

April 2, 2020

CCE

Saratoga County

NEWSLETTER

Cornell Cooperative Extension

EXTENSION UPDATES

Our Mission

Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

COVID-19 and CCE Saratoga

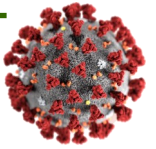
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County has spent the past few weeks learning about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its devastating impact. Our thoughts are with those who have been directly affected and we aim to support those who are at the forefront of the battle to contain this virus.

CCE prioritizes the health, safety and well-being of the communities we serve. Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, and due to an abundance of caution, all on-site and off-site programs, work-

shops & 4-H activities and all 4-H Club meetings are cancelled effective immediately until further notice.

In addition, our offices will be closed to the public, including our volunteers, beginning at noon on Wednesday, March 18, again, until further notice.

Please be assured we are committed to supporting our communities through this very difficult time and encourage you to visit our website and social media regularly for up-to-date information including links to relevant websites.



4-H Youth Development



Communication & Social Media

The quality of resources being produced and shared by NYS 4-H, other state 4-H programs and National 4-H is astonishing. Our 4-H Facebook page has been incredibly active in sharing project and program ideas with our members and families.

As is known, 4-H is a very broad and diverse program, and we have been fortunate to have found program and project opportunities for a large swath of our project areas in: Animal Sciences, STEM,

Arts & Crafts, Community Service, Citizen Science, Natural Resources, and Food & Nutrition. Best of all, resources just keep on coming. We are doing our best to create our own programming that can be offered remotely. This is a testament to the ingenuity that comes from "thinking outside of the box."

Since the beginning of the "lock-down", our Facebook posts alone have reached over 5000 people, with almost 600 active engagement. Our 4-H staff are continually sharing opportunities via social media.

Letter from the Executive Director

CCE – Saratoga Staff Plus Update April 2, 2020

Hello to all,

Communication has and continues to be a most important component of CCE. The Water Cooler, the Grapevine and other areas are no longer information dispersal points. Even when I first outlined our need for a staff + newsletter the changes have been on-going and will continue to be. This is a spot in time to look back and forward. It is a difficult time but looking across the state and CCE statewide or on campus you are doing a great job! Keep smiling, keep making a difference, be positive and we will soon be back in the office.

Looking Back toward the future, April 14 looked a long way away with a “Wow” the end is within sight – We can do a month of a limited or being self-quarantined. Now that we can look at April 30 or May 31 it will take a different mindset. The staff and the leadership team has done an exceptional job maintaining what is current and planning on the future. At 1:00 PM we will be meeting. To make the maximum time of one hour I want to ensure that we remain focused, covering what is important including laying out plans for two weeks, and 4 weeks, even to June 1. We will need to keep focused.

It will be up to the Leadership Team to put your units plans/expectations so that there are no or very few hiccups when our doors open. What I have seen is a solid effort to maintain what services we can plus some outstanding adaptations to what we need to and have to do. Thank you for all you are doing.

The next step falls into several categories:

1. It is my goal to keep everyone employed at 100%. We can do it with what we know at this time (next year is the biggest question)
2. The Small Business loans/grants that I have been pushing could be vitally important. We are technically eligible, the keys are what happens when we apply. Staff are taking advantage of keeping current. The Leadership Team must keep an ongoing and at least defensible list of monies that we have or are losing. Blue and Greg have shared the hypothetically or even probable loses. We want to be ready when we can apply. Cornell will hopefully provide additional information.
3. Staff in the office on a regular basis – Right now we have limited access on a as needed basis – Mail, bills etc. There are differences of opinions as to where CCE actually fits. Even with our goal of nearly 100% I am guessing we are closer to 90% maybe 95%. Doors are to be kept locked, no one but staff inside. Signing in very important – in case the worst happens and no going into other offices unless specifically requested, wipe down and wear gloves. As there are updates from the County and Cornell I will share and we will outline how we are going to be responsible to our staff and secondly to our clientele. Approval to go into the office comes from direct supervisors.

I am seeing a number of “do it at home” – Zoom opportunities, virtual learning experiences and sharing some of our materials with the public in all ways possible. Maintain records, notes or a work diary. It may be important at times say in 20 years. If you think that is a long time look at Greg!

Thank you for all you do, there are too many people doing too many good things to mention them individually. It is impressive. We are also looking at future models that we may be able to incorporate in our daily operations. Your thoughts and ideas are important to the Leadership team. Non-Exempt staff need to maintain work records and special considerations that we are not considering.

For the staff Zoom: Share anything you wish stay focused time is limited. And here is hoping that you, your family and your staff are well.

The Best to Everyone



BILL

4-H Youth Development - continued

Incubation and Embryology

The first round of *Incubation and Embryology* 4-H School Outreach was a success despite the closing of local schools one week before “Hatch Day”. Some teachers took the eggs and incubators home, while the others were transported to the 4-H Training Center to finish incubating. We are happy to report that 75% of the fertilized eggs hatched even though the incubators had to be turned off in order to transport. Please follow the links to learn more about the first session of *Incubation and Embryology* 4-H School Outreach.



[News 10—4-H announces success of school outreach program with hatching of baby chicks](#)



“I am continually impressed with the community support that I have found in Saratoga County. Teachers went out of their way to ensure that incubating eggs remained safe and we were rewarded with an unbelievably successful hatch rate, despite all of the complications and uncertainties,” says Program Coordinator,

[Morning Ag Clips—Saratoga County 4-H, bringing chicks into world despite crisis](#)

[The Express Newspaper—Saratoga County 4H: Bringing Chicks into the World Despite National Crisis](#)

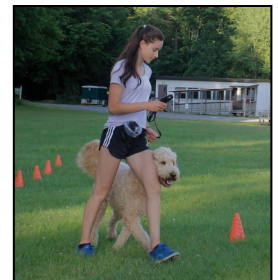
[The Saratogian—Snapshot: Saratoga County 4-H brings chicks into world in national crisis](#)

The second rotation of *Incubation and Embryology* 4-H School Outreach is tentatively to be carried out as usual for now; some teachers still want the curriculum if school is in session and others have already cancelled.

Canine Training

Consistent communication is being maintained with current canine trainers via email with plans for a Zoom meeting. At that time, class offerings and how many offered will be discussed. New trainers are currently being sought and outdated handouts and curriculum are being updated.

A three-day mini-series of online canine training will be offered to youth ages 12-18. The curriculum is currently being developed and will soon be advertised. The first topic of the mini-series, The ABC's of Animal Behavior, is expected to be launched Wednesday, April 8th .



Vet Science

As other programs, Vet Science has now gone virtual. The Saratoga County 4-H Virtual Vet Science hosted its first “practice run” with current Vet Science students. Programming will continue with a short 3-week Virtual and Interactive Vet Science Course. Sessions will be via Zoom, and start Monday, April 6 at 6pm. All 4-H members, ages 12-18, are welcome! Email Brianna at bh548@cornell.edu to register. Topics include: Nutrition, Reading Nutrition Labels, Anatomy, Small and Large Domestic Species, and Behavior, Domestic Animal Body Language.

4-H Public Presentations

Makeup for Public Presentations will possibly be via YouTube, Facebook or emailed to be judged by key judges.

4-H Youth Development - continued

Capital District Tractor Safety

The Capital District Tractor Safety Team is committed to providing the program for the youth who depend on certification for summer employment, and to provide them with quality programming that will promote health and safety.

The Team is working with our program partners, including NY



Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health, Kinderhook Creek Farm, Becker's Greenhouse, Gailor Landscaping, Tim Havens from Falls Farm and Garden, and others to provide remote programming for our youth. They are required to attend 24 hours of instruction, which we plan to deliver via live and recorded presentations and farm tours.

Testing Day has tentatively been rescheduled for June 13th at the Washington County Fairgrounds, with a Driving Practice Day scheduled tentatively for May 31st. A Make-Up Day will be offered if needed.

Saratoga County Tractor Safety

The Saratoga County Tractor Safety program has also switched to on-line programming.

An orientation with 4-H participating youth was held on March 25th. At that time they received access to digital manuals and worksheets.

4-H Golf Classic

The 4-H Golf Classic currently scheduled for June 6th will be held at Fairways of Halfmoon.



10 Week Shooting Sports Course

The Spring program for the 10 Week Shooting Sports Course has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled. Plans for the Fall program are currently taking place.



New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Banquet & Auction

The New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Banquet & Auction scheduled for April 18th at The Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2020.



Ballston Spa Blooms Festival

Over fifty birdhouses have been distributed to 4-H members to decorate for the Ballston Spa Blooms Festival. The completed items will be displayed throughout the spring and summer in Downtown Ballston Spa.



Unfortunately, distribution of the

birdhouses is down this year due to supply interruptions with the school closures.

Capital District NYSACCE4-HE

Numerous resources have been made available to 4-H members and families that build on 4-H projects and programs, such as live webinars offered by various state 4-H programs, including NYS, virtual field trip experiences, resources

for holding remote meetings, simple ideas for youth to do at home, and community service and citizen science projects that can be completed while self-quarantining at home.

4-H & County Fair

A 4-H community service project is being developed for club pertaining to the COVID-19 called "Issue Leader Award for Creativity."

4-H Youth Development - continued

4-H School Outreach

4-H School Outreach is going to web-based programming. A few programs currently being developed for the web are: Trail Series, Make Your own Pollinator Garden, Tree, and Bluebirds in NY. Teachers have been made aware of the web-based programming and are encouraged to take advantage of it.



Trail Series is based around 14 less traveled walking trails located in Saratoga County. The plan is to add clips of bird sounds from Lab of Ornithology for common birds that would be seen or heard on each trail.

BINGO cards are being created with information for parents to extend learning (ie. Moss or mushrooms on tree, tree types, birds, beaver habitat....). Multiple BINGO cards are being created for each trail so many family member can play together.

4-H School Outreach has coordinated with Saratoga PLAN, as well as, using DEC and Ballston Trail. The Trail Series is considered to be within the common sense guidelines that promote safe recreation practices to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Make your own Pollinator Garden is a web-based learning unit. It will run from April 6th and continue through planting season right before Memorial Day. The learning unit will include videos, activities, as well as, templates.

The curriculum will include seed planting, caring for plants, along with creating a plant journal, learning parts of a plant, designing a garden, measuring sunshine in the area, making seed bombs, decorating containers, and understanding what different pollinators need, including host plants.



Some helpful links have already been sent out to teachers which can be found below:

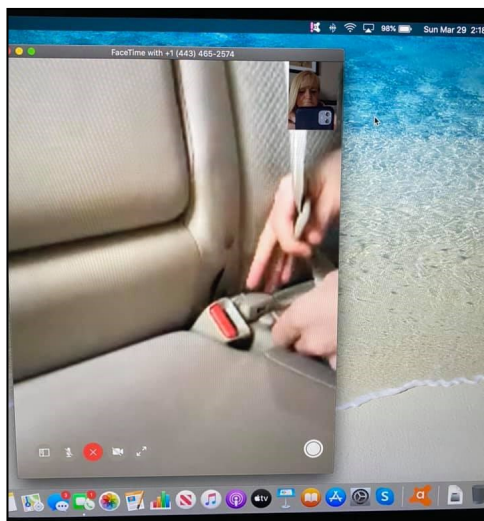
[Journey North—Tracking migrations and seasons](#)

[Nest Watch—where birds come to life](#) (*The Cornell Lab of Ornithology*)

Bluebirds in NY will consist of a video that will monitor bluebird houses. It will show different nests and discuss what they are. Plans will be supplied to build a bluebird house. This curriculum is planned to be available by the week of April 13th.

The Trees web-based programming is still in the process of being thought out.

Family Consumer Science



Occupant Protection Education

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County is working to keep children safe in vehicles during this time of social distancing and staying home. CCE Saratoga's first virtual car seat has successfully been installed! The event took place over FaceTime in which the expectant parents were guided through car seat installation using the seatbelt system and the latch system. 2 bases....2 cars!

Plans are in the works for the creation of a virtual program for doing "curbside education" on car seat installs. Also, looking into possible ways to make an instructional video for low income clients in order to educate them on proper installation and usage of car seats while waiting to receive a new one.

Agriculture

Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners Training is continuing with instruction through Zoom conferences. The first virtual class was on Tree and Small Fruit Growing. The class was completed over the course of two days. The next classes will be Organic Gardening and Vegetable Gardening.

The Saratoga Horticulture intern is continuing to work a presentation for the Master Gardeners Training, entitled "Gardening with Climate Change."



A moodle course has also been set up for the Warren and Saratoga County Master Gardener volun-

teers in order to review materials and have access to handouts.

Sundae on the Farm

Sundae on the Farm has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19. The host farm was Clear Echo Farm in Schuylerville.

A May 6th meeting has been scheduled to discuss alternative options.



Local Farms & COVID-19

CCE Saratoga interviewed the following three farms to find out, first-hand, the effect COVID-19 has on the agricultural community: Willow Marsh Farm, Ballston

Spa; King's Brothers Dairy, Schuylerville; and Smith's Orchard, Charlton. The outcome was that rapport between the interviewed farmers and consumers has become stronger and has grown. Please see article below:

[Morning Ag Clips—CCE of Saratoga County Seeks to Shine Positive Light for Local Farms](#)

"I think there has been a realization from people as to what real, locally sourced food is."

Chuck Curtiss
Willow Marsh Farm

A list of Farms open during the COVID-19 pandemic has been added to the end of this newsletter.

CCE Equine

Horse Symposium

The Horse Symposium is currently scheduled for May 16th at the 4-H Training Center. The event will be smaller and offered for free with donations encouraged, or with minimal charge, to the public. Vendors will be able to exhibit for free.



Due to the uncertainty and possibility of cancellation of the event this year, a lot of resources are not being invested in the event. The Horse Symposium provides

educational and networking opportunities to the equine community; a group that has been suffering trials for the past few months.

Presenters, vendors, and advertising are still currently being sought for the event.

Horse Development Committee

The newly founded Horse Development Committee recently met virtually via Zoom. The committee is currently in the process of creating a Community Needs Assessment Survey.



Capital Mohawk PRISM—continued

The Capital Region PRISM Team Leader has recently finalized awards for funding of invasive species work across the Capital Region including Saratoga County. The PRISM has awarded funds for such work on an Annual basis since 2018. Initially a total of \$134,641 for funding 9 projects were requested by partner applicants. The PRISM awarded five of the most qualified RFP's totaling \$77,783. The PRISM has allocated funds from the Environmental Protection Fund via the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Bureau. The PRISM has released closed to \$200,000 dollars in funding since 2018.

Selected proposals outlining the importance of the project as related to work being executed in or near ecologically significant communities close to protected areas with a high risk of spread. Preference was selected for high threat invasive species and those that contained a greater number of priority objectives to be executed based on the PRISM 2020 Work Plan Measures of success, post treatment monitoring, and the capacity to execute work were well identified. Budgets demonstrated realistic expenditures with details in supplies, materials, consultant, personal services and or sub work. Identifying the feasibility of completing a project.

AWARDS:

1. Adirondack Research \$24,496

Early Detection of high threat aquatic species over a larger regional scale in high-priority aquatic habitats. Survey techniques will including bathymetry studies for future reference of potential areas susceptible to infestation.

2. Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve \$10,000

Rapid Response and removal of high threat species in a pine barren. The preserve will be conducting educational awareness events as part of their project

3. Siena College \$8675

Early Detection and recommendations for conservation management with an education and outreach component.

4. National Audubon Society \$4642

Rapid Response and targeting a high threat species in critical bird habitat

5. Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc. \$ 24,970

Early detection, rapid response, management of high threat species to the park with and an education and out-reach component. A Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatment will also occur based on recommendation tool from the Cornell Hemlock Initiative.

Please check out our web site for more information, updates and future webinars.

<http://www.capitalmohawkprism.org/>

Terrestrial Invasive Species



The Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator has been reviewing and selecting priority conservation areas for surveying and removal of high priority species. Recruitment of new partners and reconnection with old partners as part of the 2020 initiative to create a stronger network has been initiated. In addition, HWA surveys are being conducted and the Terrestrial Tier List for invasive species is being updated for the PRISM. Modifications to the PRISM website as related to emerging invasive species are being made.

Information on Terrestrial Invasive Species

<http://www.capitalmohawkprism.org/plants1.html>

Aquatic Invasive Species

Welcome to the New Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Lauren Henderson holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Sustainability from Paul Smith's College. After receiving her degree, Lauren began her career with aquatic invasive species as a Watershed Steward with the Adirondack Watershed Institute where she worked her way



up to Program Manager of the Watershed Stewardship Program. Lauren has worked with groups across the Adirondack Park to help educate the public and create awareness around the threats of aquatic invasive species. Preventing the spread of invasive species fits directly in line with Lauren's passion to protect New York State's natural resources and ensure everyone can enjoy them.

Lauren has transitioned well into her new position and is hiring boat stewards for the 2020 season. She has remarkably picked up a lot of information in a short time. Lauren will be reviewing the Aquatics Tier List and revising AIS educational programming for both partners and our boat steward program soon enough. In addition, Lauren will be developing survey protocol and sites in the up and coming quarter.

Looking For Seasonal Work as A Boat Steward Apply Here?

<http://ccesaratoga.org/jobs>

Check out the Clean Drain Dry Practices and a Video for Decontamination of A Recreational Watercraft

<http://nyis.info/watercraft-inspection-handbook/>

[http://stopaquaticinvasives.org/prevention/#cl](http://stopaquaticinvasives.org/prevention/#clean-drain-dry)

[ean-drain-dry](http://stopaquaticinvasives.org/prevention/#clean-drain-dry)

<https://youtu.be/wBDgs8mBGy4>

Education & Outreach

The Education and Outreach Coordinator has been developing educational materials and products to be deployed for the next three years. Wide spread common invasive species and emerging high threat species identification cards for both (TIS) and (AIS) are in final review. Printed media to distribute in the middle of the second quarter is currently in the works. The PRISM will also be uploading a series of fact sheets relating to common invasives with management recommendations. The coordinator has been assisting with Invasive Species Awareness Week activities and developing programming for various audiences in season.



Inter-municipal Stormwater Management

The Stormwater Team has met virtually through Zoom Conferencing. The first of a three-part outline of the course has been laid out. The initial work will include updates to existing resources.

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