

Cattaraugus County Economic Development, Planning & Tourism 2014 Annual Report

Note from the Director

Crystal J. Abers



The Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism has continued to offer assistance in a diversity of areas to our communities, businesses and the entire region. We are active in the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council which encompasses Erie, Niagara, Allegany, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. As a member of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, we support and participate in their efforts serving the three-county region (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties).

We have embarked on a mission to adopt a new countywide **Comprehensive Plan**. This new document will provide us with a fresh vision for the future of the County; and enable the County and its municipalities to pursue projects and initiatives to sustain and grow our communities.

The Department has taken a very proactive approach to enhancing our Agricultural Business and Agri-tourism opportunities throughout the County. We are very happy to report that our **3rd Annual Farmer Neighbor Dinner** was a smashing success and we hope to build on this success in future farmer neighbor dinners. Our **2nd Annual Farm Tour**, which showcases the vast diversity of agriculture in the County, was also a great success. We also started working on a new initiative to be completed in 2015, a **Cattaraugus County Agricultural Trail**. This initiative will highlight the abundance of local food options available to consumers and to promote those farms and local food producers that make the region's food system vibrant, diverse, sustainable and healthy.

While we continuously work on **Business Recruitment and Retention Assistance**, we also work with our graduates and self-made entrepreneurs to help them start and grow their own business. We offer the opportunity to work with various other agencies to provide the best incentives for our businesses from a new start up to an already existing business. To help attract business to our area, we also work closely with our communities to encourage revitalization of our downtowns and community centers. To that end, we began work this year on a **Community Revitalization Fund** program for our local municipalities. This will assist our municipalities in improving and preserving their unique community character, heritage, and the beauty of their community centers. We also embarked on the creation of a **County Land Bank Corporation**. The mission of the Land Bank is to restore and build value in the community by returning underutilized properties to productive use, preserving and creating quality housing, enhancing the quality of life within neighborhoods and encouraging private sector investment, in cooperation with stakeholders who value responsible land ownership.

Our Department serves as a source of **information and technical assistance** for our County Residents (2010 pop. 80,317), 32 Towns, 9 Villages, 2 Cities and 3 Seneca Nation Territories. Support and assistance is provided to our municipalities in the areas of: community development, market and demographic reports, environmental projects, SEQ, GIS mapping, and Data and Information Services.

Our Tourism efforts continue to expand into new areas and we are constantly marketing the diverse opportunities within our County. At the end of the year, we initiated a large project with our County historians by gathering information on the **Underground Railroad in Cattaraugus County**. We also started developing a **mobile app** which can be downloaded to any personal device and will show lodging, restaurants, entertainment, and events within Cattaraugus County. Our Department maintains numerous websites that promote the various services, programs, events and local government information that the County provides.

Everyday our Department works to stabilize and increase the economic base, increase industrial investments, increase the quality of life and encourage job creation. In the past year, I have personally visited each Town, Village and City to introduce myself and promote the resources our Department can offer each municipality. I am a firm believer that the stronger each of our communities are the stronger it makes our County as a whole.

We are proud of the history, cultural and natural beauty within our County!



Standing L-R: Malak, Miller, Abers, Knab, Gardner, Smith. Seated L-R: Bull, Bishop, Williams. Missing from photo: Isaacson.

Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning, and Tourism Staff

Crystal J. Abers, Director

Paul R. Bishop, Senior Planner

Matthew S. Bull, Small Business Counselor/Development Specialist

Jacqueline C. Gardner, Tourism Assistant

James H. Isaacson, Senior Planning

Jeremy M. Knab, Web Technician

Ginger G. Malak, Program Assistant

Deborah L. Miller, Junior Accountant

Becky L. Smith, Tourism Assistant

Joseph J. Williams, Jr., Program Manager/Industrial Program Specialist

Lenora Leasure, Small Business Counselor, left the Department in January of 2014. We are proud to report that she is currently the Program Manager of the Johnstown Area Regional Industries PTAC in Johnstown, PA.

2014 CATTARAUGUS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Officers

Charles W. Couture, Chairman
Paul D. Mager, Vice Chairman
Ann Padlo, Secretary,
Michael Zaprowski, Assistant Secretary

Members

Tina J. Abrams
Florence J. Fuller
Mark Hopkins
Robert C. Keis
David L. McCoy
Al Ormond
Joseph Pillittere
Mark Smith
James Valent

2014 CATTARAUGUS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

Officers

David L. Zilker, Chairman, Farm Bureau Representative
Barbara D. George, Vice Chairman, Farmer Representative

Members

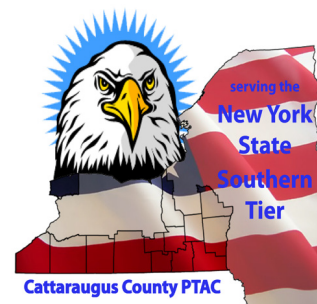
Crystal J. Abers, Director Cattaraugus County EDP&T
Lynn Bliven, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Daniel Brown, Farmer Representative
Charles W. Couture, Agribusiness Representative
Brian Davis, Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation District
James Finch, Farmer Representative
James L. Boser, Cattaraugus County Legislator
Daniel T. Martonis, Director Cattaraugus County Real Property
Donald Telaak, Farmer Representative

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

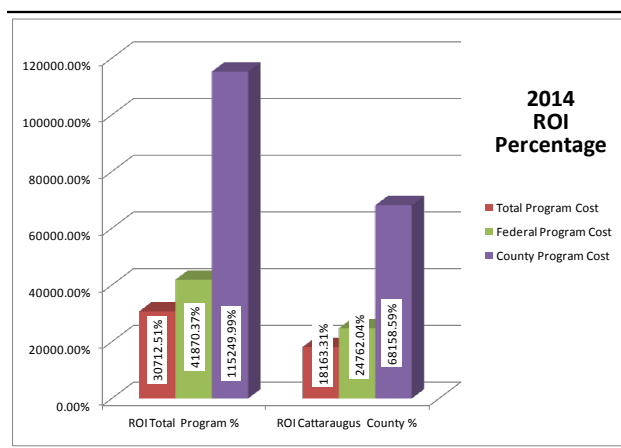
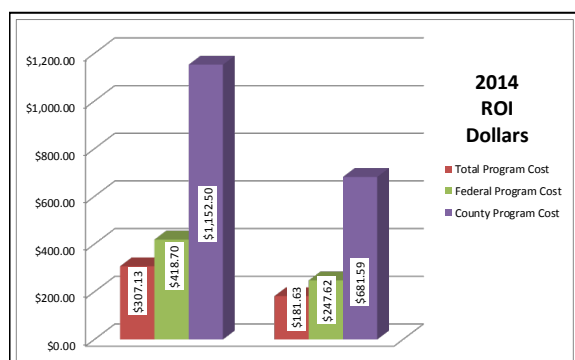
The Cattaraugus County Economic Development Team, established in 2011, continues to refine existing and seek new methods to assist and strengthen our current businesses. As the Team reviews potential new business prospects, they continue to repackage incentives and opportunities that will present Cattaraugus County in the best light. Working as a Team provides the great advantage of being more aware and included in all business issues that arise. The Team members include: Cattaraugus County Economic Development, Cattaraugus County Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (IDA), Cattaraugus County Business Development Corporation, Inc., Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, City of Salamanca, Salamanca IDA, City of Olean, Cattaraugus County Empire Zone, and the Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board.

Procurement Technical Assistance Center

The Cattaraugus County Procurement Technical Assistance Center (CCPTAC) first received funding from the Department of Defense in 1987. The CCPTAC is one of seven PTACs located in New York State. There are approximately ninety six PTACs throughout the United States and the U.S. Territories. We are funded through a Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement (SCAA) that is issued by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Office of Small Business Programs in Fort Belvoir, VA. The total program cost is \$161,367 of which the DoD provided \$121,025 cash. The County contributed \$23,270 in cash and \$17,072 in-kind for support and office space.



The charts below show the Return on Investment (ROI) for the PTAC Program in 2014. (This is the method the DCMA uses to score our results.) The Return on Investment was calculated using the total contracting dollars reported and dividing by the program dollars spent. The ROI for the total program cost for every dollar or in-kind dollar the program spent returned \$307.13 for a 30712.51%. The ROI for the federal government's portion of the money spent to total contract dollars was \$418.70 for a 41870.37% and the County's ROI was \$1152.50 for a 115249.99%.



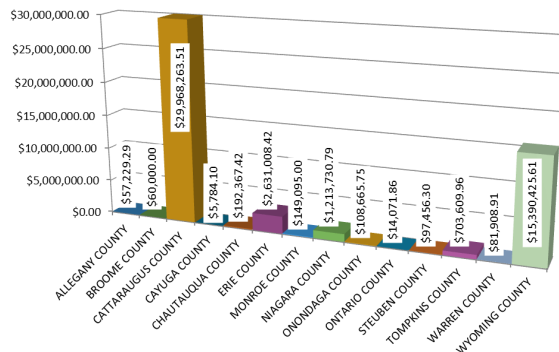
The following spreadsheet was used to develop all of the graphs in this report. It also shows the breakdown by County. The contracting dollars awarded and reported by our clients in Cattaraugus County was higher than previous years. It remains very difficult to get the information from clients and the DLA is currently testing a pilot program to help correct this issue. The CCPTAC will be participating in the pilot test program in 2015. We continue to work with some key businesses in the County and are very optimistic about 2015.

	# OF AWARDS	TOTAL AWARDS AMOUNT	PRIME AWARDS	# OF DoD AWARDS	DoD CONTRACTS	SUBCONTRACT AWARDS	% of CONTRACT \$	% of CONTRACTS
ALLEGANY COUNTY	5	\$57,229.29	\$57,229.29	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.11%	1.94%
BROOME COUNTY	1	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	1	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	0.12%	0.39%
CATTARAUGUS COUNTY	164	\$29,968,263.51	\$29,684,408.81	141	\$27,277,461.14	\$283,854.70	59.14%	63.57%
CAYUGA COUNTY	1	\$5,784.10	\$5,784.10	1	\$5,784.10	\$0.00	0.01%	0.39%
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY	14	\$192,367.42	\$192,367.42	0	\$74,752.36	\$0.00	0.38%	5.43%
ERIE COUNTY	23	\$2,631,008.42	\$2,631,008.42	4	\$1,342,997.90	\$0.00	5.19%	8.91%
MONROE COUNTY	5	\$149,095.00	\$149,095.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.29%	1.94%
NIAGARA COUNTY	26	\$1,213,730.79	\$1,213,730.79	22	\$1,063,466.79	\$0.00	2.40%	10.08%
ONONDAGA COUNTY	3	\$108,665.75	\$104,556.75	2	\$95,414.26	\$4,109.00	0.21%	1.16%
ONTARIO COUNTY	1	\$14,071.86	\$14,071.86	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.03%	0.39%
STEBEN COUNTY	3	\$97,456.30	\$97,456.30	3	\$97,456.30	\$0.00	0.19%	1.16%
TOMPKINS COUNTY	2	\$703,609.96	\$703,609.96	2	\$703,609.96	\$0.00	1.39%	0.78%
WARREN COUNTY	2	\$81,908.91	\$81,908.91	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.16%	0.78%
WYOMING COUNTY	8	\$15,390,425.61	\$15,390,425.61	7	\$597,425.61	\$0.00	30.37%	3.10%
TOTALS	258	\$50,673,616.92	\$50,385,653.22	183	\$31,318,368.42	\$287,963.70	100.00%	100.00%

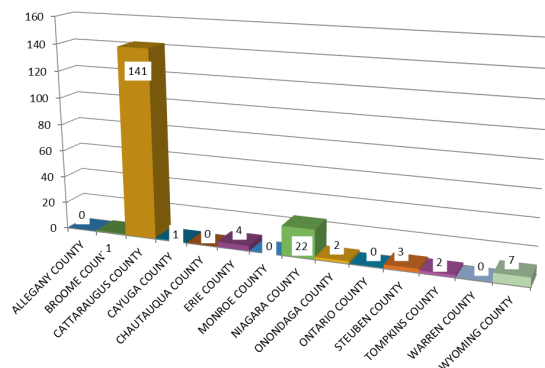
	Total Program Cost	Federal Program Cost	County Program Cost
ROI Total Program %	30712.51%	41870.37%	115249.99%
ROI Cattaraugus County %	18163.31%	24762.04%	68158.59%
ROI Total Program \$	\$307.13	\$418.70	\$1,152.50
ROI Cattaraugus County \$	\$181.63	\$247.62	\$681.59

This group of graphs depicts the contracting dollars and number of contracts reported by our clients throughout the region for 2014. PTAC clients were awarded 258 contracts totaling \$50,673,616.92 of these \$31,318,368.42 were from Department of Defense agencies. Cattaraugus County clients reported 164 contracts totaling \$29,968,263.51. The total number of contracts awarded increased by 3.

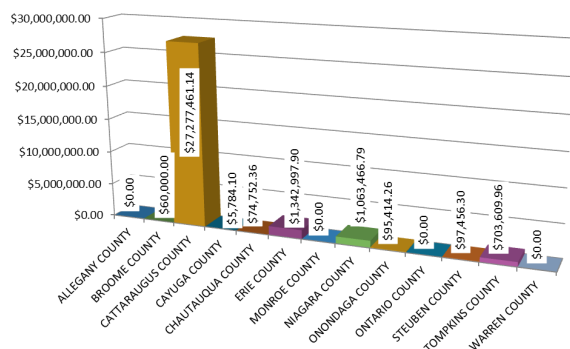
2014 Contracts Dollars Awarded



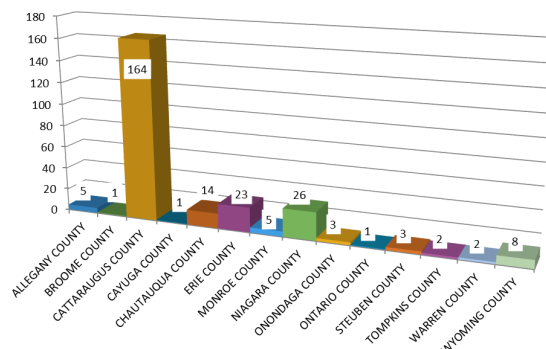
2014 Number of DoD Contracts Awarded



2014 DoD Contracts Dollars Awarded



2014 Number of Contracts Awarded



Print Work

Check out the 2015 Activities Guide and other printed material in the Tourism section.

Websites Development

New designs, feature requests, and improvements were planned to occur in 2015. One of those big changes would be an upgrade of Drupal, the Content Management System, to version 8 for the various county-operated websites.

Technical Assistance

Assistance was provided to clients and small businesses Program Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) who had questions about websites, marketing online and optimization. Review materials and reference websites were provided to these clients. Webmaster continued to work with PTAC staff on improving the PTAC content for the PTAC client system (<http://cattco.eCenterDirect.com>). The Cattaraugus County site will continue to promote PTAC events, classes and FAQs.

Some of our Websites

- Ag ccAgHelp.com
- Amish Trail AmishTrail.com
- Business Assistance ccBizHelp.com
- Gov www.CattCo.org
- Tourism at EnchantedMountains.com
- History at HistoricPath.com
- Horse Help at Horse-Resource.org
- Southern Tier Americorps Resource Team at acStart.org

Interesting Statistics on CattCo.org

CattCo.org Sessions = 490,738

Desktop Sessions = 395,094 (80.51%)

Mobile Sessions = 95644 (19.49%)

2011 Mobile Visits: 7,860

2012 Mobile Visits: 28,180

2013 Mobile + Tablet Sessions: 47,930+15,266

2014 Mobile + Tablet Sessions: 73,219+22,425

CattCo.org Pageviews & Uniques

2011 Pageviews: 593,225 | 438,042

2012 Pageviews: 947,229 | 678,731

2013 Pageviews: 1,209,432 | 896,233

2014 Pageviews = 1,293,622 | 922,522

CattCo.org 2014 Top 10 pages

Departments: 66K

Jobs: 63K

Real Property Home Page: 48K

Sheriff's Office: 29K

Sheriff's Office Blotter: 28K

Human Resources Jobs: 19K

Government: 12K

May 17, 2014 Property Tax Auction: 10K

Human Resources: Job Postings: 10K

Maps: 10K

CattCo.org 2014 Most popular sections

Sheriffs-Office, Jobs, Departments, Downloads,

Real Property & GIS, Human Resources, News,

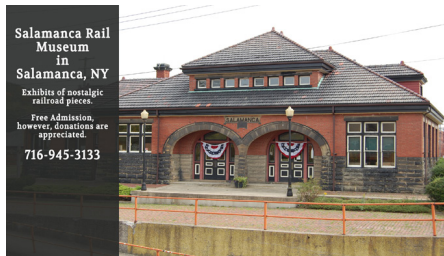
Events, Search, Social Services

WEBMASTER

Developing web sites is a process and a process that is always evolving. The Web Technician's responsibilities are on-going and include web design, graphic design, programming, markup, site editor, site analysis and reporting.

Display System

The display system was developed to be a centralized system to manage content on displays to promote activities and events in Cattaraugus County. We have re-purposed old PCs to get the "slides", the promo images, from the website <http://slides.EnchantedMountains.com>



E-mail: Password: [Login](#)
☐ Remember password [Retrieve password](#)

New Client Signup
[Training & Events](#)
Library of Documents
Contact Information

[Useful Links](#)
What is a PTAC and what assistance is provided?
Cattaraugus County PTAC Newsletter Sign-Up
SAM - System for Award Management
SAM Quick Start Guide for User Account Migration
SAM Quick Start Guide for Small Business Searches
Acronym Finder
Acquisition Central
Bidmatch - Description of Free Service offered by CCPTAC
BusinessUSA - a centralized, one-stop platform to make it easier for businesses to access services to help them grow.
CAGE Search
DIBBS
Doing Business with DoD
DoD Contract Notices \$6.5 million or larger
DoD Subcontracting Directory
DoD Subcontracting Program
Dynamic Small Business Search
Federal Forecasts and Home Pages
FedBizOpps.gov
Federal Procurement Data System
GSA Advantage - search for price comparisons using keywords
GSA Subcontracting Directory
Link to ImageView 1.1.106 (4/9/12) and ImageR 5.0.0.17 (9/13/12) use to view drawings.
NAICS Lookup
New York State Directory of Frequently Requested Information

Cattaraugus County PTAC

The Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism administers a government marketing and technical assistance program as one of the special economic development projects offered to assist businesses at Cattaraugus County and the New York State Southern Tier.

What is a PTAC & Assistance provided

Joe Williams, Program Manager
Matthew Bull, Small Business Counselor

We provide confidential **one-on-one consulting and training** to assist businesses both SMALL and LARGE with marketing goods and/or services to federal, state and local governments. We have the resources to help you grow your business and, as a governmental organization, **most of our services are free.**

We also offer **no-cost training events and workshops** to help you strengthen your business knowledge of marketing to the government and apply it immediately to your business plans. Whether starting a new business or running an existing business, we can help you guide your business to a more successful future. [Click on the Training Events/Webinars link on the left to look at the FREE training available](#)

BECOME A CLIENT

Submit a request for counseling services by selecting [New Client Sign-Up](#) at left. Once we have processed your submission, you will receive a confirmation that includes your login password. You may also view and sign up for events by selecting [Training Events](#) tab on the left.

We have presentations on YouTube that will assist you in "Selling to the Government."

GSA has posted a webinar, "Updating Your CCR Registration in SAM" on YouTube. [Click HERE.](#)

Cattaraugus County PTAC

ALREADY A CLIENT

Please log in above to access your profile and learn more

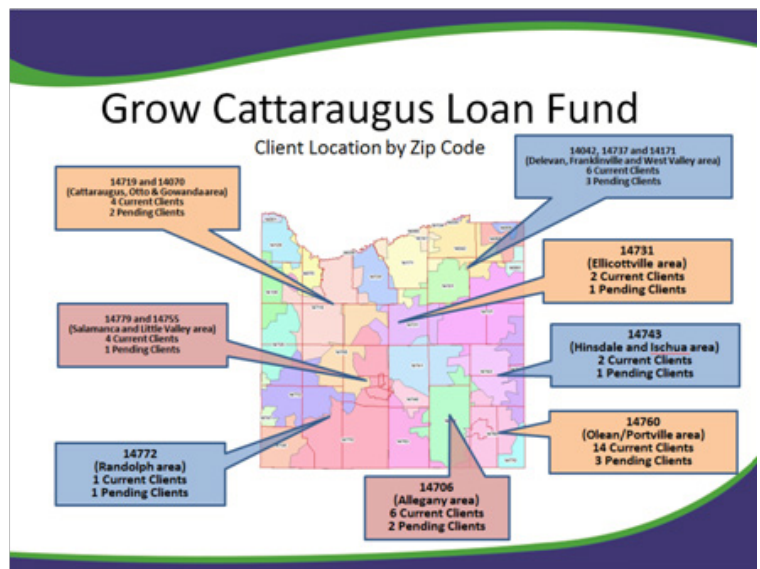
In 2014 the PTAC sponsored 10 outreach events and participated in another 3 events that were sponsored by other agencies. The events were attended by 417 participants. The PTAC continues to utilize "Go to Meeting" and "Go to Webinar" for our events and client training. Our clients are very happy with our use of these tools as it saves them time and money. We have again this made recordings of our client Go to Meetings.

To ensure we are giving our clients the service they are seeking we use the survey tool in our Outreach software. Last year we sent out 8 different surveys and received 161 completed surveys from 73 clients.

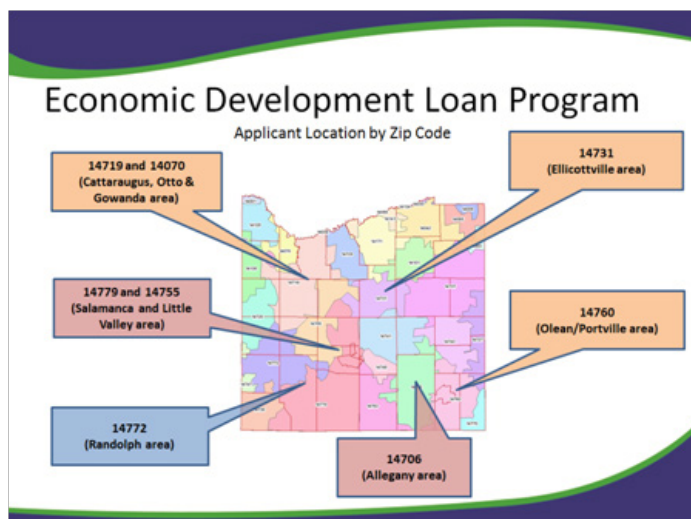
www.CCPTAC.org

Grow Cattaraugus Loan Fund

During 2014, the Grow Cattaraugus Loan Fund was reorganized within the Department. This longstanding partnership between the County, the State, and the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development continues to provide capital financing with zero percent and low interest loans to entrepreneurs, startups and other small business enterprises. Applicants will complete a series of educational sessions and complete a business plan that will help the enterprise succeed. Existing loan clients come from around the County, and have had success operating several types of business including those in the food service, salon, pet grooming, construction and manufacturing sectors.



The Department continues to provide technical assistance to local firms and entrepreneurs as they navigate the online enrollment system of the NYS Department of Tax and Finance and the NYS Minority and Woman Business Enterprise (MWBE) certification programs.



Economic Development Loan Program

Using casino host funds, the Economic Development Loan Program began in 2014. Eligible applicants can request \$75,000 as a loan to be repaid over a 3 to 7 year period. With the creation of net new full time equivalent jobs, a portion of the loan is eligible to be forgiven at a rate of \$5,000 per FTE position, up to a maximum of \$25,000. To date, two applicants have closed loans with this program, and projected the creation of 23 new full time jobs.

WILMA

The 2nd Annual WILMA the Woolly Bear Weekend was held on October 25th and 26th. This event, WILMA – We Invite Local Manufacturers & Artisans, is open to all artists and manufacturers that produce their items in Cattaraugus County. It was held in the Corporate Building on the Cattaraugus County Fairgrounds. The two day, family oriented event had over 25 vendors this year with items including homemade soaps, jewelry, rugs, blankets, art, toys, candles, apparel and so much more. With attendance up by 133% from the 2013 event, this made local, shop local and buy local event was a tremendous success and plans are already underway for the 2015 event.



A sampling of products made right here in Cattaraugus County. Photos courtesy EDP&T.



FAM Tours

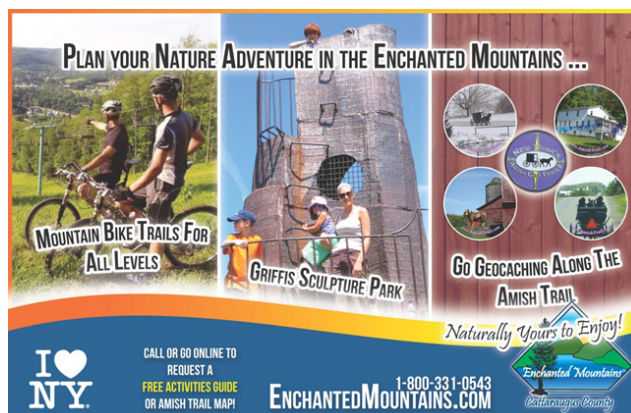
One of the most effective ways to get noticed and generate talk about Cattaraugus County is to provide FAM (familiarization) Tours for travel writers that visit. Once they have seen all that the Enchanted Mountains has to offer, they have walked away amazed and written many articles about the area. This year, staff invited numerous travel writers to visit our county for a few days to taste and see what tremendous assets are in the area that appeals to all types of tourists. This year, County tourism team collaborated with the Seneca Allegany Resort and Casino to host two groups of writers in early September. One couple was Jim and Barbara Fox, from Sun Media in Toronto, Canada. His article in regards to his visit reached at least 12 different publications, blogs, and online articles that he made us aware of. Each link is available. He also commented to search with the first sentence of the story and we would be amazed at the results. Well, we did, and yes, we were. The second grouping was writer Carolyn Mostyn (C R Rae) from GateHouse Media in Ohio, along with her assistant. GateHouse Media has 431 community publications and more than 405 related websites that reach approximately 10 million people daily. They were so “enchanted” with our area, they came back a second time! Overall, we toured Allegany State Park, the Resort and Casino, the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum, the Amish Trail, Pumpkinville, Rock City, Sprague’s, Holiday Valley and Ellicottville, as well as EBC. Also of note, the DCI Team who was chosen the enormous task of creating a unified tourism brand for the Western New York eight county region, was given a FAM Tour. They were taken out for a whole day of fun including stops at the Amish Trail, Myer’s in Salamanca, Allegany State Park, St. Bonaventure, Rock City Park and Sprague’s Maple Farms. Both Malcolm and Kathy were very impressed at the County’s natural features and “hidden gems”.

Historical Advisory Committee

Meetings continue to be held with our local Historians as they gather information in regards to the History of our County, cities, towns, and villages. This year we have successfully put together a new brochure for three new driving tours, covering Rt. 62, Rt. 219 and Rt. 16. This also incorporated the Old Chautauqua Driving Tour information, Historic Registry Sites, Museums, and Antique Shops. It was named “Heritage”.

Tourism Grant Program

The Tourism Grant Program continued in 2014 with “Group A” which included Ellicottville, Olean and Salamanca Chambers and “Group B” which assists other Chambers events, festival and marketing county-wide to advertise and promote various new or expanded tourism events, unique festivals, attractions and experiences that will attract more visitors for extended stays. Through this grant program, it is important to establish opportunities to promote our entire county and enhance the level of visitor experience in our County.

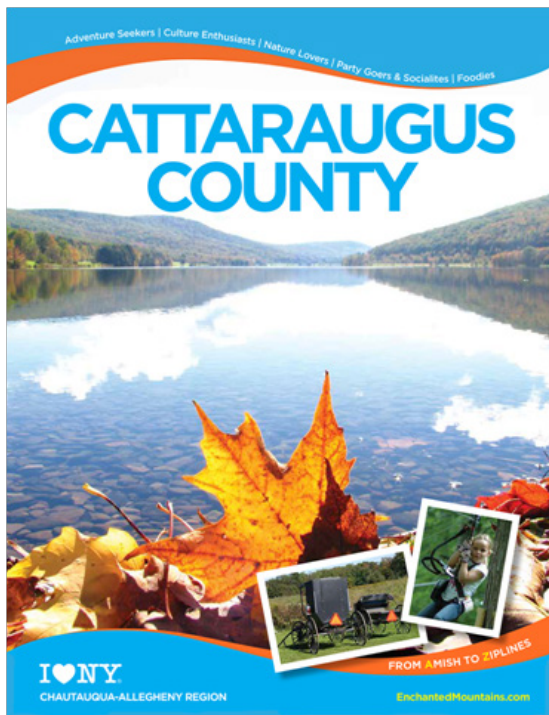


Social Media Advertising

This year, the Department started transitioning into digital advertising, to test the waters. Facebook was utilized first to grow our following and create specific activity based ads with places to go for the activity. This featured specific destinations in our County, therefore having them reap benefits from our campaigns as well. For example, the staff started out with Cross Country Skiing at Allegany State Park. “Once we got the hang of it, we were off running.” Featured were cross country skiing, Maple weekends, snowmobiling, golfing, fishing, Griffis Sculpture Park, Rock City Park, Onoville Marina and more. Success was seen with building and controlling the scheduling and demographics and will continue to use this tool in 2015. Check us out at www.facebook.com/EnchantedMountains.

TOURISM

Cattaraugus County is very proud and enthusiastic about our County and all of its natural beauty and abundance of four season activities. Tourism Division works daily to promote and market Cattaraugus County as a great tourism destination and its vast variety of tourism opportunities



2014 Activities Guide

The 2014 Enchanted Mountains of Cattaraugus County Activities Guide is the largest marketing tool we use. This year we chose to showcase Quaker Lake at Allegany State Park. The guide covers the largest assets such as Seneca Allegany Casino, Allegany State Park, Holiday Valley, HoliMont and Ellicottville as well as activities, attractions and events that can be enjoyed in the Enchanted Mountains. A large county map (24" x 36") is stitched into the middle of the guide and contains our Calendar of Events so that visitors will have the list of events while they are using the map. Once the information was gathered and pages were developed, the guide was sent to e8 creative, for design work. When completed and proofed, 100,000 copies of this 56 page, 4 color piece were printed by Kenyon Press in Sherburne, New York.

The Activities Guide is distributed by the tourism team and also by four companies: Yankee Doodle in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area; Brochure's Unlimited in Chautauqua, Warren and McKean Counties, Forge Ahead Promotions in Chautauqua County and North Country Distribution in the Toronto area. These distribution services deliver approximately half of our Activities Guides to these areas.

New York's Amish Geo Trail Part II was coordinated and developed by the Department, with the assistance of Dora and Wayne Maul. There are now 24 geo-caches hidden along the New York Amish Trail! As with Part I, cachers participating in Part II receive a magnetic photographic button for every cache they locate. When they find 10 caches, they receive a trackable geo coin. This family-friendly geo trail has been very well received. The majority of visitors are from NY and PA, but we've had families from Ontario, South Carolina, Indiana, Maryland, California, Ohio, Nebraska, New Hampshire and more!



Travel Shows

The Chautauqua-Allegheny Region participated in travel shows in the marketing areas of Pittsburgh and Erie, PA; Cleveland, OH; Rochester, Syracuse and Hamburg, NY to reach sportsmen and travelers in those areas. Locally, County staff participated in shows in Chautauqua, Erie and Allegany Counties and at many events in Cattaraugus County communities. Additionally, in cooperation with Allegheny National Forest Visitor's Bureau and FORE Golf magazine, the County attended the Cleveland Golf Show in Cleveland, OH, with a joint promotion of golf trails. The County's Tourism Trailer was out and about at community events including Springville, Wellsville, Busti, Ellicottville and Olean.



Information Center

The County's Information Center at the Allegany River Rest Area on the Southern Tier Expressway (I-86) continues to have a major impact with tourists traveling through the County. The number of visitors continues to increase, which creates an increasing need to reach this touring market with our marketing messages when they visit the rest area in hopes that one day they will return specifically to visit our County's attractions and events.

PLANNING

The Planning Division serves the County, its 43 municipalities (32 towns, 9 villages and 2 cities), 3 Seneca Nation Territories, and citizens with many different services that are designed to provide a positive impact on the quality of life in the County. The Planning staff works daily on the sustainable balance between rural preservation and urban development with each of our individual towns and villages and the County as a whole. The Planning Division is a Great Resource to our communities and offers the opportunity to strengthen our municipalities. The Planning Division also functions as staff for the Cattaraugus County Planning Board, the Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, and the Cattaraugus County Equine Advisory Committee. The Cattaraugus County Planning Board Annual Report is required by General Municipal Law Section 239-c.4.

Cattaraugus County Planning Board

Sections 239 l. and m. Referrals.

One of the most important roles of the County Planning Board is to act upon referrals from local municipalities sent to the County under Sections 239 l. and m. of New York State General Municipal Law (GML). The staff makes recommendations to the County Planning Board regarding these referrals. In addition, the staff also makes recommendations on State Environmental Quality Reviews (SEQR). During 2014 the Planning Board reviewed 22 Section 239 l. and m. referrals and reviewed 11 SEQR environmental documents.

A number of communities have enacted local referral exemption agreements with the County Planning Board. This agreement allows a local municipal board (i.e., planning board, zoning board of appeals, or legislative board) to determine that an action is a local issue and therefore does not need to be referred to the County Planning Board under GML 239 l. and m. The County Planning Board has prepared a list of items it deems to be of local concern, and this agreement permits the local boards from referring these items. This helps to expedite local reviews of projects and reduces the workload of the planning staff and County Planning Board.

53rd Annual Dinner Meeting

The Cattaraugus County Planning Board held its Annual Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, July 23rd, at Ellicottville Brewing Co. in Ellicottville. Tours were given both before and after dinner. Keynote speaker Peter Kreinheder briefly explained the history of EBC and the road to success for this local business. The Brooks Paterson Community Leadership Award was presented during the dinner.

The County Planning Board awarded its annual **Brooks Patterson Community Leadership Award** to Bob Fischer of Portville for outstanding leadership in community involvement and economic development in the Town of Portville and Cattaraugus County. The recipients of this annual award are chosen to give countywide recognition to leaders and volunteers who make lasting contributions to the people and communities of Cattaraugus County and its region and who exemplify the outstanding spirit and example that Torrance Brooks and Donald Patterson set during their lifetime of dedicated service to their respective communities, County Legislature, County Planning Board, and regional agencies. Bob Fischer has done a multitude of community enhancement projects including adopting a section of the Route 417 highway in front of his business and regularly does his part to keep Portville free of litter. Last year Bob was a key force in securing donations to install a handicap ramp at the Portville ECHO Site and is currently working on raising funds to install a handicap accessible rest room there as well. Most recently he has been working on a multi-community committee whose goal is to install handicap accessible boat launches and adjoining parks in Portville, Olean and Allegany Communities. These will be places along the Allegheny River where people can both launch canoes/kayaks and also have a place to just relax, have a picnic and enjoy the natural beauty the Portville and surrounding communities have to offer.



Bob Fischer of Portville

County Comprehensive Plan Update

It has been 35 years since the adoption of the County's first comprehensive plan. A new vision and action plan is needed for the County that sets forth a pathway for resiliency and smart development in the twenty-first century. The process for updating the plan began in 2012 with a series of public input forums, where a great deal of public opinion on a variety of topics were gathered. In 2014, a consultant was brought on board to work with the County to complete the comprehensive plan. Wendel Companies of Amherst held a number of open houses and forums to bring additional public input into the process. From this a list of goals was derived, and by year's end draft sections were being reviewed by staff. This document will provide the County with a new vision for the future of the County and a plan of action to accomplish this vision. The new vision will align with regional goals and open up funding opportunities for accomplishing projects and initiatives.



Drew Reilly, AICP and Ellen Parker, AICP of Wendel, the County's consultant for the update to the County's Comprehensive Plan, lead the Public Information Meeting held in Machias in May.

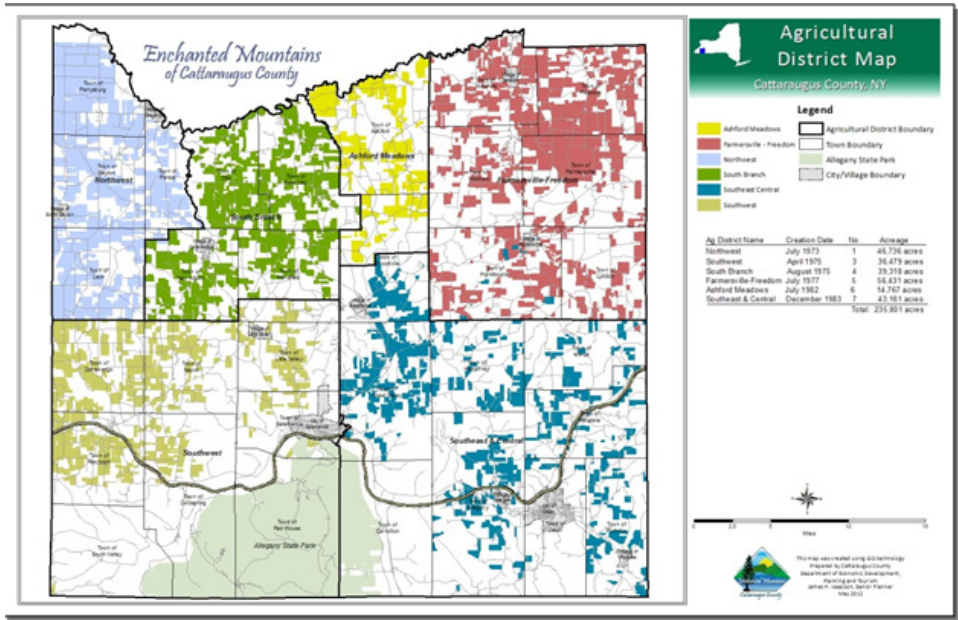
Cattaraugus County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

The Planning staff serves as a policy and technical advisor to the Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, whose task is to promote and preserve agricultural resources in the County and address agricultural-related issues that have an impact on the County's diverse farming communities.

New York State Agricultural Districts Program Review

The Planning Division administers the Cattaraugus County Agricultural Districts Program, consisting of six Agricultural Districts throughout the County. These Districts provide certain protections and benefits for landowners who wish to keep their property in agricultural production. The Planning Staff conducts ongoing reviews of the Agricultural Districts. Through this review process, these districts will continue to provide agricultural landowners with the Agricultural District Program benefits made available by the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law. Discussion began mid-year, among the staff and with the advice of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, to look at consolidating the current six agricultural districts into one, Countywide Agricultural District.

Agricultural Districts Map for Cattaraugus County, NY



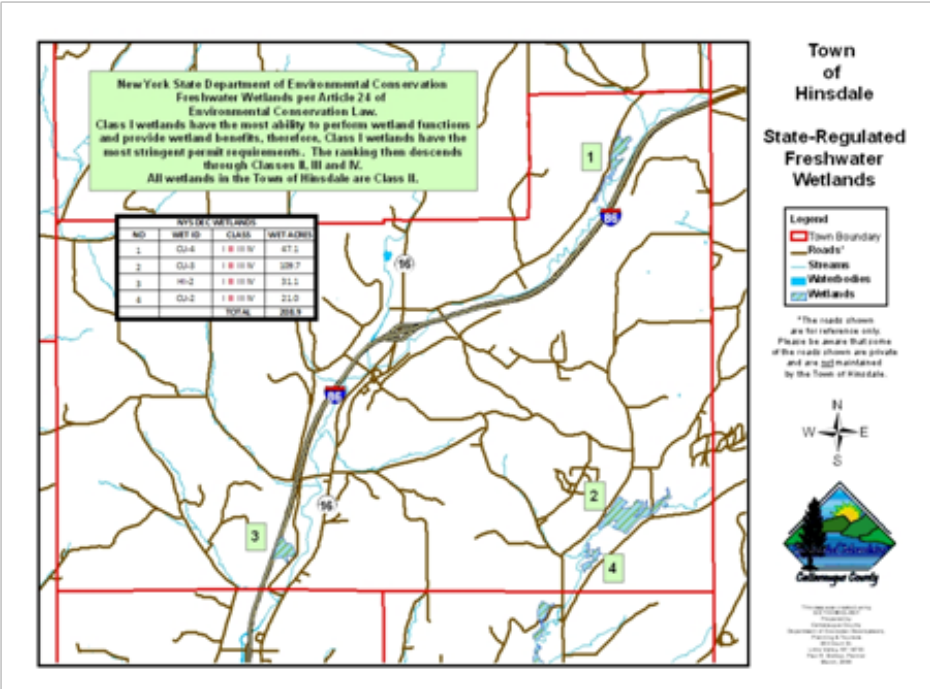
Agricultural District Annual 30-Day Inclusion Period

January 2nd through January 31st is Cattaraugus County’s annual 30-day open period for inclusions into an existing agricultural district. This requirement is defined in New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25AA, Section 303-b. In 2014 there were no parcels requesting inclusion into the County’s agricultural districts.

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Implementation

The Planning Staff continued in 2014 its focus on assisting the County’s Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board in ways to implement the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Services



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a powerful mapping and analysis tool used by the Planning Division to bring data analysis and information to the County and its municipalities, businesses, and the general public. Most municipalities in the County do not have access to aerial imagery, up-to-date parcel information, flood plain delineation or the many other data layers available to the County. The Staff produced numerous maps for various clients that were used in their decision-making and operations.

Snowmobile Facts for 2014

- 322 miles of groomed trails
- 68 additional miles in Allegany State Park
- Nine snowmobile clubs
- 28 groomers maintained by these clubs

Season Open Dates: December 18, 2013 – March 31, 2014

NYS Snowmobile Trails Grant funding: \$148,890

Other funding for clubs: snowmobile registrations, fundraisers

New York State Snowmobile Grant

The 2013-2014 snowmobile season was a frigid but successful riding season. The season was made successful through the provision of a \$148,890.00 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism received and administered these funds on behalf of the county's nine snowmobile clubs and the Cattaraugus County Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. These funds are distributed through the County to local snowmobile clubs, to maintain the trails for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Transportation

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan - 2014 Update

In 2013 the Community Transportation Coalition of Cattaraugus County (CTC) initiated the required four year update of this Plan. County Planning staff's participation in this effort included meeting and process facilitation, data update and interpretation, and agency reviews. The 2014 Update to this Plan was approved, by ACT NO. 198-2014, by the Cattaraugus County Legislature on April 9, 2014. That Resolution also authorized the Department to submit the updated Plan to the NYS Department of Transportation. The purpose of the plan is to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, people with low incomes, and the general public, provide strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation.

NYS Department of Transportation "Transportation Alternatives Program"

The County Planning staff, in coordination with the Chautauqua County Planner, reviewed seven TAP applications submitted for Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties in order to give NYSDOT Region 5 reviewers a local perspective.

Local Technical Assistance

The Planning Division offers technical assistance to the County's 43 municipalities, many of whom have little or no municipal staff available to work on planning and zoning issues. The Planning Staff provides support to these municipalities in the areas of comprehensive planning, land use regulation and zoning, SEQR compliance, geographic information systems, downtown revitalization, and infrastructure development.

Training

Planning staff provided and arranged for training, in accordance with New York State Law, to municipal and county planning boards and local zoning boards of appeal members. Training was provided in the following areas:

- State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Procedures
- Watersheds, Storm Water and Low Impact Development
- Comprehensive Plans
- Site Plan Regulations Approvals
- Special Use Permits
- Variances
- Zoning

Municipal Assistance on Comprehensive Planning and Zoning

In 2014, the Planning staff provided several municipalities with assistance in creating or revising their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. The Town of Otto and the Town of Ashford both received assistance for specific questions regarding comprehensive planning. This type of municipal service continues to be a focus of the Division's activities. Properly instituted comprehensive plans and zoning can have a positive impact on land use at the local level.

Farm Tour 2014

Following last year's inaugural event, the second annual Farm Tour was organized by the Planning staff. Held in mid-September, a group of twenty one, including five legislators, visited Great Valley Berry Patch and Snow Brook Organic Farm, both in Great Valley, as well as Maple Ridge Bison Ranch in Hinsdale, and Pumpkinville in Humphrey. This annual event is held to showcase the vast diversity of agriculture in Cattaraugus County.

2014 Farm Tour at Maple Ridge Bison Ranch.
Photo courtesy EDPT staff.



Guests enjoying a fabulous meal at the 3rd Annual Farmer Neighbor Dinner in West Valley. Photo: EDPT Staff

3rd Annual Cattaraugus County Farmer Neighbor Dinner

Cattaraugus County is home to a vibrant and diverse agricultural industry. Good communication is essential to developing and maintaining good relationships between farmers and their non-farm neighbors. The Annual Farmer Neighbor Dinner is a way to bring the County's farmers and their neighbors together for a night of fellowship and understanding. It will also be a way for the County's farmers and businesses to showcase what they have to offer each other. The Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, along with the Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism, the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, the Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board hosted the Third Annual Cattaraugus County Farmer Neighbor Dinner on April 9, 2014 at the West Valley Fire Hall, 9091 Route 240, in West Valley with nearly 260 in attendance.

The Premier Sponsors for the evening were Allegany Co-Op Insurance and Lamb & Webster, Inc. Over 19 other sponsors help contribute to funding this special event. Many of the food items for the dinner were donated by local farms and businesses: Car-Bu Farms; 3 C's Catering; Wendel's; Native Offerings Farm; Maple Ridge Bison Farm; Welch's; Upstate Milk; Ford Brothers; Empire Specialty Cheese; and WiLea Farms. Another 15 donors contributed products for Give-A Way's that were held throughout the evening.

Keynote Speaker Pat Hooker, New York State's Deputy Secretary for Food and Agriculture, spoke on agricultural opportunities to boost the upstate economy.



Farmer of the Year Award is given to an agritourism business, meaning that it falls both within the agricultural farming industry and also within the tourism industry. In 2014, **Sprague's Maple Farms** of Portville was honored with this award. The owners, Toni and Randy Sprague, welcome visitors from all over Western New York and beyond. "Our 265 seat restaurant features many menu items that use the maple products we produce. Our well-stocked country gift center offers a wide selection of seasonal gifts, homemade fudge, chocolates, and our full line of award winning maple products." Sprague's Maple Farms has been and continues to be an area attraction that allows people to see the maple operation from the tree to the table. There is a lot of history in sugaring, which has been passed down through generations. At Sprague's you are able to see the tradition of the industry, with a real hands-on feel. Marked trails make it possible to learn about the history of maple sugarin' all year long.

Friend of Agriculture Award recognized the **Charlesworth family** from Little Valley. The Charlesworth Family Farm began in the 1940's by John H. and Georgia Charlesworth. At an early age, John R. worked alongside his parents to learn the ins and outs of a successful farm. After marrying Mary, his wife of now fifty years, John continued the tradition of a family farm with her and their four children.

Beginning as a dairy farm, John and Mary milked 150 head of cattle. In the 1980's the farm transferred to beef cattle where they continue to raise 150 head and tend to 700 acres of crops and timberland. The Charlesworth family was involved in 4-H and all four of their children, John E., Jay, Jennifer and Kristina, showed animals at the county fair. The fourth generation of farmers, the grandchildren, now continue the tradition of showing and raising animals to exhibit in 4-H.



Due to their involvement in farming and agriculture, John and Mary knew the importance of 4-H and agricultural awareness to the community. In 1993, John and his family became part of the Cattaraugus County Agricultural Society Board of Directors. With John as president, the Cattaraugus County Fair has seen an increase in attendance, become one of the top 10 largest fairs in New York State and one of the top in cattle entries. The increase in animals means an increase in exhibitors, thus promoting the importance of agriculture and 4-H in the community, county and state. Hundreds of thousands of fair-goers have been introduced or reintroduced the agricultural industry.

Conservation Farm of the Year Award was awarded to the **Tim Ploetz Farm**, a family-owned and operated cow-calf beef operation on Jackman Hill Road in the Town of Ellicottville. They have been participating in the Agricultural Environmental Management planning program, and recently completed several best management practices to address agricultural runoff from the farmstead and to improve water quality. These practices include a covered concrete barnyard and drystack manure storage, roof runoff management, and a composting facility for livestock mortality. The farm has worked very closely and cooperatively with both the Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement these projects. Tim provided a great deal of assistance in completion of these projects, and helped coordinate the sequence of construction as well as kept track of quality control.

In addition to his farm, Tim also has a fencing installation business, where he installs high tensile fencing for farms throughout the WNY area. Many of these farms have also participated in programs through the SWCD and NRCS, and Tim has done a great job to make sure the projects meet or exceed the required standards and specifications of both agencies. He recognizes the benefits and value of the conservation programs, and helps encourage other farms to participate.

Cattaraugus County Trails

Cattaraugus County Trails System

In 2014, the County embarked on a new initiative to create a county-wide trails system. The County will examine the feasibility of developing new trails and connecting existing trails to develop a complete system of trails within the County in order to maximize the potential of our natural beauty. Coordinated by County staff, this initiative brings together a group of interested trail organizations to provide support and assistance. The first meeting of this group was held in October of 2014, with approximately 30 people in attendance. The group represents a variety of trails: equestrian, snowmobile, hiking, bicycling, and blueway.

Cattaraugus County Equestrian Initiative

The Cattaraugus County Equine Advisory Committee continued its mission of encouraging and promoting all equestrian types and disciplines in the Enchanted Mountains region. As an advisory committee to the County Legislature on all things equestrian, the Committee focuses its efforts on growing the equestrian economy in the County and enhancing the tourism industry for equestrians. In 2014, The Committee continued to work with Cattaraugus County Tourism to promote Cattaraugus County as an equestrian destination. Members of the Committee promoted the County at the EquiFest in Hamburg, NY. Numerous ads were placed in regional and national equine publications. Also, the Committee assisted with a new update to the County's equestrian trails brochure. They also tracked trail improvements on trail systems throughout the County.



Trail ride in Franklinville, NY.
Photo courtesy Creekside Roundup.

Cattaraugus County Snowmobile Trails

The Department utilizes a number of tourism promotion efforts to build the snowmobiling economy here in the County. An updated snowmobiling brochure and map was again printed and distributed free to visitors this year. In addition to trails, it identifies numerous small businesses along the trails that offer snowmobilers assorted services. This is just one of a broad range of integrated marketing tools that are utilized by the Department to generate tourism revenues from snowmobiling and other niche markets. Examples of snowmobile marketing include: the County Activities Guide, Snowmobile Trail Guide, Enchanted Mountains website, the toll free Tourism Information Line, the New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) Spring Forum and www.SnowTrailTV.com.