

Extension *Express*

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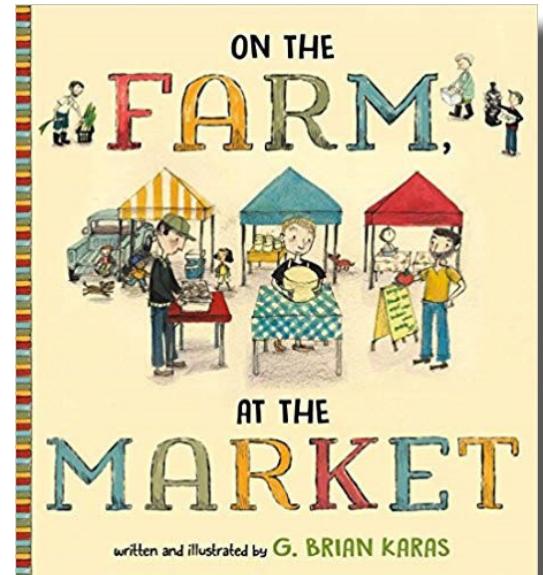
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2019 Ag Literacy Week • March 18-22

On The Farm, At The Market, by G. Brian Karas

This year's Ag Literacy Week book is *On The Farm, At The Market*, by G. Brian Karas. On the farm, workers pick vegetables, collect eggs, and make cheese. At the market the next day, the workers set up their stands and prepare for shoppers to arrive. Amy, the baker at the Busy Bee Café, has a very special meal in mind-and, of course, all the farmers show up at the café to enjoy the results of their hard work. This informative book introduces children to both local and urban greenmarkets and paints a warm picture of a strong, interconnected community.



We are hoping that YOU can help us place one book in each local school this year and have at least one volunteer reader sharing their farming experience with ALL of our K-2 classrooms! Book sponsorships are \$12 and include the lesson plans and supplies for each classroom to complete one hands-on activity after the 20 minute reading.

To volunteer to read or to become a book sponsor, please contact Janet by February 1, 2019 at (607) 334-5841 x12 or jlp27@cornell.edu.

4-H Livestock Scholarships

Applications for those members, and non-members willing to join 4-H, looking to get into a livestock project area are being accepted for the annual 4-H Livestock Scholarship Program. This program annually awards youth members beef, dairy, meat/dairy goats, sheep, and swine project animals that may be sold through the annual 4-H Livestock Auction or may serve as foundation animals for a members herd or flock. Applications can be found on the 4-H website and must be returned to the CCE Office by March 1st.



Staff member, Cindy Gardiner.

Cornell Cooperative Extension | **Chenango County**

"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."

Passive Income from your Woodlands: can it be done?

CCE Chenango has been working on a forest income opportunities project with the help of a grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute. The project has been aimed at dairy farmers in particular, and rural landowners in general, in an attempt to find additional sources of income from wooded properties. Many farms and rural properties have sizable percentages of wooded land among their portfolio of agricultural fields and croplands. The costs of land ownership in New York State have been prohibitive, oftentimes leading to the splitting up of properties into ever smaller parcels. The recent downturn in the dairy economy has also contributed to farmers sometimes deciding to liquidate their woodlots for quick timber sales, which in the long term may not be in the best interests of the landowners nor the health of the forest.

CCE has been assisting landowners with developing business management plans for their woodlots. Opportunities abound for maple syrup producers; small sawmill operators, firewood businesses, and agroforestry operations such as shitake mushroom production. These opportunities take sizable investments in time, resources, and infrastructure. For landowners without the means, desire, or wherewithal for such projects, opportunities do exist for passive income sources from their woodlands. Two excellent opportunities for passive income are the leasing of the woodlands for maple sap production or hunting.

If you have a few acres of woods that contain a quality sugar maple stand then you may just be in luck! Many maple syrup producers lease sugar bushes from landowners, and the ways in which the landowners can be reimbursed are varied. Your level of involvement can range all the way from you yourself tapping the maples, collecting the sap, and delivering it to the sugar maker. A less hands on way is to simply lease your sugar bush to the producer, and he or she can set up the sap lines, tap the trees, and collect the sap when it is running. This would be the most “hands

off” method and the landowner will receive income from the sugar maker. You can be paid so much per tap, or so much per gallon of sap. Extensive spreadsheets have been developed by the Cornell Maple Program which calculates how much income you should receive, depending on the percentage of sugar in the sap.

Another potential source of income which has become more popular in recent years is the leasing of properties for hunting purposes. If you are not a hunter, or no longer have a group of friends and family that hunt your property, then leasing to other hunters could be a possible option. There are several advantages to leasing your land. You could generate additional income, you can have increased peace of mind by reducing trespassing and poaching, and you may be able to keep your land from being sold and potentially converted

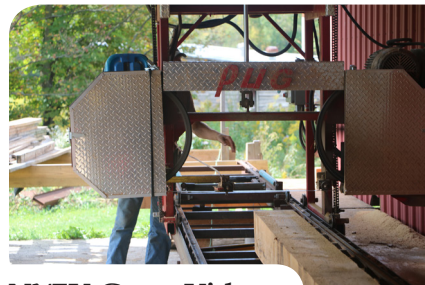
into housing developments. The days of driving around rural back roads and hunters knocking on your door asking permission to hunt your land (for free) are rapidly dwindling. There are advantages to the hunters as well: leasing is cheaper than purchasing land, written lease agreements protect all

parties, and the opportunity to manage a property from year to year abound.

You can arrange a hunting lease yourself, or you can hire a vendor to do it for you. Numerous lease templates can be found on the internet for the do-it-yourselfer, or you can hire a private leasing agency to be your representative, for example the agency Base Camp

CCE has developed a series of YouTube videos on income opportunities from forests; they can be viewed on our Facebook page, facebook.com/ccechenango. If you are interested in developing a business plan for your wooded land, for active or passive income, contact us at CCE Chenango. •

By: Rich Taber. The Grazing, Forestry, and Ag Economic Development Specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension, Chenango County and can be reached at 607-334-5841 ext. 21, or email: rbt44@cornell.edu.



A few images from the NYFV Grant Videos



Animal Welfare and Law Enforcement

by: Ken Smith

One of the unfortunate side effects of the sharp decline in farm incomes in recent years, is the increased potential for cases of animal neglect on farms. Nearly all farmers truly care for their livestock, otherwise they would not be farming. However, with farm incomes at historic lows, sudden setbacks such as severe weather, disease outbreak, or machinery breakdown, can cause situations on a farm to get out of hand resulting in serious situations of neglect. Resolving situations of on-farm animal neglect creates challenges for farm workers, neighbors, and law



An example of sleeping horses.

enforcement.

It is against the law in New York State to neglect any farm animal. All farm animals must be provided adequate food and water and necessary medical care. Failure to provide any of these is a misdemeanor that can be punishable by fine or prison. Animal neglect is legally a different offence from animal abuse. Animal abuse is a felony and involves situations when an individual deliberately inflicts pain and suffering on animals.

Animal neglect creates challenging situations for neighbors, veterinarians, and law enforcement officials. For people without farming backgrounds, including law enforcement officials, it can be hard to distinguish between well cared for farm animals and neglected animals. A healthy dairy cow will still show



ribs and hip bones. A bony horse may just be a well-fed older animal, but the situation could also be one of neglect. When neighbors or others see or hear about farm animals that they think might be neglected or abused, they are often concerned about whether they should report the situation and where to report the situation. Most people do not want to turn in a friend or neighbor, and sometimes people are afraid to make reports for fear of the reported finding out who made that call.

Concerns about neglect can be reported to the County Sheriff or State Police. In cases where neighbors or others are uncertain about calling the police, a call can be made to an intermediary such as your Cooperative Extension office, Farm Bureau, or a veterinarian. New York State Ag and Markets also has veterinarians who can consult on neglect issues.

Using an intermediary can help clarify whether the situation is truly one of neglect. Many times,



farmers are reported for situations that turn out not to be neglect; they have animals standing in snow, or that look dead but are just sleeping, or animals that are very skinny because they are very old. Using an intermediary is helpful to avoid taking police time on things that are not truly neglect.

In true situations of neglect, law enforcement officials and New York State Veterinarians work together to quickly resolve the situation. The immediate problem is often resolved by working with the farmer to get the animals the appropriate food and water. If the farmer is unable to resolve the situation, then agencies cooperate to quickly move the animals into situations where they can be properly cared for.

Cases of animal neglect are never pleasant, but to protect the animals involved, and to protect the public reputation of the farming industry, issues of neglect must be resolved as quickly and humanely as possible. •

Upcoming 4-H Programs and Projects

Snowshoeing • January 26, 2019

Join in for snowshoeing at the Rogers Center outside of Sherburne on January 26, weather permitting. Meet at the main parking area at 9 AM. We will provide snowshoes or you can bring your own. Make sure to wear appropriate clothing to protect from the cold. Let Christina know if you will be there and if you need snowshoes provided at clh262@cornell.edu or (607) 334-5841x14.

Maple Exploration • Tentatively: March 2, 2019

There will be a fun maple day at Otselic Valley Central School again this year. Check out the process from tree to bottle, do a maple project, and learn more about the science and history behind making maple syrup. Finalized date and time TBD, if interested let Christina know.



Dairy Bowl and Horse Bowl Practices

Come to the CCE Office on Friday nights this winter to learn more about cows and horses! Rhonda Turrell will be leading horse bowl practices from 6-8PM and Janet will be leading dairy bowl practices 7-8PM. All practices will be hands-on and will cover the basic animal biology through industry events.

Dates for practices:

January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22
March 1, 8



4-H Calendar

Jan 4, 11, 18, 25	Horsebowl and Dairybowl Practices @ CCE
Jan 2	4-H Sewing Scholarship Applications Due
Jan 8	4-H Livestock Committee Meeting, 7PM CCE
Jan 21	4-H Sewing Trip
Feb 1, 8, 15, 22	Horsebowl and Dairybowl Practices @ CCE
Feb 12	4-H Animal Science Committee Meeting, 7PM CCE
Feb 16	4-H Public Presentations
Feb 18-22	4-H Sewing Camp, 9-noon @ CCE
Feb 21-23	NYS Farm Show, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse
Mar 1	4-H Livestock Scholarship Applications Due
Mar 1	Horsebowl and Dairybowl Practices @ CCE
Mar 8	Horsebowl Practices @ CCE
Mar 9	4-H Horsebowl, Hippology, and Dairybowl Contests, Chenango Forks Elementary School
Mar 23	4-H District Public Presentations Contest, Chenango Forks
Mar 18-22	Ag Literacy Week
Mar 30	Dairy Discovery, Cornell University



Dairy Discovery, Cornell University • March 29 & 30, 2019

Dairy Discovery is a hands-on workshop held annually at Cornell University in late March. It is a state-wide program for youth ages 14-19 years old. Each year the youth spend the 1½ days (Friday afternoon until Saturday late afternoon) here on campus learning about dairy careers and rotating through a series of hands-on stations which focus on a specific aspect of the dairy field each year. The focus of the Dairy Discovery workshops changes each year but includes the following areas: Dairy Herd Health and Management, Calf and Heifer Production Management, Quality Milk and Milk Production, Whole Farm Management Planning, and Maximizing the Feed Management Program.

Due to the hands on approach of the sessions, participation is limited to the first 65 individuals to enroll by deadline. Youth who are 14-19 years of age as of January 1, of the current year and have an interest in dairy cattle and production management are eligible and strongly encouraged to attend (with their parents or chaperones).

If you are interested in attending, please contact Janet for registration, jl27@cornell.edu or (607) 334-5841 x12. Cost of the program is \$50 and spots fill up fast. 4-H Paper Clover Campaign funds will be used to cover the cost of Chenango County 4-H'ers attending this trip, providing they register through the CCE Office. Trip leaves CCE at 7AM and returns between 5-5:30PM.



2019 Pheasant Project

Since 2006, Chenango County has reared and released over 11,150 pheasants into the wild for all to enjoy. Thank you for your past involvement in this project!

We are currently taking orders for the 2019 Project and hope to have 1,000 pheasant chicks reared this project year!

All orders, no matter the size, will be taken in lots of 25 birds.

A free-will donation of \$5 per order will be accepted to cover the mailing costs of this great program. Orders due March 20, 2019.

Please contact Janet Pfromm to place your order or to request more information, (607) 334-5841 x12 or jl27@cornell.edu



4-H Incubation & Embryology Program

The 4-H Incubation and Embryology Program is a great way for schools and families to help young people observe the mystery of life and learn some of the principles of reproduction. The project provides an opportunity for youth to work with living, growing chick embryos. A secondary but equally important objective is to provide leaders and teachers with an interesting and unique educational tool. Not only is the embryology project fun, but it also opens many opportunities for learning.

Delivery for eggs is Monday, April 22. Orders must be received by February 20. For more information and to receive an order packet, please contact Janet Pfromm, (607) 334-5841 x12 or jl27@cornell.edu.

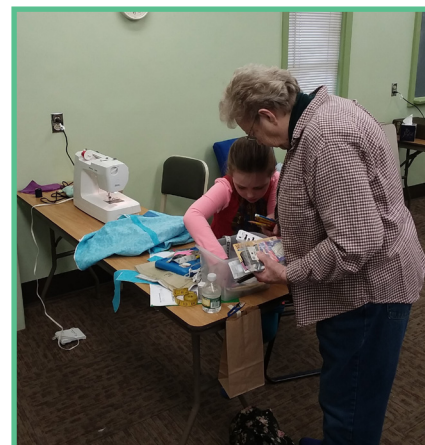
2019 4-H Sewing Camp

Dear 4-H Members,

In an effort to better teach sewing skills and create lasting projects, this year's 4-H Sewing Camp will offer the following projects to sew with additional, smaller projects offered:

- ✿ Beginner (1-3rd year, dependent upon sewing experience):
Pillow Case
- ✿ Junior (3-5th year, dependent upon sewing experience):
Pajama Pants with appliqued matching t-shirt
Tote Bag
- ✿ Experienced (5+ years, dependent upon sewing experience):
Clothing item or accessory with zipper or buttons
Clothing item or accessory with pleats, darts, or waistband

Members interested in sewing a project not on this list must contact Janet at the 4-H Office to make arrangements, jlp27@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x12.



2019 4-H Sewing Camp Schedule • February 18-22, 2019

9AM	Sign-In & Sew
10:30AM	Snack & Stretch Break
10:45-12PM	Sew

In addition to making your main project, campers will learn how to measure themselves to pick the right sized pattern, create smaller sewing projects, and make a project to donate as part of a community service project!

Thank You to all our Supporters, We Love Your Donations!

New York State 4-H Foundation Inc.
Carol Franklin
Edward Batsford
Schmidts Sunny Slope Farm LLC
Yusuf Harper
Michael Flanagan
Mr. & Mrs. David Petley
Roy Hopke
Judith Ives
NBT Wealth Management Attn: Trust
Support Services For Pearl Gilmour
Gale and Rich Hamstra
Monica and Tom Jensen
Alan and Debra Davis
Barry and Paula Lathrop
Joe and Jan Cornell
David Farquhar
Doctor and Mrs. William Hallenbeck
Clark Ward

NBT Wealth Management Attn: Trust
Support Services Annual Income
Distribution In Memory Of Warren E.
Eaton
Kathleen S. Haddad
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Donald and Louise Perry
Chenango Forest Products
John E. and Diane Wicks, Jr.
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Rachel Perry
Trellan Smith and Daniel Taylor
Louise and Brian Butcher
Louise and Brian Butcher
Fred Gaylord
Peter Guenzburger
Mary Weidman
Jim Pollard
Chenango Piecemakers Quilt Guild
Calvin Estabrook
Kenneth Swift
Marion Ireland
Kathy Schlernitzauer
Tom and Grace Holmes

Upcoming Programs

Backyard Sugar Making • Cooperative Extension Building 7PM, Wednesday February 6th, Free

Sugarmaking is a great way to get your family together and get outdoors. If there are a couple of maples in your yard or neighborhood that is all you need to get started. Come join us to learn about identifying maples, tapping trees, sap collection systems, sap storage, and boiling and canning syrup. Make the most of mud season, and make your own maple syrup.



Blueberries- Care and Maintenance • Extension Building Upstairs 7PM, February 21st, Fee: \$5.00

Whether you have six plants or six thousand, this program is for those looking to improve the health and production of their blueberry plants. Topics covered will include planting, mulching, weeding, soil acidification, fertilization herbicides, pruning, propagation and bird control.



To register for either of these classes call the office at (607) 334-5841 x11 or email anr72@cornell.edu.

Dairy Day Scholarship Deadline • Friday, January 4, 2019

Purpose:

- To recognize and assist deserving and outstanding young people who are pursuing a college degree in agriculture or a closely related field.
- To promote leadership development within the agricultural sector.
- To encourage students to appreciate the values and opportunities of rural life.
- To encourage students to pursue careers in agriculture.

Award: A Scholarship in the amount of \$850 will be awarded to one student. Scholarship check will be sent to the college/university as confirmed by the recipient and placed in their college account.

Eligibility: Students submitting an application must have completed at least one semester of college and have a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher. Students must be enrolled in an agricultural major and participated in Chenango County agriculture.

Find the Application here: <http://ccechenango.org/resources/2018-dairy-day-scholarship>

The winner will be announced by January 15th, 2019

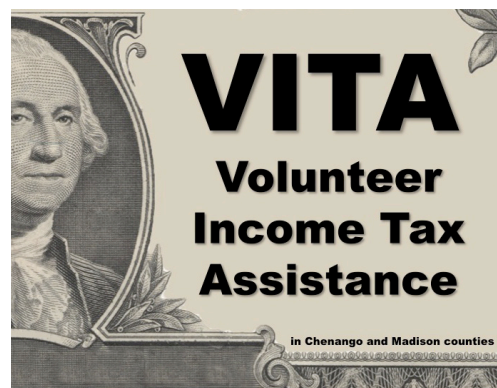


VITA Volunteers Needed!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Consider preparing tax returns in your community. You'll receive specialized training from an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer, so don't worry if you don't know that much about taxes! Volunteer roles include being a greeter, a reviewer, a tax preparer and more.

As a volunteer, you will interact with people who need help preparing their tax returns at no cost to them. We need volunteers to serve as Instructors, Site Coordinators, Tax Preparers, and much more.

If you are interested, please contact Alice Andrews by January 15th, 2019. For more information, Alice can be reached by phone at (607) 334-5841 ext. 18 or by email at ama42@cornell.edu.



February: National Canned Food Month

Adapted from, Lisa Franzen-Castle, RD, PhD, Nutrition Specialist University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Author E-mail: lfranzen2@unl.edu

Canned foods are convenient, portable, quick, and have a long shelf life. They also help provide needed nutrients to meet USDA Dietary Guidelines. During February, National Canned Food Month, experiment with different recipes and meal ideas using canned foods. There are several varieties of canned foods on grocery store shelves, offering an array of nutritious options. Check out the following tips on storing and using canned foods.

Tips for Storing & Using Canned Foods:

Purchasing canned goods: Avoid rusted, dented, scratched, or bulging cans. Always check freshness dates on foods. Below are different types of “dates” you may see on canned items.

- Sell by: tells the store how long to display the product for sale. You should buy the product before the date expires to have enough time to use it at best quality.
- Best if used by: is recommended for best flavor or quality. It’s not a purchase or safety date.
- Use by: is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality and has been determined by the manufacturer.
- Closed or coded: are packing numbers for use by the manufacturer to rotate the stock as well as to locate products in the event of a recall.

Comparing food labels: Read the Nutrition Facts Label on products to find food with the most nutrition for your money. Using the Nutrition Facts Label helps you compare fat, calories, fiber, sodium and sugar found in different products. They also provide information on the serving size and how many servings are in an item. Look for lower sodium or no salt added versions of canned foods.

Storing canned foods in the cupboard/pantry: Store canned food in clean, cool, dark, and dry spaces.

Don’t put them above the stove, under the sink, in a damp garage or basement, or any place exposed to high or low temperature extremes. The optimal temperature range is 50-70°F. Temperatures over 100°F may cause canned food to deteriorate and lose quality. Freezing temperatures may cause changes in food textures, and lead to rust, bursting cans, and broken seals that may let in harmful bacteria.

Check out these canned food resources and find out more: Food safety tips and time saving recipes and meals at: <http://food.unl.edu/web/fnh/february#cannedfood>.



Three Can Chili

Ingredients:

- 1 (15 oz.) can beans (Kidney, red, or black) undrained
- 1 (15 oz.) can corn, drained or a 10 oz. bag of frozen corn
- 1 (15 oz.) can crushed tomatoes, undrained
- Chili powder to taste

Instructions:

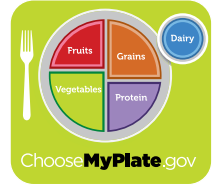
1. Place the contents of all three cans into a pan
2. Add Chili powder to taste
3. Stir to mix
4. Continue to stir over medium heat or until heated thoroughly
5. Refrigerate leftovers.

Nutrition Facts:

Serving Size 1 cup (212g)
Servings Per Recipe 6
Calories 160 Calories from Fat 5
Total Fat .5g (1%), (Saturated Fat 0g, Trans Fat 0g), Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 450mg, Total Carbohydrate 30g (Dietary Fiber 7g, Sugars 5g), Protein 7g, Vitamin A 10%, Calcium 6%, Vitamin C 15%, Iron 10%.
Recipe analyzed using ESHA's The Food Processor

Canned Foods Like You've Never Seen Them Before

Simplicity + Nutrition = A MyPlate Win



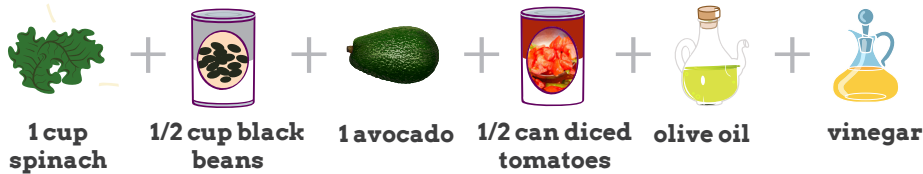
Everything you put on your plate matters, no matter what time of day. Up your intake of fruits, vegetables, beans and seafood using simple and nutritious canned foods. For inspiration, consider these on-trend (and no-fuss) recipes for healthier choices you can pull together in a jiffy.

Breakfast: PEACH SMOOTHIE BOWL



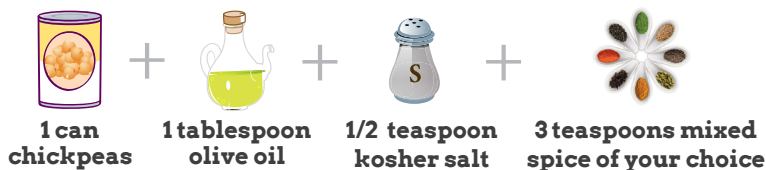
Blend frozen banana, ¾ can peaches (drained), vanilla Greek yogurt, and cinnamon together until smooth. Top with remaining peaches, almonds and granola.

Lunch: MASON JAR SOUTHWEST GREEN SALAD



Layer drained & rinsed canned beans, chopped avocado, drained tomato and drizzle with olive oil and your favorite vinegar inside Mason jar. Top with chopped spinach. Shake jar to mix ingredients when it's time for lunch.

Snack: SPICED ROASTED CHICKPEAS



Drain/rinse chickpeas, dry with a clean cloth and spread on baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and spices and gently mix to coat chickpeas. Roast at 425° F for 30-40 minutes until crisp.

Dinner: MEDITERRANEAN "ZOODLES" with TUNA & ARTICHOKEs



Heat olive oil in large skillet. Add diced tomatoes with juices and warm through. Add drained tuna and drained artichoke hearts and cook to blend flavors. Toss and serve over bed of zoodles (spiralized zucchini).

The Canned Food Alliance, a National Strategic Partner of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, is a consortium of steelmakers, can manufacturers, food processors and affiliate members. For more information about canned food research, facts, resources, the canning process, family mealtime solutions, recipes that use canned foods and more, visit Mealtime.org. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

2018 CCE Chenango Annual Meeting

On December 5th, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County held their 2018 Annual Meeting at the Northeast Classic Car Museum in Norwich. The luncheon was enjoyed by all. Elizabeth Monaco, United Way Executive Director, started off the meeting as the guest speaker. She spoke on the topic of the ALICE population in Chenango County, and the initiatives of United Way. Staffer Christina Hall then presented this year's Award of Service to CCE, to Brandon Woodcock for all the time and effort he has dedicated to the association this year. CCE Chenango Staff continued with their program updates and other association recognition awards.

A special part of this years meeting were all the farewells wished to the beloved "nerve center of CCE," as 4-H Coordinator Janet Pfromm puts it. Cindy Gardiner has been the welcoming face of CCE here in Chenango County for many years. The association wished her a fond farewell on her next adventure.

This year CCE Chenango also thanked four outgoing board members; Joe Cornell, Brian Newton, Julie Ives, and Gale Hamstra, for their time and service to the association. Heather Lathrop, Jordan Fleming, Yusuf Harper, and Mike O'Reilly were all elected and welcomed to the upcoming years board. Thank you to all who attended this years Annual Meeting, and to all the staff who worked hard to put this year's luncheon together.



Janet Pfromm wishes Cindy Gardiner a warm farewell and well wishes on her next journey.



Alexis Woodcock and award recipient Jenn Fowler.



Christina Hall and award recipient Brandon Woodcock.



Two of the retiring board members, Julie Ives and Joe Cornell.



Annual Meeting event space.

The Staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!



A Message from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition

The Loss of Hemlock • by: Laura Grant, USC Buffer Technician

Standing 170 feet tall, and living up to 500 years, the eastern hemlock has earned the epithet “redwood of the east.” Its deep green foliage layering from overstory to forest floor hosts numerous species of birds, mammals and arthropods. The eastern hemlock’s influence is felt most intensely in riparian ecosystems. Riparian, refers to the land along streams and waterways that harbor terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. In New York State, eastern hemlock composes more than 25% of the basal area in riparian areas.

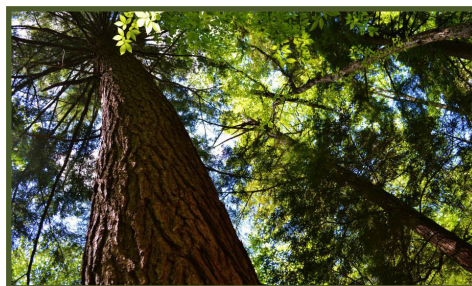
Eastern hemlock is the foundation species of the riparian ecosystem. A foundation species is an organism that defines forest structure and control ecosystem dynamics. Since the foliage of the eastern hemlock layers from canopy to forest floor, it casts an impenetrable shade. This shade results in a sparsely populated, but unique plant community inhabiting the forest floor. Wildflowers such as Canada mayflower, star flower and the elusive jack-in-the-pulpit seek refuge in the hemlock’s shadow. The shading also helps to maintain cooler water temperatures. Adult brook trout cannot survive in water that is too warm, and hemlock forested corridors create chilled sanctuaries for brook trout on hot summer days. Humans also benefit from the shade cast by hemlocks. In early spring eastern hemlock helps to mitigate flooding by slowing the rate of snow melt. In the northeast, the wettest seasons are spring and fall. The effects of spring rains are often exacerbated by the coinciding snow melt. The hemlock shade slows the rate at which snow melts so less water rushes through stream channels at once. Improved water quality is yet another benefit the

eastern hemlock provides. The root system of the eastern hemlock, though shallow, is quite extensive. This network of roots keeps soil on land and out of the water. When too much sediment enters waterways, clogging fish gills and degrading spawning sites.

Losing the eastern hemlock would be devastating, almost unimaginable, but unfortunately a forest without the east coast redwood may become a reality. Despite its immense size, the eastern hemlock is being eradicated by an insect less than two millimeters in length. Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an invasive insect native to Asia. Originally introduced to Virginia in the 1950s on nursery stock, the insect has since spread south to Georgia and north into Maine. These insects feed by inserting their straw-like mouths at the base of a needle, and sucking out the stored starches. As the population of the adelgid continues to grow, more and more twigs, and branches die leaving behind the withered frame of a once thriving hemlock. Fortunately hemlock woolly adelgid can be relatively easy to detect. As the insect feeds it produces these white woolly masses, which are quite obvious against the dark green needles of the hemlock. Symptoms can include yellowing foliage, lack of bud formation in spring and twig/branch dieback. If you suspect you may have found HWA, it

should be reported to your regional New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) office.

The outlook for a future of hemlock forests may seem bleak, but there is plenty being done to save it. The NYS DEC is partnering with the NYS Hemlock Initiative to further research of biocontrols, a predatory organism introduced to control pests. Several species of beetles and flies are being explored as methods of controlling the adelgid populations in New York. Hemlocks can also be effectively treated with an insecticide. If you are looking to treat your hemlocks, a New York State certified pesticide applicator should be hired. Landowners concerned with the health of their hemlocks should contact a certified arborist to discuss treatment options. To prevent further spread of the adelgid, avoid transporting brush, and inspect clothing and gear after hiking in infested stands. There is not a single other conifer species native to New York that can replace the eastern hemlock. Treating infested trees and preventing further spread of HWA is invaluable to our ecosystems. •





Cornell Cooperative Extension | Chenango County

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The Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Chenango County Board meets
every third Tuesday of the month
at 7 PM in the Satellite Room at 99
North Broad Street, Norwich, NY.
Please feel free to join us!

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