

**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 NWNV 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

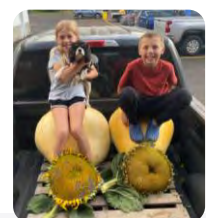


## Cooking & Food Prep

- **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 – **Chairman/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**

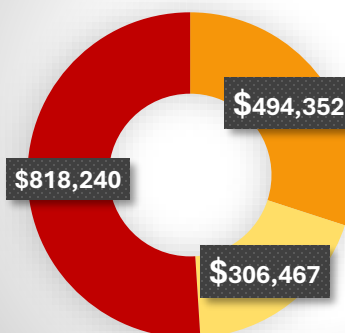
## 4-H Program Committee

Leo Vranich – **Chairperson/BOD Rep.**  
Brian Bliss – **Vice Chair**  
Louise Herrick – **Secretary/BOD Rep.**  
Craig Hardie – **Committee Member**  
Kristen Hess – **Committee Member**  
McKenna Broughton – **Committee Member**  
Lisa Roberts – **Committee Member**  
Jared Day – **Teen Rep.**  
Miranda Hoyt – **Teen Rep.**  
Peyton Mest – **Teen Rep.**  
Ashton Wilcox – **Teen Rep.**

## Nomination Committee

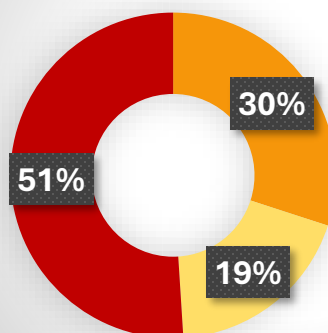
Leo Vranich – **Chair**  
Kristen Hess – **Committee Member**  
Louise Herrick – **Committee Member**  
Brian Parker – **Committee Member**  
Al Fagen – **Committee Member**

## Expenses



Salaries  
Employee Benefits  
Operations

## Expense Percentages



Salaries  
Employee Benefits  
Operations



## 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 Dziedzic  
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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