



# 2012 Annual Report

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.*

Since September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chuck Brooks has proudly served as the Association Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. Chuck has appreciated your warm welcome and support as he learns about the work and culture of Cornell Cooperative Extension, as well as the many programs and services we provide to our community.

On January 1, 2012, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County were consolidated into one new association—Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. By working together, we will strengthen our operations as well as the programs and services to the residents of our service area. We expect that consolidation will enable us to:

- Sustain ourselves in the future and achieve financial stability by achieving the economies of a larger, more effective organization as well as working together to achieve greater success in securing competitive grants and contracts.
- To achieve positive outcomes of our programs and services in a variety of ways including through providing a better service delivery system, expanded programs, sharing administrative functions and costs, and greater visibility and influence resulting in increased effectiveness.

- To promote excellence by retaining and attracting talented staff, by providing opportunities for networking and staff development where employees can also contribute their ideas for a better organizational structure in response to changing conditions in the Cornell Cooperative Extension system.
- To develop a shared business strategy that helps to increase volume and/or capacity to serve, to reach new markets for our programs and services, and to increase the potential to raise financial support to strengthen our association activities and facilities.

We believe we have met all these expectations – and even more!

This spring we intend to complete a Long Range Strategic Plan that will develop a vision for the future for our association. We will identify the steps needed to achieve success in the goals and objectives for our programs

and services to the residents of our service area including Agriculture and Food Systems; Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change; 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families; Nutrition, Food Safety and Security; and Community and Economic Vitality.

Our staff are here to educate, to share the success of research studies, to use their training and experience to improve the lives of the people they work with – and, to create stories in the hearts of our youth and adults that will last a lifetime. No matter how our organization changes in the future we can never change our history and the stories and traditions that will continue to remain with us. We can only move forward and create new stories in the hearts of adults and children just as Extension in NYS has done for over 100 years.

Thank you for your commitment and support of our association for the past year. We know we will be able to count on you all for the future.



James Story, Jr.,  
Board President



Charles M. Brooks,  
Executive Director