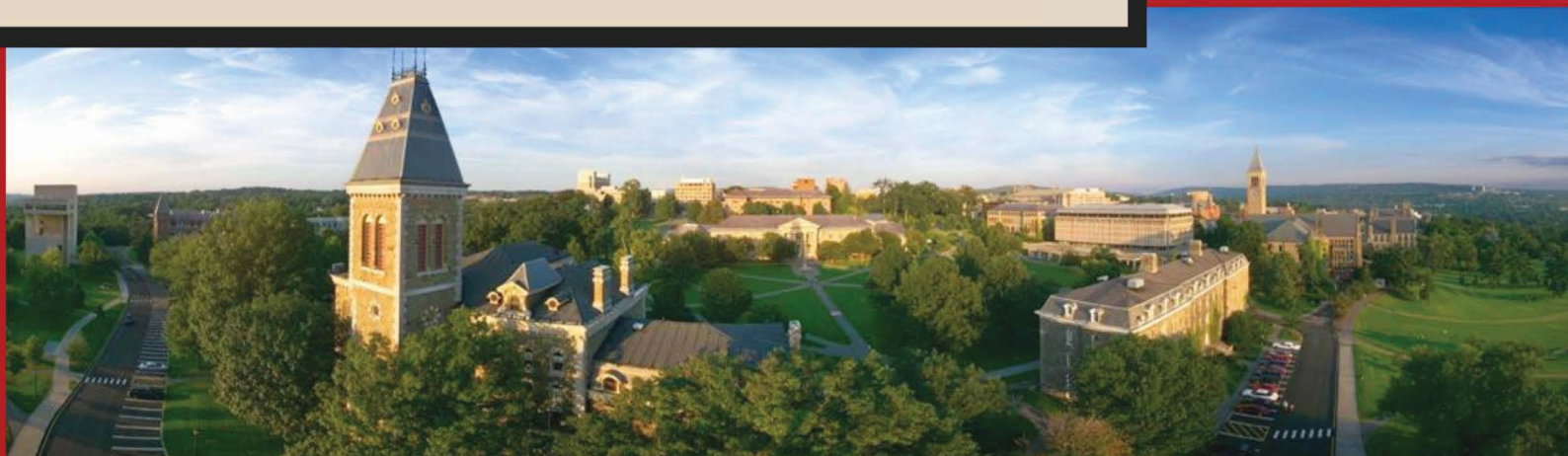
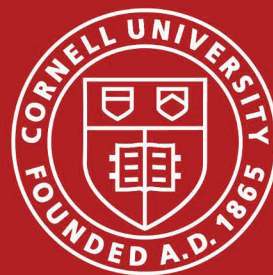


Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING CORNELL UNIVERSITY TO OUR COMMUNITY



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION LEWIS COUNTY

2025

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County serves as a dynamic educational organization that uses Cornell University's world-class research and Cooperative Extension network to enhance the lives and well-being of all Lewis County residents.



Cornell Cooperative Extension's dedicated team works with Cornell faculty, agriculture, parenting, and 4-H youth development teams to put research to work to grow, strengthen and sustain a healthy, vibrant, and economically strong Lewis County.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Our programs deliver measurable impact and high value to participants and the community at large. Thanks to our strong connections with local stakeholders and Cornell University, we are able to bring research-based knowledge directly to the people of Lewis County.

With appreciation,


Michele E. Ledoux
Executive Director


Peter Ostrum, DVM
President, Board of Directors

Friends of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County:

We are pleased to share with you our **2025 Annual Report**. The staff of Lewis County Cooperative Extension remains dedicated to providing purposeful, high-impact programs that both honor the traditions of Extension and embrace new opportunities. Our growth reflects a balance of preserving our agricultural heritage while addressing emerging issues and supporting innovative solutions.

This report highlights the wide-reaching work of CCE Lewis—bringing timely, research-driven information to individuals, families, farmers, businesses, and professionals. Agriculture remains the foundation of our work, but we are equally proud of the strength of our **4-H Youth Development programs**, our **in-demand parenting education**, and our efforts in **horticulture** and **community development**. Together, these initiatives help prepare tomorrow's workforce, create educational opportunities, and respond to the real-life challenges facing Lewis County residents.

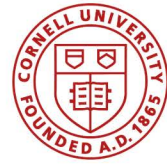
As rural America continues to play a vital role in the health and fabric of our everyday lives, the mission of Extension has never been more important. We are proud to stand alongside farmers, youth, businesses, and community members, moving projects forward that strengthen and sustain our county.

CCE Lewis is fortunate to benefit from a unique partnership among federal, state, and local governments, which allows us to leverage resources to better serve our residents. We extend our sincere gratitude to the agencies, organizations, and individuals who provide funding and support throughout the year. In particular, we thank the **Lewis County Board of Legislators** and county residents for their continued investment in our work.

We invite you to explore the pages of this Annual Report, discover new opportunities to engage with us, and grow with us in the year ahead. Follow us on Facebook and visit our website at **ccelewis.org** for the latest updates and programs.

Looking to 2026, we remain committed to delivering relevant, unbiased, and useful information to all Lewis County residents as we work together for the continued growth and vitality of our community.

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY



Cornell Cooperative Extension believes in shared leadership through locally elected Board of Directors and active program development committees. Cornell Cooperative Extension applies research from Cornell University to strategically develop and implement programs to meet the county's priorities and critical community issues.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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4-H Program Representative
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Crop & Soil Specialist
- **CARSON SCHWEINSBERG**
Energy Advisor
- **LINDSEY PASHOW**
Harvest NY Ag Development & Marketing

AGRICULTURE



Container Gardening

Growing cherry tomatoes and lettuce in a bucket was very popular. We appreciate the continued support from Andrew and Dorothy Kramer from Cedar Knoll Farm for donating the plants. Our program reached ten libraries in Lewis County, and 130 buckets were planted. These workshops supplied everything attendees needed to start a small garden in a bucket and were widely attended.

FMNP

Nutritional education table events were held at the Lowville Farmers Market and the Lyons Falls Farmers Market. These events focused on freezing, canning, and preserving winter vegetables at the market, as well as answering related questions. Recipes and information about senior 60+ coupons to be used at the market were available. Free kitchen utensils were also provided, thanks to the CCE Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Outreach from CCE Broome County, which is supported by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Food Safety

CCE Lewis hosted a Food Safety Training (Good Agricultural Practices) with support from CCE Eastern NY Commercial Hort Program, CCE Yates, and CCE Harvest NY. This training was requested by the Amish Plain Community to meet the specific food safety requirements needed for their products at the Oak Grove Facility in Lewis County.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Lewis County

LEWIS COUNTY FARMING AWARDS

Distinguished Farmer Award

Since 1977, the Lewis County Farm Bureau has honored long-time, community-involved members with the Distinguished Farmer Award. This year, the 49th award goes to Doug & Patty Moser of Moserdale Farms. Moserdale Farms has been a staple in Copenhagen since 1923, when Doug's grandparents purchased the original 205 acres. Now into its fourth generation with Andrew Moser, the farm's legacy continues, building on the foundation set by Doug's parents, Ellis and Joyce Moser, who took over in 1962.



Young Farmer Award

Lee and Clayton O'Brien and their families from Irish Settlement Farm, LLC in Lowville, NY. The Lewis County Dairy Industry Building Committee chooses a young dairy producer that exhibits sound management practices that help them stand out from their peers. They are recognized for their level of dairy herd, crop and financial management. Lee, Clayton, and their parents Steve and Joanne built a new free stall facility in 2023 and will be expanding again this year to milk 450 Holstein dairy cows in a Double 12 parallel milking parlor and owning/renting over 700 acres.

A YEAR AT A GLANCE

Upcoming Programs

- Soil Sampling 101 Webinar
- Crop Congress, January
- Soil Health Field Day, June
- Calving Assistance Training Workshops, November to March
- Hoof Care Hands-on Workshops, December
- Hoof Care Advanced Skills Seminar, January
- Dairy Apprenticeship Program, collaboration with Cornell Ag Workforce Development, SUNY and NYS DOL. Informational meetings, October
- Farm Insurance Program
- Value-Added Production Business Classes

Technical Assistance

Examples of technical assistance provided by TCAT include dairy cattle nutrition and feeding strategies, soil sampling and analysis for crop rotation and planning, farmstead facility layout and design, calving assistance, on-farm skills training, grass-fed dairy production, and pasture improvement. They also guide farms in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting Cornell Dairy Farm Business Summary data to support stronger financial decision-making. Through direct outreach, events, and collaboration with local stakeholders, TCAT ensures their services are relevant, research-based, and responsive to real-time challenges facing North Country farms.

Applied Research

The team collaborated with Cornell's Louis Longchamp on bio-stimulants and corn silage quality, assisted Cornell IPM with weekly corn pest trap monitoring in all three counties, and collected soil for the Cornell CALS 2025 State Soil Test Conversion Program. In partnership with W.H. Miner Institute, they're planning to research transition calf feeding strategies on northern NY dairies. They're also involved in the Farm-to-School Cost Analysis and the Coast-Cow-Consumer (C3) Project on algae-based dairy feed. Grant proposals to the NNY Ag Development Program are under consideration.



REGIONAL EXPERTISE TAKES THE FIELD

To support commercial agriculture producers and the broader agricultural community, CCE Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties formed the Tri-County Ag Team (TCAT). This regional partnership offers expert assistance in dairy management, crop production, and farm business management through personalized consultations, group programs, applied research, demonstrations, and as a resource to industry, community, and government organizations.

Agriculture remains a vital economic driver in these counties, with producers seeking independent, research-based education and technical support. Industry professionals like veterinarians, nutritionists, and crop consultants rely on accurate information to inform their work, while government and support agencies depend on local expertise to guide policy and economic development decisions.

The TCAT team includes a crop and soil specialist (Jefferson), a dairy specialist (Lewis), and a farm business management specialist (St. Lawrence), hired between July 2024 and March 2025. TCAT connects producers and advisors to Cornell University resources, Pro-Dairy, and New York State programs, strengthening the region's agricultural sector and sustainability.

BEEF FOCUS

AGRICULTURE

All About Beef

A hands-on event for producers



This workshop was hosted by Miller's Meat Market, with Darrell Miller discussing primal cuts and where they come from. Dr. Adam Murray, a Cornell Extension Beef Specialist, also discussed finishing cattle and grading a local producer's steer in the cooler. Producers saw comparisons of primal cuts, marbling, rib-eye width, and grading. The workshop was very popular among beef producers from three counties.

On-Farm Testing

Practical learning for cow pregnancy checks



IDEXX industry experts—including Dr. Rhoades (IDEXX Veterinarian) and Ryan Hodges (IDEXX Representative)—along with Mark Murray (Murcrest Farm) and veterinarian Dr. Peter Ostrum (Dairy Health and Management Services LLC), assisted with a unique hands-on opportunity for producers to learn how to perform a blood test for pregnancy checking their cows. Murcrest Farm provided the beef cows for hands-on practice in the headlocks. Producers drew blood with Dr. Ostrum and Phil Trowbridge (Trowbridge Angus Farms), learning how to use the IDEXX Alertys On Farm Pregnancy Test with the collected samples. IDEXX sponsored the program, and a meal was provided.

Farm Safety & Solutions

Animal Mortality Disposal

On-Farm Solutions for Producers

Jean Bonhotal, Cornell Waste Management Specialist, visited a local slaughter facility to teach composting animal carcasses. Jean instructed the facility on the proper location, how to build a base with wood chips, proper placement of carcasses or offal, and the depth of covering needed to provide the balanced carbon-to-nitrogen ratio for adequate decomposition. This approach helps reduce the high expenses from hauling companies that dispose of animal waste.



Grain Bin Quality & Safety for Farms

Best Practices for Grain Bin Management

With the increase in grain bins, CCE Lewis provided training with NYCAMH, and Cargill experts, offering insights and practical tips for local farmers. Cargill sponsored this program along with a meal. The participants visited Eastview Grain, owned by Aaron Miller.



Manure Pit Rescue Training

Hands-On Training for First Responders

The National Education Center of Ag Safety provided skill-based training at three locations in Lewis, Clinton, and St. Lawrence counties. Firefighters were given hands-on training with a manure pit simulator followed by a farm tour of a manure pit at Beller Farms. There were 60 participants, and a lunch was provided.

Open Farm Day 2025

A Lewis County Tradition

Over **600 visitors** from as far as California, Pennsylvania, and Virginia spent the day enjoying what Lewis County Agriculture has to offer. They explored mushroom cultivation, maple production, lavender goods, cheese curds, and goat cheese and soap specialties, hydroponics, and greenhouse offerings. Visitors also enjoyed a corn maze, petting animals, and other activities. Local farmers were on hand to answer questions and share their knowledge, creating a truly educational and engaging experience for everyone.



LEWIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Beekeeping

Expert Insights on Bee Health



Anne Mills, Apiculturist with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, presented on the critical topic of American Foulbrood Disease and provided updates on the Apiary Inspection Program in New York. The beekeeping group meets monthly and is very active.

SWEET SUCCESS

MAPLE PROGRAMMING THAT SUPPORTS LOCAL PRODUCERS

The collaboration between the Lewis County Maple Producers Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County resulted in a highly successful series of maple education events, offering valuable insights to local producers. This programming marks the start of an ongoing initiative, with more educational events planned for the coming months.

PRE-SEASON PLANNING: Focusing on Forest Health

The season kicked off with the Pre-Season Planning Talk and Dinner at the Lewis County Education Center. Interest was high; the event quickly reached capacity just days after being announced, reflecting the community's commitment to continued excellence.

The evening began with a joint event: dinner, catered by Miller's Meat Market, and the Lewis County Maple Producer's Association meeting. Adam Wild, Director of the Uihlein Maple Research Forest, delivered essential knowledge on maintaining a healthy sugar bush and improving soil quality. The night concluded with a productive Q&A session.

VALUE ADDED MAPLE WORKSHOP: Expanding the Market

Following tapping season, the focus shifted to profitability with the Value Added Maple Workshop, also at the Lewis County Education Center. The evening included dinner catered by The Cottage Inn. Jake Moser from Moser's Maple then shared his expertise, taking attendees through the process of making maple confections. His presentation provided producers with practical steps for diversifying their product lines and boosting revenue outside of traditional bulk syrup sales.



Adam Wild, Director of the Uihlein Maple Research Forest, sharing insights on sugar bush management at the Pre-Season Planning Talk.



Jake Moser guides producers through the hands-on process of making maple confections at the Value Added Maple Workshop.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPCOMING EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEWIS COUNTY MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AND CCE LEWIS COUNTY!

NYS MAPLE WEEKEND 2025

From Tap to Table: Showcasing Regional Maple Excellence

Engaging the public in maple production education and local agribusiness promotion

Maple Weekend 2025 offered an exceptional educational opportunity for the public to gain a deeper understanding of maple production and value-added maple products. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County partnered with the Lewis County Maple Producers Association to promote participating sugarhouses as part of this statewide marketing and



educational initiative. Promotional efforts included television interviews, radio advertisements, news releases, and social media conducted throughout the two weekends in March.

By the numbers

2,000+

visitors engaged in hands-on maple education

5

participating sugarhouses in Lewis County alone
12 across the region that we work with

4

media platforms utilized for event promotion



SAFETY

Grain Bin Rescue Training Equips Lewis County First Responders



In October, Lewis County firefighters and first responders received specialized Grain Bin Rescue Training, coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension and delivered by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS). The training was hosted at the Glenfield Fire Department and drew over 40 participants from across the county. The comprehensive course combined classroom instruction with hands-on experience. Participants learned about grain bin design and structure, as well as the four most common causes of entrapment. The practical portion included lockout/tagout procedures and techniques for rescuing both partially and fully engulfed victims using a grain bin simulator. To further reinforce real-world applications, attendees also toured an active grain bin at Marks Farm. This invaluable training enhances the readiness of local emergency responders and supports the safety of both agricultural workers and rescue personnel throughout the region.

Made possible by the following sponsors: Poulin Grain, Cargill, Farm Credit East, Foy Agency Insurance, Farm Bureau Lewis, Gold Star, Dairy Farmers of America, A.N. Martin Systems, AgroLiquid, Phoenix Feeds & Nutrition





4-H GROWS HERE IN LEWIS COUNTY

2025 has been a transformative year for the Lewis County 4-H Program. We bid farewell to familiar faces and welcomed new ones into our community. The Youth Building was filled with energy and excitement during Fair week, and we dove enthusiastically into the world of summer camp. This year, we proudly enrolled 162 youth members and 11 adult volunteers, continuing our mission to inspire and engage the next generation.

4-H DAIRY CATTLE PROGRAM

The 4-H Dairy Cattle Program continues to be an invaluable asset to our youth here in Lewis County. We once again had full barns at the Lewis County Fair and 46 youth participated in dairy competitions, four of whom went on to show at the New York State Fair.

We also had a tremendous turnout for the Lewis County Dairy Showmanship Clinic that takes place each year on Juneteenth. This year's event was held at Sherman's Farm in Turin and was a huge success with youth learning about all things Showmanship including clipping, hoof trimming, washing, showing, and even an 'Ask the Vet' Q&A session.

Lewis County CCE proudly hosted the Regional Dairy Bowl Competition on March 8th, welcoming youth from seven counties across the North Country. Participants showcased their knowledge of all things dairy in a fast-paced quiz bowl format. Lewis County was well represented with 11 youth competitors, and we're thrilled to share that Cuyler Keller, Aurora Place, Henry Goss, and Tristyn Gutierrez all advanced to the state-level competition. A special congratulations goes to our Senior Team, who earned first place in the event! All of our youth should be commended for their hard work and dedication, having begun training back in January. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Lynn Stacey-Lyndaker, Holly Kraeger, and William Beyer for their outstanding leadership and commitment as coaches.



Seniors



Beginners



Juniors



DAIRY BOWL 2025





4-H TRACTOR SAFETY



Farm Ready, Tractor Safe



Six youth successfully graduated from the Agricultural Safety Training Program led by Joe Bush and his son Amos. This intensive five-week course is designed for youth ages 14 and older, providing essential education and hands-on experience for safe agricultural machinery use. Youth earned certification by attending sessions, passing a written exam, and demonstrating their abilities through both an equipment operation test and a pre-operation driving assessment.



The certification allows youth to legally operate tractors and machinery on farms outside their immediate family—an important step toward building responsibility, confidence, and career readiness in agricultural settings.

TOPICS COVERED:

Pre-trip Safety Inspections

Tractor and Equipment Operation

PTO Safety

Roadway Safety

And much more!

THANK YOU!

Program Leaders

Joe Bush

Amos Bush

Awesome Supporters

Whites Farm Supply

Lowville Logans Equipment

NNY Farmers Market Co-op

SN Partners

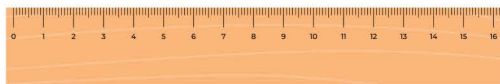
Our Many Volunteers

Sparks



Our Sparks Club invites youth to explore the exciting opportunities in 4-H, helping them discover what inspires and motivates them. These 'sparks' provide the intrinsic fuel that powers youth to grow, build new skills, and overcome barriers that stand in their way.

AfterSchool



The Lewis County 4-H Program continued its partnership with Hand In Hand during the 2024-2025 school year, supporting afterschool programs at South Lewis and Lowville Academy. Youth participated in a variety of engaging, hands-on learning experiences, such as identifying the parts of a flower and bringing the pollination process to life through imaginative role-play. We're looking forward to expanding STEM opportunities even further in 2026, bringing fresh, hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and innovation.

PLANETARIUM ADVENTURES!

On an engaging Wednesday evening in July, **Mr. Chris Grubb of Planetarium Adventures** brought the cosmos to the Lewis County CCE office! The goal was simple: to expand curious minds about space.

INSIDE THE STARLAB DOME:

The Starlab is a Portable Learning Dome that brings the sky up close, helping youth discover what is out in the universe. Inside the dome, a special projector showed:

- The beautiful night sky in motion.
- Key constellations and planets.
- The movement of the Milky Way.

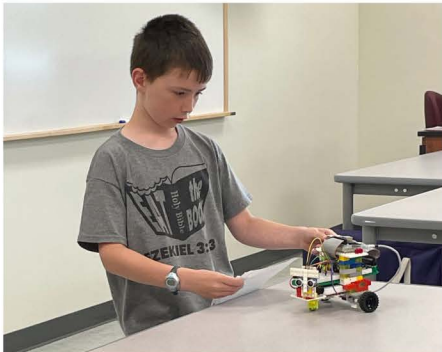
INTERACTIVE LEARNING:

Mr. Grubb led an interactive session, guiding the kids through a lesson covering: astronomy concepts, the fascinating mythology of the stars, and the vast structure of the universe.



Level Up Learning

ROBOTICS



Throughout the program year, both the Homeschool and Robotics Clubs met monthly, providing youth with consistent opportunities for hands-on learning and exploration. The Robotics Club engaged with FIRST LEGO League kits, designing a creative underwater environment complete with whales, seaweed, and battery-powered submarines. Members also explored basic coding concepts using Ozobots, which sparked their curiosity and interest in technology and problem-solving.

HOMESCHOOL



Our Homeschool Club enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences over the past year. Youth toured Black River Valley Natural, spent a day fishing, and dissected owl pellets. They also learned about pollination and created their own beeswax modeling clay. Other highlights included making ice cream in a bag and extracting DNA from a strawberry, combining science with hands-on discovery and blending fun with educational exploration.

FIELDWORK AND FUTURE LEADERS



CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

Sixth graders from across Lewis County came together at the Lowville DEC site for a day of outdoor exploration, diving into activities like fishing, beekeeping, fossil discovery, and soil and water education—all capped off with a shared lunch in nature. This event allowed youth to deepen their understanding of the environment, explore ways they can make a positive impact, and learn about potential career paths in related fields.



INTERNS PRATT NORTHAM

This summer, the Lewis County 4-H Program was fortunate to welcome two outstanding interns, Cole Wilson and Garrett Phelps. Coming from very different backgrounds, each brought unique perspectives and strengths to their roles. Throughout their time with us, Cole and Garrett developed valuable skills and gained meaningful insights into youth development and community engagement. We sincerely thank them for their hard work and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.





Saddle Up

THE LEWIS COUNTY FAIR



This year's County Fair was a vibrant celebration of youth achievement and hands-on learning. The fairgrounds were filled with a spectacular display of livestock across all barns, as our 4-H youth proudly presented their animals. Exhibits included small animals (such as rabbits, guinea pigs, poultry, sheep, and goats), dairy cattle, and beef cattle, representing the hard work and dedication of our 4-H youth in caring for and preparing their project animals.

In addition to the excitement on the fairgrounds, 29 youth building projects were selected to advance to the New York State Fair, a testament to the creativity, craftsmanship, and learning that happens year-round in our 4-H programs. The County Fair continues to be a cornerstone event for Lewis County 4-H, celebrating youth achievement and providing meaningful opportunities for growth, education, and community connection.



YOUTH BUILDING: THE FUN ZONE



Inside the Youth Building, an unbelievable number of youth and visitors engaged with interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. Highlights included a grain bike, smoothie bike, bubble machine, and the ever-popular Farmers Market. These, along with many other new and time-tested activities, brought smiles and sparked curiosity about agriculture, nutrition, and science.





LEWIS COUNTY 4-H STATE FAIR



Our 4-H youth once again did an excellent job representing Lewis County at the New York State Fair. Youth demonstrated their talents across a wide range of project areas, including dairy cattle showmanship and judging, poultry exhibitions, rabbit competitions, and non-animal projects.



LEWIS COUNTY 4-H DAY CAMP AT ALDERSGATE



Our first-ever 4-H Day Camp was a tremendous success! Thirty-five campers spent an exciting week at the beautiful Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center in Brantingham, enjoying a wide variety of outdoor activities including swimming,

boating, archery, volleyball, gaga ball, and life-sized versions of Human Foosball and Hungry Hungry Gators—all of which were camper favorites.





LEWIS COUNTY 4-H DAY CAMP AT ALDERSGATE

Campers also had fun expressing their creativity through colorful tie-dye and creating their own fossils after examining real ones up close. They also had the opportunity to explore agricultural concepts in fun and meaningful ways. One highlight was learning about dairy production, where youth gained a deeper understanding of how food travels from farm to table. They even got hands-on by making—and tasting—their own butter and ice cream, connecting science, agriculture, and nutrition in a memorable experience. We are extremely grateful for the continued support of the Lewis County Youth Bureau, which made it possible to reduce the cost of attending our inaugural 4-H Day Camp to just \$150 per camper.



Thanks in part to the success of this year's camp—and a shared commitment among Aldersgate, 4-H, and the Youth Bureau to enrich the lives of youth who might not otherwise have access to camp experiences—the Lewis County Youth Bureau has generously awarded us \$7,500 for the 2026 camp season.

This funding will allow us to offer camp at a significantly reduced rate of \$50 per youth.

We are also working to provide transportation for campers who face geographic or financial barriers to attendance.

We could not ask for a better partner than the team at Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center, whose dedication helps make 4-H Camp a reality.



Parenting Program

Annual Report

Over the past year, the Parenting Program has continued to support families directly in their homes, providing vital guidance, resources, and encouragement. During this period, we worked closely with 39 parents and 67 children, with referrals primarily coming from the Department of Social Services and Lewis County Family Court. Our work often involves building long-term, trusting relationships with families facing significant challenges. Two families in particular stand out this year for their resilience and progress.

KEY DATA

39

PARENTS SERVED

67

CHILDREN SUPPORTED

Family Success Stories

Resilience and Lasting Change

One mother, who has participated in the program for over a year, has shown remarkable dedication to improving her family's well-being. Despite ongoing struggles with mental health and the complex needs of raising three teenagers who have experienced trauma, she has made meaningful and lasting changes. Her eldest son graduated from high school and secured employment, while her daughter is excelling academically and setting ambitious goals for her future. The family environment has become more stable and peaceful, with conflicts now managed through communication rather than conflict. As a result, the Department of Social Services has closed their case, and the family continues to maintain the positive changes they have achieved.

Rebuilding and Reunification

Another inspiring story comes from a father who has overcome years of substance abuse, having first struggled with addiction as a teenager. Through determination and the support of drug treatment and drug court, he has completed his recovery program and successfully reunited with his four children. Now employed and maintaining a clean lifestyle for over two years, he is co-parenting with the children's mother and actively reaches out when he needs parenting support. His journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and the effectiveness of community-based services.

Throughout the year, the Parenting Program has collaborated with numerous partner agencies, helping families navigate systems, access resources, and build stronger relationships. Even after their formal cases close, many parents continue to stay in touch, seeking advice or sharing updates on their families' progress. It is especially rewarding to see their children involved in 4-H programs and participating in events like the county fair, a reflection of their continued growth and integration into the community.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to strengthening families, one home visit at a time, and celebrating every step forward—no matter how small. Our goal is to empower parents to build safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive.

2025 LEWIS COUNTY ENERGY REPORT

Energy Advisor Carson Schweinsberg details how targeted outreach and media engagement led to hundreds of connections and leveraged over \$100,000 in potential weatherization funds for Lewis County homes this year.

TARGETED COMMUNITY OUTREACH & IMPACT

From October 2024 to September 2025, Carson Schweinsberg, the Energy Advisor, reached 381 residents in Lewis County. He reached these residents by methods such as workshops, tabling events, and phone calls. Carson helped connect residents to NY Clean Heat, NY SUN, Empower+, Critical Home Repair Program, and IRA Tax Credits. Over the course of these months, the Energy Advisor helped residents complete 10 Empower+ Applications. This could potentially lead to \$100,000 worth of

key weatherization and HVAC work being done to these homes.

Additionally, in Lewis County, Carson provided outreach opportunities for residents. These outreach opportunities included presentations about heat pumps, community renewables, energy programs, and DIY energy measures. The Energy Advisor also held opportunities for residents to participate in Energy Jeopardy.

381

RESIDENTS CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PROGRAM SUCCESS & MEDIA REACH

Energy Advisor Carson Schweinsberg completed a busy year of Lewis County public engagement by holding **13 workshops/presentations and attending 8 tabling events**.

Carson also successfully helped with the launching of the Watts Up North Country Podcast (on Tunes 92.5/104.5). As

the inaugural guest for the new show, Carson detailed the services of the Energy Advisor program and the North Country Clean Energy Hub. Additionally, Carson participated in the Ask the Expert TV segment, which was also broadcast across Lewis County, where he went over valuable tips to save energy at home.

10

COMPLETED EMPOWER+ APPLICATIONS

\$100,000+

POTENTIAL WEATHERIZATION VALUE UNLOCKED

IN FOCUS: LEWIS COUNTY ENGAGEMENT



WATTS UP NORTH COUNTRY?

SCAN NOW TO LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD

SCAN ME



Finance Overview

Value of employee fringe benefits covered by Cornell University is \$311,012.32

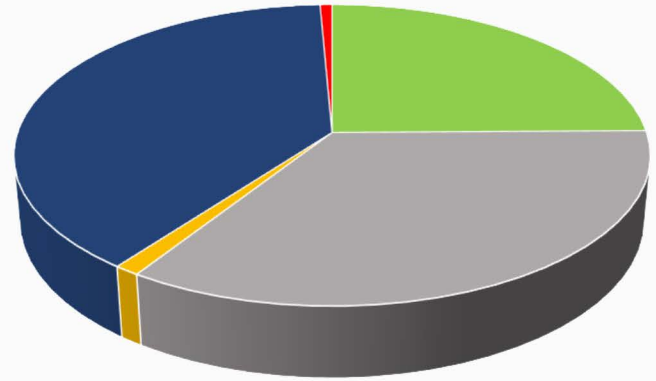
Volunteer support – 164 volunteers donated over 996 hours valued at \$34,806.84

- Grants and Contracts
- Cornell University Share of Fringe Benefits
- Donations, Fundraising
- County Appropriation
- Program Revenue

2025 Financial Support and Funding Sources

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County leverages Lewis County tax dollars to benefit the county's economic vitality and residents.

2025 Budget for CCE Lewis: Source of Funds

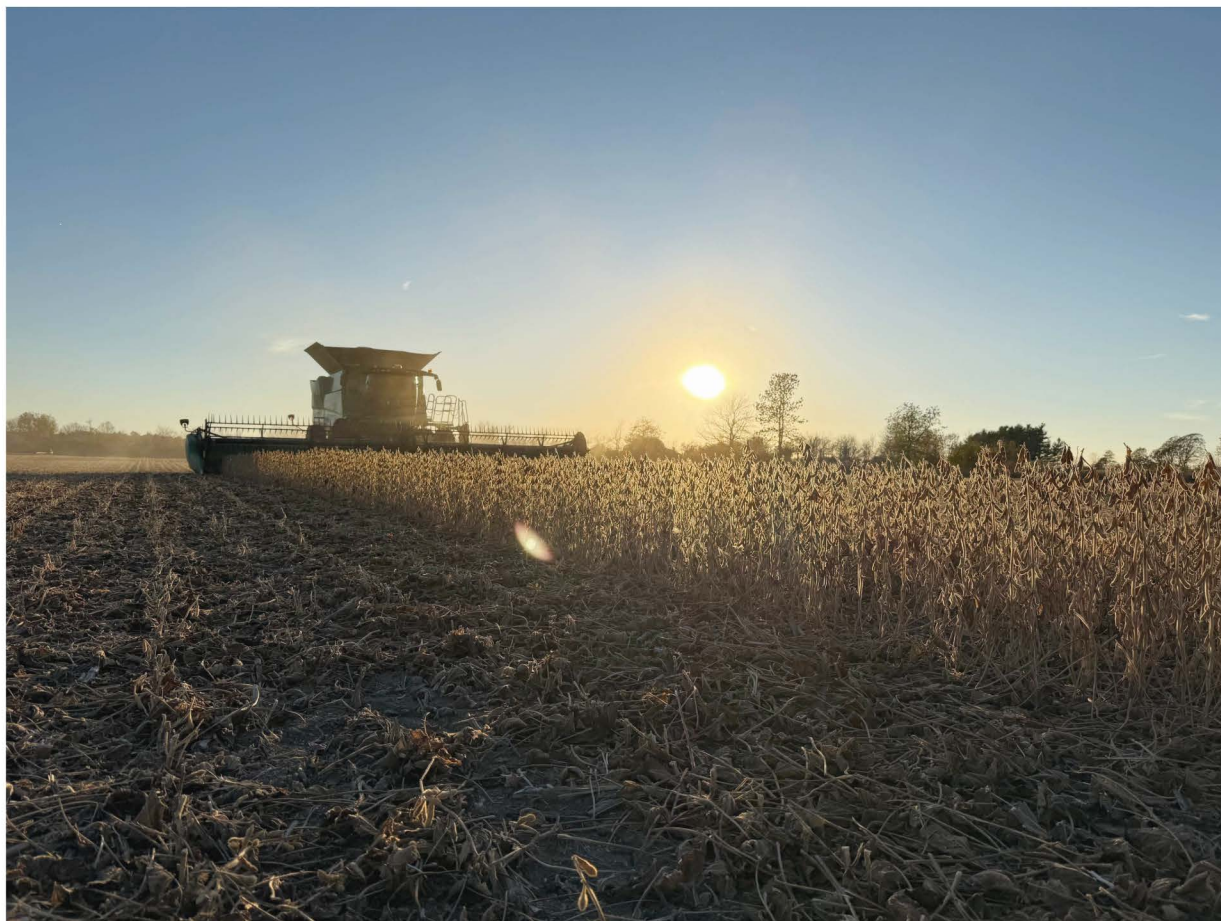


CCE Lewis County is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The association is part of the national cooperative extension system, an educational partnership between County, State and Federal Governments. As New York's land grant university, Cornell administers the system in this state. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer that is governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located as well as state and national goals.

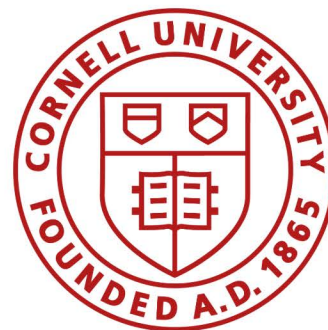
Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.



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