Dear Friends & Supporters of CCE,

2014 has been a busy, productive year for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County (“CCE”). This Annual Report provides highlights of this year’s programming across our five key mission areas: Agriculture and Food Systems; Environment and Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change; 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families; Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, and Obesity Prevention; Community and Economic Vitality. CCE is proud to have had the opportunity to bring Niagara County’s children, seniors, families, farmers and communities this broad array of research-based, quality programming and services again this year. We hope this report will not only give you a good idea about the breadth of what we do but, most importantly, the positive impact and outcomes that result.

On behalf of the CCE Board of Directors and staff, we extend our deepest appreciation to our many volunteers who help us in so many ways, as well as to the Niagara County Legislature for its tremendous support and guidance. We eagerly look forward to 2015 and having the opportunity to continue our service to this great county!

Sincerely,
Cathy Lovejoy Maloney, J.D.
Executive Director

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play (CHP) is a 5 year grant program funded by the New York State Department of Health. The focus is to reduce rates of chronic disease by impacting behavior, the environment, and policies around healthy food access and physical activity.

2014 has been a successful and enlightening year for the Creating Healthy Places (CHP) program. Several of the pilot projects undertaken by CHP have come to fruition including the Healthy Corner Store Initiative to serve healthy, local produce at corner stores and the Plentiful Partnership of Niagara effort to procure and glean excess produce from local farms for area food pantries. These efforts have connected over 29,400 lbs. of produce to those in need in Niagara County in just 6 months. With a 17.2% food insecurity rate in Niagara County, these long fought efforts have a significant impact on food access to some of those who are most vulnerable. Of equal benefit, is the connection to produce grown locally by Niagara County farmers. The Healthy Corner Store Initiative procures a minimum of 50% of produce locally throughout the year and Plentiful Partnership of Niagara is dedicated to the generous farmers who have and continue to participate. CHP has also been an integral part of the Niagara County Healthy Foods, Healthy People Coalition, dedicated to making positive changes to the local food system through policy, projects, and collaboration.

4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport NY
Community conversations about health and vitality have also taken a positive turn with the **Streetscaping, Urban Trails, and Healthy Kids Healthy New York** (HKHNY) objectives. CHP offered training for staff and youth workshops at 3 new HKHNY sites in 2014. The Niagara Falls community has rallied around improvements to their streetscapes and enhancing their neighborhood spaces with CHP projects including bicycle racks, street plantings, street art and murals, and a budding conversation about complete streets in the city. In 2014, CHP connected with dedicated community partners and made a splash in Niagara Falls. With 15 new bicycle racks installed at key locations along Main Street, 3rd Street, and at area parks and community centers, the measurable increase in bicyclists in the city has been better connected with their destinations thus making active transportation more accessible. Working with the Liberty Partnership over the winter and spring months, a colorful new mural depicting students’ silhouettes from Abate, Gaskill, and LaSalle schools was erected in Hydraulic Park (corner of 3rd Street and Niagara Street). Also working with youth through the YouthWorks program as well as with a HANCI senior group and general community group, CHP conducted a walkability assessment with 30 individuals in Niagara Falls to shed light on the benefits and options for walking and bicycling as well as discuss the need for improvements.

Another CHP effort to increase physical activity and wellness revolves around **joint use agreements for schools**. The objective is to make full use of already existing resources at schools and their fitness facilities in the county and to increase access for the community. CHP maintained connections with these sites in 2014 and is working with Wilson Central School District on a wellness speaker series for their community.

**Community and school gardens** have been a popular program throughout Niagara County since CHP’s first growing season in 2012. Sustainability is a key feature for the impact a school or community garden can have and throughout 2014 CHP worked to help the 16 gardens initiated since 2012 be successful and self-sustaining. In addition, CHP worked with two elementary schools to learn about container gardening, seed starting, the apple food cycle, and the importance of eating fruits and vegetables while their garden sites were pending during construction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Impact Statistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop Attendees (all objectives)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Streetscape improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Produce gleaned</strong></td>
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<td>Market gleaned</td>
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<td>Field gleaned</td>
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<tr>
<td>29,483 lbs. (590 bushels)</td>
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<td>7,983 lbs.</td>
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<td>21,500 lbs.</td>
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<td>Volunteers</td>
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<td><strong>Volunteer hours</strong></td>
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<td>Market gleaning</td>
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<td>Field gleaning</td>
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<td>65 hours</td>
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<td>47 hours</td>
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<td>18 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Produce sold at corner stores (during pilot)</strong></td>
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CHP collaborates with community partners to make walking and physical activity safer, more inviting, habitual, and feasible for everyone. In a 2008 report, **24.2-27.9% of adults in Niagara County were physically inactive** and 67% overweight or obese. Studies have shown that streetscaping (improved walkability) of 5% correlates with a 32.1% increase per capita in physical activity and a quarter point reduction in BMI. Minimal infrastructure improvements can have extensive benefits on the health and wellbeing of residents. In addition, streetscape improvements increases community expectations and support for larger policy changes, reduces crime, attracts businesses, and increases the revenue for existing businesses.

**Plentiful Partnership of Niagara** (PPN) is a collaborative effort among CCE, Food Bank of WNY, Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. (NIACAP), Niagara County farmers, and area institutions. PPN aims to reduce food insecurity, alleviate hunger, keep Niagara County produce local, connect local farmers to area distribution systems, and increase community consumption of local produce. The food insecurity rate is 17.2% yet approximately 100,000 pounds of produce go to waste each season in Niagara County. PPN holds field and market gleans to offset this waste and **collected approximately 29,483 lbs. of produce** since April 2014.

**2015 will be a busy year for CHP.** Throughout the life of the CHP program it has been essential to carry the mission of CCE forward in all objectives and to put meaningful and needed knowledge to work in Niagara Falls and Niagara County. As the current iteration of the CHP grant ends in October 2015, the coming year will be a time for growing and expanding the most needed, successful, and mission related objectives of the CHP program.

Collaborating agencies and contributors:
4-H

Mission Area: 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families

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.

The Public Presentation Program is one of 4-H’s most beneficial and rewarding experiences. It provides an unique opportunity to develop a positive self-concept and poise, gain self-confidence before a group, learn to express ideas clearly, respond spontaneously to questions, and gain subject matter knowledge. 30 youth participated at the county level and several others did presentations at the club level. Types of presentations include demonstrations, illustrated talks, formal speeches, and creative communications such as recitation and dramatic interpretation.

4-H Afterschool Programs partner with Niagara County community organizations to build unique, customized programs around the diverse interests and needs of youth. The programs provide opportunities for youth to participate in fun innovative programs while developing valuable skills with lifelong benefits. This year Niagara County afterschool programming reached over 50 youth during the last 4 months of 2014 through the Lockport YWCA and STYA programs in Niagara Falls.

“I am so grateful that the Niagara Falls STYA program was able to work with CCE 4-H program. The children had an opportunity to learn about the real connection of nature to food. For most of them, this was the first opportunity that they had to see the food process from seed to plate.”

4-H Day Camp: Three weeks of day camp were offered this summer at CCE. Over 40 youth in Kindergarten to 5th grade participated in educational, fun, hands-on activities designed by Cornell University and National 4-H Council to enhance learning each day. The children had daily classes in science, nutrition, garden based learning, animal science and theatrical drama. Additionally, the youth participated in structured physical activities as well as a variety of arts and crafts. Among the favorites of the campers were dissecting a cows eye, the environmental scavenger hunt, taste testing new foods, making spy badges, finger printing, theatrical acting of Dr. Seuss stories, planting trees, learning about human body parts, participating in STEM activities and learning about Cecropia moths. Some of the campers’ favorite visitors to camp were the chickens, Cecropia moths, body parts from NCCC and the NYS police department guard dog. We are already planning new activities and lessons for next year’s campers.
Chaya Shepard and Reggie Neadow participated in the **2014 Annual 4-H Capital Days** in Albany. The youth had an opportunity to interact with legislators, tell their 4-H story, **learn about career opportunities** in New York State government, understand state government and network with other 4-H delegates. During their visit the youth had breakfast with Senator Maziarz to discuss all the things 4-H has to offer youth in our county and ask him specific questions.

4-H Members Are:
- Four times more likely to make contributions to their communities (Grades 7-12);
- Two times more likely to be civically active (Grades 8-12);
- Two times more likely to make healthier choices (Grade 7);
- Two times more likely to participate in Science, Engineering and Computer Technology programs during out-of-school time Grades 10 – 12); and
- 4-H girls are two times more likely (Grade 10) and nearly three times more likely (Grade 12) to take part in science programs compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

**4-H has many collaborating agencies** including Reality USA; Tonawanda Sportsman club; Niagara County 4-H Sponsor’s Committee; Central Tractor – Clover Sales; Niagara County Sheriff’s Dept.; Newfane Elementary; Royalton-Hartland School; Lockport High School; Niagara County Farm Bureau; Clyde’s Feed and Animal Center; Muck Auctions; Niagara Falls High School; YWCA and YMCA of Lockport and NT; Grigg Lewis Foundation; Wilson Free Library; W.H. Reinharts; Niagara County Youth Bureau; NYS Parks Dept.

**Legislative Intern Program**

*Mission Area: 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families*

**Legislative Intern 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 first-hand 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) “Participation in Government” credit.

“The Niagara County Legislative Intern Program is a privilege to be a part of. I am able to meet new people and network with department heads and legislators. It is a wonderful opportunity.”

“I really enjoyed my experience in the intern program. It was better than reading about government in a textbook. I got to see it first hand.”

**Collaborating agencies and contributors:** Niagara County Legislators, Funding by Child and Families Services through the Niagara County Youth Bureau, Niagara County High Schools.

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Independent Living Skills (ILS)
Mission Area: 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families

ILS is an education series offered to adolescent youth currently placed in foster homes to prepare for life after foster care. ILS, funded by Niagara County Department of Social Services, is designed to provide youth with opportunities to explore issues related to independent living in a structured and supportive hands-on setting. ILS includes practical skills such as budgeting, food preparation, etc., as well as necessary social skills such as team and group working skills.

“ILS teaches me things that I will need to live on my own. I also get to meet other teens who are in foster care just like me.”

Collaborating agencies and contributors: Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Sheriff’s Department, Niagara County Employment & Training, Niagara County Youth Bureau.

Aquaponics
Mission Areas: Agriculture and Food Systems; Environment and Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change; 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families; Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, and Obesity Prevention

Our goal of having the large aquaponics unit operating this year was achieved. The first step in early spring was to add fish. We purchased twenty-five 4-inch tilapia from the Morrisville College Natural Resources and Conservation Program. The fish supplied the nutrients for our plants to grow and thrive in the system. The summer crop of basil, tomato plants, nasturtium, water cress and marigolds filled the two 4 X 6 foot grow beds. With the system fully functioning, we were able to use it for educational purposes throughout the year.

4-H day camp youth learned about all the parts and how the aquaponic system functions collectively. Youth made bracelets with each bead representing a part of the system, blue = water, green = plants, orange=fish, etc. Utilizing the crops grown in the aquaponic unit, youth learned about the nutritional value of fresh produce and made their own pizza with the basil and tomato.

During the Niagara County Fair, visitors had the unique opportunity to learn about the aquaponic system located in the CCE greenhouse. Fair visitors of all ages were engaged and fascinated in learning how the system worked.

Our Junior Gardener Program members have had the unique opportunity to learn and operate the aquaponic system. The youth also learned about food systems and alternative growing methods.

Our plan is to keep the aquaponics unit operating through the fall and winter seasons. The tilapia will be harvested and replaced by Koi fish. The Koi will be able to tolerate the cold temperatures where the tilapia would perish. Summer crops have been removed and replaced by a couple varieties of lettuce and spinach.

Funding Source: Zonta Club of Lockport
Nutrition Program

Mission Area: Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, and Obesity Prevention; 4-H Youth Development

Eat Smart New York (ESNY) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) are two nutrition education programs designed to help those eligible for or who receive food stamps improve their nutrition and health practices, with an emphasis on families and children. The goal of the program is to “improve the likelihood that persons eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate”. Between the two programs, 245 adults and 316 youth were reached through a series of 6 nutrition education classes. Approximately 9,310 adult and youth consumers were reached through single nutrition education sessions throughout Niagara County.

One of the new initiatives the nutrition team implemented throughout 2014 was “Cooking Matters Shopping” tours in partnership with CCE Tompkins County and Share Our Strength. Throughout the year, approximately 200 people participated in a one-hour shopping tour at three locations throughout Niagara County (Tops Friendly Markets on Portage Road in the city of Niagara Falls, Tops Friendly Markets in Wrights Corners and the Tops Friendly Markets on South Transit Road in Lockport). During the course of the one hour tour, participants learn four key skills including reading food labels, comparing unit prices, finding whole grains, and identifying three ways to purchase produce. At the end of the tour, participants were given a $10 challenge, an activity where they use the skills learned through the tour to buy a healthy meal for a family of four. In addition, participants are given a reusable grocery bag and a booklet of healthy recipes and shopping tips. This new initiative was very well received and participants really enjoyed learning about saving money on their grocery bill by comparing unit pricing and also enjoyed learning how to read various food labels throughout the store.

For adult participants that enrolled in the series of nutrition education lessons, the following are statistics based on their pre and post surveys.

- 100% improved in at least one behavior construct
- 69% improved in at least one of four nutrition practices
- 68% improved in at least one of four food resource management practices
- 42% improved in at least one food safety practice

As a result of SNAP-Ed for adults and families:

- 92% increase in the number of participating low-income California adults eating 5+ servings of fruits and vegetable 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.

As a result of SNAP-Ed for kids,

- 73% of students met the National Recommendations for fruit consumption among Georgia SNAP-Ed program participants
- 50% decrease of overweight in elementary school students in 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.

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Collaborating agencies and contributors:

- Orleans/Niagara BOCES
- Parents as Teachers
- Heart, Love and Soul
- Wilson Community Food Pantry
- Family and Children’s Services
- NIACAP
- Niagara Falls Public Library
- Boys and Girls Club
- Niagara Falls School District
- Center for Young Parents
- YWCA of Niagara: Lockport and Newfane Afterschool Program and Carolyn’s House
- Lockport Family YMCA
- YMCA of Niagara
- WIC
- Lockport CARES
- Newfane Free Library
- Niagara County Department of Health
- Urban Park Towers
- Newfane Elementary School
- Niagara Falls Housing Authority
- Opportunities Unlimited
- Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
- Wrobel Towers
- Spallino Towers

Did you know: Every $1.00 spent on nutrition education saves as much as $10.00 long-term in health care costs.

“I was excited to learn about the nutrition facts label so I can help feed my family healthier foods with less sodium, sugar and fat - Father of 1”

“I am so thankful I took Eat Smart New York classes because I now know so much more about food safety. I learned to not thaw meat on the counter and thaw in the refrigerator instead and also learned to use two cutting boards, one for meat and one for fruits and vegetables. I feel that this will help me move out on my own, and feed safe meals to my family” - Mother of 2

Empower
Mission Area: Environment and Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change

EmPower New York, an energy management program sponsored by NYSERDA and developed in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, reached 91 low-income homeowners and renters from January to April 2014. Participants attended the free educational workshop and learned ways to reduce their energy bills through no cost/low cost conservation methods that they could easily do themselves. CCE Niagara County conducted 10 workshops in Niagara County and 5 in Orleans County. The workshop included hands-on worksheets. Participants completed to calculate financial savings by lowering their thermostats, using energy efficient appliances, water conservation, and efficient lighting options. Participants enjoyed learning about and seeing how the different forms of window and door insulation are installed.

As a result of this workshop participants said they would:

“Look into aerators for shower heads and faucets”
“Check electrical outlets for drafts and turn off lights when not using”
“Turn the heat down at night”
“Buy energy saving light bulbs”

Participants stated the most valuable thing they learned at the workshop was:

“How much energy appliances use every day”
“Saving energy on little things-they add up in the long run”

When completing the workshop, participants received three CFL light bulbs to take home along with a check list of steps to save on energy bills and other informational brochures. Participants overall felt the workshop was very helpful.
Horticulture

*Mission Area: Agriculture and Food Systems; Environment and Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change; 4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families*

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

More than 2,200 individuals contacted Cornell Cooperative Extension for horticultural information via phone calls and office visits in 2014. 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 third consecutive year that the number of ticks submitted by residents and veterinarians increased. Thirty-two samples were identified compared to 26 in 2012 and sixteen in 2011. Seven were identified as deer ticks, which are the species capable of transmitting Lyme disease.

Fifteen group presentations with a total audience of 370 were made to garden clubs, civic organizations, and youth groups. 84 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.

A new master gardener training class started in October 2014. 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 **55 other active master gardeners that volunteered over 1370 hours in 2014**. 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.

**Spring gardening classes** open to the community were offered this year. Over 40 participants attended classes on pruning, container gardening and tree identification.

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.

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.
Ag Discovery Zone

Mission Areas: Agriculture and Food Systems; Environment and Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change; Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, and Obesity Prevention; Community and Economic Vitality

The New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs provided CCE Niagara with an Ag Awareness grant to develop interactive programming and raise awareness of agriculture among youth. The grant provided funding to create 4 educational displays on the following topics: The Dirt on Soil – children learn about the different types of soil that exist in Niagara County and why soil is important to agriculture; The Buzz About Bees – children learn about the anatomy of a honey bee, why they are important to agriculture and fun bee facts; Diversity on Your Plate – children learn about all the different types of foods that are grown and raised in Niagara County empowering them to know where their food comes from; Waste Wise – children learn about composting, recycling and reusing food waste. The displays were housed in the Ag Discovery Zone at this year's fair.

The Ag Discovery Zone debuted at this year's fair to an overwhelmingly positive response. Several families brought their children through the tent and many learned something new about agriculture in Niagara County. The displays were intentionally designed to be mobile so they can be utilized in a variety of educational forums. The Waste Wise (composting) and Diversity on Your Plate displays were used at the Youngstown Artisan Fair and Farmers Market.

Testimonials captured at the Ag Discovery Zone during the 2014 Niagara County Fair:

“We enjoyed the apples and playing the trivia game.”
“I think this is great for the kids, a good form of education. Thank you also for the apples. I hope that people will utilize this information as it is very important. Thank you again.”
“New and hands-on, perfect!”
“Very nice presentation!”
“I enjoyed this. Very informative.”
“Loved your compost exhibit.”
“Brilliant! Really informative! Loved it!”

Collaborating partners:
Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work & Play provided a display and some activities including an obstacle course. Farm Bureau Foundation provided us with their interactive agriculture trivia kiosk. Pete Russell Farms and Sun Orchards provided apples for children to eat while they followed the stages of an apple from seed to compost.
A Look to the Future!

Cooking n’ the Pantry:
CCE Niagara County was awarded a grant through the Allen Foundation titled “Cooking n’ the Pantry”. There are three main components of the grant that will be implemented. The first component will be nutrition education and cooking preparation. Each month, a Community Educator will visit eight food pantries throughout Niagara County to deliver hands-on demonstrators on how to plan and prepare quick, easy and healthy meals with the food that participants receive at the pantry.

The second component will include fresh fruit and vegetable cooking preparation during the summer and fall months. Participants will be provided with a local fresh fruits or vegetables and be educated on how to prepare and cook items such as cabbage, squash, carrots, beets and more. The third component of the program will be gardening education. Participants will be educated on simple and easy ways they can grow their own food such as container gardening. This will provide participants with a sustainable and lasting way to obtain their own food in the future. The following are the pantries CCE is partnering with on this grant: NIACAP- Lockport, NIACAP- North Tonawanda, NIACAP- Niagara Falls, St. John de LaSalle- Niagara Falls, Wilson Community Food Pantry, North Tonawanda Inter-Church Pantry, St. John’s Outreach Center/Sister Helen Food Pantry- Lockport, Faith United Methodist Church- Barker, and Heart, Love & Soul Niagara Falls.

CCE Niagara’s AgX:
This Agriculture Exploration grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture is aiming to increase the number and diversity of students who choose post-secondary education in the fields of agriculture and food sciences, by increasing their knowledge and awareness of agriculture science, agribusiness and food system careers. All 500, 9th grade students at Niagara Falls High School will be involved in the AgX course through hands-on, inquiry based activities, and field trips to agribusinesses in order to provide opportunities to learn about agriculture and food systems careers. Collaborating agencies include Niagara Falls High School, USDA – NIFA, and Niagara County Agriculture Business Men and Woman.

Local Food Promotion Program:
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County was awarded a grant under the Local Food Promotion Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture. This planning grant provides funds to do a feasibility study for a food enterprise center at the Niagara County Fairgrounds. The proposed facility will serve small and mid-size farmers who are looking to do value-added products, food business entrepreneurs who want to develop new products for market, and will also be an outlet for community education. The main goal of the project is to create a facility that grows food-related companies across the Western New York. As an awardee of this planning grant, CCE Niagara is eligible to apply for an implementation grant in 2016 for the next phase of the project.
Lake Ontario Fruit Team (LOFT)
The goals of the LOFT is to maintain competitiveness and profitability of NY fruit farms in a global market; evaluate new technology for potential increases in efficiency through applied research; assist in the adoption and implementation of appropriate technologies; reduce financial, legal, labor, environmental, and health risks; and improve production and delivery of high quality fruit to consumers.

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP)
LERGP serves the needs of regional grape growers and wineries. 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. The LERGP 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. LERGP gives growers the tools to improve their generational sustainability and fiscal health.

Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP)
CVP is a regional agricultural CCE program in New York, serving a large multi-county region in the Western part of the state. The team’s Vegetable Specialists work together with Cornell faculty and extension educators statewide to address the issues that impact the industry. The CVP provides educational programs and information to growers, processors and agri-business professionals, arming them with the knowledge to profitably produce and market safe healthy vegetable crops, contributing to the viability of farms and the economic well being of New York State.

NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team
The NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team is a regional agricultural CCE program, serving a 10-county region in the western part of the state. The team’s specialists work together with Cornell faculty and extension educators statewide to provide service to the farms large and small whether dairy, livestock, hay, corn, wheat or soybean focused. Educational programs and individual assistance cover a wide area of best management practices as well as dairy farm business. Education and support include individual farm management team meetings, multi-day classroom and hands-on trainings, ongoing farmer group discussion meetings and thematic day long symposia.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County ("CCE"), a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, is located on Lake Avenue (Rt. 78) just north of the city of Lockport in the heart of Niagara County. Commonly referred to as “the Fairgrounds”, CCE’s property consists of 39 acres with 16 buildings, ample parking, outdoor stage, greenhouse and open green areas. In addition to operating the Niagara County Fair each year, CCE rents its grounds and buildings for large outdoor events, weddings, corporate meetings, banquets, showers, parties and similar catered and non-catered functions. From over 30,000 people to a handful, CCE’s facilities and grounds can accommodate a wide range of events and occasions and is convenient to all Niagara County as well as many communities in Erie County and Orleans County.
**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.
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John Hanchar, Business Management
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LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

Tim Weigle, IPM-Team Leader
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LAKE ONTARIO FRUIT TEAM

Debbie Breth, IPM-Team Leader
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