**Mission Statement**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County educates youth, families, farmers, and communities using research-based knowledge for practical application and lifelong learning.
Community Partnerships

Enhancing existing partnerships and forming new ones helped leverage public resources and programs for the benefit of the community.

A sampling of the organizations we worked with this year:

Adirondack North Country Association
Agriculture Promotion Board/Dairy Princess Program
Alexandria Central School District
Beaver River Central School
Belleville Henderson Central School
Carthage Central Schools
Community Action Planning Council
Copenhagen Central School
Cornell Small Farms Program
Cornell University
Cornell University Lab of Ornithology
Development Authority of the North Country
Fort Drum Army Community Service
Fort Drum Natural Resources
Fort Drum Youth Services
Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Indian River Central Schools
Jefferson Community College
Jefferson County Animal Response Team
Jefferson County Department of Social Services
Jefferson County Economic Development
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
Jefferson County Youth Bureau Advisory Board
Jefferson Lewis BOCES
LaFargeville Central School
Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation
Millsite Lake Association
New York State 4-H
NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
NYS Department of Energy Conservation
North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council
Northern Credit Union
Produce Safety Alliance
Soil and Water Conservation
Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program
St. Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM Network
The Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
The Nature Conservancy
Thompson Park Zoo and Conservancy
Thousand Islands Bridge Authority
Veterans Services Network
Watertown City Schools
Watertown Urban Mission

Our funders are some of the most important community partners. Strong community partnerships build strong community programs.

The total budget for Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County for 2019 was $8,200,063.
Providing Relevant Resources Our Agriculture Producers Rely On

Through Beef Quality Assurance programs, our Dairy & Livestock Educator assists producers in raising high quality cattle and in developing and growing markets.

Our Ag Educators provide boots on the ground farm visits to help farmers make critical decisions about farm transitions, starting a farm business, and finding high level resources and information through our connection with Cornell University.

The North Star Food Hub saw continued growth in sales and participation. A not-for-profit regional organization was formed to provide leadership and direction to drive this project toward sustainability. The goal continues to create viable, long-term markets for our growers and producers.

Explore Your Small Farm Dream offered a strategy to veterans and transitioning military families to think through the type of agriculture related life they want to build. This workshop provided the tools to be successful, whether it is backyard egg layers for home use or a sustainable agriculture business.

On farm research and technical assistance directly impacts our farmers. This includes barn ventilation for calf health, calf nutrition, alfalfa snout beetle, and other pest and crop management. Our staff works to ensure a timely, relevant pipeline of research and resources is available for farmers when they need it.
Partnering with Producers Through the Taste NY Store

**Taste NY** continues to grow and make an impact in bringing local foods to many travelers. We feature over 100 NYS producer’s products, with approximately 50 from our tri-county area. Our continued support of local producers has helped them develop their businesses and products, creating a positive economic impact. We have also connected local producers with regional distributors to bring their products outside of the region.

“Thank you for carrying our products! We love the exposure that it gives our Farmhouse Maple business. We have had positive feedback from customers who saw and purchased product from the visitors’ center and our store. Thank you for sending people our way.”

- Tomm and Marsha
  Farmhouse Maple
Connecting Youth to Agriculture in Our Community

5,419 youth in Jefferson County were provided agriculture-related programs and education with the help of Cooperative Extension this past year.

500 children attended Outdoor Adventure Day. They enjoyed educational activities that centered around the topic of natural resources -- where they come from, how we use them, and why sustainability is important.

1,300 youth of all ages celebrated dairy at the 2019 Dairy Festival. They learned about dairy production, dairy processing, and farm livestock.

612 students participated in Agricultural Literacy Day. This national event was held over one week in the month of March to educate students on various agricultural topics.

620 youth at Ag Extravaganza got an up close experience at several mini-workshops, including cows and their calves, honey bees, chickens, local produce, maple syrup, alpacas, and making apple cider!
“Through this project I’ve learned the value of teamwork and how hard work really pays off in the long run. I think this was an opportunity that many people don’t get, I feel overwhelmed with joy that our experiment was selected and that our team got to see it run in space.”
- Mallary Williams

- Over 250 participants received training on how to design an experiment, and how research takes place in microgravity.

- 50 student teams formed to design experiments that could be implemented on the International Space Station.

- A finalist team from our Afterschool program at H.T. Wiley Intermediate was selected to have their rust removal experiment take place on the International Space Station.

- The finalist team worked with New York Air Brake engineers to machine the metal rods needed for their experiment, Knowlton Technologies LLC Research and Development Lab for use of equipment and feedback on experiment design, and the Cornell University Lab of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering for expert feedback on the rust process and experiment design.

- The experiment launched on July 24, 2019, and was on the ISS for 33 days. During this time, astronauts carried out interactions with the experiment as specified by the student team.

- The experiment returned to Earth on August 27, 2019. Students analyzed the results and determined that rust removal takes place at the same rate on earth as in space. The data from the experiment will be published and may be used as a foundation for further research in this area.
Improving the Lives of Our Residents

**Healthy Families = Healthy Soldiers**
Our partnership with Fort Drum is helping military families eat healthier.

**Eat Smart New York** went viral this year! We're producing short videos, like picking out peppers at the grocery store to making a peach and carrot smoothie, to increase the consumption of vegetables and fruits. #FreshFitFilms

**Young Military couples deal with many stresses.**
But CCE provides help with that! Baby Palooza arms military families with skills and information to help alleviate new parent stress through our partnership with Army Community Services (ACS) and other community organizations.
In the Words of Our Participants

Farm to School Program

“There were kids who had never touched dirt. They were so excited. They had no idea where their food came from and now they’re growing spinach and eating it.”

- Pamela Williams, IRMS Science Teacher

Nutrition Education

“I just wanted to thank you sooooo much for referring me to Joe the nutritionist. I’ve reached the end to get the certificate. Because my mind has been blown so much from the information I signed on for a couple extra lessons. This just may have saved my life literally. I now have confidence in promoting great health for my daughter.”

- Nutrition Education Participant

Camp School Days

“The students here at Guardino Elementary really enjoyed coming to Camp Wabasso last week. The teachers also said how well organized it was and were really impressed with the entire day.”

- Dan Folsom, Guardino Elementary School

Breastfeeding Education

“Anna was such a wonderful resource for our family. She helped me remain confident in my choices for my infant and for myself with continuing to breastfeed.”

-Breastfeeding Education Participant
Thank you... to all our Extension supporters who help us to better serve the residents of Jefferson County throughout the year by donating funds and/or generously volunteering their time.

2019 Master Gardener Volunteers

Supporting our Community

Knowledgeable Volunteers

4-H Volunteers

Hands-on Learning

Opportunities for Field Trips

Building Strong Connections

Experienced Presenters
Supporting the Community that Supports Us

Helping the Watertown Urban Mission sort toys for a worthy cause.

Wearing purple in support of military youth.

Volunteering with Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity.

Sorting food at the United Way of NNY Annual Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive.
Congratulations to Mike Hunter, recipient of the 2018 Excellence in Integrated Pest Management Award.

Mike is well respected by his peers and North Country producers for his work in field crops.