

# *Annual Report 2024*

*2025 Calendar*

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing a red and black plaid shirt, holding a large amount of dark brown soil. The soil is being held in a cupped shape, and some of it is falling through the fingers. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a bright sky.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Chenango County**

**99 North Broad Street  
Norwich, NY  
(607) 334-5841**

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.

# A Letter from the Director

Dear CCE Supporters, Volunteers, 4-H Youth, and Families,

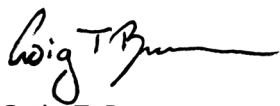
As we reflect on the past year, we at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County (CCECC) are both humbled and grateful for the unwavering support we have received from our community. Despite facing several challenges with our buildings and grounds, the generosity and encouragement from community members and organizations such as the Follett Foundation, NBT, SUNY Morrisville's Norwich Campus, United Way, the South Central Community Foundation, and the Evening Sun have been genuinely inspiring. From direct program funding to marketing outreach, your contributions have been invaluable, and we are blessed to have such a dedicated network of supporters.

This year has been a period of significant growth and development for our programs. Our nutrition program expanded with the introduction of the new Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and we welcomed new school districts into our 4-H Agriculture in the Classroom Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Catch curriculum. Our adult participants engaged in a diverse array of programs, learning skills from bread making and pickling to artificial insemination and herd management. They also attended workshops on budgeting, healthy habits, knife skills, and preparing healthy, tasty recipes, among many other topics.

Our 4-H youth participants have had an equally enriching year. They participated in sheep clinics, kayaking adventures, leadership training, and civic engagements in Albany. They learned sewing, safe firearm operation in shooting sports, and enjoyed camping trips around the county. Additionally, they explored opportunities on farms and at colleges, broadening their horizons and gaining invaluable experiences. These activities not only provided fun and learning but also fostered a sense of community and personal growth among our youth.

At CCECC, we are deeply committed to our Chenango County family and continuously strive to create more opportunities for everyone to thrive. This past year, our team has put their hearts into their roles, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Together, with your continued support, we look forward to overcoming future challenges and achieving even greater successes in the coming year.

Warmest regards,



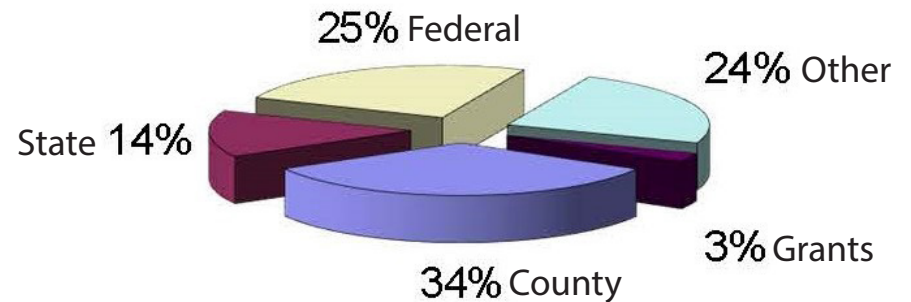
Craig T. Brown  
 Association Executive Director  
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County

# Financial Facts

## Estimated Revenue and Support Received by CCE Chenango during 2024

State and Federal support includes the estimated value of Services and educational access provided by Cornell, the USDA, and NYS Sponsored grants. Most of this is related to training and access to the research, that is the basis of the programs we conduct. These services are available to CCE Chenango because of the memorandum of agreement, support provided by local memorandum of agreement, and support provided by local government; and are made available because of Chenango County's contribution to our funding.

REVENUE is the actual cash provided to CCE during the Fiscal year 2024, of which Chenango County provides approximately, an overall revenue and support of 34%. "Other" reflects income generated through, contributions, special projects and rental income.



## Sources of Revenue

	Total	Support	Revenue
County	\$308,115.19	\$0.00	\$308,115.19
State	\$622,900.20	\$489,947.83	\$132,952.37
Federal	\$296,962.72	\$63,158.00	\$233,804.72
Other	\$221,082.84	\$0.00	\$221,082.84
Grants	\$24,805.48	\$0.00	\$24,805.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,473,866.43</b>	<b>\$553,105.83</b>	<b>\$920,760.60</b>

Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango County  
CURRENT STAFF 2023-2024  
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Building Custodian

**John Godfrey**

Building Custodian

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**Central NY Dairy, Livestock,  
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**Daniela Gonzalez Carranza**

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# 2024 CCE Chenango Board of Directors

**Board Officers**

President - Jake Perrone  
Vice President - Yusuf Harper  
Secretary - AnnaMarie Ward  
Treasurer - Grace Provance

**Directors at Large**

Patsy Graham  
Heather Lathrop  
Joe Cornell  
Nathan Funk  
Jordan Fleming  
Mary Weidman

**Board of Supervisor  
Representative**

Jeremiah Micklas

**Cornell Representative**

Danielle Hautaniemi



# SNAP-Ed Busy with Programming

## Impact Report

Chenango County is served by the regional SNAP-Ed team who includes: Whitney Kmetz, Community Health & Nutrition Supervisor; Carrie Forward & Carol Lyons, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators. Our region covers Chenango, Madison, and Cortland County. SNAP-Ed teaches individuals from 1st grade through older adults how to shop and cook healthy meals on a budget!

SNAP-Ed has created lasting community partnerships to create positive change within our county. We were awarded a full season standard share of vegetables saving our program \$1014.42 this year, using about 15 pounds of produce weekly and 330 pounds overall. We are so grateful for their continued support.

One thing that makes our job worth it is the positive successes that happen. Here are some highlights... At Chase memorial, they have added the SNAP-Ed recipe, Zucchini Blueberry Pancakes to their menu. Many participants have tried new recipes such as, Northwest Apple Salad, Unbeetable Berry Smoothie, Popyeye Power Smoothie and more.



We have created added value to our programming by collaborating with other CCE Educators. Ag in the Classroom Educator, Shealyn Otto and Community Health & Nutrition Supervisor, Whitney Kmetz provided a lesson during Ag literacy week, Shealyn did a wonderful strawberry lesson. Then Whitney provided a lesson on the importance of fruits and vegetables and prepared a strawberry spinach salad recipe. The students LOVED this lesson, and we even received an email from Oxford Central School District about how much the kids loved it!

Another great effort was made by Grow, Cook, Serve Coordinator Alexis Woodcock and Community Health & Nutrition Supervisor, Whitney Kmetz where they incorporated two programs into one flawlessly with growing, cooking, and serving healthy foods on a budget during this past fiscal year. One participant said "I really look forward to these classes. It is eating so differently than how I have the other 66 years".

On October 26th at 2pm, Southern Tier Region SNAP-Ed Team Regina Arnold and Whitney Kmetz, won the "Big Apple Crunch" event at our PSE school, During this event, it was about 300 individuals that participated to make this come to life! The event takes place on this day for New York to celebrate the apple harvest, appreciate eating local, and to inspire everyone to "crunch" on apples through FarmOn! This district took it above and beyond, all of the elementary students and staff wore yellow, red, or green for the event. We were able to do it outside since the weather was perfect that day, actually a bit too warm because the bees loved the apples! There were cones set up outside and everyone stood around the perimeter of the cones, it was in a formation of an apple! Above was a dove flown by the art teacher in the elementary school who was taking pictures of this event for us. Whitney Kmetz, our Community Health & Nutrition Supervisor sent the pictures to FarmOn! after the event through Facebook, Instagram, and their actual email contact. It took a few days then we were notified that we won for the State!! This win meant that FarmOn! provided the elementary school \$1,000 for a victory garden.



## IMPACT

School Districts Served  
**6**  
Programs done at various sites within the county  
**215**  
Served  
**205 adults**  
**1,823 youth**  
One-time directs  
**167**  
Series Education Classes  
**52**  
Indirects  
**3,620**  
Stay Tuned.. SNAP-ED will be incorporating 3 new initiatives into our programming this year! For more information contact Whitney Kmetz at wdg43@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 ext:1132

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5	6	7	1 New Years Day CCE Closed	2	3 4-H Horsebowl Practices	4
5	6	7	8 Leaders/Volunteers meeting	9 Grow Cook Serve with Snap-Ed	10 4-H Horsebowl Practices	11 4-H Dairy Tour Kickoff Dairy Bowl 4-H Outdoor Cooking
12	13	14 4-H Kids In The Kitchen	15 4-H Youth Selling Animals Livestock Meeting	16 Snap-Ed Program	17 4-H Horsebowl Practices	18
19 4-H Shooting Sports	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day CCE Closed	21	22	23	24 National Compliment Day 4-H Horsebowl Practices	25 Youth Bureau Cross Country Ski 4-H Dairy Bowl
26	27 Snap-Ed Program	28 4-H Youth 8+ yrs. Presentation Clinic CCE Board Meeting, 6:30	29	30	31 4-H Horsebowl Practices	

**\*\* Dates are subject to change so be sure to check our web page, facebook page, or call for information**

# CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION / Volunteers Are Our Greatest Treasure

One of the greatest resources Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County has is the group of volunteers that work in a variety of our programs. We are blessed to have many wonderful volunteers that donate their time and energy to help make CCE flourish. Our volunteers support us as: Master Gardeners, 4-H Club Leaders, Project Leaders, County Fair, Leaders Association, and a large number that help in 4-H programs.

We are grateful for all of the hours that these volunteers give to CCE. Research shows that our volunteers impact not only our communities but our programs in the many ways:

- Volunteers aid the community with gardening concerns
- Volunteers serve as positive role models for our youth
- Volunteers are able to support, encourage, and “be there” for youth
- Volunteers help youth develop community connections and become active citizens in their communities
- Volunteers help program participants learn new content and master new topics
- Volunteers raise financial support for 4-H needs: college scholarships, club start-ups, 4-H trips, camps, and more



These are just a few of the wonderful CCE volunteers!

*Thank You to all of our Master Gardeners, 4-H Club Leaders, Project Leaders, Leaders Association members, and County-Wide Volunteers!*



# FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2025						1 4-H Dairy Bowl
2	3	4	5	6	7 4-H Horsebowl Practices	8 4-H Ice Fishing 4-H Dairy Bowl 4-H Outdoor Cooking
9 National Pizza Day	10	11 4-H Kids In The Kitchen	12 4-H Swine 101 Clinic	13	14 Valentines Day 4-H Horsebowl Practices	15 4-H Dairy Bowl
16 4-H Shooting Sports	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day Presidents' Day CCE Closed	18 4-H Cloverbud Presentation Clinic	19 Youth Bureau Snowshoe at Cook Park	20	21 4-H Horsebowl Practices	22 4-H Dairy Bowl
23	24	25	26	27	28 4-H Horsebowl Practices	

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# Agriculture, Grazing, and Ag Economic Development

## 2024 Highlights:



Throughout the 2023-2024 programming year, agriculture played an important role in our work at Chenango County Cooperative Extension. As part of our daily service to Chenango County we are able to give assistance to clients through several means: phone calls, emails, and assistance to our walk in clients. Some of the highlights from this year:

- Dairy Day was held in June at the Chenango County Fairgrounds.
- We have provided information on property tax reduction, soil testing, timber sales, and enterprises for new beginning farmers.
- Took part at the Grasstravaganza Grazing Conference in March, held at Morrisville College. Approximately 1090 in attendance.
- We have collaborated in several initiatives of the Cornell Small Farms Program: Beginning Farmer support, informational articles written for the Small Farms Quarterly about grazing and beef cattle (readership is about 8,000).
- Teamed up with Nicole Tommel on the "Baskets to Pallets" online workshop to assist producers with wholesale marketing.
- CCE Chenango was represented at the Central NY Dairy Day in Cooperstown sponsored by the NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops team.
- Assist Amish Farmers planning to convert a bedded pack dairy barn into a free stall barn set up.
- Rich Taber served as a judge at the Central NY Regional Envirothon in Sherburne.
- Two-day workshop at Cornell's Arnot Forest, FRESH, Forest Resource Extension Sharing.
- In July, another team effort with Daniella Carranza Gonales, hosting a two-day workshop on artificial insemination of beef and dairy cattle. Twelve were in attendance.
- Collaboration has been provided in support of Commerce Chenango, the Agriculture Development Council, the Ag and Farmland Protection Committee, Dairy Day, Farm Bureau, and the Chenango County Fair.
- In September a meeting was held for vendors that were interested in starting up a summer and winter farmers market. CCE gave support by advising those interested in the Norwich farmers market start up.





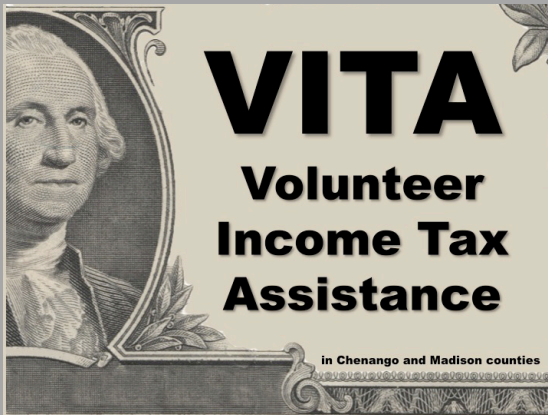
# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Birds of Prey Walk Raptor Talk TBA				4-H Horsebowl Practices	1 4-H Poultry Clinic w/Jamie Matts 4-H Dairy Bowl
2	3	4	5 Leaders/Volunteers meeting	6	7 4-H Horsebowl Practices	8 4-H Outdoor Cooking 4-H Dairy Bowl 4-H Regional Hippology Competition
9	10	11 4-H Kids In The Kitchen	12 National Plant a Flower Day	13	14 4-H Horsebowl Practices	15 4-H Local Presentations
16 4-H Shooting Sports	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Ag Literacy Week	20 Spring Begins	21 4-H Horsebowl Practices	22 4-H Regional Horsebowl & Dairy Bowl Competition
23 30	24 31	25 CCE Board Meeting, 6:30	26	27 4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice	28	29 Dairy Discovery 4-H Sewing Scholarship Due 4-H Sewing Trip

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# 2024 VALUABLE PROGRAMS IN OUR COMMUNITY

## 2024 VITA PROGRAM



In 2024, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County once again opened their doors for the twenty-second year in a row by lending space and becoming a busy site for the VITA program, as volunteer's aid residents with their taxes. The Chenango and Madison Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CASH) Coalition sets up volunteers to assist people, organizes volunteers, and locations to assist people filing their tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is designed to support free tax preparation services for low to moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers, those that earn less than \$67,000 in a tax year. Each volunteer in this program is an IRS trained and certified tax preparer.

In Madison and Chenango counties, NBT Bank ensures the program is available for residents. In the months of January to April, the office becomes a very busy place for these tax returns. In 2024, volunteers in Chenango County completed 400 tax returns, a huge increase since its onset of 50 returns in 2004. In 2025 volunteers hope to expand these numbers and return more money to local residents than in years before.

## MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

The Master Gardener Volunteers held seven meetings throughout 2024, with four of those including additional hours spent working on the gardens at the Norwich Guernsey Library or at the CCE offices. We weeded, mulched, planted, and trimmed flowers and shrubs in the half circle garden at the Library in April and October.



In May then again in October we cleared some of the vegetation from the front of the CCE building and planted Hostas along the edge of the building in the spring, cut down dead material, trimmed shrubs and trees at the side of the CCE garden. This was done with the goal of reducing the size and plant composition of that space for reasons of security as well as simplicity. When the CCE office receives home garden related enquiries, as part of what used to be the MGV Hotline, they are forwarded via email to us, we then research and supply answers to the questioner via email or by telephone.

With just four to six active members attending our meetings, we do not have the person-power to provide physical assistance with planting or maintaining garden projects for local organizations that occasionally request our advice and assistance and feel it is important to increase community interest and participation in the Master Gardener Program. In August, flyers about the upcoming MGV training were shared at the Chenango County Fair and we will continue to explore other ways to contact and inform the public. We hope to become increasingly involved in the Norwich Community Garden plots in 2025.

We believe participation in the MGV program has increased our knowledge and understanding of gardening principles and methods, giving us valuable connections to our community and to each other. We want to thank the staff at CCE for their very helpful support for what we do.

## HOME BUREAU



The New York State Federation of Home Bureau was founded by womens leaders of various organizations in 1919 in Ithaca, NY. The organization consists of NYS homemakers, both urban and rural, non-political, non-sectarian, and non-racial. It is an independent organization, solely supported by membership dues.

There are six project areas to Home Bureau: Consumer Education, Legislation, Crafts, Health and Safety, Scholarship, and Community Service.

The Chenango County chapter meet every Wednesday morning at the CCE building. This group has done some pretty amazing things. Some examples that they have contributed back into communities are: making items for nursing homes, scarfs and hats for cancer patients, huggy bears for children in hospitals, sending items to our military men and women, making lap blankets, creating treats for nursing home patients, and so much more. This organization believes that our community is very important so they are always looking for ways to give back to our communities. Many hours are spent in doing community service by the members.

2025

# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day	2 4-H Cloverbud Sewing	3 4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice	4	5 NYS Horsebowl Contest
6	7	8 4-H Kids In The Kitchen	9 4-H Cloverbud Sewing	10 4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice	11	12 Regional Presentations 4-H Outdoor Cooking
13 Palm Sunday	14 National Gardening Day	15 Tax Day	16 4-H Garden Club 4-H Cloverbud Sewing	17 4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Sunday No 4-H Shooting Sports	21	22 4-H Earth Day Program CCE Board Meeting, 6:30	23 Youth Bureau Compass and Map fun	24 4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice	25	26
27	28	29	30			

\*\* Dates are subject to change so be sure to check our web page, facebook page, or call for information

# Ag in the Classroom

Growing the next generation of agriculturalists one classroom at a time



**Impacting Students  
Impacting Schools  
Impacting Communities**



Unadilla Valley ● Greene ● Otselic Valley ● Oxford ● Sherburne-Earlville

# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2025		4-H County / State Fair Livestock Mtg. TBA		May Day 4-H Leaders Association and Senior Dairy Scholarships Due 4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice		STARR Trip Animal Crackers
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Youth Bureau Kite Hike 4-H Leaders Association meeting	Leaders/Volunteers meeting	4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice		4-H Outdoor Cooking
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day		4-H Kids In The Kitchen National Apple Pie Day		4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Capital Days					
4-H Shooting Sports			4-H Garden Club			Armed Forces Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Memorial Day CCE Closed			4-H Skill-a-Thon Practice	All 4-H Enrollments & Animal Registration/ Certificates Due 4-H Livestock Skill-a-Thon Contest	

**\*\* Dates are subject to change so be sure to check our web page, facebook page, or call for information**

# EFNEP - Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program



## Quotes from participants:

“I’ve never ate broccoli before and now I did, I’m going to cry I’m so happy”


“Thank you for challenging our family to cut back on soda. We used to buy 7 cases soda per week and now we buy 3 and my children’s ADHD medicines are working better and we are moving more.”



## EFNEP Program is NEW to CCE Chenango County!

EFNEP (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program) is a free nutrition education program helping families and individuals eat healthier, be more active, save money when buying food, explore ideas for feeding children and keeping food safe. Our eligibility requirements are youth grades 3-12, parents/guardians, kinship caregiver and or youth adults (18-25). These participants must live in Chenango County and participate in any of the following: SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, Head Start, Free and Reduced-price school meals, and any other limited resource benefits. Each participant/family is enrolled in an 8-week, 60–120-minute interactive, small group, hands-on training class leading to a Certificate of Completion from Cornell University. If you are someone you know is interested in learning more about these classes please contact Mary Close at 607-334-5841 Ext: 1113 or at [mkc244@cornell.edu](mailto:mkc244@cornell.edu)

# JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 National Cheese Day	5	6	7 Youth Bureau Kayak Trip
8 National Children's Day	9	10 4-H Kids In The Kitchen	11	12	13 4-H Farmers Museum Junior Livestock Entries Due	14 4-H Outdoor Cooking
15 Father's Day 4-H Shooting Sports	16 National Fudge Day	17	18 4-H Garden Club	19 Juneteenth CCE Closed	20 Summer Solstice	21 Dairy Day
22	23	24 CCE Board Meeting, 6:30	25	26	27	28
29	30			Dates To Be Announced 4-H Riding Evaluations 4-H Pullorum Testing		2025 

\*\* Dates are subject to change so be sure to check our web page, facebook page, or call for information

# Grow Cook Serve

Grow Cook Serve is a program designed to create a healthier and more vibrant Chenango County by ensuring all residents have access to nutritious food. Through engaging cooking classes, hands-on gardening education, and generous produce donations, we aim to empower our community with the knowledge and resources needed to lead healthy, sustainable lives. By fostering strong community engagement and collaboration, and partnering with local farmers, we strive to build a supportive network where everyone can contribute to and benefit from a culture of wellness and shared growth. In its ninth year, Grow Cook Serve gleaned over 4000 pounds of fresh produce to donate to 7 Food Pantries in Chenango County. The produce was donated by Norwich Meadows Farm, and home gardeners. Additionally, Grow Cook Serve donated over 100 vegetable transplants and 300 packets of vegetable seeds.

As part of a new collaboration Grow Cook Serve offers adult workshops once a month at the Chenango Family Food CO-OP. This partnership is a way to introduce community members to the Food CO-OP as well as offer an opportunity for more adult education. Workshop topics included: Planning your Garden and Seed Starting, Introduction to Whole Grain Bread Baking, Food Preservation Safety and Science, Starting a Sourdough Starter, Introduction to Pasta Making, and many more.

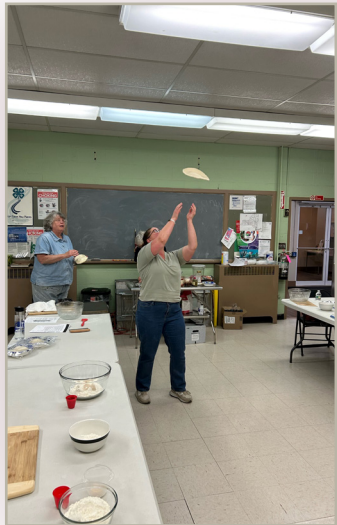
As a continuing partnership, Grow Cook Serve hosted seven adult workshops with Head Start Families. The topics included: Container Gardening, Freezing and Dehydrating, Solutions for Picky Eaters, Planning your Garden, Seed Starting, and Holiday Baking. Head Start supplied families with gardening gloves, trowels, and a garden caddy to keep their tools in. Grow Cook Serve gave families planting containers, transplants and soil. Each family planted a few containers with tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. As part of a grant secured by the Rural Health Network, Early Head Start families receive a CSA share every two weeks over the summer. The shares are supplied by the Catskill Agrarian Alliance and picked up at the CCE building. On pickup days Grow Cook Serve offers a cooking workshop, plus tips and tricks on how to use the produce included in their shares.

Grow Cook Serve along with the Department of Public Health and Afton/Bainbridge Libraries has been offering Lead Poisoning Prevention information sessions. Neisa Pantalia of Public Health read a children's book about protecting ourselves from lead poisoning and discussed with parents' strategies to keep lead out of the home. Grow Cook Serve made a snap-pea salad for a snack and all families did a planting activity.

Grow Cook Serve is continuing to support the Norwich Middle School Garden Club. The students spent much of the Spring preparing the garden beds and planting vegetables for the summer. The summer weekly sessions saw students harvesting and cooking their bounty. Once school started the students worked hard to put the gardens to bed and prepare for the winter. The crops the students were most excited about were strawberries, asparagus, and peanuts. They all really enjoyed roasting their own peanuts and eating them as a snack after school.


SNAP-ED and Grow Cook Serve joined forces again in 2024 to offer a Healthy Living Series of classes. The goal of the workshops is to provide a fun way for adults to learn about how to make healthy choices easier every day. We provide a short lecture, have a hands-on cooking demonstration, and then share a meal together. We have hosted 7 workshops. As part of a growing adult education program Grow Cook Serve offered a Fall Bread Baking Series. The series included Introduction to Bread Baking, Flat Breads, Pizza and Focaccia, Baking with Whole Grains, and Baking Holiday Breads.

Every year Grow Cook Serve continues to evolve and adapt by adding new partnerships and collaborations. We look forward to serving the community of Chenango County in 2025.





# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day CCE Closed	5
6	7	8	9 4-H Leaders Association Mtg, Picnic 6pm	10	11	12 4-H Outdoor Cooking
Farmers Museum Junior Livestock Show						
13	14 World Chocolate Day	15	16	17	18	19 4-H County Fair Clean-up & Set-up, Fair Grounds
20 4-H Shooting Sports	21	22	23	24	25 4-H County Fair Entries Due	26
		CCE Board Meeting, 6:30				
27 Parents' Day	28	29	30	31		Watch for 4-H State Fair Animal Entries - Due Before County Fair

\*\* Dates are subject to change so be sure to check our web page, facebook page, or call for information

# Chenango County 4-H Youth Development



## A YEAR IN REVIEW ANIMAL SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

- **County Fair** had immense growth in several species: in 2024 we had 50 sheep, 10 dogs, 189 poultry, 30 meat goats, 6 swine, 64 dairy goats, and 130 head of cattle entered
- Top Showman Honors at **Cooperstown Jr Livestock Show** and **NYS Fair** in Dairy Cattle and Dairy Goats
- Widely successful sheep clinic proving with support youth are unstoppable

- 24 youth participated in **Dairy Bowl** practices this year, 13 of them competing at the regional contest. Our teams placed 3rd in beginner and 4th in the junior team competitions. We also took home 10th place, 8th, 3rd, 2nd beginner individual placings and 8th and 3rd place individual junior placings.
- 19 youth met weekly over the course of 3 months learning all about **Equine science**, 11 youth moved on to the regional contest where the junior team placed 3rd overall with Maria F, earning a 1st individual placing. Our mixed region 4 group of seniors placed 5th overall.

- 14 youth participated in **Livestock Skill-A-Thon Practices**. 7 competing in the **FIRST** ever regional contest where we had the 2nd place beginner team!



# AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
			4-H County Fair Livestock Auction TBA			4-H Case Building Non-Perishable Judging
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	4-H Case Building Perishable Judging	Chenango County Fair				4-H Outdoor Cooking Demonstration
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Last Day County Fair						Tell A Joke Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4-H Shooting Sports		National Potato Day	New York State Fair Calendar of events - Posted At Later Date			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	New York State Fair					

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# Chenango County 4-H Youth Development



## NATURAL RESOURCES

We saw growth in our natural resources programming this year and connected with youth in a variety of areas. Our aim is to expand opportunities for youth and give them different experiences in nature. We offered kayaking, birding, camping & cross country skiing events and mini-series on gardening, entomology, and map & compass. We explored the Chenango River, Susquehanna River, The Greenway Trails, Bowman Lake, Cook Park, Lyons Brook State Forest, Whaupaucau State Forest, Friends of Rogers Center, The Lab of Ornithology at Cornell and more! We look forward to 2025!

4-H Natural Resource Educator  
Erica Clark  
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# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New York State Fair Labor Day CCE Closed					Read A Book Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		4-H Livestock Market Animal Records Due	Patriot Day			4-H Outdoor Cooking
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Grandparents Day						National Pepperoni Pizza Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4-H Shooting Sports	Autumnal Equinox (Start Of Fall)	CCE Board Meeting, 6:30		National Cooking Day		
28	29	30				2025 

\*\* Dates are subject to change so be sure to check our web page, facebook page, or call for information

# More Chenango County 4-H 2024 Year in Review

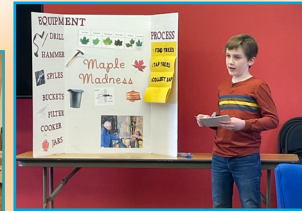
The Kids in the Kitchen program continued to flourish in its fourth year. The goal of this program is to teach children how to create healthy inexpensive meals. Families pick up their meal kits and cook along with Grow Cook Serve educators virtually. We hosted 8 classes.

Along with Kids in the Kitchen, Grow Cook Serve, held 3 Kids in the Garden Workshops to teach 4-H'ers how to grow their own vegetables at home. Additionally, participants learn how gardening can contribute to physical and mental wellbeing.

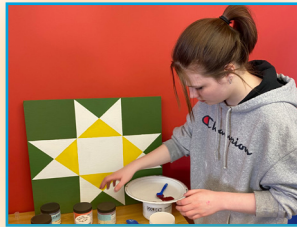


4-H Clubs and Families performed over 25 community services projects taking place throughout the year, with an average length of 3 hours per service.

The 4-H Communication program has been an integral part of Chenango County 4-H for many years. Thirty 4-H'ers came to give their presentations to a group of volunteer judges. Everyone did an amazing job, with a variety of fantastic topics. Chenango County had eleven youth go on to compete at the regional level as well as three equine presenters that went on to compete at the NYS competition.



One of the new 4-H projects that took place in 2024 was a 3-D printing class. The youth enjoyed learn this new process and a demonstration was also given at the County Fair.



Another incredible year for the 2024 sewing program. This program serves 4-H youth ages 5- to 14-year-olds. This year we engaged 40 youth contacts with the help of 22 amazing volunteers. These volunteers gave a total of 250 hours of their time to help our 4-H youth accomplish some amazing projects. Throughout the sewing program we strive to teach not just the basics of sewing machine use and safety, but different aspects needed for successful sewing. We talk about types of needles, varied bobbins, threads, fabrics, and a whole lot more. On one evening we had two clubs join the sewing program wanting a sewing lesson. at this meeting we were able to cover four different types of hand sewn stitches. We continue to have many youth interested in learning to sew.

4-h'ers got together to try their hand at a fun painting barn quilt project. They took blank canvas' and worked on their own barn quilt designs.

A new program was offered to our 4-H'ers in 2024 which was a babysitting class. This was offered by the American Red Cross to help train our youth with the skills for babysitting. Eight youth participated in this program.



Another first in the 4-H programming was an Animal First Aid clinic. This took place at the CCE building where 15 families took part in the program. Each family took home a first aid kit from the event.

Our sewing program ended on May 8th to acknowledge all of the 4-H'ers sewing achievements. The Sewing Spectacular was a fun way for the kids to show off their projects to parents, grandparents, leaders, and friends as they walk across the stage at the Chenango County Council of the Arts.

# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5	4 6 4-H Achievement Day TBA	7	1 8 International Coffee Day Leaders/Volunteers meeting	2 9	3 10	4 11 4-H Outdoor Cooking
12 Farmers Day	13 Columbus Day CCE Closed	14 4-H Proclamation, 10am, County Office Building	15	16 Boss Day	17	18
19 4-H Shooting Sports	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 CCE Board Meeting, 6:30	29	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN	

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# A Great Year with 4-H Shooting Sports!



Chenango County 4-H Shooting continues to grow. In 2024 we had 28 youth participate, (14 Girls and 14 Boys). This growth brought about changes in our schedule in order to accommodate all participants.

The air rifle and .22 programs are working on standing, prone, and kneeling positions. Each of these positions require a different focus for safety and accuracy. Our 4-H'ers have worked hard to learn these new skills.

The archery program has added an additional 10 yards to their program requiring youth to learn how to change their technique in order to allow continued accuracy at these distances.

Last year we had 5 instructors. We have new volunteers that are looking forward to taking their instructor training in February 2025. Our instructors and volunteers continued to work on firearm and marksmanship skills. A big thank you to Rockdale Rod and Gun Club for supporting us with facility space!



# Creative Cooking with 4-H Outdoor Cooking!



The Chenango 4-H Outdoor Cooking program continues to create delicious recipes made using cast iron Dutch Ovens over charcoal. The youth in this program have become pretty creative, they make everything from scratch and discuss their dishes after to see what could be improved or changed. They are allowed to experiment with different amounts of ingredients, altering their dishes to suit what they think would be good. It is a wonderful opportunity for these young people to create food that is solely made by themselves. Throughout 2024 they have used their skills with main dishes, desserts, and breads all in cast iron over charcoal.

The program met with 8 youth and consists of youth ages 12 and older. During 2024, we had 4 boys and 4 girls in attendance. We met once a month, year round, through rain and snow, unless the weather was really bad.

Toward the end of the season the youth are given a challenge to come up with recipes on their own, to create something that they would like to share. Once they plan their end of the year dishes they set up shop during the Chenango County fair, where these 4-H'ers demonstrated and provided samples to the fair goers. In 2024, it was their second year demonstrating at the fair. This was a huge success and you would never go hungry with these 4-H'ers around. This program is fortunate to have three 4-H volunteers giving them guidance as they learn these culinary outdoor cooking skills.







# NOVEMBER

Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2  Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4	5	6	7	8  4-H Outdoor Cooking
9	10  Veteran's Day CCE Closed	11	12	13  World Kindness Day	14	15
16  4-H Shooting Sports	17	18	19	20	21	22
30 23	24	25	26  National Milk Day	27  Thanksgiving Day CCE Closed	28  Black Friday CCE Closed	29  Small Business Saturday

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# Seasons Greetings from the Staff at Chenango County



Craig Brown



Alice Andrews



Rhonda Turrell



Alexis Woodcock



Rich Taber



Kristi Gorrell



Whitney Kmetz



Mary Close



Dennis Madden



Erica Clark



Victoria Ryan



Carol Lyons



Carrie Forward



John Godfrey

# DECEMBER 2025



Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1 Cyber Monday	2	3	4 CCE Annual Meeting	5 International Volunteer Day	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 National Cocoa Day 4-H Outdoor Cooking
14	15	16	17 National Maple Syrup Day	18	19	20 National Ugly Sweater Day
21 Winter Solstice 4-H Shooting Sports	22	23 CCE Board Meeting, 6:30	24 Christmas Eve CCE Closed	25 Christmas Day CCE Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		Leaders/Volunteers Christmas Tea TBA	

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County strives to promote educational opportunities that enhance quality of life through business, community and leadership development by fostering social and life skills in our community's youth and adult population.

## **Mission Statement:**

# **"Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities"**

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**Chenango County**