



ANNUAL REPORT

2013



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Niagara County

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Impacting Children, Youth and Families

The 4-H Youth Development Program is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Through America's 109 land-grant universities and its Cooperative Extension System, 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth organization reaching over 6 million youth members each year.

Our program, offered to youth ages 5-19, assists participants in building character, developing life skills and incorporating positive changes into their daily lives.

4-H fosters an innovative, "learn by doing" approach that has proven results. Using research-based programming, that infuses high-quality positive youth development principles, 4-H youth get the hands-on, real-world experience they need to become leaders and to make positive differences in their communities. 4-H youth are supported by a network of adults who provide opportunities to explore and learn in a variety of different settings.

In 2013 over 3000 youth across Niagara County took part in programs offered by the 4-H Youth Development Program, including: Public Presentations; Animal Science (Beef, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, Rabbits, Cavy, Poultry, Sheep, Swine, and Equine); Niagara County Legislative Interns; Independent Living Skills; Environmental Education; Clothing & Textiles; Leadership Skills; Community Service Projects; 4-H Summer Day Camp; Niagara County Fair and New York State Fair.

4-H Day Camp

Each summer, our 4-H Day Camp offers four weeks of hands-on, experiential learning activities to youth in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Campers participate in fun, hands-on activities designed by Cornell University and 4-H National to enhance learning each day. Youth participants are involved in daily classes in science, nutrition and garden based learning. Additionally, the youth participate in structured physical activities as well as a variety of arts and crafts. In 2013, 50 youth explored a variety of topics including, holiday crafts, Glo-germ demonstrations, Tasting Passport, planting flowers, identifying insects, egg in a bottle experiment, and bird identification. Campers and parents alike have enjoyed everything they have learned at camp this summer.



“Ready, Set, Grow”, funded by the Zontas of Lockport, provided 12 youth an opportunity to learn about basic gardening, plants, insects and other “friends of the garden”. Each class the youth planted a seed, bulb, or transplanted a plant, made a craft and had a snack.



“Talking Trash” funded by the Niagara Area Foundation provided environmental education focusing on reuse, recycle, and reduce to nearly 7000 youth/families in Niagara County. Extension Community Educators visited local schools, fairs, after school programming and special events throughout Niagara County using a landfill and recycling model to show the youth alternative uses for our waste.



Capital Days

Cassie Travers and Brandon Alt participated in the Annual 4-H Capital Days in Albany in March. 4-H Capital Days gives youth an opportunity to meet and interact with legislators, tell their 4-H story, create an awareness of career opportunities in New York State government, better understand state government, and network with delegates from other counties. During their visit they had breakfast with Senator Maziarz to discuss all the things 4-H has to offer youth in our county and ask him about his work in Albany.

Youth Civic Engagement

Participating youth work with adults to contribute to their communities and gain understanding of their roles in civic affairs. Helping youth to take positive action in their community grows the confidence needed for youth to take responsibility and leadership. When youth are seen as a resource, communities gain vitality, resourceful solutions, a future active/informed citizen and pride. Research confirms that 4-H youth are more civically active and contribute more to their community than youth in other out-of-school time activities.

Legislative Intern Program

This school-year long program is an opportunity available to high school juniors and seniors living and attending schools in Niagara County. Students are matched with local government officials to discover firsthand how government works. Guest speakers, independent projects, seminars, legislative meetings, committee meetings, public hearing and possible field trips during one semester of the school year provide additional information. Students successfully completing the government intern program may receive academic credit and some schools award (12th grade) a "Participation in Government" credit.



4-H Projects

4-H project work helps youth explore interests from animal science to nutrition, resulting in increased interest in science at a rate three times that of non-4-H peers. Interest in science is a predictor for young people to choose science-related careers. This interest in science, along with 4-H members' 70% greater likelihood to go to college than youth participating in other out-of-school programs, is helping grow future scientists necessary for our state, national, and global economy. (Lerner and Lerner, Wave 6)

"Day Camp is so much fun! The activity stations are not too short and not too long. We learn about science, nutrition and plants. We make crafts, play outside, make projects for community service and act out a weekly play. There so is much to do at 4-H Day Camp." Nick, age 9

"I love 4-H! I learn about science, eating healthy, make crafts, and get to see my friends. It is so much fun!" Haley, age 8

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Lake Ontario Fruit Team

The Lake Ontario Fruit Team (“LOFT”) partners with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Wayne, Orleans, Niagara, Monroe, and Oswego Counties, Cornell University Cooperative Extension and faculty to provide educational programs for the commercial fruit industry, using research-based information to help the tree fruit and berry industries in New York compete in the world market and provide safe, high-quality produce for consumers.

LOFT’s primary objectives include:

- Maintaining competitiveness and profitability of NY fruit farms in a global market.
- Evaluating new technology for potential increases in efficiency through applied research.
- Assisting in the adoption and implementation of appropriate technologies.
- Reducing financial, legal, labor, environmental, and health risks.
- Improving production and delivery of high quality fruit to consumers.



Lake Erie Regional Grape

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program continues to make impacts on the growers and agri-business professionals of the grape industry of the entire Lake Erie region. In addition, the team has ongoing, farther reaching impacts on the consumers of Lake Erie Region grown grapes and the economy of the region. There are approximately 30,000 acres of vineyard in the Lake Erie region of New York and Pennsylvania grown on 840 farms, making this the largest grape growing region outside of California. Of this acreage, 98.5% consists of Labrusca (American Grape) varieties such as ‘Concord’ and ‘Niagara’ which are used for juice, jam and other fresh or fermented products.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program consists of Extension Educators and research faculty/staff from Cornell University and Penn State University devoted to projects aimed at increasing yields, product quality, diversity and improvement of cultivars, efficiency of production, profitability and adoption of environmentally sound pest management strategies. The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is supported, in part, by five county Cornell Cooperative Extensions including: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara Counties in New York and Erie County in Pennsylvania.

Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP)

The Cornell Vegetable Program serves 11 counties with 1,017 vegetable farms on 90,662 acres, with an estimated farm gate value of more than \$250 million. This region accounts for more than half the acres of the entire New York vegetable industry. The Veg Team covers the following key areas: Pest Management, Food Safety, Soil Health, Variety Evaluation, Market Development and Cultural Practices. Below are a few highlights from 2013:

- The CVP team made more than 2,900 farm visits and crop consultations.
- CVP specialists organized and participated in over 75 educational meetings with more than 3,200 attendees.
- CVP hosted field days and educational meetings accounted for over 40 DEC pesticide recertification credits.
- The CVP team managed 45 grant and industry funded projects with awards totaling nearly \$800,000.
- The CVP website has been visited by 9,705 NYS residents from 441 New York cities.
- Twenty-eight issues of the award-winning newsletter, Veg Edge, were produced by the CVP team, a timely and trusted resource for making pest management and production decisions for growers in Western New York.



NWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND FIELD CROPS TEAM

Through educational programs and opportunities, the NWNY Team members seek to build producers' capacities to enhance the profitability of their businesses; practice environmental stewardship; enhance employee and family well-being via safe work environment; provide safe, healthful agricultural products; and provide leadership for enhancing relationships among the agricultural sector, neighbors and the general public. Here are highlights of the NWNY programming in 2013:

Soybean TAg Team:

Eight soybean producers with 1200 acres of soybeans in Niagara County learned how to most effectively plant, grow and protect their soybean crop. Ten hours of in-field and classroom sessions covered IPM practices and crop production opportunities with a focus on weed, disease, and insect pest sampling and management. The producers increased their pre- (56%) to post- (78%) test knowledge scores by an average of 22% as a whole. All agreed that they would highly recommend this program to other soybean producers.

Malting Barley:

The NWNY Team has taken the lead in the state-wide Extension effort to help farmers grow malting barley. Currently 2,000-3,000 acres are planted for the 2014 growing season with much of this acreage in the NWNY region. Long-term between 15,000 and 20,000 acres of malting barley will be grown state-wide to supply local malting, brewing, and distilling businesses. Malting barley is valued at \$10-12 per bushel. Long-term winter barley yields are 80 bushels/acre, spring barley yields are 40 bushels/acre, and 75% of the acres are winter barley varieties. The malting barley market value will likely exceed \$16 million/year to New York farmers long-term.

On-Farm Research:

Winter triticale is currently grown on over 20,000 acres statewide (>10,000 acres in NWNY). The additional 2-3 dry tons/acre of triticale silage from these crops, valued at \$150/dry ton, represents an additionally \$8 million worth of feed to the dairy industry state-wide. In response, the NWNY Team has engaged in on-farm research to determine optimal nitrogen fertilizer rates and practices to improve forage quality to maximize the value of this new forage at 30 on-farm locations. Additionally, on-farm research trials have occurred at 30 additional farms focused on other topics.

Crop Alert:

Weekly "Crop Alert" bulletins were sent by email to over 650 members of the agricultural industry in the NWNY region. These Crop Alerts addressed many in-season questions concerning the management of insects, diseases, fertilizer, weeds, harvest timing, and grain/forage quality in corn, soybean, small grains, alfalfa, grass, and pasture crops. Generally, the management recommendations dealt with issues where hundreds and even thousands of dollars were at stake on a weekly basis.

Hispanic Employee Management Discussion Group:

In response to the requests from dairy managers, a discussion group was organized to provide them with dairy-specific Spanish language instruction. It also served as a forum for managers to learn about the cultures of the countries where their Spanish-speaking employees are from. Some highlights were visiting a dairy in Niagara County to learn about their approach to employee management and watching a number of documentaries about the immigrant experience.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

CONTINUED

Food Systems have become a key focus when addressing agricultural economic development and food access. There are many aspects of a food system beginning with the seeds being planted to the disposal of food waste. Cornell Cooperative Extension has taken an overarching approach to food system development with an emphasis on the following programs and projects:

- **Ready to Grow Food Hub Planning Project** – CCE Niagara is an outreach partner on this project. We will be assisting Field & Fork Network in doing outreach to the growing community as part of their production assessment in the 5 county region (Niagara, Erie, Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming). The objective of this initiative is to best determine the feasibility of a food hub and what type of business would best suit the needs of our small growers in connecting them with more wholesale marketing opportunities.
- **Farm to School** – CCE Niagara is a collaborating partner on a regional effort to build capacity for ongoing farm to school efforts. The goal is to share best practices across a three county region (Niagara, Erie, & Chautauqua) incorporating 3 anchor school districts (one in each county-Wilson Central School District represents Niagara) as the lead in working with other districts in the county. Some best practices being shared include: small batch food processing, grower communications, and integrating farm to school into the educational curriculum. Additionally, there will be a website created as a clearinghouse for all information related to farm to school efforts going on across the region.
- **Food & Ag Business Incubator** – Food business entrepreneurs and value-added production is a growing area of the agriculture economy. However, there are very few outlets in our region where farmers and burgeoning entrepreneurs can get access to information, services, and facilities to assist with the development of their business. CCE Niagara is looking at how to utilize its existing assets to best meet the needs of this growing market segment.



4-H Judging – Chef John French judging cakes – courtesy of Edible Buffalo

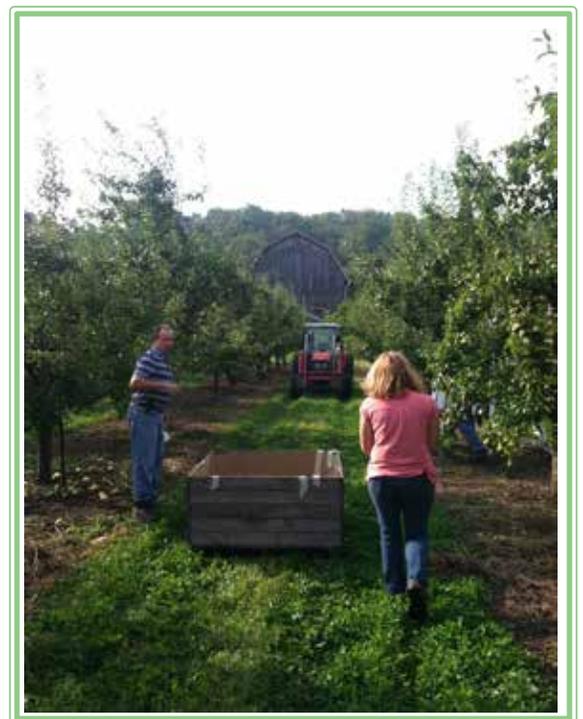




- **Agri-Tourism** - CCE Niagara and Niagara County Farm Bureau released their second iteration of the Pick Niagara! U-pick map this year. This popular resource encourages visitors from near and far to take advantage of and enjoy our agricultural bounty in the best possible way; on the farm and in the fields and orchards.
- **Healthy Foods, Healthy People Coalition** – Niagara County is plagued with many adverse health statistics that have meaningful long-term impacts on the health of our residents across urban and rural areas. There are many contributing factors, some too complex to address on our own. Through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CCE Niagara is one of the founding members of a new coalition that aims to address the challenges in our community that are adversely affecting health outcomes. With a focus on policy, the coalition’s goal is to reverse these trends and have meaningful long-term impact on the behaviors that affect the health of our residents.
- **Food Safety & the Food System Enhanced GAP Training Program** – Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) are becoming an essential part of a farm’s business acumen when selling to retailers and institutional markets. Good Agricultural Practices are designed to mitigate risks at the farm level that affect food safety. More and more food buyers in the wholesale market are requiring farms to be GAP certified. CCE Niagara is collaborating with 4 other counties to development an enhanced GAP training program that would assist farmers throughout the certification process and help identify and expand their sales opportunities.



Julie Blackman in orchard with auditor during Harmonized GAP audit and Blackman Homestead Farm apple u-pick bags - courtesy of Edible Buffalo



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

CONTINUED

HORTICULTURE



The horticulture program provides the latest research based information to a diverse audience including home gardeners, professional horticulture businesses, municipalities and schools.

More than 2300 individuals contacted Cornell Cooperative Extension for horticultural information via phone calls and office visits in 2013. The majority of these direct contacts were for problem diagnosis, pest identification and soil analysis. More than 250 insect specimens were submitted for identification. This was the second consecutive year that the number of ticks submitted by residents and veterinarians increased

markedly. Twenty six tick samples were identified compared to sixteen in 2012. Five were identified as deer ticks which are the species capable of transmitting Lyme disease.

Eighteen group presentations with a total audience of 420 were made to garden clubs, civic organizations, and youth groups. 96 consultations with business professionals such as greenhouse operators, arborists, lawn care companies, exterminators, and groundskeepers relating to integrated pest management and problem diagnosis were completed. Retail horticulture businesses such as florists and garden centers continue to refer their customers to Cornell Cooperative Extension for gardening information. It is estimated that at least 25% of annual information requests are a result of referrals from local businesses.

15 individuals completed the Master Gardener volunteer training program in 2013. Participants attend 50 hours of classroom training on a variety of horticultural topics and in turn volunteer time back to Cornell Cooperative Extension and local communities. The new group joins 45 other active master gardeners that volunteered over 1300 hours in 2013. Some of their activities included assisting with community gardens and beautification efforts, staffing information displays at garden festivals and making group presentations to youth and adult audiences.

The horticulture program has collaborated with other county departments and local municipalities including the Niagara County Health Department, Niagara County Parks Department, WNY Land Conservancy, Lockport Housing Authority and The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation office.

Other priority areas included providing technical support to community gardening efforts through the Creating Healthy Places program and monitoring invasive species populations such as the Emerald Ash Borer.



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC VITALITY

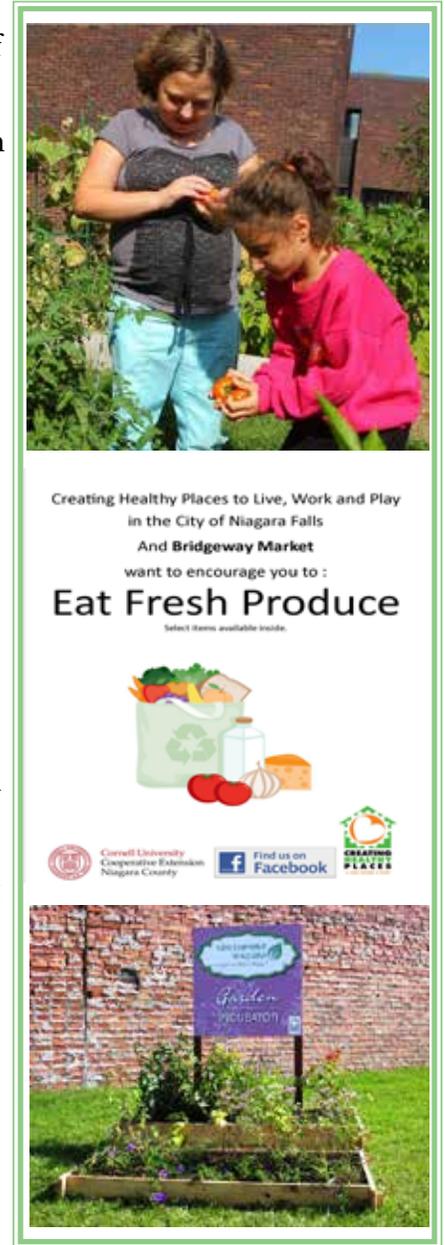
CREATING HEALTHY PLACES TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play (CHP) is a New York State Department of Health grant first awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County in 2011. CHP is dedicated to improving the health of Niagara County by increasing access to healthy foods, environments encouraging of physical activity, and improving policies that impact that access. CHP has been geographically concentrated in the City of Niagara Falls for the past two years and is now extending efforts to all of Niagara County.

CHP has six primary objectives:

- HKHNY (Healthy Kids, Healthy New York)
- Community Gardens
- Healthy Corner Stores
- Plentiful Partnership of Niagara
- Joint Use Agreements
- Walking Trails and Streetscaping Improvements

Community and school gardens have been enthusiastically embraced, with 18 starting or significantly expanding to date. Afterschool programming to train staff and lead workshops with students through the Healthy Kids Healthy New York curriculum has been completed in 5 sites, encouraging healthy habits afterschool and at home. Joint Use Agreements, which maximize the benefit of school facilities for community use, have been established in 3 sites, making access to safe exercise facilities available to both urban and rural communities in the county. CHP partnered with the Food Bank of WNY to provide cold storage for farm gleaned produce and with expanding farm partnerships can bring produce to populations in Niagara County with the highest need. Following a CCE assessment in 2011, CHP was alerted to the food deserts in the county and is working with convenience stores to impact populations with this limited grocery access by providing fruits and vegetables. Niagara County is a diversely scenic landscape with many trailways and streetscapes. Unfortunately, not all of these places are safe, well-marked, or well known. CHP works with community partners to enhance urban streetscapes for walkability and improve and promote scenic natural trailways for walking adventures.



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County 2013 Garden Impact

Garden Sites	Raised Beds	Square Feet Planted	Yield per Sq. Ft.*	Total Pounds of Produce
13	62	1,984 sq ft	1.24	2,460 lbs

* <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1641.html>



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Niagara County

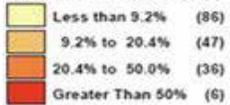




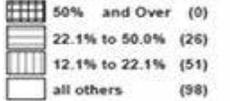
Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play

Implementation Sites

Percentage of People Under Poverty
By 2006-2010 ACS Block Group



% of Population 25 Years and Over
With Less Than High School Diploma



CHP ACTION

- Joint Use Agreements
- Street/Trail Improvements
- Community/School Gardens
- HKJNY & NAPSACC Education

County

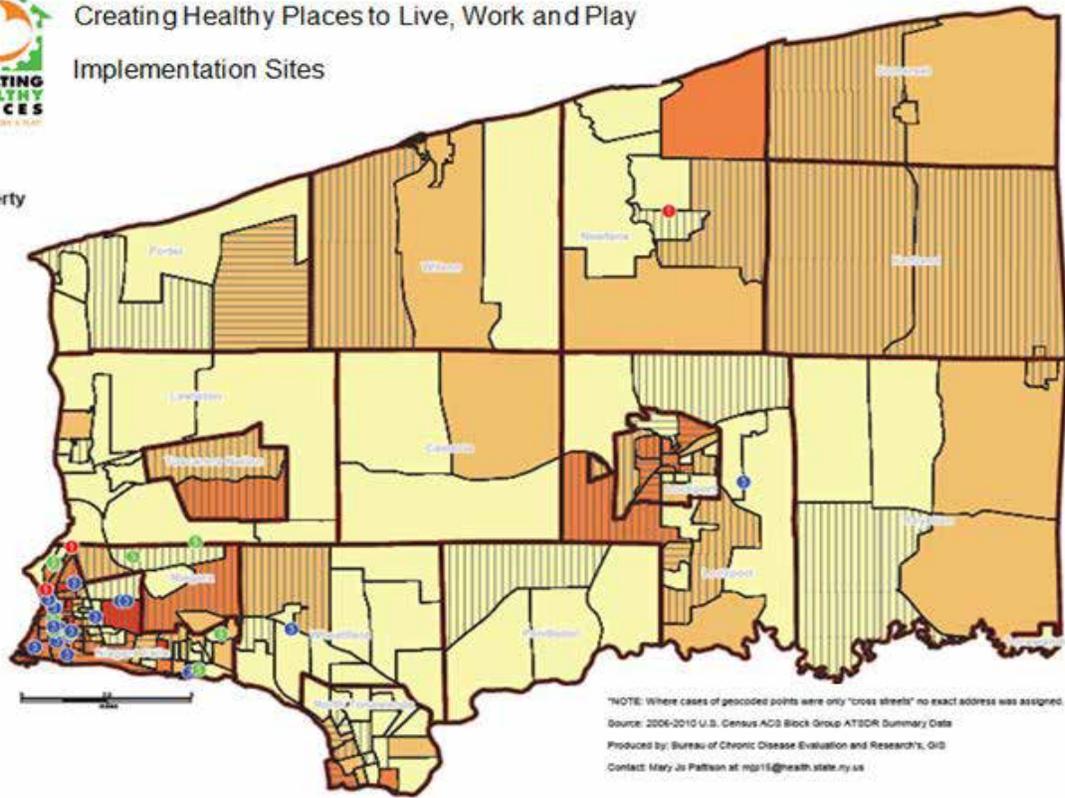
Region

Minor Civil Division (MCD)

Region

Block Group

Region



NOTE: Where cases of geocoded points were only "cross streets" no exact address was assigned.
 Source: 2006-2010 U.S. Census ACS Block Group ATISOR Summary Data
 Produced by: Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research's, GIS
 Contact: Mary Jo Patison at: mjp11@health.state.ny.us

In addition to the six objectives, CHP focuses on implementing each initiative in a way that is sustainable and lasting for Niagara County. All grant funds are allocated with both longevity and community health as top priorities.

In 2013 Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play worked with invested community groups to expand the number of gardens in the county supported by CHP funds from 2 to 13. The need for access to healthy food and interest and dedication to cultivating fruits and vegetables drove the expansion and the result is not only 1,984 square feet planted with produce, but areas of the county that can now feed their communities with a greater capacity for years to come.

Issues/Needs and Audiences:

In Niagara County, 29% of adults are obese. Of county residents, 13% live in an area with limited access to healthy foods. In contradiction, 46% have easy access to fast food restaurants. ¹Food is impacting the health of Niagara County.

Extension Responses:

CHP strives to increase access to healthy foods. One way to have instant, convenient, access to healthy foods is to grow a vegetable garden. Gardening can take all shapes and sizes, from a window box, to a plot at a community garden, to any variation of farming. Since the beginning of CHP in 2011, we have been active in helping Niagara County residents start and sustain gardening efforts. In 2013, CHP was fortunate to work with an additional 13 community and school gardens.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

CHP has helped community members start gardens and helped to guide and offer workshops at existing community projects since 2011. For each \$1 invested in a community garden, there is a \$6 yield in produce. The efforts of the community partners that Creating Healthy Places worked with in 2013 have a combined yield of \$8,500-\$34,000 in produce! In 2013, Creating Healthy Places school and community gardens yielded approximately 2,460 lbs of produce.

Collaborators:

Starting or being involved in a garden takes effort, collaboration, and dedication, but the rewards are extensive. CHP has worked with schools, senior groups, community organizations, and community gardeners. Organizations that CHP has collaborated with for the 2013 garden season include: Greenprint Niagara, The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara County Community College, Community Missions, and Opportunities Unlimited. Schools include: Harry F. Abate Elementary, 79th Street School, Henry J. Kalfas Elementary, Community Education Center/Alternative School, and Niagara Falls High School.



Niagara Gazette -- Jessica Stone loved flowers and always wanted her own garden. Her wish, though too late for her to see with her own eyes, is coming true at Niagara Falls High School. Stone, a 14-year old freshman at the school this year, passes away after battling Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, on March 17.Some of the high school's staff got to work to make it happen ... (they) planned with the help of student volunteers a memorial garden for the student. (June 23, 2013)

Students from 79th Street School after completing a workshop on "MyPlate"



Food System handout used for students in grades 3 - 6 at Kalfas School, Niagara Falls June 24, 2013

Food System Basics: Getting to the Core

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Niagara County



NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Nutrition Works in Niagara County:

Through two programs, Eat Smart New York! (ESNY) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), CCE Nutrition Educators reached approximately 3,000 people throughout Niagara County. Our nutrition programs are free and confidential for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and SNAP-eligible participants. We assist families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to make healthy food choices within a budget, choose a physically active lifestyle and improve their own personal health as well as their whole family.

Approximately 276 adults enrolled in our nutrition education series, where participants attend at least six classes to learn about nutrition, meal planning, healthy food shopping on a budget, cooking, food safety, weight control and physical activity. The focus of this program is to increase positive health behaviors and the key messages include:

- Eat fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and non-fat or low-fat milk or milk products every day for a healthy lifestyle
- Balance calories eaten from foods and beverages with calories used when being physical active

Upon completing our program:

- 92% improved dietary practices such as preparing foods without adding salt and reading nutrition labels
- 87% improved food purchasing practices such as: planning meals ahead of time; comparing prices in food ads and/or using a list when grocery shopping
- 61% improved food handling practices such as not allowing meat and dairy to sit out for more than 2 hours and/or not thawing foods at room temperature



This year we added a new component to our program using the Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness (CHFFF) curriculum with youth ages 8 -12. This curriculum supports the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and targets behaviors for preventing childhood obesity and chronic diseases. It is presented through six lessons and includes hands-on activities, food preparation, active games and newsletters for families. The topics of the six lessons are as follows: Drink Low-Fat Milk and Water Instead of Sweetened Drinks; Eat a Rainbow! Eat More Vegetables and Fruits; Read it Before You Eat It! The Nutrition Facts Label; Make Half Your Grains Whole! Eat More Whole Grains; Healthier Food-Fast: Eat Fewer High-Fat, High-Sugar Foods; and Power Up Your Day: Eat Breakfast.

In addition to the nutrition education series, we also conducted one-time educational classes at various locations throughout Niagara County and reached approximately 2,558 people. Various topics include: Using MyPlate to Help Plan Healthy Meals; Rethink Your Drink; Choose Whole Grains; Keeping Food Safe; More Colors in Your Meals: How to Add Fruits and Vegetables; and many others.



KEYS TO SUCCESS:

I learned about healthy eating and my favorite part was trying new foods like mango and playing games. – Ally



My favorite part of the nutrition lessons was when we tested how much fat could be in fast food. – Sabrina



After the nutrition lessons, I now watch what I eat. It made a big impact on me and the things that I thought were healthy really weren't that healthy so thank you! – Rebecca



Thank you for teaching us about healthy eating. My favorite part was when we saw how many sugars and calories were in foods and drinks. – Trevor



I really enjoyed learning about Go, Slow, Whoa foods and drinks and playing games. I enjoyed it a lot! - Mikaela

SNAP-Ed Benefits the Community:

Every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term health care costs

SNAP-Ed Benefits Kids:

3/4 of SNAP-Ed participants are children

- 73% OF STUDENTS MET THE NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION FOR FRUIT CONSUMPTION among Georgia SNAP-Ed program participants
- 50% DECREASE OF OVERWEIGHT children in elementary school students in a Pennsylvania SNAP-Ed program
- 100% INCREASE OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION in elementary school students in SNAP-Ed's Harvest of the Month program in Chico, CA

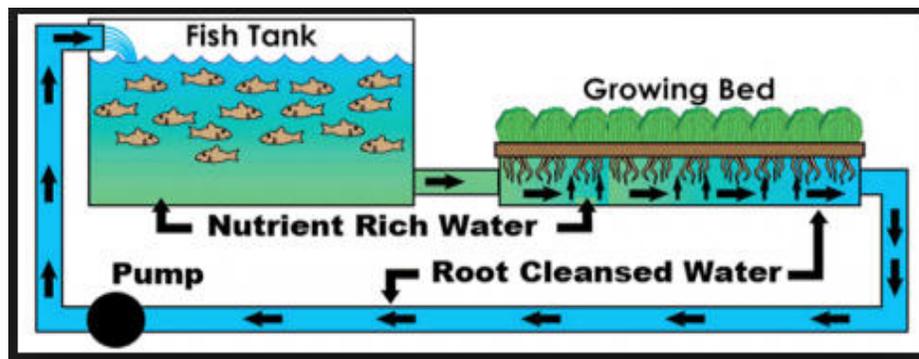
SNAP-Ed Benefits Adults and Families:

- 92% increase in the number of participating low-income California adults eating 5 + servings of fruits and vegetables daily
- Up to 62% of SNAP-Ed participants were more physically active
- 40% of SNAP-Ed participants say the program helped them reduce the number of days their families faced food insecurity during the month



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Sustainable Energy and Climate Change continue to be one of our primary mission areas. Our current goal is to have our large onsite aquaponic unit in full operation this summer. Aquaponics is the combination of hydroponic plant production and aquaculture farming (fish farming). The system will be our tool to educate the community on many environmental issues such as wetlands, ecosystems, sustainability, climate change and agriculture. We continue to apply for grants that will allow for us to build on our environmental education.



Dan Cappellazzo/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER KOI AHOY:
Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Cathy
Maloney looks over the aquaponics ecosystem.



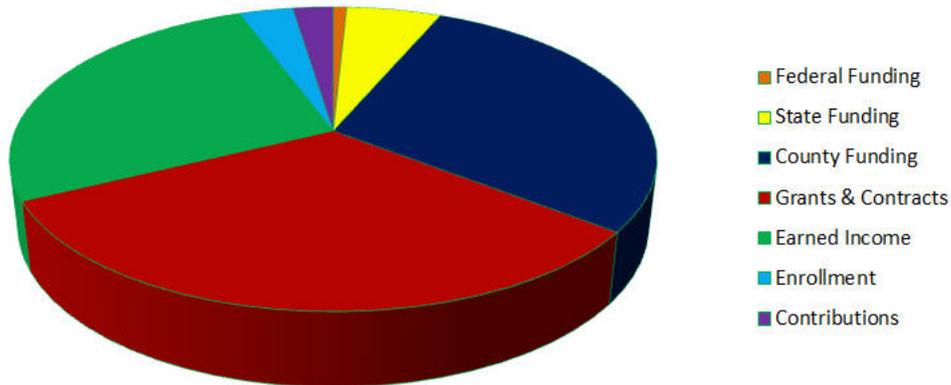
Aquaponic ecosystems in the classroom use goldfish.



The EmPower Program is a collaboration between CCE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) designed to “empower” Niagara County residents to use their energy resources wisely. Each two-hour workshop is a stand-alone presentation and they arm residents with powerful tools to make the most of limited resources by learning practical ways to save energy.

Through the EmPower Program, CCE has successfully conducted 5 workshops in Niagara County in 2013 reaching 59 participants and one workshop in Orleans County reaching 9 participants. 9 more workshops are scheduled for the upcoming year in both counties. The workshops reach out to communities and area agencies offering energy savings tips for both the homeowner and the renter.

2013 Support & Revenue



MISSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension 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 New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

VISION

Cornell Cooperative Extension is a national leader in creating positive change on behalf of families and communities through rigorously-tested extension program. We create measurable change by aligning local needs with the resources and priorities of the land grant system and its state and federal partners.

VALUES

While working with individuals, families, communities, businesses, and industries, we value our commitment to excellence, responsiveness, collaboration, learner-centered life-long education, results-oriented programming, volunteerism, inclusiveness, and the future.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Townsend, President
John O'Brien, Vice-President
David Huntington, Treasurer
Jennifer Bieber, Secretary
David Alt
Cheryl Bish
Ashley Kyle

Jim Schultz
Dennis Smith
Peter Russell
Shirley Urtel
Peter Landre, State Ext. Specialist
Michael Hill, Legislative Representative
John Syracuse, Legislative Representative

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

David Alt, Chairman
Donald Ziemendorf, Vice Chairman
James Bencal
Robert Hall
John King
Randy Librock
Peter Russell
Tom Tower
Michael Wendt

PROGRAM ISSUES COMMITTEE

Shirley Urtel, Chairman
Amanda Townsend-Vice Chairman
Kathy Librock, Secretary
Tami Alt
Cheryl Bish
Ashley Kyle
Bob Masse
Alyssa Michalak
Lisa Stefanie
Brandon Alt, Youth Rep.
Cassie Travers, Youth Rep.

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Cathy Lovejoy Maloney, Executive Director
Shaun White, Payroll/Accounts Manager
Darlene Farnham, Finance/Fair/Storage
Karen Krysa, Agricultural/Catering Support
John Farfaglia, Horticulture
Lisa Tucker, Ag Economic Development
Natalie Cook, Creating Healthy Places
Margaret Lapp, Creating Healthy Places
Jennifer Grier, Creating Healthy Places/Marketing

Heidi Feltz, 4-H Resource Educator
Bonnie Benton, Youth Development Educator
Kathy Bowers, Youth Development Educator
Kaitlin Smith, EFNEP/ESNY Nutrition
Lecia Parmer, Nutrition Educator
Jennifer Regan, Nutrition Educator
Lorri Mathewson, Nutrition Educator
Jim Diel, Maintenance Supervisor
Jerry Eisenhauer, Maintenance

CORNELL VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Dr. Julie Kikkert, Team Leader
Robert Hadad, Fresh Market
Christy Hoepting, Onions/Cabbage
Carol MacNeil, Soil Health
Judson Reid, Small Farms/Greenhouse

NWNY DAIRY, FIELD CROPS & LIVESTOCK TEAM

Dr. Mike Stanyard, IPM-Team Leader
Dr. Gerald Bertoldo, Dairy
Libby Gaige, Bilingual Dairy
Bill Verbeten, Field Crops
Nancy Glazier, Small Farms
John Hanchar, Business Management
Joan Sinclair Petzen, Economics
Jackson Wright, Dairy Management

LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

Tim Weigle, IPM-Team Leader
Andy Muza, Viticulture and Pest Management
Jodi Creasap Gee, Viticulture
Kevin Martin, Business Management
Regional Program Staff

LAKE ONTARIO FRUIT TEAM

Debbie Breth, IPM-Team Leader
Alison DeMarree, Production Economics
Craig Kahlke, Fruit Quality
Mario Sazo, Cultural Practices