

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.

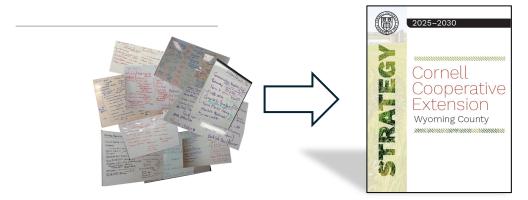
Adult education participation also grew, with 31 workshops and classes offered. Don provided consultations on various topics, from pest management to maple production. Additionally, the Master Gardener volunteer program expanded. Finally, with the support of Farm Bureau, CCE Wyoming worked together with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

CCE Wyoming County continues to work with NWNY 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: engagement, teamwork, collaborative leadership, and lifelong growth through partnerships that strengthen community bonds.

Promote youth





















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

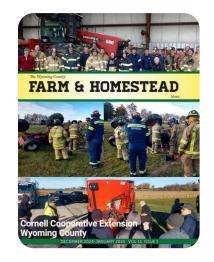
2025 Overview

- 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



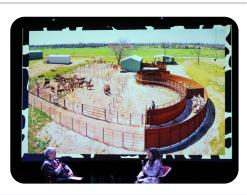
- 20 calls regarding Bee swarms
- 30 Beekeeper Club members with 5 meetings so far this year
- Fair booth volunteer coordination





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 Varity 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
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 Fagan - Committee Member

Staff

Extension Staff



Caron Gala
Lead Executive Director



April BrownFinance & Operations Coordinator



Alesia AckermanSr. Administrative Assistant



Kathie RicketsonFinance 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 SmithRegional Support & Training Coordinator

NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team



Mike StanyardField Crops & Team Leader



Nancy Glazier Small Farms



David BechtelField 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

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 Kellv Sarah Kingdon Jim Kirsch Gillian Koerner Hans & Leslie Kunze Richard Lacey Elaine Lemley Gwen Lester

Craig Hardie

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

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