

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Suffolk County

Strengthening Families & Communities • Protecting & Enhancing the Environment • Fostering Economic Development • Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

August 31, 2020

Dear Friend,

We hope this letter finds you healthy and safe. This has been an unexpected year, to say the least. This pandemic has brought about many changes with our family and work lives. At CCE-Suffolk, the lack of in person classes has created an influx of virtual learning opportunities that we have been proud to offer our constituents. Visit our [website](#) for further information on our programming and support services during this time.

As we all know only too well, changes have and will be felt across the economy. Due to federal and state budget shortfalls, we are beginning to see cuts across the board. What does that mean for CCE-Suffolk? We are anticipating a loss of **\$1.5 million for 2020** and a loss of more than **\$2 million for 2021**. Clearly, these monumental losses will greatly impact programs across the association; from our environmental initiatives to our family programming and from our work with home gardeners to our vital technical assistance with agricultural business leaders. This loss of funding will impact our programs for our most vulnerable neighbors - our youngest residents to the seniors in our communities.

A federal and state budget crisis will filter throughout the county's budget as well. These are tough times but we are determined to be creative and industrious. Are you with us? **We need you!** If you are able to help at this time, we urge you to chip in. You may have already given this year, and if so, we ask that you consider a second gift. Be a part of our 2020 Challenge and help sustain the organization you have come to depend upon.

You can make a donation easily by [following this link](#) and giving online. In the notes, you can type "2020 Challenge" and we will know you are in! You can also send a check to CCE –Suffolk, PO Box 2405, Riverhead NY 11901 and write "2020 Challenge" in the note section.

You can also help by reaching out to your state and county representatives today! Let them know what CCE-Suffolk has done for you. Your voice is important and can make the difference! You can call or email. Need to find your representative? Click here for a list of [New York State Senators](#), [New York State Assembly](#), and [Suffolk County Legislators](#). For your convenience, here is an [email template](#) that you can copy and paste into a personalized message to your representative.

As always, thank you for your commitment to the mission of CCE-Suffolk. We are determined to continue providing research-based information that you and your neighbors have come to rely on. Stay well and stay safe!

With sincere regards,



Mark Cisz
President, Board of Directors



Vanessa Lockel
Executive Director

423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100 • Riverhead, New York 11901-3071 • 631.727.7850 • www.ccesuffolk.org

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.