

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ALLEGANY AND CATTARAUGUS COUNTIES

In the 2014-2015 4-H year, Allegany County 4-H had 200+ members and volunteers. Members could participate as either part of a club or as an individual and are enrolled in various programs based on interest. Some areas include large and small animal science, poultry, sewing, cooking, writing, metal work, gardening, canning and wood working. Allegany County 4-H also hosts 2 county-wide clubs for horse and dogs, members meet on a monthly basis and engage in various activities surrounding their subject.

In addition to providing hands-on based learning experiences for our members, our Youth Development Program provided bimonthly STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) outreach at a county-wide open event. It is estimated that 6,800 contacts have been made as a result of this activity. The Allegany County Youth Development Program also participates in a variety of one-time events throughout the community such as open houses and festivals.

The Expanded Food & Nutrition Program (EFNEP), assists families and youth to improve their health. Upon enrolling in the EFNEP Program, 96 Allegany County families participated in a series of 8 lessons where they learned how to eat more fruits and vegetables, drink fewer sugary beverages, achieve and maintain healthy weights.

The Allegany County EFNEP Program also provided nutrition education with partnering agencies addressing food insecurity. These agencies included ACCORD, Cuba Cultural Center, and Foodlink. During the 2015 year, EFNEP attended and shared recipes, modeled food handling procedures, and educated residents on food safety practices at 61 countywide food distributions. At these functions, EFNEP provided 12,135 contacts with various nutrition learning experiences to improve their eating habits.

As agriculture evolves in Allegany County, Cornell Cooperative Extension continues to strive to meet the changing needs. The department has been rich in its variety of programming to all ages; from pre-school to the elderly. Production workshops are offered for dairy, livestock and poultry producers to address changes in technology and means of enhancing profitability. Some of our programmatic highlights include: Preparing Cattle for Market to Optimize Value; Good Agricultural Practices; Meat Madness; Annual Farmer Neighbor Dinner; Arm to Farm; Poultry Production for Farm & Family; Beef Farm Business Summary; Who's Gonna Fill Your Farm's Shoes?; Tractor and Machine Safety Training; Ag Plastics Recycling; Pasture walks; DAP Funding; Monthly Field Crops Memo; Southern Tier Crop Congress; Pesticide Training Course; Planter Performance Training; and Beginning Farmer 110: Soil Health.

We are fortunate to have a robust and growing Master Gardener Program that continues to expand its reach to all areas in Allegany County. Master Gardeners receive exceptional training during their first year in the program to be able to solve local residents' garden and landscape issues through research-based resources, this training is coordinated by the Horticulture Community Educator with Cornell University Faculty. Our Master Gardeners are out in local neighborhoods providing: 7 pH Soil Clinics; 12 Adult Gardening Programs; 4 Children's Gardening Programs; Helpline Gardening Resource (52 weeks per year); 33 Gardening Articles Provided to Newspapers and Magazines; New Master Gardener Training (9 new MGV's this year!); Community Garden Planning Help (2 gardens); and 4-H Fair Horticulture Judges. During Ag Literacy Week in March each year, 14 schools within Allegany County were visited; bringing volunteer readers into 2nd grade classrooms to talk about agricultural topics. Last year, volunteer readers read at 36 classrooms, reaching 609 students. This is a popular program with the students and teachers alike.