

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Andy Imperati, General Manager

[845-876-4000](tel:845-876-4000)

aimperati@dutchessfair.com

Dutchess County Agricultural Society Purchases 4-H Property from Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County

The Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS) and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) signed an agreement on September 24th to transfer 3.11 acres of land and five buildings on the Dutchess County Fairgrounds to DCAS.

CCEDC will continue to operate the 4-H Programs during the annual six-day Dutchess County Fair and the annual Horse Camp via a lease agreement. The lease also includes provision for the 4-H program to use the barns, cafeteria and exhibit hall they have traditionally used during other times of the year, with advance notice to the fairgrounds administration. The DCAS will upgrade the facilities over the next three-five years, including water systems, power systems, infrastructure and above-ground housing facilities.

CCEDC has owned property at the Fairgrounds since the 1940s. "This sale of the property to the DCAS allows CCEDC to concentrate on what we do best – providing educational programming for Dutchess County Youth through our well-loved 4-H program." said Ruth A. Moore, Executive Director, CCEDC. "The agreement continues the strong collaboration between DCAS and CCEDC in showcasing 4-H and Dutchess County agriculture at the Dutchess County Fair and Horse Clinic."

"This agreement is a win-win for both organizations." said Andy Imperati, General Manager, DCAS. "CCEDC has provided a wonderful experience to 4-H youth for many decades during the annual Dutchess County Fair and Horse Clinic. The transfer of this property will allow the CCEDC to seamlessly continue the 4-H Program, while allowing the DCAS to provide needed infrastructure and above-ground improvements and upgrades to the facilities. The DCAS takes pride in the maintenance standards to which we aspire in relation to our grounds and facilities. We have made significant improvements to our permanent structures and will now be able to upgrade the facilities used by the 4-H Program as well."

Both the DCAS and the CCEDC are 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations with missions dedicated to serving the region. The mission of the DCAS is to showcase, promote and sustain agriculture through education, display, competition and community involvement. Through quality educational programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) builds strong, healthy youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County.