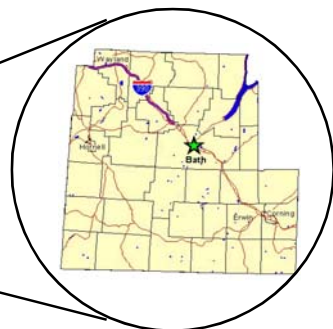


Steuben Spotlight



Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

January/February 2005

Volume 3, Issue 1

Bluegill Farm hosts feed management program

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Cornell Cooperative Extension recently hosted a Feed Management Workshop at Bluegill Farm in Bath. The two-day program emphasized hands-on technical training for those responsible for feeding the dairy herd.

Participants learned techniques that they could apply on their own farms to monitor and adjust dairy cattle rations. The group learned how to run dry matters, use a shaker box to measure particle length, body condition score and much more.

Special thanks go to Ken Brubaker and Tim Widener, Dairy Nutritionists with Cargill Nutrition and Land O Lakes Feed for their support and participation. CCE-Steuben also extends their appreciation to the Weaver family for hosting this informative workshop.



Left, Tim Widener helps participants evaluate the feed bunks, and left, Phil Weaver shows the order in which he loads ingredients into the farm's TMR mixer wagon.

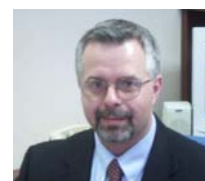


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From the Desk of the Director...



**Thomas Tomsa,
Executive Director**

Mission
The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.

It's 2005. We're beginning a new year, hopefully recharged and refreshed by the holidays and enthusiastic about a better year for our communities, our families, and ourselves. There are new terms for elected officials who have made new promises and commitments to address the issues that face us. Issues like exorbitant energy costs that challenge our ability to commute, heat our homes, and run our businesses. Declining local populations and loss of industry decreasing the tax base. Medicaid and other factors contributing to an already overwhelming tax burden for property owners. The implications and consequences of the war in Iraq and the global war against terrorism.

These are things that we, as a community service organization, have little power to change. What we can do, however, is help people adapt. We can bring to bear all of the resources available to help people live and work

smarter, have healthier lifestyles, and be better consumers so that the impacts of these contemporary problems are reduced. And CCE, as an organization, will literally be practicing what we preach. We have to. Our ability to execute our mission is being affected by the same pressures facing the families and communities we serve. We must find ways to work smarter and adapt as we develop and deliver programs to help our public do the same. We can do it together. We can and we will.

Look for our new programs in the areas of energy efficiency, money management, consumerism, technology, and more in 2005. And from all of us at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County, we wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year.

'Eat Smart New York' makes nutrition education quick, easy and cost effective

CCE-Steuben is urging Food Stamp recipients in Steuben County to "Get More In their Bag" by attending six easy sessions of nutrition education. The programs teach shopping tips and healthy eating to live a longer, healthier life. And this nutrition education is free!



Recent classes for special needs partici-



pants of ARC (left) covered nutritious choices and basic food preparation skills. In Men Making Meals (right) CCE educators taught caregivers and seniors how to build on the skills they already knew to eat better. At a health fair for seniors, educators showed how to prepare healthy snacks. These programs help make the public aware that CCE-Steuben is available to fit a variety of needs.



Dairy, Livestock and Horse Banquets provide numerous youth awards

156 4-Hers, their leaders and parents gathered last fall for the 4-H Dairy and Livestock Program, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County. It was a time for all those businesses, organizations and individuals that support young agriculturists to make their presence known by providing awards for successful participants. Later approximately 150 members, leaders, and parents attended the 4-H Horse Program's annual awards banquet dinner.

Numerous awards were announced, with only a few pictured here. The complete results can be found at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben website at www.cce.cornell.edu/steuben.



Steuben 4-H'ers excel in 2004 national competitions

The New York State 4-H Livestock Skillathon and Livestock Judging Teams traveled to Kentucky, November 14-17, 2004, to compete in their respective National Invitational 4-H Livestock Contests at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville. Eight individuals represented New York State, four each on the Skillathon team and on the Livestock Judging team. The National Skillathon Contest was held for the first time five years ago, and this is the third year a New York team competed.



The Livestock Judging Contest ranks only the top 50 contestants of the 121 competing. Two New York contestants scored in the top 50 and one of

these was Steuben County's Megan Loucks who placed 48th in Individual Sheep Overall. For complete details, visit our website at www.cce.cornell.edu/steuben.



Annual Meeting recognizes volunteers, staff and county support

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Cornell Cooperative Association of Steuben County was held on Nov. 18, 2004 with 66 in attendance hearing an informative presentation on the health benefits of red wine presented by retired Cornell University Professor, Dr. LeRoy Creasy. Eligible voters of the Association adopted amendments to our Constitution and elected new Board of Director and Committee members (*see story below*).

The Association recognized the contributions of our volunteer leaders who “retired” after completing terms of service in 2004. This year, we were sorry to say goodbye to Jane Kaszczynek and Tom Becker from the Board of Directors at large, Dave Votypka from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee, and Sue Schwingel from the 4-H Youth Development Program Advisory Committee. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to these individuals for their years of service.



Carl Albers

Carl Albers, Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Leader, was recognized as the CCE-Steuben Outstanding Staff Member of 2004. Carl’s years of service and professionalism have not only established his reputation among his fellow educators, Cornell faculty, and his clients, but have also built credibility and trust in Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County. That trust has re-



Tom Tomsa, Bob Nichols, Paul Wolcott and Don Creath.

sulted in the willingness of key supporters to commit significant assets to this organization during the past year, representing valuable educational and financial resources, which we hope will be the first of many that build a secure future for the educational mission of our association. Carl has been an Extension Educator in Steuben County for 21 years.

Two members of the Steuben County Legislature, Mr. Don Creath and Mr. Bob Nichols, (*pictured above*) were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their leadership and continued support of Cornell Cooperative Extension programs.

New directors and committee members join CCE-Steuben in 2005

The election of five new board members in the volunteer governance structure of the Steuben County Cornell Cooperative Extension Association were recently announced. CCE-Steuben appreciates the time donated by the many volunteers who provide leadership for the association. Those who have begun serving in 2005 are:

Gary Temple, Board of Directors At-Large. Now retired, he was the Vice President of HSBC Bank in Rochester, NY. He served as an officer in that position for six years, and as a manager for 15 years prior to that. Gary oversaw the Community Reinvestment Act efforts of the bank, where the focus was on rebuilding rundown sections of Rochester. Gary and his wife, Penny, bought a 130-acre farm in the Town of Cameron in 1990, and relocated to the farm in 2000. They are in the process of building a small, cow-calf operation. Gary enjoys being involved in agriculture and working with farmers in his neighborhood.

Chris Brown, Board of Directors At-Large. He is the Superintendent of Schools for the Hammondport Central School District. He recently completed his doctorate in Business Administration and Project Management and has expertise in the areas of education, financial management, business management, project planning and human resource management. Chris and his wife, Rachel, live, work, and raise their children in Hammondport.

Teresa Lyons, 4-H Youth Development Program Committee. She lives in Addison with her husband, John, and their four children, who are former or current 4-H members. She is an eighth year 4-H leader of the Dairy Dynamites 4-H Club. She is a member of the Steuben County 4-H Dairy Advisory Committee and assists with the operation of their dairy farm.

Barb Hull, 4-H Youth Development Program Committee. She and her husband, Scott, reside in Atlanta and own Scott Hull Construction, Inc. Barb is the bookkeeper for the company. She was an active 4-H member for nine years and her daughter, Whitney, a senior at Naples Central High School, has been a 4-H member since she was nine years old, and is a member of the same club (Willing Workers) with the same leader (Phyllis Rathbun) as her mother. Barb is eager to “give something back” to the 4-H program by helping to promote and provide leadership.

Jane Mehlenbacher, Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Committee. She farms with her husband, David, and two sons, Kurt and Eric, in the Wayland-Cohocton area. Jane and her family have been farming since 1976. They currently milk about 110 Holsteins and raise all of their replacement heifers. The Mehlenbachers farm about 2200 acres and grow potatoes, peas, snapbeans, corn, oats, and hay. Jane is involved in all aspects of the farm operation and is a recognized community leader.

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Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/STEBEN

Extension Educators

Carl W. Albers, Field Crops, Vegetables, Forest Mgt.
Kerri S. Bartlett, Dairy and Livestock
James W. Grace, Farm Business Management
Kimberly S. Randall, 4-H Youth Development
Nancy M. Reigelsperger, Financial Educator
Loree A. Symonds, Nutrition and Food Safety
Nancy G. Torp, Human Development

Office Staff

Robert W. Shirley, III, Finance and Administrative
Bambi M. Caron, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl L. Mehlenbacher, Administrative Assistant

Program Staff

Lea A. Kautz, Nutrition Program Educator
Patricia A. White, Nutrition Program Educator
Patricia A. Lamphier, Nutrition Program Educator
Jonathan Sterlace, Nutrition Program Educator
Laura C. Mullen, 4-H Program Assistant
Cindy L. Loucks, 4-H Program Assistant

Thomas N. Tomsa, Jr.

Thomas N. Tomsa, Jr., Executive Director

Empower New York...

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County is preparing to launch an educational component for a new utility program called Empower New York. Empower New York is the replacement money management education part of the Power Partner Program previously offered by NYSEG and also offers energy education.

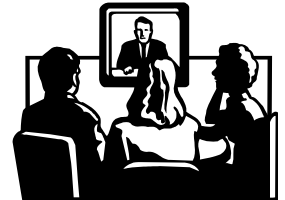
Educators are gathering educational resources and exploring strategies to implement the program and ensure its success through state-wide training. For further information on Empower New York watch the CCE-Steuben website at www.cce.cornell.edu/steuben.

CCE offers Feb and March Teleconferences...

Tuesday, Feb. 8: Fire District Management: Roles & Responsibilities - Powers & Duties: Co-sponsored by the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, Inc., this program clarifies the roles and responsibilities of fire district commissioners, secretaries and treasurers. Topics include organizational meetings, appointments, fiscal management, budget, spending limits, procurement, records and minutes.

Thursday, Mar 31: Summary Eviction Proceedings: Co-sponsored by the Office of Court Administration, this program for town and village justices and court clerks discusses proper handling of summary eviction proceedings including pre-taped segments with examples of actual situations.

Conferences are held from 6:15-8:45 p.m. at CCE-Steuben. Cost is \$15.00 per person. For more information or to register call 664-2300.



CORNELL Cooperative Extension



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