



A quarterly report for government officials & agencies; financial supporters; members of the Board of Directors & Program Committee

ACHIEVEMENTS

The “new and improved” Youth Building design was a highlight for 4-H at the 2009 Ulster County Fair. We provided a full schedule of educational events for all ages. 170 youth entered more than 1000 4-H projects for evaluation. 4-H projects include all areas of 4-H, animal science and family and consumer science. The 4-H Snack Bar made a gross income of \$7600, the highest ever!

CCEUC’s Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) held their annual picnic at Forsyth Park on August 15. 40 people attended. Nearly \$500 worth of goods and services were donated by local businesses. Each RAPP child went home with a string bag filled with back to school supplies.

The new legal component for the Relatives as Parents Program funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Brookdale Foundation began September 8 with an educational program provided by Nicole Mariani, Esq., a local attorney specializing in kinship care law, at the Kingston Library. The Brookdale grant will also provide funding to offer free legal consultation for RAPP members.

CCEUC’s Nutrition Education Program has successfully gained commitment from NYS OTDA and Cornell University to continue funding both our nutrition education programs, Eat Smart New York, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, respectively. Funding will stay at the same level at (\$39,000) for EFNEP, and have requested an increase in funding (\$193,297) over last year for nutrition programming.

4-H was a recipient of a 4-H Foundation grant of \$4,500 to introduce two alternative energy science programs, modeled after our successful veterinary science program. A six-week wind energy program to take place this fall and winter will teach 6th-8th graders the basics of wind science and introduce them to professionals and careers in the field.

On September 9, Ulster County Legislative Chairman, David B. Donaldson proclaimed October 4-11, 2009 as 4-H Week in Ulster County as part of National 4-H Week. This proclamation raises awareness of the many opportunities 4-H offers youth and adults in Ulster County.

A Farm Succession and Transfer Workshop was held June 17 and provided 7 families with help preparing to pass their farms on to the next generation of growers. The workshop was well received and several attendees have subsequently met with presenter Jeff Fetter to begin individual planning efforts.

IN PROGRESS

CCEUC worked with UC Dept. of the Environment to submit a grant to the NYS Dept. of State to implement stream management recommendations around ditch management, driveway and culvert best management practices and improving public stream access. This grant would allow CCEUC and SWCD to work in the towns along the Esopus Creek that are not in the Ashokan Watershed (Saugerties, Ulster, City of Kingston, Marletown).

CCEUC has hired Don Doyle, as their new financial educator. Don has had a long career with Ulster Savings Bank as a mortgage originator, and is extremely well versed in financial education. He will receive formal training at Cornell in October, then begin providing community education programs previously done by Tom Hefferman who retired in August 2009.

The Eat Smart New York Program is currently offering “Healthy Nutrition Habits”, a free six part series that runs every Monday, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm at the CCEUC Extension Education Center located at 10 Westbrook Lane in Kingston. The program is open to all food stamp participants and low to moderate income families and individuals residing in Ulster County.

The Master Gardeners are offering free guided tours of their award winning Xeriscape Garden at SUNY Ulster now through November. Master Gardeners will explain the principles and eco-benefits of this drought resistant garden design and planting techniques which help to create this incredible gardening spectacle. This is a great tour for homeowners and landscapers alike!

The Tall Spindle Video Project (Farm Viability Institute funded project), project coordinator, Mike Fargione is collaborating with S. Hoying, T. Robinson, M Sazo and apple growers across NYS. The outcome of this work will be increased adoption of this cost effective apple planting system. During June-September ‘09, 2 trips to Western NY and several local trips were made to collect video clips.

WHAT’S NEXT

CCEUC’s Agriculture Department has organized a tour of the farming industry in Ulster County for NYS Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s aide Amy Pollard on September 24. This is an opportunity for policy and decision makers to get an insider’s view of commercial farming in action and to hear first hand from the farmer about issues that impact and shape the future of the industry.

CCEUC’s Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) will again host the RAPP Kidz Club and Support Group which is set to begin on October 3 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the CCEUC Education Center located at 10 Westbrook Lane in Kingston. The club is FREE and meetings will be held every first Saturday of each month from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Our Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and NYC DEP is hosting a special event at the Emerson Resort, Mt. Tremper. World renowned author, stream consultant and hydrologist, Dr. David Rosgen will give an informative talk about stream restoration entitled, “Stream Projects: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly”. This free talk will be Wednesday, October 7 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

The adoption of biological pest control is increasing as the science improves and growers seek options to toxic pesticides. Our Agriculture Department is working with NYS IPM and NYSFVI to host a seminar on this topic at Silverleaf Greenhouse located on Rt. 208 in Walden on Oct. 23.