

A letter from the President and Executive Director

To the Residents of Saratoga County: Challenges and Opportunities...

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County is unwavering in our commitment to offer quality educational programs that help the residents of our growing county gain the understanding, knowledge and skills needed to deal **with today's challenging environment. We focused on community driven programs that promoted and advanced** agriculture, strengthened individuals and families, and empowered our youth. During these challenging times the value of Cornell Cooperative Extension cannot be over estimated.

We joined Cornell University and Cooperative Extension Associations across New York to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the hiring of the first Extension Agent. At the same time we are challenged by the local impact of the national economy and the many storms that impacted the county and the region. Winter snow storms that crushed barns and killed livestock, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee while impacting other counties to a greater degree provided opportunities for CCE to work with clientele in their recovery efforts and providing assistance to neighboring counties.

4-H Youth Development maintains the core values honed for nearly a century – **experiential "Learning by Doing"** the 4-H way. 4-H educators incorporated science, engineering and technology in every aspect of the 4-H experience.

The future includes involving youth and volunteers to slow down the spread of invasive species, enhancing our environment and providing skills needed for the future. Our 4-H Youth Development Program is designed to prepare our youth to be civic-minded productive members of their community.

Family and Consumer Science programming reached thousands of county residents, stressing the importance of good nutrition, health and safety issues. Our professionals and educational programs are directed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families by bringing research based programs to the people of Saratoga County.

Agriculture is recognized as the leading industry in Saratoga County. The world of technology including the tremendous opportunities brought to the county by Global Foundries and the recently completed water system, remind us that these developments are in part due to the beauty of Saratoga County and the foresight to keep the county green and profitable.

Agriculture's future is a partnership of agri-businesses, Farm Bureau and CCE's Agricultural Economic Development initiatives from planning to delivery. Our Board of Directors and staff are proud to be part of the process to ensure that agriculture continues to prosper.

Our team of educators and support staff have an enviable record of delivering innovative programs. We are equally proud of our dedicated volunteers who give thousands of hours to enrich 4-H, the Master Gardener Program, and many other educational efforts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Cornell Cooperative Extension we sincerely thank the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors for their support. We appreciate your trust and will work hard to stay focused on our mission of empowering the people of Saratoga County through education.

The future is filled with challenges and opportunities. We fully understand the challenges facing the Board of Supervisors as they address the myriad of unfunded mandates, the impact of Maplewood Manor on the fund balance and stagnant revenues. Cornell Cooperative Extension works to improve agricultural profits, to help families make wise, economically sound decisions and to prepare the next generation of leaders through the 4-H Youth Development Program.

It is our pleasure to submit the 2011 Annual Report for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County. Please take a moment to read the report and learn about our diverse programming.

Sincerely,

Carlton Ellms

Carlton Ellms, President
Board of Directors

William M. Schwerd

William Schwerd
Executive Director

CCE of Saratoga County is a grassroots organization that focuses on the needs of our residents. Educational programs **are designed and delivered by professional staff using the resources of Cornell, New York's land grant university and other** USDA partners to improve the quality of life for agriculturalists, in our 4-H programs and human ecology. While specific programs may change during these economically trying times, the dedication to deliver what families and agricultural businesses need does not.

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