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*"Helping build strong and vibrant communities."*

## ANIMAL LEASING HELPS 4-H'ERS BUILD FUTURE BUSINESSES

"Showstick in hand, comb in pocket, lead to the left, know the answers to the questions, stay calm, we can do this..." These are all things that run through a 4-Hers head as they enter the showring. After spending countless hours at a local farmer's farm, working with their animals, their big day has arrived. They get to 'show' their animals at the county fair! Over the past three years, fifty (50) 4-Hers have committed to the responsibilities of the animal leasing program.

In the animal leasing program, 4-Hers arrange with local farmers to lease an animal from their farm to take to the Wayne County fair. Each lease agreement is unique, depending on the arrangements made between the owner and the 4-Her. Some leases state that

the youth must come to the farm to help with the milking, the feeding and general care of the animal, specifying a certain number of days each week, while other leases simply request that the youth work with their animal for a particular number of hours each week.

Niki Davey a 6 year 4-H member says *"after leasing a dairy cow for a few years, I decided to try beef this past year. I have now purchased a steer for my project animal for 2010. I am looking forward to raising my own animal from start to finish."* Through the animal leasing program Niki and other 4-Hers are able to gain knowledge in the area of animal science while developing the skills and experience necessary to successfully show their animal in the showring and build a future business!

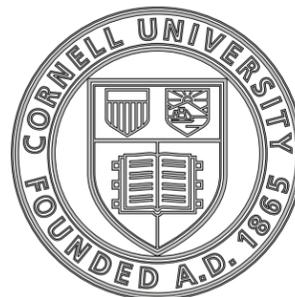
## CCE AND PALMAC SCHOOLS WORK TOGETHER TO INCREASE HEALTH OF STUDENTS

The Eat Well Play Hard (EWPH) initiative of CCE assisted Palmyra-Macedon School District for 18 months in efforts to improve many aspects of child wellness and fitness.

Mini-grant funding allowed each school to have nutritionist consulting services with the cafeteria director to review and change student breakfast and lunch offerings to include more healthy meals. Students participated in activities such as walking and exercise programs like Sole Power, the Passport Family Wellness Program, and Healthy Steps and would not have occurred without the support of EWPH. Elementary teaching staff was trained in the "Jump into Foods and Fitness" and "Take 10" curriculum. Results show that teachers are incorporating nutrition units in physical education classes

and in regular classroom instruction. Perhaps foremost and most observed at all grade levels, is that student-led physical activity is being integrated into reading, math, science and social studies classes from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This program change is now positively impacting approximately 850 students in the two elementary schools. As a district, Pal Mac is now meeting or surpassing all aspects of the New York State Education Department requirements for physical education.

As a result of this effort, Kevin Austin, Principal at Palmyra Elementary, nominated CCE to receive the Robert G. Boehmler Community Partners For Education Award—the first time it has ever been given to a county based organization.



# Cornell University Cooperative Extension

## WAYNE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2009

### 2009

#### Board of Directors:

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*Cornell Cooperative  
Extension Wayne County  
is an equal opportunity  
educator and employer.*

The programs and people of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Wayne County enhance the environment, economic well being and health of all Wayne County residents. As you read this year's annual report I hope you will be impressed how each of our extension program areas of agriculture, youth and nutrition, work hand in hand across program boundaries to improve all of our lives here in Wayne County.

This year I am more impressed than ever with the impact of our staff and volunteers, especially with all the disruptions they had to work around. For those of you who may not be aware, this past year saw a flood in our building due to a frozen pipe, and fire from a boiler that failed in a rather dramatic way. Once these issues were addressed along came a mild infestation of mice. As one staff member summed it up, "we have been through flood, fire and pestilence." On behalf of the Board of Directors our many thanks to staff and volunteers who, in addition to their regular duties, pitched in to recover from these crises.

This past June, Board members from all of the CCE associations in the State, along with their Executive Directors, met at Cornell University for what was titled CCE Council of Associations Leadership Summit with the theme of "Think Local, Act Statewide". The conference was designed to explore the challenges and opportunities for the Cornell Cooperative Extension System as we move toward our Centennial year in 2011. The conference summed up the challenges the system will face as the world, nation and state continue to experience change in demographics, technology and economic upheaval. I came away from the summit both challenged and encouraged. Chal-

lenged, because many of the scenarios painted show a radically different operating environment in which most are familiar. Encouraged, because we at CCE of Wayne County are already involved in many of the best practices discussed due to the interdisciplinary and regional approach in which our program areas currently operate. CCE Wayne will be poised more than other counties to deal with the challenges and take advantage of upcoming opportunities to better serve our community.

I hope that after reading this report you, too, will be impressed with the impact that our staff and volunteers have on Wayne County. Additionally, it is my hope that you will continue to partner with us in financial support, volunteering in our program areas and participating in our programs. Above all, I hope you will spread the word to others in the community who can benefit from the educational resources available through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County.

Bob Deemer, Chairperson,  
Board of Directors

2009 Budget:	
<b>Income:</b>	
Wayne County	\$424,647
State and Fed	\$72,357
Grants and Contracts	\$312,294
Annual and Ag Campaign	\$14,944
Non Cash Employee Benefits	\$128,055
Other: Enrollment Fees, Fund Raising, Registration	\$75,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,027, 856</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Permanent Salary and Benefits	\$387,314
Grant Salary and Benefits	\$235,720
Operations	\$80,032
Program	\$318,239
Other	\$6,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,027, 865</b>

## CCE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR LOCAL FARMS

**Worst disease season on record in most farmers' minds.** A cold wet 2009 spring was the perfect scenario for increased disease. This was the case as "Late Blight" was devastating for tomato and potato crops. The weather also created ideal conditions for white mold, bacterial spot/speck/canker, leaf spot, phytophthora, downy mildew, and powdery mildew. CCE Cornell Vegetable Team continued to diagnose late blight and distributed/ interpreted additional information on risks and control of the potentially devastating disease to growers, agribusiness people, and CCE staff within and outside of the region. Infection and loss on large, commercial potato farms was limited due to the prompt warning and growers following recommendations. Those farms having less experience with the explosive disease, didn't respond as quickly or completely and suffered higher losses. Organic growers suffered higher losses though regular copper sprays used on some farms provided some control. Gardeners tried to do their part by properly disposing of infected plants **One farmer stated that if it weren't for the direct assistance from the Cornell Vegetable Team, he would have lost tens of thousands of dollars in tomato sales and many more times that in potato sales.** Instead of losing money to damaged crops, he made even more money because he had a crop to sell in a market that was lacking good tomatoes despite having spent a good deal in spray costs. In addition, volunteer Master Gardeners answered many phone calls and identified plants brought into the office by local gardeners. Management of late blight was provided to help the consumer and prevent the spread from garden to commercial plantings.

### Increasing Soybean Acreage in Wayne County.

Soybean acreage has increased over 30% in the past five years and more farmers need expertise on best growing methods. Two Soybean Tactical Ag (TAg) Teams covering over 6400 acres of soybeans in Seneca and Wayne Counties met five times during the growing season. In-field classroom sessions covered IPM practices and crop production opportunities with a focus on weed, disease, and insect pest sampling and management. The 15 participants increased their pre- to post-test scores by an average of 20% as a whole. Many comments on the evaluation suggest that this type of farmer-to-farmer program provides the best learning environment.

**Using New Technology to Prevent Fruit Infestation by Codling Moth**— Lake Ontario Fruit Team specialists worked with Cornell faculty to demonstrate the use of insect sex pheromones to monitor moth flight activity, and to disrupt the mating activity of codling moth in orchards where this pest has increased. Pheromones are used in dispensers to saturate the orchard environment with sex pheromone mimicking that secreted by female moths so the males cannot locate the females, thereby reducing mating, egg laying and fruit infestation. This work continues to minimize fruit infestation, which prevents the loss of approximately \$1500 per truckload if infested.

*In 2008/2009 Wayne County was the 2nd largest agriculture county in NYS based on dollar value of total production (\$169 mil). The diversity of our agriculture is our strength—having more than 900 farms producing every major crop grown in NYS with two metropolitan areas close by us.*

*Our Specialist Team work with farmers in all areas of production agriculture. Each year more than 8,000 contact hours are provided between local specialists and Wayne County growers. Contact is accomplished through multi-day workshops, conferences, one on one farm visits and phone calls and participation in research trials.*

*Wayne County growers are provided access to new methods of production that increase profitability and improve environmental quality—a benefit to growers and the local Wayne County community.*

**Post-Harvest Handling for Sweet Cherries** - The Lake Ontario Fruit Team specialists worked with Cornell faculty to demonstrate the use of modified atmosphere packaging for sweet cherries. Growers learned the potential for this new technology to increase shelf-life and quality, to hold sweet cherries in storage during the normal glut on the market, and to ultimately extend local growers access to NY and even PA retail markets.

## MASTER GARDENERS TEACH THE COMMUNITY HOW TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY GARDEN ENVIRONMENTS

With special grant money received through the NYS IPM program, staff and volunteers with the Master Gardener program created an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) youth oriented power-point presentation and Pledge for grades 5-7 and IPM activity kits for pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. Research has shown that an introduction to IPM methods at a young age may help foster a better understanding and implementation of these practices when students become adults.

These educational materials were specifically tailored to not only address the issue of creating healthy home environments while decreasing human pesticide exposure, but to also introduce youth to Integrated Pest Management. For example, practices like protecting beneficial ladybugs and composting home waste are two IPM methods in which children can participate.

So far, during 2009, the master gardeners have used materials developed through this grant for IPM outreach presentations at over 19 locations in

Wayne County receiving 80 signed pledges.

Additionally, the youth kits are in circulation and Master Gardeners have been contacted by schools and scout groups for IPM presentations and to borrow kits later this fall. Demonstrated by increased calls to the gardening hotline and increased requests for presentations, it is expected that there will be an increase in interest in IPM education as more people are gardening and becoming more aware of environmental impacts they can have in Wayne County.

*Volunteer Master Gardeners operate a hotline 2 days a week throughout the growing season, April—Oct. Gardening is one way consumers can feel that they have some control over what they eat and it's cost. With living expenses continuing an upswing, interest in home gardening either because it's needed or as a hobby is becoming more widespread.*

## NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE TEAM UP TO INCREASE CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL AG PRODUCTS IN WAYNE COUNTY

Cornell Cooperative Extension agriculture and nutrition staff teamed up with school food service directors to celebrate Harvest Week in Wayne County. Over 8,000 students and 600 teachers and staff tasted recipes using locally grown and produced foods and learned interesting fun facts about the featured products the week of September 28, 2008. Featured on the lunch menu during Harvest Week were – butternut squash, fresh pears, hard boiled eggs, squash spice bread, cinnamon apple slices, harvest muffins and beef vegetable soup.

CCE staff worked with Wayne County farmers to supply potatoes, onions, organic carrots, pears and winter squash. As a result of the connection, two farmers report expanding sales of their products into schools – pears and potatoes. Every school already had a connection with a local apple farm, so additional connections did not need to be made.

In North Rose Wolcott the home and career students took the lead. Nancy Younglove, food service director reported, "At the middle school the home and careers teachers helped put everything together incorporating the daily highlighted item into a cooking class and putting together a display case of the bounty of the county."

The project continued in 2009 and a new Harvest Week poster was created that was hung in every elementary school—which can be reused for the next several years. In addition, schools could apply for a grant to purchase a "sectionizer" which easily cores and cuts pears and apples

CCE staff is monitoring the success of this program and to determine if students do eat more of the items highlighted during the week, either at school or at home.