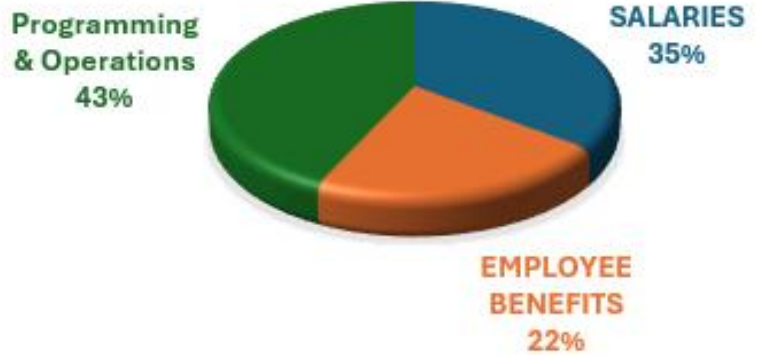
4-H Program Committee

Leo Vranich – Chairperson/BOD Rep.
Brian Bliss – Vice Chair
Louise Herrick – Secretary/BOD Rep.
Craig Hardie – Committee Member
Melissa Blaisdell – Committee Member
McKenna Broughton – Committee Member
Stella Glosser – Committee Member
Jared Day – Teen Rep.
Miranda Hoyt – Teen Rep.
Vera Cooper – Teen Rep.
Morgan Capen – Teen Rep.

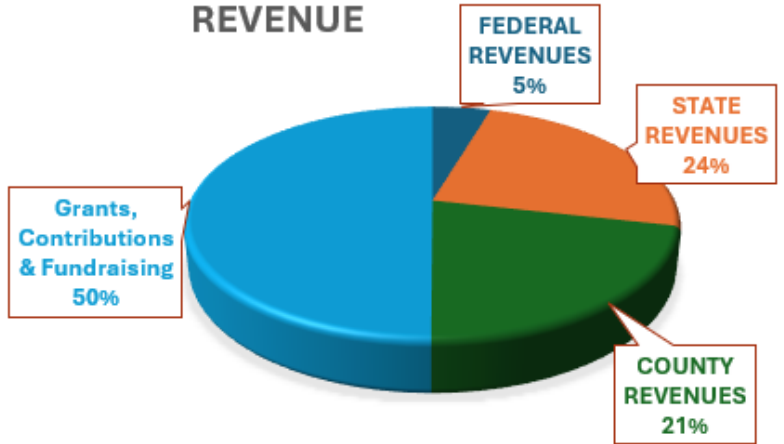
Nomination Committee

Leo Vranich – Chair
Kristen Hess – Committee Member
Louise Herrick – Committee Member
Brian Parker – Committee Member
Al Fagen – Committee Member

ANALYSIS OF 2025 EXPENSES



2025 PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE



Staff

Extension Staff



Caron Gala
Lead Executive Director



April Brown
Finance & Operations Coordinator



Alesia Ackerman
Sr. Administrative Assistant



Kathie Ricketson
Finance Assistant



Holly Harwood
4-H Program Manager



Sarah Clark
4-H Educator



Stephanie Czerniak
4-H Educator



Sarah Cox
4-H Educator



Donald Gasiewicz
Ag Program Manager



Laura Berkemeier
Communications Associate

Western Shared Business Network



Kimberly Amey
Lead HR Manager



Jody Finkle
Lead Finance Manager



Jennifer Matthews
Lead IT Manager



Christi Smith
Regional Support & Training Coordinator

NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team



Mike Stanyard
Field Crops & Team Leader



Nancy Glazier
Small Farms



David Bechtel
Field Support Specialist



John Hanchar
Farm Business



Margaret Quaassdorff
Dairy



Jodie Letham
Field Crops & Soils Specialist



Ashley Knapp
Administrative Assistant

Thank You, Wyoming County CCE Volunteers!

Andrew Ackerman
Carolyn Almeter
Annette Anderson
Douglas Anderson
Karen Baker
Shawn Baker
Laurie Bark
Carrie Bartholomew
Jeffrey Beardsley
Melissa Bennett-Frew
Janet Berkemeier
Melissa Blaisdell
Brian Bliss
Candace Bliss
Bonnie Bowman
Gary Bray
Sandra Brick
Stephen Brind'Amour
Abigail Broughton
McKenna Broughton
Pete Broughton
Sharon Brown
Payden Buchholz
Jamie Bucholtz
Melissa Burger
Laura Burkhardt
Megan Burley
Josh Carpenter
Katie Carpenter
Daniel Chasey
Joshua Church
Dale Clair
Joshua Clester
Randall Colopy
Lisa Conklin

Kristina Copeland
Larissa Cox
Stephen Cox
Lorri Crater
Farley Crow
Cara Crowe
Natalie Cummings
Kyle Dash
Ann Driver
Kelly Dryja
David Duboy
Karen Duboy
Eric Dziejcz
Emelyn Fagan
Ashley Fahey
Laura Feldman
Patrick Feldman
Karen Feustel
Jamie Flint
JoAnn Flynt
BreAnne Forti
Thomas Foss
Maureen Gardner
Cheryl George
Clarence George
Elizabeth George
Gabrielle Gerard
John W. Glenn
Stella Glosser
Deborah Green
Karen Green
Thomas Green
Charlotte Hamon
Amy Hardie
Craig Hardie

Jenny Harkins
Kelly Harris
Bernadette Harwood
Abby Hatch
Sara Hatch
Diana Henry
Warren Henry
Danielle Herrick
Louise Herrick
William Herrick
Cyndee Herrmann
Kristen Hess
Robin Hobin
Jamie Hoffman
Mindy Holland
Amy Hootman-Sterry
Gary Hume
Danielle Hurlburt
Jodi Jednat
Kathleen Jellison
Diane Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Shani Jones
Theresa Kelly
Sarah Kingdon
Jim Kirsch
Gillian Koerner
Hans & Leslie Kunze
Richard Lacey
Elaine Lemley
Gwen Lester

Thank You, Wyoming County CCE Volunteers!

Christine Logsdon
Ray Logsdon
Carolyn Lyons
Donna Mager
Michael Mancuso
Margaret McBride
Daryl McLaughlin
Elaine Meeder
Jennifer Mest
Kellie Milhollen
Trisha Morris-Kopinski
Joseph Neamon
Jonathan Nickerson
Sandra Noel
Jared Norton
Sara Norton
Jessica Olin
Justin Olin
Alicia Oyer
Andrew Paddock
Jillian Paddock
Nathan Paddock
Kathleen Parker
Adrienne Penders
Erin Perl
Rebekah Perl
Kelly Pettigrew
Roy Pettigrew
Mike Pfohl
Susan Randall
Derek Rechberger
Cory Reffner
Hollie Remington
Robert Ressler

Larissa Reynolds
Merle Robbins
Cassandra Roberts
Lisa Roberts
Lorraine Rocker
Denielle Romance
Alton Rudgers
Fran Rudgers
Jodi Rudgers
Marissa Rudgers
Yvonne Russell
Joan Sage
Wayne Sage
Kathryn Sammons
Corrie Sandefer
Diane Santora
Doreen Schenk
Tom Schultz
Velma Seewaldt
Janet Selby
Rachel Siewert
Robert Siewert
Victoria Silvernail
Bryan Smart
Debra Smith
Chris Smithgall
Emily Smithgall
Shirley Spencer
Brian Spicer
Cindy Starr
Cynthia Stewart
Gary Stone

Marleah Stout
Chloe Straw
Ashley Swyers
Kay Swyers
Helen Thomas
Rachel Towsley
Beth Turner
Suanne Tuttle
Sara Voss
Ashley Vranich
Leo Vranich
Christine Walton
Bryttany Ward
Kortney Webb
Jason Weixlmann
Crystal Westermeier
Elexius White
Kelly Wilcox
Julie Winters
Elizabeth Wolcott
Tina Wolcott
Reilly Wolfanger
Sally Woods
Amy Youngers
Scott Zielenieski
Deborah Zielonka



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