



## Cornell University Cooperative Extension

### Extension Administration

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Greg Fagan  
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Dear Mr. Fagan,

Thank you for your email inquiry regarding the status of CCE-Fulton and Montgomery Counties in the event that Fulton County does not provide funding for CCE. As Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in New York State, I have grave concerns over the proposed elimination of Fulton County funding to this CCE association. While I am very understanding of the difficult financial situation that Fulton and other New York counties are facing, please understand that reduction in local county funding will also result in the reduction of state and federal dollars to the Association. The unfortunate, and likely irreversible, result will be the loss of highly-valued, practical, educational programs in your county.

Loss of base county funding will automatically result in funding losses from other sources. Without county funding, state funding via New York State County Law Section 224--identified for the benefit of Fulton County residents--will immediately cease. With no Fulton County appropriation, the very existence of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is called into question by statute.

Furthermore, local county funding is leveraged to obtain other external funds. Appropriated funds from Fulton County of \$129,000 and appropriated funds from Montgomery County of \$173,019 in 2009 leveraged \$297,890.50 in other funding. A total of \$112,984.15 in state and federal funds plus \$226,359.84 in employee benefits supported programs used by residents to improve their lives, farms, families, youth, businesses, and communities. Your local CCE Association also supported its work with an additional \$127,148.65 in grants, program-generated fees, and fundraising. Capacity to generate this funding is obviously eliminated if core county funding is lost. Ultimately, a loss of county funding actually means a loss of essential programs to county residents whether they are provided directly by the association or by any regional teams; only CCE associations may contract for Cornell-affiliated educational and/or local research programs.

Across New York State, the CCE system relies on the guidance of local board and committee volunteers to direct funding to programs that will have the greatest local impact and do the most good for the people of their respective counties. We count on them to both assess their local situations and to direct resources to those programs that

will make the most local difference: programs from Cornell and other Land grant Universities across the United States that are objective and research-based.

I sincerely hope that the elected officials of Fulton County will provide an appropriation for CCE of Fulton and Montgomery Counties for 2011 and beyond. Only when there is a county appropriation can Cornell, as provided by statute, continue to channel matching state and appropriate federal funding to meet the educational, research, and economic development needs of the residents of your county.

Sincerely,



Helene R. Dillard, Ph.D.  
Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Associate Dean, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences  
and College of Human Ecology