



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
One Great Idea



# Cornell University Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County



**2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### ROBERT GILLESPIE, 2011 CCE YATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PRESIDENT

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I'd like to thank everyone for coming here tonight to our annual meeting and helping us celebrate another very productive year. There have been challenges and rewards as we move through an era of ever-tightening budgets.

Our Yates County Cooperative Extension's hard-working staff and specialists continue to strengthen our local economy by implementing and overseeing diverse programs. These initiatives touch the lives of Yates County residents of all ages. I'm personally one of those beneficiaries, having been involved with Extension since the 1970's.

During 2011, Yates County CCE worked to strengthen and build a vibrant local community in variety of ways.

To highlight a few:

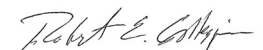
- The Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability Programs in the areas of dairy, field crops, grapes and vegetables worked in partnership with the nearly 900 ag businesses on 126,000 acres, generating \$88 million per year. CCE programs helped these businesses adapt to new challenges, reduce costs, and improve profitability. The dairy team just received an \$88,000 grant for piloting the concepts of Precision Feed Management in Yates County.
- Nearly all of us are familiar with the valuable work of Jud Reid and the rest of the Cornell Vegetable Team. High tunnels are helping Yates vegetable growers to increase profits, extend growing seasons, and reduce chemical inputs. This team now has gained an international reputation.
- The Grape program has received a grant from Ag and Markets to build a teaching and research vineyard in Yates Co. It will benefit current farms as well as students from FLCC and Cornell University to become trained with hands-on experiences as the next leaders of this important industry.
- A new forest management program has begun under the direction of local Master Forest Owner's group.
- The 4-H program has implemented a new shooting sports program and local clubs are finding increased male membership.
- In the energy sector, we are all proud of our Yates Office, which co-led the Yates County Marcellus Shale Task Force.

This is just a sampling, but I'd like to mention one more because it has particular interest to me. Before I name it, I need to point out that this is the Centennial Year for the entire Extension System based on Land Grant Colleges. In the early 1900's the Federal Government recognized that if democracy was going to succeed and if the benefits of the Industrial Revolution were going to be realized, they needed to create a mechanism for communication between Research Universities and average citizens. So they came up with the idea of Land Grant universities and extending information to all citizens.

Now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we find ourselves in another Revolution based on immediate electronic communication. That communication is not structured in a top-down way, but laterally. I'm proud to say that our Yates County Extension office is on the cutting edge of this and was awarded a grant to install a polycom system. In plain language, it is a very high quality video and audio hook-up enabling professionals of all disciplines to conference together, share best practice methods, and brainstorm problems regardless of the distance separating these folks. I've sat in on several conferences and it's quite amazing. As travel costs will become prohibitive, the polycom system will show its tremendous efficiency and value for years to come.

To conclude, I would like to thank many people for CCE's success in 2011:

- Our absolutely top-notch management and staff who have shown strong character in very tough economic times.
- All the many volunteers that make programs work.
- The Yates County Legislature, for its appropriation of funds which enable us to leverage millions of dollars from various sources.
- And lastly, the hard working citizens of Yates County who creatively use CCE information and expertise.



Bob Gillespie  
President

## Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County

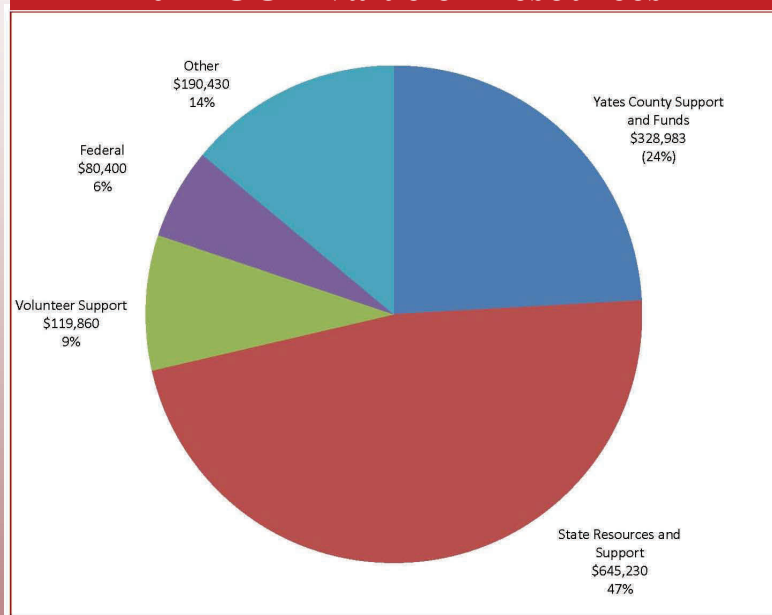
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Phone: 315-536-5123

Fax: 315-536-5117

Web: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/yates/>

## 2011 CCE Value of Resources



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension is to improve the lives of people in Yates County through partnerships that put experience and research to work.

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Barb Elias, Bookkeeper

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Greg Coffta, Hispanic Labor Management

Nancy Glazier, Small Farm Specialist

John Hanchar, Farm Business Mgt. Specialist

Joan Sinclair Petzen, Farm Business Management

Michael Stanyard, PhD., Field Crop Specialist

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Julie Kikkert, Processing Vegetable Specialist

Christy Hoepting, Processing Vegetables Specialist

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## 2011 FRIENDS OF CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF YATES COUNTY

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As we celebrate our centennial year, CCE of Yates County continues to serve all residents, businesses and communities. CCE's programs touch the lives of many in our community. We would like to thank the individuals, families and businesses listed below that support us through the Friend of Cornell Cooperative Extension fundraising efforts. We have raised nearly \$5,000 through this campaign.

Philip Bailey  
David Bellin  
Bruce Borglum  
Dana Burton  
Dave Christiansen  
Clearview Farms  
Robert Corcoran  
Marty DeVinney  
Gregory Dick  
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John Sullivan  
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Steve Von Rhedey  
Bob & Carol Wordon  
  
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# JANUARY 2012

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Master Gardeners, Mabel Pierle and Peter Deth, wrapped up their nearly 10 year involvement with the Keuka Lake School Children's Garden in the Fall. Mabel and Peter had an active final year at the garden. With money donated by the Yates County Master Gardeners, and the help of community member Gordon Taft, the Children's Garden now has a wooden fence surrounding it. Students placed mulch, which was donated by the village of Penn Yan, throughout the garden. Over the summer months, children watered and worked in the garden, maintaining over a dozen different vegetable, herbs, flowers, and berry plants. In addition to working, the children enjoyed playing with and learning about the various bugs living in the garden. After a summer of work, the children enjoyed eating the food that grew in their garden. The work of Mabel and Pete has established a successful garden where Keuka Lake School children will continue to learn and play for many years.



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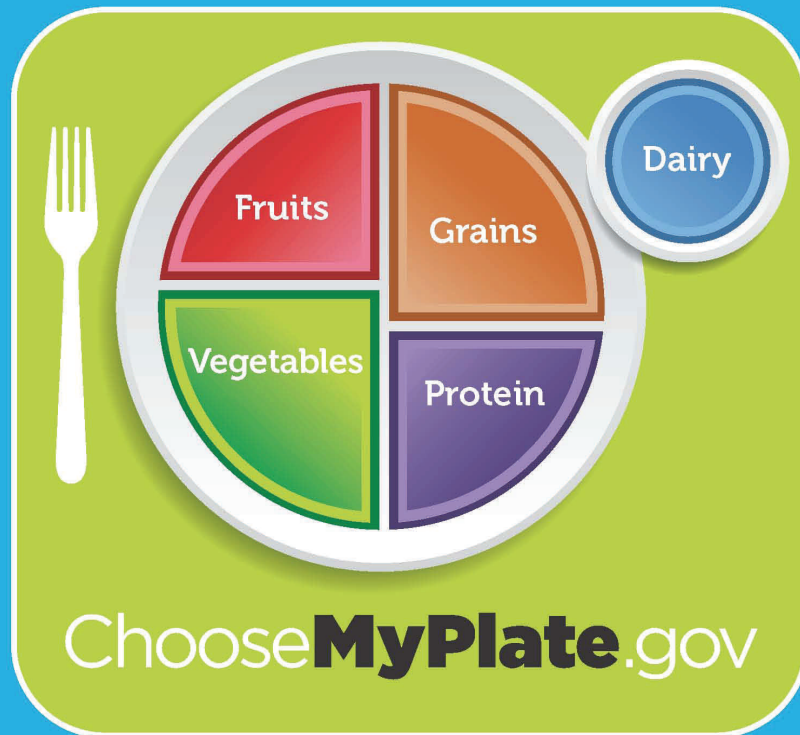


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# What's on your plate?



**MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH**

For more information about MyPlate contact CCE Yates County  
or visit [ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://ChooseMyPlate.gov)



Before you eat, think about what and how much food goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl. Over the day, include foods from all food groups: vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, and lean protein foods.



**Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.**



**Make at least half your grains whole.**



**Switch to skim or 1% milk.**



**Vary your protein food choices.**





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# High Tunnel Greenhouses



Unheated or minimally heated greenhouses (high tunnels) have been widely adopted by vegetable farmers for season extension and disease management. Developing natural pest control systems for these settings will enhance farm sustainability by reducing pesticide applications and increasing yields; while increasing consumer access to fresh, local produce over a wider calendar window.

The predatory mite *Amblyseius cucumeris* was evaluated on 4 separate crops of high tunnel cucumbers to control a common vegetable pest; thrips. Pest populations were monitored over time, before and after the release of *A. cucumeris*. *Results of these trials were presented at 4 on-farm workshops, 7 formal winter meetings, in 20 articles and 1 webinar.*

Cooperating greenhouses reduced thrips levels by an average of 85% after releases of *A. cucumeris*. The project team concludes that *A. cucumeris* is appropriate for organic thrips control in high tunnel vegetables for spring and summer crops such as tomatoes and cucumbers. A post-project survey documented that 20 of 23 (87%) farmers that our program contacted report implemented natural pest controls. Trial data and grower input indicated that while difficult to quantify economically in true field settings, natural pest management can be the difference between a crop and a failure and for many organic growers is their only option.

Written responses from cooperating farmers: “Natural pest control can save an entire crop. It is highly effective and valuable.”; “Natural pest control takes less times, works 24-7, seems to do a great job. Great public relation tool.”





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# APRIL 2012

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# 4-H Shooting Sports

## 4-H Shooting Sports Aims Youth in the Right Direction



By hosting two workshops this summer, one in the shotgun discipline, the other in archery, a total of 11 youth were encouraged to meet the following objectives:

- To enhance the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of youth through safe educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting related activities.
- To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment. This is to include sound

decision-making, self-discipline, and concentration.

- To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
- To encourage an understanding of NYS' natural resources and the development of a personal environmental stewardship ethic by young people through participation in shooting, hunting, and related activities both consumptive and non-consumptive in nature.

- To strengthen family, personal, and professional relationships through life-long learning activities.
- To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to natural resource activities (shooting, hunting, fishing, forestry, etc.).
- To complement and enhance the impact of previously existing safety and hunter education programs.



### Program Goals

- Host at least one mini-program (6 lessons) per discipline (archery, shotgun, and air pistol) per year.
- Train at least 10 youth per year in the 6 lesson fundamentals program.
- Work with other counties and the

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports to provide an accurate and well rounded program.

- Disciplines in the fundamentals program will include a minimum of archery (for ages 9+), shotgun (for ages 12+), and air pistol (for ages 12+).

- Additional programming will be based on current NYS legislation, instructor availability, and equipment availability.
- Shooting Sports programming will be based on youth demands as much as possible.

"As a parent, I was impressed that it was a hands-on program for the participants, given by qualified & personable instructors, teaching gun education and safety as well as the practical elements of shooting & technique. There was not a moment that I believed anything could have been better. The facility was perfect and the time & dates of the course were convenient."



## Yates County 4-H Shooting Sports



- Firearm Safety
- Air Pistol
- Archery
- Muzzleloading
- Shotgunning
- Wildlife
- Survival Skills
- Conservation
- Habitat Enhancement
- First Aid and more

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4-H Program  
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Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

## 2011 Program Highlights:

Winter 2010—Branchport Rod and Gun Club opens their doors as a host location for our programming.

Winter 2010—Yates County SCOPE (Shooters Committee on Political Education) is eager to help build our foundation – they purchase a safe for our use (and the Branchport Rod and Gun Club agree to give us a locked room to keep it in) and start to purchase equipment to fill it with. To date, SCOPE has purchased and donated: a Century Gun Safe, three Model 2300T Air Pistols, and targets.

March 2011—Yates County SCOPE holds a benefit chicken and biscuit dinner at the Elks Lodge to raise money for additional support of our program. They raised over \$1,000! This money is earmarked to purchase three CVA Optima 50 caliber muzzleloaders for our program.

March 2011—The Elks Club collected approximately \$600 to cover the cost of the meals at the benefit and turned around and donated that back to the Shooting Sports program! This money was used to purchase two recurve and two Genesis bows.

Spring 2011—NRA Grant funding in the amount of \$1,100 was secured and used to purchase a 20 gauge Remington 1187, targets, gunstocks, 5 flats of ammunition, and eye and ear protection.

Summer 2011—Offered 12-hour special interest courses in the months of June and July – one in archery and one in shotgun.

July 2011—We set up the shooting sports simulator for one day of the Yates County Fair and collected approximately \$20 in donations.

August/September 2011—Two 4-H Shooting Sports teens worked at the shooting sports booth at the New York State Fair, one for 2 days and the other for 8 along with an archery instructor who chaperoned for 8 days – exposing fairgoers to the disciplines and educating them about the outdoors.

Our archery instructors have also set up ranges at the Fishing Derby in Penn Yan, the Potter Onion Festival, and the Outdoor Shows in Steuben County in an effort to recruit new participants.

October 2011—We honored Yates County SCOPE and the Branchport Rod and Gun Club with the "Friends of 4-H Award" and the shooting sports instructors as the "4-H Leaders of the Year" at the 4-H Achievement Day, October 16, 2011.

Plans are being made for 2012 special interest workshops in January/February – Air Pistol, March/April – Shotgun, and May/June – Muzzleloader.

From an anonymous survey of the shotgun and archery courses this summer, 60% of participants rated their overall experience as EXCELLENT while 60% of parents rated the overall program, including cost, times, dates, time of year, and total satisfaction with the shooting sports program to be EXCELLENT.

When asked to describe the most valuable part of the 4-H Shooting Sports program, the respondents said, "Aside from how to be safe, it was learning about variety of types of guns, bores and shot, shooting techniques and gun maintenance/cleaning." And, "I really liked learning about this sport. I like outdoors activities and am interested in hunting and fishing."

Certified instructors: Denise Slocum (archery, muzzleloader, hunting), Cindy Hill (air pistol), Kevin Newell (air pistol), Kim Newell (shotgun), Angie Cox (shotgun), Allison and Lucian Sacheli (living history), Donna O'Brien (archery)



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# MAY 2012

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# Home Food Preservation is Making a Come-back!

The Finger Lakes Region has abundant fresh and local produce. Learning to preserve it safely is a must. Cornell Cooperative Extension held several classes in 2011 including:

- Making and preserving strawberry jam
- Canning string beans in a pressure canner
- Canning tomato products
- Canning & freezing applesauce

**Some important points to remember when preserving food:**

- Always use an approved method and recipe from a reliable, research-based source (not great-grandma's recipe!)
- The method you choose (canning, freezing, drying) depends on available equipment, the type of food, & level of experience.

**Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office for information on how to preserve foods safely.**

**Refer to the following sources for reliable, up-to-date information:**

- National Center for Home Food Preservation at the University of Georgia - [http://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications\\_usda.html](http://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications_usda.html)
- The latest editions of *So Easy To Preserve* from Cooperative Extension, The University of Georgia, or
- The *Ball Blue Book, Guide to Preserving*.





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There are many exciting 4-H activities planned and 4-H youth have been hard at work getting projects ready to put in the exhibit hall and animals ready to fill the barns. Through hands-on learning, 4-H strives to “make the best better”. The Yates County Fair is an opportunity for 4-H’ers to showcase the skills they’ve learned during the year. We’ll see you at the fair, and don’t forget to stop for an ice cream at Scooper’s Dairy Bar.



2011 Yates County Fair Youth Exhibit Statistics	
<u>Exhibit Hall:</u>	<u>Animal Science:</u>
# of exhibitors—68	# of exhibitors— 46
# of exhibits—409	# of animal- 169
# of exhibits per department:	# of exhibits per department:
Leadership and Personal Development— 30	Beef—4
Communication and Expressive Arts— 41	Dairy—3
Consumer and Family Sciences— 81	Dog—5
Fine Arts and Crafts— 92	Goats—21
Historical Documentation—8	Horse - 22
Science, Engineering, and Technology—17	Rabbit/Cavy—22
Horticulture—19	Poultry—74
Field Crops—3	Sheep—10
Visual Arts/Photography/Graphic Design—94	Pet—9
Environmental Education—26	







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# JULY 2012

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## Yates County Master Forest Owner Program



**Seven Yates County Master Forest Owners (MFO) were recently trained at the Cornell Arnot Forest and in cooperation with the DEC Regional Forester and NYS Forest Owners Association, are providing direct forestry outreach to Yates County landowners as well as conducting workshops and woodswalks.**

**Seventy-six landowners managing over 1,500 acres of forests attended two, three hour forestry workshops to learn about invasive species, forest management planning, and crop tree management. Twenty-six people indicated they would pursue developing a forest management plan or other practice including controlling invasive species, marking their boundaries, and selective cut.**

**Fifty percent of Yates County is forested and much of the land is not actively managed according to a forest manage plan. Timber harvesting is often conducted without the advice of a forester and often the woodlot is "high graded", resulting in severe long term devaluation of forest health and future timber harvesting opportunities. Invasive species are rampant throughout much of the area and reduce the overall health of the forest. The MFO program will help to improve the quality of forests through regular educational programs of landowners.**



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# AUGUST 2012

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# 4-H Achievement Night

Celebrating accomplishments of Yates County 4-H youth, parents, leaders, and volunteers!



4-H'er of the Year and  
4-H Sportsmanship Award



Friends of 4-H  
Yates County SCOPE and the Branchport  
Rod and Gun Club



Fenton Wager Memorial Award for  
Animal Husbandry



Dave Eames Memorial Award for  
community service

Achievement Night Recognizes those that have:

- Demonstrated or improved upon new skills
- Shown courage by stepping out of their comfort zone
- Excelled in a specific project area
- Exhibited growth and personal development
- Demonstrated leadership and follow through
- Exhibited Service above Self
- Gone above and beyond the call of duty
- Devoted their energy and countless hours of time to help improve the lives of youth in Yates County



Yates County Teen Ambassadors Canned Food Drive  
Winners—The Onion Patch Kids



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# SEPTEMBER 2012

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# Finger Lakes Grape Program



After a banner year in 2010, the 2011 growing season proved to be one of the most challenging for grape growers in Yates County and throughout the Finger Lakes. Wet conditions in the spring did not impact vineyards nearly to the extent that other crops were. However, drought conditions during the summer followed by seemingly constant rainfall in late August, September and October forced growers to dig deep into their vineyard management toolbox. Disease pressure later in the season was significant, leading many growers and wineries to sort out fruit with too much rot in order to produce quality products. Crop yields were above average this year whether you were growing Riesling or Catawba - significantly above average in some cases. The general feeling is that despite the challenges, the quality of the 2011 vintage is still expected to be quite good, thanks to growers' and winemakers' willingness to take the extra steps necessary to make it so this year.

In years like this, when growers or wineries have excess grapes or wine, many of them turn to the New York Grapes and Wine Classifieds website, developed by the Finger Lakes Grape Program, to help them find new buyers for their excess fruit and expand their markets. While there are a number of other categories available in the system (equipment, vines, services, help wanted), the site is primarily used by growers and wineries to buy and sell grapes and bulk juice or wine at no charge to them.

In 2010 (the most recent data available), the system hosted over 650 ads, which generated over \$1 million in economic activity for New York growers and wineries. That figure includes over \$228,000 in economic activity for Yates County growers and wineries alone, which was more than 7 times the county's investment in the Finger Lakes Grape Program last year.



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County  
417 Liberty Street  
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<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/yates/>

# OCTOBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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## PRECISION FEED MANAGEMENT

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County has received a grant from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education to work with farmers on Precision Feed Management (PFM) in order to improve profitability and environmental stewardship in Yates County. By balancing dairy cattle diets through better utilizing homegrown feeds, PFM reduces the import of purchased nutrients and, in turn, reduces manure phosphorus and nitrogen excretions. Currently, many dairy farms import more nutrients into their farms than are exported in product. This results in an accumulation of nutrients on the farm and/or losses to the environment. PFM strives to implement feed management programs tailored to each farms' needs. This management results in higher milk production per cow and reduction in feed cost. Farms from other parts of the state participating in PFM have benefited economically by reducing purchased feed costs while maintaining milk production, improving overall profitability. CCE has held information meetings and is currently seeking 20 herds throughout the county to participate.**





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# NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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# ENERGY

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Families and individuals in Yates County learned about saving energy in a variety of ways this year. Many chose to attend the EmPower workshop, Save Energy - Save Dollars. Some checked out energy displays and brochures placed in the community. Haley Rotter and Lee Loomis, from the Finger Lakes Energy Smart Communities, brought the energy bikes, information about energy, and different programs to the Yates County Fair.



The compare meter was viewed at many energy events and community members were able to compare different styles of compact florescent lights and view the difference in the amount of energy used by energy Star qualified CLFs and the incandescent light bulb using the same wattage for both.

Here are a few facts about ENERY STAR qualified CFLs:

- They produce the same amount of light, but use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- Because CFLs use less energy, they also use less wattage to produce the same amount of light.
- Some CFLs are capable of dimming, three way functionality, or outdoor use.
- Check the packaging before you buy. Using the wrong bulb in an application reduces the bulb's life.



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# DECEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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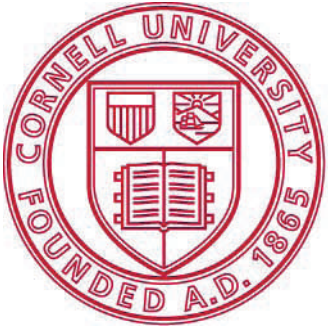
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# Cornell University

## Cooperative Extension

### Yates County

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417 Liberty Street  
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Penn Yan, NY 14527  
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*Greetings!*

*On behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County, I am pleased to send you the 2011 Annual Report in calendar format for the 2012 calendar year. As you plan for next year enjoy reading about CCE's programs, staff and volunteers working to make Yates County a more vibrant and vital community.*

*Sincerely,*

*Peter F. Landre  
Executive Director*

Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.  
CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.