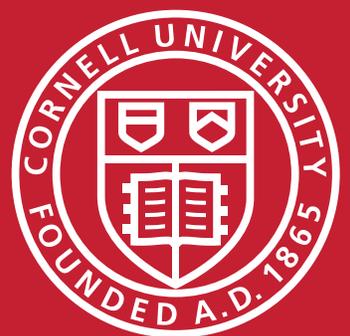




# Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia and Greene Counties

## 2019 Annual Report



2019 was a year of recalibration for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. Having completed a comprehensive needs assessment, our Board of Directors made a decision to maintain the existing leadership. With that decision our focus was largely on restructuring and refocusing our resources in order to, more broadly, reach underserved communities, and address current and emerging needs of Columbia County and Greene County.

We are proud to partner with our board members and many community volunteers, as well as our funding partners – governmental, not-for-profit organizations, charitable foundations, private interest groups, program participants and other donors -- in building a vibrant and sustainable environment within our communities. As we have done for the past 103 years, we continue to provide research-based programs and demonstrations intended to improve the lives of the people in our counties. These initiatives are designed to protect and enhance our environment, quality of life, health and safety, youth development, economic vitality and sustainable agriculture. Naturally, none of our accomplishments would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our superb team of educators and support staff.

This report provides a look back to 2019 and highlights some of the accomplishments of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. We hope you will enjoy the report and thank you for your interest and continued support. I look forward to working with you in 2020.



Evon Antonio  
Executive Director

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 Angela Tallarico.....Senior Administrator  
 Tracey Testo.....Environmental & Natural Resources  
 Linda Tripp.....Issue Leader, 4-H Youth Development  
 Emily Warrington.....Administrative Assistant  
 Eileen West.....Parenting  
 Kelsey West.....Environmental & Natural Resources  
 Connor Young.....Team Leader, Environmental & Natural Resources



# 4-H and Youth Development

4-H is a worldwide youth development program available in every state and over eight countries. It is open to all youth ages 5-to-19 who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or “experiential” learning about things that interest them. 4-H is seen as a leader in our twin-county area that provides opportunities for young people to learn about aspects of the agriculture industry on a spectrum - from dabbling to immersion. From hands-on learning with animals to veterinary science to STEM topics like robotics as well as gardening, agroforestry, and healthy living, the topics are endless.

## 90 Years Celebratory Events



### 4-H 90th Anniversary Dinner

Over 100 guests filled the Churchtown Fire Company Hall on October 26 for this celebratory dinner. Eighty local businesses and individuals helped to make this happen by donating funds, resources and their time. It was an opportunity for 4-H alumni, past and current 4-H leaders, and local partners and sponsors to come together for some 4-H reminiscence, recognition and revelry.



### “4-H Over 90 Years” Art Show

An opening reception was held on October 10 for this 4-H art show at the Kaaterskill Gallery at C-GCC. After 4-H teen leaders were trained by artists at the Woodstock School of Art, over 75 local 4-H members created their own prints made from linoleum and foam cuts.



### Ag Day 2019

Columbia Greene Community college and CCE were co-sponsors of this free, family-friendly event held on June 1 at C-GCC. This 4-H and agriculture-related event recognized and celebrated the abundance provided by agriculture in our twin counties as well as the breadth of 4-H opportunities where kids can explore not only agriculture but also science, expressive arts, our environment and healthy living.

## Local Programming

Over  
**250**  
Volunteers

The strength of the 4-H Program lies in its volunteer adult and teen leaders, who are energetic, enthusiastic, and dedicated to helping young people. Volunteers not only support the 4-H club program but also support our community programs by teaching, organizing, and promoting the educational outreach initiated through 4-H.



## 4-H Club Programming



Our 4-H Club Program provides families with the most intensive, long-term opportunity to participate in Cooperative Extension youth programming. The 380+ members in our 35 4-H clubs have the opportunity to be involved in local, regional, state, and national 4-H events and activities. Over 250 volunteers have helped to enhance 4-H experiences for youth. Enrolled volunteers are vetted and trained to lead 4-H clubs. Many others support the 4-H activities as chaperones, drivers, evaluators, fundraisers and teachers.

**35**  
4-H Clubs

## Community Youth Education Programs

Over  
**3,000**  
Youth

Community Youth Education Programs take place at libraries, community centers, after-school programs, summer recreation sites and in schools. Over 150 programs and trainings took place in 2019, each averaging six hours of education, reaching school-aged youth participating at sites throughout the two counties. Over 3,000 youth were provided the opportunities to see, feel, touch, hear and do – where their active involvement in groups of twelve or less led to every child taking home new knowledge and enthusiasm for the topic. The most requested programs this year included: incubation and embryology, school gardening, monarch butterflies, and environmental awareness.



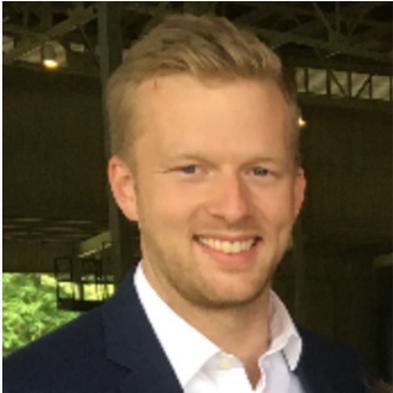
Interested in joining 4-H? Reach out to Linda Tripp at [Ike2@cornell.edu](mailto:Ike2@cornell.edu) for info. on youth becoming a 4-H member as well as for adults who would like to start a 4-H club.



# Environment and Natural Resources



In February 2019, Marilyn Wyman retired after 27 years of dedicated service to CCE and the community. She passed the leadership torch to Connor Young as the new Environment & Natural Resources Team Leader. With Marilyn’s legacy as a foundation guide, Connor and the ENR team have focused on building momentum toward a successful year and sustainable vision for 2020.



One pillar of the ENR program is to provide leadership and expertise through professional and community partnerships. Many of the issues facing Columbia and Greene Counties are landscape level challenges and working with partners towards common solutions is the most effective approach. In 2019, the ENR team has worked alongside 40 partners, engaged 3000 people directly and reached over 10,000 through the new Forestry Friday social media.

# 3,000

Direct Engagements

## Agroforestry



Agroforestry is a longstanding focus area for the ENR program one that continues to expand. The programs offered this year include wild-simulated ginseng workshops, spring and fall foraging, shiitake & other mushroom production, and maple management. The ENR staff collaborated with a colleague at Cornell University to launch the Agroforestry Program Work Team. This is a group of dedicated professionals in the CCE network who focus on furthering the field through identification of educational need and advancing the research and practices for NYS forest farmers. The ENR team also partnered with the Cornell Small Farms program. Staff have offered progressive agroforestry curriculum in other counties and will be presenting at the annual Maple Conference in Syracuse in January.



## Watershed Resiliency Program

Watershed Resiliency 2019 project: This ongoing contract included the creation of Road-Stream Crossing Management Plan for the town of Catskill. The management plan completed for Cairo in 2018 was also formally adopted by the town this year. Our team worked to complete culvert assessments town-wide and compile the data in an inventory document. The management plan consists of the inventory and describes priority replacement projects with supporting resource information.



## Hudson River Eel Project

Hudson River Eel Project experienced an incredible record breaking year of glass eels caught, counted and released in the Hannacroix creek. CCE-CG coordinates this site, which is one of 13 on tributaries up the Hudson River to monitor American Eel populations. This monitoring is done every day with the help of dedicated volunteers from March through May. The American eel, a migratory fish, is born in the Atlantic Ocean and enters North American estuaries, including the Hudson River, as tiny, see-through "glass eels" each spring. The species is in decline over much of its range, and studies, like this are crucial for management decisions.



## Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer

AVID is a method for foresters, volunteers, landowners and others to Assess the Vegetation Impacts from Deer. Field data collected by individuals and organizations across New York State will be used to track tree, shrub and wildflower response to deer browsing over time. Knowledge of how deer impacts change through time will help guide deer management decisions at local and state levels. CCCE-CG, in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, has engaged and trained local and regional partners to implement AVID statewide. CCE-CG provided 4 trainings in 2019 and will continue to do so in the coming years.

## Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program

In 2019, there were 21 Woods Walk Requests to the Master Forest Owner program across Columbia & Greene Counties. Regionally, we received and processed 59 visit requests across 12 counties. Every year, MFO volunteers gather for an annual training called "Stay Sharp". This year, over 20 attended at the Agroforestry Resource Center and 30 attended the public portion on healthy forest management. 2019 also marked an innovative effort to better serve the wide area we cover. Since woodland owners experience different challenges and might have different goals depending on where they're located, we also hosted 4 regional trainings so that the volunteers and landowners could meet and discuss issues pertinent to their areas. These were located at model forests similar to our own Siuslaw Model Forest or at other conserved working forest properties.





## Catskill Creek Watershed Project

The Catskill Creek Watershed Awareness Project (CCWAP) was started by Cornell Cooperative Extension in 2008 with support from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program. CCWAP has a mission "to foster appreciation and understanding of the Catskill Creek Watershed through outreach to regional stakeholders to promote protection, conservation and stewardship of our natural environment for the benefit of all."

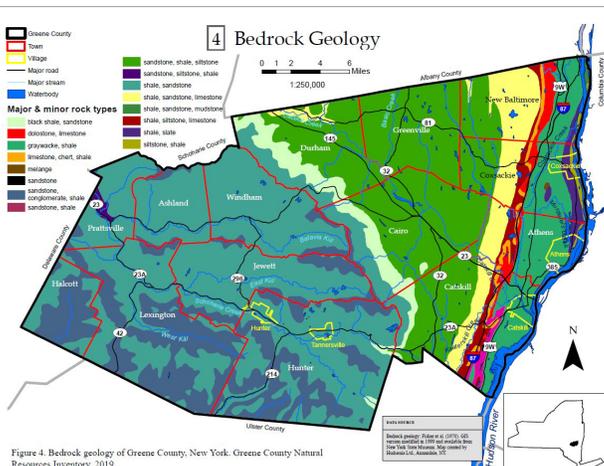
## Women Owning Woods (WOW)

In 2019, ENR partnered with the Watershed Agricultural Council and Columbia Land Conservancy to help launch their new program called Women Owning Woods (WOW). The program brings a wide community of women forest landowners together for collaborative peer-to-peer education, experience sharing and work days. An initial survey conducted had an incredible response and the first meeting was hosted at the Agroforestry Resource Center and Siuslaw Model Forest. The group was taken through a ginseng planting, invasive species removal project, and a host of round table discussions.

## Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

In 2019, the ENR team and 4-H Natural Resources Educator developed a program for teens to become Invasive Species Ambassadors. These students were given a stipend and were provided year-long training on invasive species, public speaking, education and outreach. The students then used these skills to deliver the important information on invasives to their classrooms, communities and county fairs. The first cohort of students completed the program in August and the second cohort is being selected now for the 2020 season.

## Natural Resources Inventory for Greene County



Greene County, NY, is rich with forests, streams, wetlands, grasslands and shorelines that are habitat for abundant fish and wildlife. In an effort to recognize and encourage conservation of these valuable assets, the Greene Land Trust, Hudsonia, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties have developed a Greene County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). The NRI is a reference for landowners, municipal agencies, and land managers throughout the county, presenting clear, easy-to-read information about land, water, wildlife, and other resources, as well as guidance on conserving these natural assets in the future.



# Community Horticulture



## State Recognition

The Master Gardener Volunteers earned recognition from Columbia County Environmental Management Council with the 2019 Good Eathkeeping Award. This award led to the receipt of a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Daphne Jordan's office. The New York Senate thanked the volunteers for their efforts to make real and lasting contributions to the preservation and improvement of our local environment.

# Over 6,000 Volunteer Hours

## Community Engagement

The MGV's have contributed over 6000 volunteer hours this year. Reaching out to both Columbia and Greene communities by conducting programs at local schools, garden clubs, local libraries and senior clubs. Standalone programs at the Greene County Youth Fair and Columbia County Fair reached many of our local community members.



## Annual Spring Gardening Day

Our Annual Spring Gardening Day has become a "must attend" event selling out weeks before the program date. Key Note speaker Margaret Roach, 17 classes in three sessions, the addition of vendors and a Silent Auction along with homemade goodies to eat, registrants attending gave rave reviews.

## Digging In With the Master Gardeners



A new program taking flight this year is a local Radio program on WXGC 90.7 fm done by our Master Gardener Volunteers. Called "Digging In With the Master Gardeners", they discuss a wide array of gardening subjects. Listen in at 7pm on the first and third Tuesday evenings or download their pod cast or simply go to our website to listen to an informative as well as entertaining program.

# Family and Consumer Sciences

The Nutrition, Food Safety, and Security program and the Community and Economic Vitality programs have joined together to become the Family and Consumer Sciences program. We will provide the same great programming we always have, but expect to see even more in the future!

## Parenting Programs



### In-home Parenting Program

The In-home Parenting Program is funded through a contract with the Greene County Department of Social Services. This program provides free, in-home parenting lessons to families exclusively referred by the Greene County Department of Social Services. During 2019, it reached 58 families. It is funded to continue in 2020.



### The Parenting Skills Classes

The Parenting Skills Classes are also funded through a contract with the Greene County Department of Social Services. The program is a series of sixteen parenting classes held at the Greene County Department of Social Services. They are free and open to the public. During 2019, they reached 8 families.



### The Parenting with Confidence Program

The Parenting with Confidence Program is funded through a grant with the Dyson Foundation. This program provides a free series of 6-10 classes to community organizations that serve families considered at-risk of abuse and/or neglect. The community organizations can also make referrals for in-home classes for families that would benefit more from an individualized approach. During 2019, this program reached 100 people.

# Nutrition Programs



## Hudson River Fish Advisory Program

The Hudson River Fish Advisory program is funded through a contract with CCE Dutchess. The program allowed us to present a free nutrition education program at community organizations. In addition to the provided nutrition lesson, the participants also received information on what fish are safe to eat from the Hudson River and its estuaries, and were administered a brief survey about their fishing habits. During 2019, it reached 259 people. It is funded through June of 2021.



## Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program

We have contracted with St. Peters Health Partners on the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities program. Under this contract, we are coordinating the community effort for the Hudson City School District, with the goal of improving the health of community members. This includes efforts in worksite wellness, improving access to healthy foods, and complete streets. This was the fourth year of a five year grant.



## Healthy Seasonal Cooking Classes

Through a grant with the Greene County Rural Health Network, we provided healthy, seasonal cooking classes throughout Greene County. Classes were held at community locations from Tannersville to Athens, and everywhere in-between. During 2019, this program reached 82 people.

## Anger Management



New this year, we offered anger management classes taught by a certified anger management specialist. Classes were offered in twelve week cycles, with three cycles held in 2019. We reached 23 individuals.

Over  
**259**  
People Received  
**Nutrition**  
Education

The Family and Consumer Sciences program area offered workshops on Money Management, Consumer Education, and Housing topics. These workshops occurred at community locations throughout Columbia and Greene Counties. During 2019, they reached 605 people.

## Landlord/Tenant Right's Forum

The Columbia County Housing Advisory Board's Landlord/Tenant Right's Forum held March 27 at the Hudson High School Library attracted 25 attendees from the general public and various housing agencies. The panel, moderated by the HAB chair and CCE, featured speakers from Legal Aid Society Northeastern NY, Central Office Housing Assistance, Columbia County Office for Aging, Columbia County Department of Health and Columbia County Fair Housing Office.



## Interagency Awareness Day



CCE also co-chaired the fifth Interagency Awareness Day. Held on May 22, 2019, the Fifth Columbia & Greene Interagency Awareness Day brought together nearly 60 health and human services agencies, groups and organizations and 200 frontline professionals that serve residents in both counties. The primary goals of this half-day event were to raise awareness, foster collaboration and improve the quality of service that all of these entities provide to those residents.

## Elder Abuse Prevention & Education Task Force



CCE Columbia & Greene Counties, with Common Ground Dispute Resolution as the lead, received a grant for the Elder Abuse Prevention & Education Task Force of Columbia & Greene Counties to offer Shedding Light on Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation educational outreach fairs this past summer. A speaker from St. Peter's Health Partners Violence Prevention division gave a short talk about combatting bullying at the following locations: Cairo Public Library, Catskill Community Center, Roe Jan Community Library, New Lebanon Library and Hudson Area Library. Vendors from the NYS Attorney General's Office, Columbia County Sheriff Department, Legal Aid Society, Columbia County Office for Aging, Greene County Department for Aging, Albany Medical Center, Health Care Consortium, Common Ground, CCE and many others participated in at least one of more of these locations, sharing information about the programs and services they provide to seniors and their adult caregivers.



The Taste NY Market at the Capital Region Welcome Center (CRWC) is a versatile marketplace featuring a wide variety of foods, beverages, textiles, and artisanal goods all grown and processed in New York State. Under the management of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties, the Market opened on November 19, 2018 and has shown tremendous growth and popularity amongst customers. The Market shares space with the Welcome Center, which features; educational kiosks, a historical artifact wall, musical playground, tourism videos and brochures, and several spots for photo opportunities.

The purpose of the Taste NY program is to provide an accessible platform for local farm and food products in a market setting. While giving more exposure to producers we are also conducting research to determine strategies to:

- improve agri-business performance;
- better agri-business management and marketing practices;
- provide training in agricultural marketing practices;
- promote agro-tourism and the importance of “buying local” to consumers; and
- provide education, training and certification opportunities for farmers interested in placing products in the Taste NY Market.



## CAPITAL REGION WELCOME CENTER

Beneficiaries of this project are both the consumers who visit the store and producers who provide their products to the store. Tourists and consumers are exposed and introduced to the Capital Region via local farms, producers, restaurants, and activities while all showcasing the vast selection NYS has to offer.

Because of CCE Columbia & Greene Counties' connection to Taste NY and the Department of Agriculture & Markets, we have the opportunity to participate in the Congressional Agriculture Committee with Congressman Antonio Delgado. Being part of the committee has allowed for additional connections to the agriculture community, along with staying informed on important political, economic, and social issues affecting NYS agriculture.



# Regional Programs

## The Capital Area Agricultural and Horticultural Program

This Cornell Cooperative Extension program provides agricultural and horticultural education through workshops, newsletters and consultations utilizing traditional and electronic means. Counties included in the program are: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Washington. The primary program areas are:

- Market Development
- Business Management and Analysis
- Soils and Field Crops
- Nursery/Greenhouse Crop Production
- Pasture Management
- Applied Research
- Dairy Farm Business Summary
- Pesticide Recertification
- Beginning and Small Farmers
- Cut Flower Farming Operations

### Helping Residents to Start a Successful Farm Business

Individuals continue to contact Cooperative Extension for technical assistance to start a farm business. While direct contact is valuable, more sustained education is needed. A six-week workshop series was developed to provide those who desire to start a farm business a solid foundation. At the conclusion, participants stated they felt more confident about making decisions to start a farm business.

The Capital Area Agricultural and Horticultural Program Educators offer one-day workshops to aspiring farmers. The workshop highlights some areas that a person should be aware of prior to starting a farm business. Attendees have mentioned though while the one-day workshop is good, more in-depth education would be appreciated.

For more information [albany.cce.cornell.edu/agriculture/capital-area-agriculture-and-horticulture-program](http://albany.cce.cornell.edu/agriculture/capital-area-agriculture-and-horticulture-program).

### New Pastured Hog Production Meeting

This event appealed to diversified farmers who wish to produce grass-fed pork. The meeting was hosted by Kinderhook Farm, an Animal Welfare Approved diversified livestock operation, raising hogs, sheep, beef, layers, and broilers, all on pasture. Kinderhook Farm's hogs are of different breeds, always have access to both wooded and grassy areas outdoors, and are marketed at their on-farm store, through meat shares, and by the whole animal. All these aspects of raising and self-marketing grass-fed pork were of great interest to the meeting participants.

### Animal Regulation Issues for Local Governments,

A two hour long, multi-site presentation provided information and resources available to local governments as they investigate issues related to enacting regulations for agriculture and animal ownership.

With urban farming trends and more consumers concerned about their food sources, animals have infiltrated villages, towns and cities. CAAHP addressed these issues with an eye to assisting local governments with issues involving backyard farming and animal regulations.

# The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture

The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture is one of the premier regional agricultural Cornell Cooperative Extension programs in New York, serving a large multi-county area in the Champlain Valley, Capital Region and Hudson Valley of the state. The team's Specialists work together with Cornell faculty and extension educators statewide to address the issues that impact the vegetable, tree fruit, small fruit and grape industries. The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program provides educational programs and information to growers and agri-business professionals, arming them with the knowledge to profitably produce and market safe and healthful horticultural crops, contributing to the viability of farms and the economic wellbeing of New York State. Specifically, our program focuses on food safety, variety evaluation, market development, pest management, and cultural practices.

Growers and agri-business professionals must enroll in the program to benefit from many of our educational offerings including our newsletter, direct mailings, and pest alerts.

The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program is supported, in part, by 17 county Cornell Cooperative Extensions in the Capital Region of New York: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Orange, Montgomery, Putnam, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Ulster, Warren and Washington Counties.

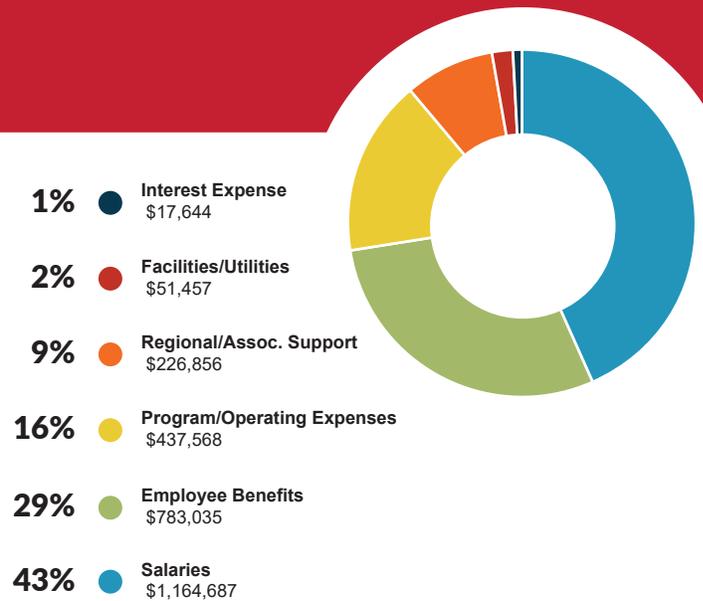
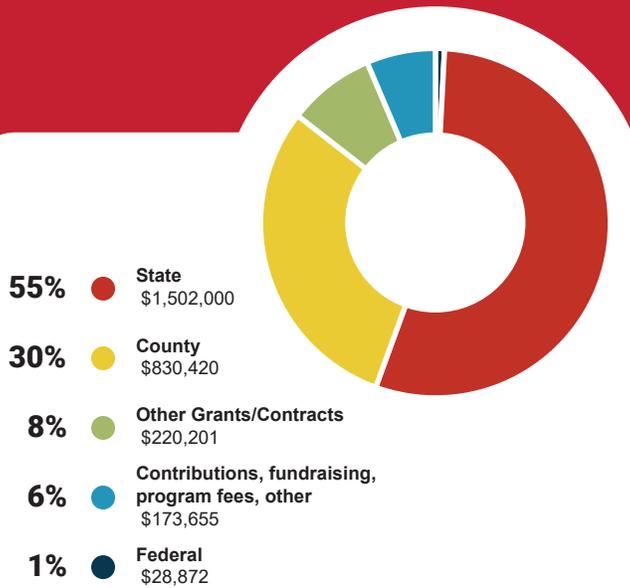
For more information [enych.cce.cornell.edu/about\\_program.php](http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/about_program.php).



# Finances

## Financial Income Sources

## 2019 Expenditures



## 2019 Financial Supporters

### \$1,000+

Bank of Greene County's Charitable Foundation  
Willow Springs Charitable Trust  
Farm Credit East ACA

### \$500+

Sydney & Evon Antonio  
Cricket Hill Farm, Inc.  
Joshua Lipsman & Jonathan Sorge  
Madsen Overhead Doors  
MerchNow  
Michael McCrary  
Rotary Club of Catskill  
Robin & Martin Smith  
Whitbeck Benedict & Smith LLP  
Tractor Supply, Inc.—Hudson

### \$250+

Bryant Nutrition PLLC  
Carolina Eastern-Vail, Inc.  
The Chatham Berry Farm  
Ed Herrington, Inc.  
Five Guys Burgers and Fries  
Fix Brothers Fruit Farm  
Gallagher's STUD

### \$250+ con't

William Gellert  
Dr. Deana Greer  
Herrington Fuels, Inc.  
Jill Porter  
Living Structures Realty  
Long Energy  
National Bank of Coxsackie

### \$100+

Oakencroft Equine Veterinary Assoc.  
Shook Insurance Agency  
Talco Service Plumbing & Heating  
Helmedach & Young, Inc.  
Sawyer Chevrolet, Inc.  
Frisbee Agency  
Santo Associates, Land Surveying & Engineering PC  
Linda & Robert Levitt  
Walter Thompson

\$100+ donations made January 1, 2019 through October 1, 2019



Agroforestry Resource Center  
6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405  
(518) 622-9820



Extension Education Center  
479 Route 66, Hudson, NY 12354  
(518) 828-3346

## Mission

Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia and Greene Counties puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping Columbia and Greene County families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

CCE Columbia and Greene Counties is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

## Connect with us

Website: [ccecolumbiagreene.org](http://ccecolumbiagreene.org)

Email: [columbiagreene@cornell.edu](mailto:columbiagreene@cornell.edu)



@CCEColumbiaGreene



@ccecgc

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

