

**Ag Literacy Week**  
**Rick LeVitre**  
**Executive Director**  
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Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Franklin County's Agriculture & 4-H Program is continually working to increase public awareness of the great things happening in agriculture. As part of this effort, CCE is proud to facilitate the Agricultural Literacy Week initiative and tie it with National Agriculture Week for Franklin County.

In celebration of National Agriculture Week (March 14<sup>th</sup>- March 18<sup>th</sup>), area elementary students were able to participate in the New York Agricultural Literacy Week, coordinated here by Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County. This year, over 700 second and third graders at 10 different locations in Franklin County will enjoy learning more about apple production in New York State.



Caption: Mrs. Wescott's Davis School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class

This year's book selection features "The Apple Orchard Riddle" by Margaret McNamara and highlights the apple industry in New York which is economically and nutritionally essential. This story helps students learn about the many jobs and processes of an apple orchard. An accompanying activity also allows the students to learn about the science behind apple oxidation. New York is the second largest apple producer in the nation. A leader in apple research, Cornell University has developed more than 65 varieties since 1880. New York produces over 29.5 million bushels of apples each year and provides jobs for 17,500 people.

"Ag Literacy Week is a chance for Franklin County to increase Agricultural Literacy while celebrating our county's rich agricultural heritage," stated Diane Dumont, 4-H Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County. "Franklin County's two major industries are Agriculture and Tourism. Both industries are mutually beneficial to one another. Our local farmers work hard to produce safe, wholesome products for us all to enjoy all year long! Our volunteers have been busy reading across the county, and we look forward to another successful week."

Ag Literacy Week is promoted and organized by staff at CCE. Local businesses, farmers, and community members

donate the necessary funds to purchase books and materials for the program. Dumont added, “We are grateful for the many sponsors who sponsor the many books that are left in classrooms for future use. Donors include: Franklin County Farm Bureau, Farm Credit East, Chateaugay FFA, Salmon River FFA, Logue Farms, J-Lo-Lo Farm, Shady Hill Sheep Farm, Bangor Rangers 4-H and the Backflash 4-H Club. Many volunteer their time as readers, providing agriculturally involved readers for students across the county. For more information about Ag Literacy Week, please contact Diane Dumont at the CCE office in the Court House at 483-7403.

Ag Literacy Week is one of many programs offered by CCE Franklin County. For more information, call 518-483-7403 or visit our website at [www.franklin.cce.cornell.edu/](http://www.franklin.cce.cornell.edu/) . Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.