

AGRICULTURE



FAMILY HEALTH & WELLNESS



SUFFOLK COUNTY FARM

# **Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County**



2018 Report to the Community



MARINE PROGRAM



NUTRITION EDUCATION



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Cover Captions

**Top left:** The viticulture program at the Long Island Horticulture & research Center provides research based information to the thriving local wine industry.

**Top middle:** Grandparents raising their grandchildren receive much needed advice and support from Family Health and Wellness programs.

**Top right:** Thousands of visitors enjoy learning about our agricultural history at the Suffolk County Farm & Education Center.

**Bottom right:** The Marine program is always seeking innovative projects to address issues facing our maritime industry.

**Bottom middle:** CCE educators stress the importance of good nutrition through our community based programs; SNAP- ED - ESNY and EFNEP.

**Bottom right:** CCE's 4-H youth development programs help get Suffolk youth "unplugged" and out into their communities.

We hope you enjoy this look back to 2018 and the many accomplishments of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. We present this report to the community as a way of highlighting our efforts to educate Suffolk County residents and businesses, as well as crediting our superb team of educators and support staff who are committed to fulfilling the mission of CCE.

Throughout this report, we are very proud to showcase our educational programs that successfully strengthen families and communities, protect and enhance the environment, foster economic development and promote sustainable agriculture. With the help of our tireless cadre of community volunteers, board members, advisory committee members, fundraising volunteers and government partners, we are well poised to continue meeting the changing needs of our communities and leading the way for the dissemination of much needed research-based information.

Enjoy this report and thank you for being a part of the CCE of Suffolk family!

Vito A. Minei

Executive Director

Vito a. Minei

Mark Cisz

**Board President** 

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to helping residents of Suffolk County through educational programs that help families, schools and local businesses.

In Suffolk County, we target our resources to foster economic development, enhance and protect the environment, strengthen families, and promote sustainable agriculture. To accomplish this task, we have four main program areas: Agriculture, Marine, 4-H Youth Development and Family Health and Wellness.

### **Board of Directors - 2019**

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### Published by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

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### **Our Mission**

Strengthening Families and Communities • Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

Fostering Economic Development • Promoting Sustainable Agriculture



# **Agriculture & Horti**

Suffolk County is among the leading New York counties in agricultural wholesale value. For more than a century we were known for our potatoes and Long Island duckling. Today our highly diversified production also includes nursery and greenhouse ornamental plants, sod, wine grapes, tree and small fruit, and vegetables. We also support our large professional horticulture industry and gardening community, as well as train Master Gardeners. Growers and community members alike rely on the expertise of our educators to develop and provide guidance based on research.

#### 2018 Accomplishments

CCE's renowned Agriculture program continues to support commercial entities throughout the county as well as home gardeners. In 2018, more than 15,000 residents were educated through workshops, conferences, presentations and individual consultations. Local relevant issues, such as invasive pests, sustainable production, environmental protection and economic viability are addressed through applied research, technical assistance and on-farm demonstration projects.

← Over 300 active Master Gardener volunteers help provide outreach on gardening topics to residents of Suffolk County. Besides assisting in their own communities, some are also restoring the gardens outside the Griffing Avenue offices as part of a Climate Change Action Group. The project involves cataloguing the garden's plants and producing Climate Resilient Gardening educational materials.

### culture

✔ Integrated Pest Management scouting programs assist local growers by monitoring pest populations on farms and providing individualized reports. Detailed site-specific information avoids unnecessary pesticide use showing when pest and disease levels are low, while scouting detects problems early before economic damage occurs. Scouts also identify new threats and connect with Cornell specialists for diagnostics and other technical support. Shannon Moran, Agriculture Stewardship technician, is shown checking an insect pheromone trap at an apple orchard.





The Agriculture Program conducts research and on-farm trials to investigate best nutrient management practices to optimize environmental protection, plant quality and yield, and economics specific to Long Island. In 2018 these included controlled release fertilizers, fertilizer rates, and alternative production methods. Dr. Deborah Aller, Agriculture Stewardship Specialist, installs soil moisture sensors in order to investigate effects of irrigation on plant quality, fertilizer efficiency, and leaching.



# Family Health and

One of CCE's oldest initiatives, the Family Health and Wellness program (originally known as Home Economics) has been helping families since 1926. With a goal of strengthening families, FHW educators support Suffolk County residents in a variety of ways. Whether it is through our parent education initiative, diabetes education, or educating child care providers, FHW educators disseminate research-based information that is vital for the healthy development of families.

#### 2018 Accomplishments

2018 saw many successes for the Family Health and Wellness program with well over 10,000 Suffolk County residents benefitting from our outreach efforts. FHW educators helped families develop their parenting skills, improve nutrition and health for people living with diabetes. Programs were presented at schools, child care centers, public libraries and senior living communities, helping adults from Huntington to Montauk make informed decisions for themselves and their families. Professionals who work with families were also supported at trainings that improve their knowledge and skills on topics like child guidance and development.

← Educator Maxine Cohen loves answering parents question about their child's development. FHW hosts more than 150 Parent/Child workshops at libraries and other community sites throughout the county.

### Wellness



↑ FHW educators are often called upon to support our County Legislature's efforts to support healthy family development. Educators Donna Moodie, RD and Kathy Sinkin, RN joined Legislator Spencer's Community Health and Information Fair where they shared research-based information on wellness.

◆ Grandparents raising their grandchildren has become prevalent across the country. FHW educator Dinah Torres Castro facilitates a program specifically for grandparents in this situation. Dinah addresses their unique concerns and brings in experts to help with custody and other legal issues. Each year, she hosts the Annual Grandparents' Picnic where participants meet each other in a fun, care free environment!





# 4-H Youth Develop

Suffolk County and New York State are leaders in enabling youth to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities to become productive citizens and is a catalyst for positive change to meet the needs of a diverse and changing society.

Today's 4-H Youth Development programs have a basis in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with subjects ranging from agriculture and farming to robotics and coding.

### 2018 Accomplishments

Throughout 2018 CCE saw more than 50,000 visitors, families and youth through our 4-H Youth Development Programs, both at the 272 acre Suffolk County Farm and Education Center and off-site locations. The new #TrueLeaders initiative helped teach global skills to 'grow' leaders for tomorrow with skills like confidence, responsibility, independence and compassion.

← CCE educator Maia Lewis guides our youngest participants through the fun of the outdoors. Through our new initiative at the Suffolk County Farm, the Little Farmers the new nature-based pre-school help expose children to all corners of the Farm through free play and guided exploration. Children are given the chance to learn, grow and become independent learners.

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◆ Youth from the Suffolk County Farm Summer Camp Program learn from Educator Gerry Lake in a cooperative program with the 4-H Program and Nutrition staff about nutrition and healthy living funded by a United Health Care grant distributed through New York State 4-H. Campers spent the week cooking and learning about how to read food and nutrition labels.





↑ Fun filled, research-based programs are the core of the 4-H Youth Development program with a focus on agriculture, marine issues, and the environment, with emphasis on "learn by doing". Educator Nicole Fiorentino helps a youth construct a rocket at the New York State Fair as part of the FFA/4-H Day Celebration. This project is one of the National Science Experiments National 4-H creates each year.



## Marine Program

With more than 980 miles of coastline, our waters are an integral part of life for local residents. The Marine Program joined CCE Suffolk in 1985 with a mission to revitalize and protect our local marine environment. Initiatives include work to bring back our once thriving eelgrass and shell fish populations, ensure our commercial fishing industry continues to thrive while limiting commercial fishing bycatch (the accidental capture of non-targeted species), provide public education about environmental consequences of storm water runoff, and introduce our young people to marine sciences and marine life on Long Island.

#### 2018 Accomplishments

Among the on-going, locally popular and nationally recognized programs, this year the CCE Marine Program embarked on the largest shellfish restoration effort ever attempted on Long Island with funding from the NYSDEC and the New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Office. This project includes construction of a new state of the art shellfish hatchery at Cedar Beach in Southold that produce millions of shellfish released into local waters.

← Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County continued work to spawn and grow approximately 179 million shellfish over a two year period. Lucas Merlo and Josh Perry are pictured checking on the spawner clam stock used to produce seed. After grow-out in floating nurseries, the shellfish will be planted in designated sanctuary areas to improve Long Island's water quality and bolster the economies and resiliency of coastal communities.



↑ CCE believes that our young people are the key to our future. Steve Schott is pictured leading a coastal plant restoration workshop at our new Tiana Bayside Facility in Hampton Bays. The Marine program hosts youth camps and education programs for all ages with quality, hands on programming to engage students and help foster environmental stewardship.

◆ Marine educator Kim Manzo working with the Town of East Hampton Natural Resources Department staff. CCE is taking part in an innovative algae bioextraction project, which combines growing and harvesting shellfish and seaweed for the purpose of removing nitrogen and other nutrients from coastal waters.





# **Community Based**

(SNAP-Ed) Eat Smart New York (ESNY and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) are community-based nutrition education and obesity prevention programs targeted to limited income populations. They utilize a variety of hands-on education and environmental strategies in the community and partnering agencies. The goal of these programs is to improve the likelihood that eligible people will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the associated USDA Food Guidance System, MyPlate.

#### 2018 Accomplishments

More than 100,000 participants – families, seniors and youth on Long Island benefitted from the educational programs offered through our nutrition programs. Our educators use a multi-level approach to support healthy eating and physical activity. This approach complements and expands the direct and non-direct education, which includes the use of Social Marketing Media campaigns in English and Spanish. Working in communities has been an emphasis of the program – encouraging the use of farmers market, gardens, choosing water over sweetened beverages and consuming more fruits and vegetables.

 Bilingual Nutrition Educator, Anthony Garcia, presents lessons on MyPlate for the children at Twin Pines Elementary School in Brentwood.

### **Nutrition Education**

◆ The Town of Brookhaven hosts a Health & Wellness Fair each
year. Cornell Cooperative Extension Eat Smart NY Nutrition
Educators, Donna Ingram and Melek Baba pictured with Town
Supervisor Ed Romaine present workshops on Re Think Your
Drink, Increasing Physical Activity and the USDA MyPlate.
Participants are offered fruit infused water, fresh apples and
tangerines, along with 10 Tips flyers that support these lessons
to decrease consumption of sugary beverages, increasing
physical activity and healthy eating





♠ Bilingual EFNEP nutrition educator, Victoria Guadron teaches workshops for groups, such as BOCES in Huntington (pictured), focusing on eating smart on a budget and being physically active. Participants report that they do indeed make lifestyle changes as a result of these workshops. They pay more attention to food labels while shopping and they focus more on physical activities. EFNEP has been active in our communities for 50 years.

### FALL HARVEST

In September, CCE hosted the "Farm and Sea to Table" dinner at the Jedediah Hawkins Inn in Jamesport. The sold out evening highlighted the bounty that is found locally on Long island with a cocktail hour and five course dinner featuring local ingredients paired with local beers and wines.

Donors from local farms, wineries and breweries came together with guests to discuss the impact CCE has in their work. More than \$30,000 was raised to help further CCE Suffolk's educational endeavors.



Vito Minei, CCE Executive Director, thanks SPAT members for their fresh raw bar highlighting our vibrant shellfish industry.

### DINNER • & AUCTION •



CCE friend and supporter Tim Hogue enjoys the "micro" greens.



Musician Stan Wright entertains the crowd.



Bob Nolan of Deer Run Farm speaks about the value of fresh, local produce.



Maureen Fiorello, CCE Foundation Board member (center) enjoys the event's Silent Auction.



A standing room only crowd of CCE friends supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Farm and Sea to Table inspired event.



Rich Olsen-Harbich, winemaker at Bedell Cellars, speaks to the vitality of today's viticulture industry.

### **Community Support**

Thanks to the support of the individuals and businesses listed on these pages, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County continues to deliver high quality, research-based educational programs for our communities. The generous support you provide goes directly back to your neighbors in the form of library workshops, support for our marine and agricultural industries, youth development programs and educational support for those in need. Join us and make a difference in your community. Please show your support and make your contribution today by using the enclosed envelope or donating online at www.ccesuffolk.org. Thank you!

### \$10,000 and Over

Timothy Hogue Mary Stephenson

### \$4000 to \$9999

Mark Cisz

The Goldie Anna Charitable Trust
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### \$2000 to \$3999

Emily & John Breese Charitable Gift Fund

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Riverhead Rotary Club

Thomas Roush

Sabrosa Mexican Grill

Summerhill Landscapes

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John Daley

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George LaMay - LaMay's Tree Service

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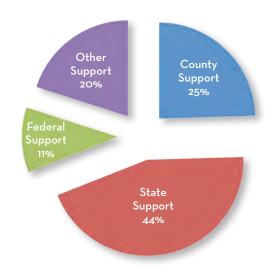
Bianca Sullivan

Three Harbors Garden Club

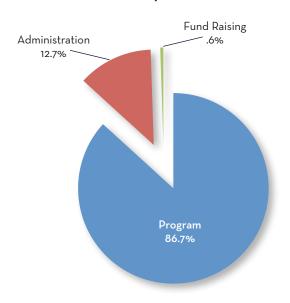
George Tvelia

### Financial Support\*

### 2018 Annual Resources Support



### 2018 Functional Expenditures



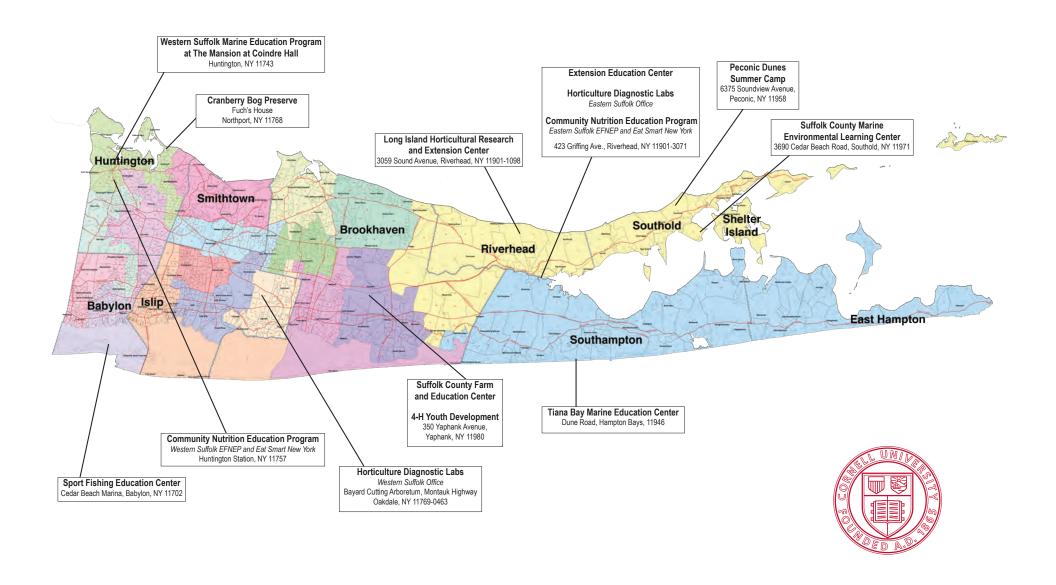
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Annual Appropriation
State County Law 224 Formula
Special Projects: Funded by the State through Cornell University
Special Projects: Funded by the State Direct to Suffolk Extension
TOTAL STATE SUPPORT (44%)
Federal
Smith Lever
Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP)
Special Projects: Funded By Federal Funds through Cornell University
TOTAL FEDERAL SUPPORT (11%)
Other Sources of Support
Enrollment Fees, Program Participation Fees
Interest, Facilities Use, Fundraising, Miscellaneous Sources
Restricted and Unrestricted Contributions
Special Projects: Funded through Cornell Oniversity
TOTAL OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT (20%)
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### **Volunteer Support**

In addition to these sources of support, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County depends heavily on volunteer support for its many and varied educational programs. In 2018, 1039 volunteers contributed 19,323 hours valued at \$478,796. Included in the accounting records is the value of donated materials and supplies, as well as equipment and facilities usage, with a value totaling \$117,249.

### Our Sites throughout the 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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is funded in part by Suffolk County through the office of the County Executive and the County Legislature.