

# Strategic Partnerships

## How Cornell Cooperative Extension collaborates with Suffolk County to pool resources and avoid duplication of effort

### *An Overview:*

*By working together, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and many of the departments within Suffolk County government have been able to share resources and expand programs. Together, we have reached many more Suffolk residents with worthwhile programs and assistance than we could have done working on our own. Collaborative efforts prevent duplication of effort and save taxpayers money.*

*Listed here are the major efforts Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Suffolk County takes to collaborate with each of 19 Suffolk County departments. Equally important are the efforts of Suffolk County government workers to further CCE programs, efforts only those workers can fully and accurately describe.*

### *To contact us:*

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension in Suffolk County provides equal program and employment opportunities.*

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Department of Health Services:**

- Coordinate diabetes education programs and offer nutritional counseling for patients at all Suffolk County health centers.
- Provide training for advisory board members at county health centers.
- Share publications and educational resources with the WIC program.
- Work with the Health Inspector to resolve issues impacting migrant labor, including affordable and decent housing and diseases transmitted by insects and other pests.
- Address concerns about breast cancer, particularly concerns about pesticides and water quality, and further research into possible environmental causes of breast cancer and high breast cancer rates on Long Island.
- Serve on Nutritional Task Force for the Suffolk Health Initiative Partnership (SHIP).
- Contract with the Office of Ecology to conduct environmental research, monitor factors related to submerged aquatic vegetation, restore shellfish and habitats, manage wetlands, and monitor pesticide and fertilizer use.
- Test for agricultural chemicals in cooperation with the Water Quality unit.
- Work with groundwater protection unit to conduct field investigations and educational programs.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with Consumer Affairs:**

- Share information on breaking news on consumer issues, such as food scares.
- Offer information and education on consumer issues, such as safe food preparation and credit issues.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Department of Social Services:**

- Provide nutrition education through the Eat Smart New York! program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program or FSNEP) to Babylon, Riverhead, and Southampton town residents.
- Teach low-income families how to budget wisely and stretch food dollars through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Service areas of defined need include Huntington Station, Greenport, Bridgehampton, Shirley-Mastic, East Hampton, and Selden.
- Train frontline family service workers so they gain the skills and competencies needed to empower families to attain a healthy self-reliance.
- Train adults to provide positive parenting for their children.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with Human Services:**

- Work with the Youth Bureau to jointly coordinate youth activities with the CCE of Suffolk 4-H Youth Development program.

- Sponsor or cosponsor conferences for human service professionals and the public on socially important issues, such as stopping violence among boys and preventing teen pregnancies.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Office for the Aging:**

- Distribute educational materials on nutrition.
- Process beef, pork, chicken, and turkey at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center to meet the needs of residents directly assisted by the Office of the Aging.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with Handicapped Services:**

- Ensure all CCE facilities meet requirements of the American with Disabilities Act.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Economic Development Department:**

- Cooperate in designing new strategies for marketing agricultural products.
- Help stage Farmers Markets to bring to market fresh produce and seafood.
- Work with departmental staff and local industry leaders to resolve agricultural and marine issues that could interfere with economic growth.
- Encourage consumers to reduce debt, save money, and use credit wisely through the Money 2000+™ and Money Smarts programs.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Parks Department:**

- Cooperate with environmental planning for golf courses, parklands, and concessions.
- Develop pest control strategies for golf courses.
- Provide hands-on educational programs during summer high use periods in county parks.
- Develop a Master Naturalist program to provide trained guides for county parks.
- As part of the Smither Park initiative, provide environmental educational opportunities.
- Work with staff to promote proper handling and wise use of composted yard materials.
- Provide certified pesticide applicator training for park employees.
- Assist in wetland restoration.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Soil and Water Conservation District:**

- Serve on Water Quality Coordinating Council.
- Devise plans for the conservation and development of public lands.
- Develop water pollution mitigation projects.
- Implement projects at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Public Works Department:**

- Work together to maintain and improve the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.
- Collaborate on submitting proposals for mitigation of storm water runoff.
- Conduct joint research on mosquito control using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

- Work with vector control to implement measures to manage mosquitoes, ticks, and other pests.
- Provide certified pesticide applicator training for departmental staff.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Department of Labor:**

- Provide training to work fare employees placed at CCE facilities.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Department of Planning:**

- Work together to develop plans for agricultural districts and farmland preservation.
- Jointly develop master plan for the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with Suffolk Community College:**

- Cooperate in staging annual Agricultural Forum and Fishermen's Forum.
- Conduct East End spring gardening classes at Riverhead campus.
- Host veterinary technician programs at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.
- Co-sponsor Fall Harvest Festival at the Riverhead campus.
- Conduct joint projects with the culinary and horticultural divisions.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department:**

- Train inmates in valuable vocational skills, including preparing for jobs in meat processing, horticulture/greenhouse management, and construction.
- Process beef, pork, chicken, and turkey at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center to meet the needs of inmates in county correctional facilities.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Suffolk County Police Department:**

- Plan for potential development of a police outpost at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services:**

- Provide educational messages on emergency preparedness, such as drinking water precautions and how to keep food safe in case of power outages.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the County Executive's Office:**

- Cooperate in implementing farmland preservation programs.
- Coordinate the Suffolk County integrated pest management (IPM) program, providing training in managing pest problems and monitoring pests in county facilities, county parks, golf courses, and other outdoor areas.
- Assist in implementing the Stop DWI program by providing in-school alcohol education programs to teach younger children about the dangers of alcohol.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the County Executive's Budget Office:**

- Prepare CCE budget, including explanation of costs, rationale for programs, and anticipated impact.

### **CCE collaborative efforts with the Legislative Budget Review:**

- Provide background information on programs and arrange for tours of CCE sites and facilities.
- Accumulate data for program evaluation.

# **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

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## **Suffolk County**

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