



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Otsego County

NEWS RELEASE

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CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ASSOCIATIONS AGREE TO SHARE SERVICES

The Boards of Directors of both Schoharie and Otsego Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations approved an agreement to share an Executive Director. In addition the agreement calls for the two Associations to examine steps they can adopt to share administrative services and expand educational outreach in both counties.

The Associations agreed to share CCE Schoharie County's Executive Director, Don Smyers, during a seven month period. During this period, recommendations would be developed regarding further integration of staff and enhancement of programs. This agreement takes effect September 1st with recommendations due back to both boards by the end of December.

Jim Bryant, President of the Schoharie Association Board, expressed the opinion of the Board of Directors that "In today's economic environment, creating leaner organizations is critical for sustainability. Shared services offer an avenue to do more for both counties."

Doug Geertgens, President of the Otsego Association Board, stated "This agreement is a step in ensuring quality extension programs in both counties. Otsego's goal of attracting a capable partner has been achieved with the signing of this agreement. The people of both counties share many similarities and their agricultural pursuits are no exception. The potential for synergy between the two counties is very significant, and I am enthused to support it," added Geertgens.

Don Smyers, Executive Director of CCE Schoharie County, stated "This is an exciting opportunity to examine how we can better provide programs that are responsive to county residents by leveraging the resources of both organizations. Cooperative Extension's mission of providing timely, relevant know-how for agricultural and natural resource enterprises and for families and 4-H youth programming is critical in our changing world."

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