1. **Name:** Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County (CCE Tioga)

2. **Host background Information:** Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County is a 501C3 organization affiliated with Cornell University with the mission to extend research and experience based knowledge to community members in order for them to improve the quality of their lives. For over 100 years, CCE Tioga has provided a variety of educational programs to improve agriculture, 4-H youth development, economic vitality, and community betterment, including gardening, nutrition, and parenting education. Through the Our Farms: Our Stories project, we hope to gain a better understanding of the current situation of our farms, including what is working and future plans, as well as challenges. This will help us do a better job of addressing their needs.

3. **Internship Position Name/Title:** Engaged Cornell/Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County Our Farms; Our Stories Internship

4. **Internship Position / Project Context:** Working with CaRDI, the Community and Regional Development Institute, you will be a member of a three- student team on a project we call Our Farms; Our Stories. The team will consist of one student from each of the following sets of majors/minors, or a combination of the three sets: (1) Agricultural Sciences, Animal Sciences or Plant Sciences; (2) Development Sociology, Applied Economics and Management, International Agriculture and Rural Development, or Environmental Sciences and Sustainability; (3) Communication and Information Sciences. Together, the team will work to understand and communicate the needs and opportunities of small-scale diversified farms in Tioga County, particularly as they relate to broader community and economic development assets and goals.

Your work as a member of the Our Farms; Our Stories team will help to give voice to the small-scale farmers in our region, identify challenges that they face, as well as opportunities, (not only in farming, but within the greater community) and produce a body of work that will help illuminate their stories for decision makers and leaders of our county.

5. **Internship Position Description:** With on-the-ground support from CCE Tioga, and guidance from the faculty team, over the course of a 10-week internship, the Our Farms; Our Stories team will develop 10-15 case studies of Tioga County farms, analyze and synthesize findings from the case studies, and develop and plan tools to communicate the data gathered through the case studies. Specifically, the team will:
   i. Create a set of farm-types, representing a diverse mix of production, marketing, retail, and distribution practices in Tioga County. (Week 1)
   ii. Develop an interview guide and protocol, including audio and video recordings, designed to better understand Tioga County farms and farmers, including needs and opportunities to strengthen their enterprises and, in turn, community and economic development (Weeks 1-2)
   iii. Prepare and submit the documentation necessary to receive Cornell’s IRB approval for research with human subjects. (Weeks 2-3)
iv. Identify and set-up meeting times with 10-15 farms, representing the farm-types developed in step a (above), to conduct Our Farms; Our Stories case study interviews, audio and video recordings. (Weeks 2-3)

v. Begin to develop a communications plan, including intended audiences (Tioga County CCE, local legislators, farmers, other CCE Associations & food systems practitioners that might be interested in this approach, etc.), outreach tools, and venues (e.g.: a report, narrated PowerPoint presentation, article for Small Farms Quarterly, CaRDI Engaged Student Series, and, possibly, academic journals (Weeks 1-4)

vi. In an iterative fashion, conduct interviews, analyze data, and synthesize information gleaned through the case study interviews; return to farms for additional information, if needed (Weeks 4-8)

vii. Develop tools necessary to support communication plan (e.g., report, video clips, etc.) (Weeks 4-8)

viii. Finalize interviews and communication tools to share with CCE Tioga and other target audiences. (Weeks 8-10)

6. Basic Qualifications and Preferred Experience: Besides exposure to one of the three basic fields (Agriculture, Agribusiness, Rural Development or Environmental Sustainability, and Communication/Information Sciences), we are looking for students who are comfortable speaking with people they do not know (or are eager to strengthen this skill), are good listeners and questioners, and who value the contributions of all people to the greater society. The team members’ primary roles are to be information gatherers and synthesizers, so a willingness to listen deeply and relate to people empathically are paramount.

7. Internship Schedule: It is the expectation of the CALS NYS Internship Program that interns will devote 40 hours – a standard work week--to the responsibilities of this position. Evening and weekend hours may be necessary to accommodate needs of the community.

8. Expected Outcomes (for intern): The summer will be a rich experience for each team member. You will have the opportunity to work on a team that is building an intellectual framework for conducting on-farm interviews that is tied to evidence-based research in rural development. You will also work together to meet and learn from small-scale farmers, and finally, you will present your findings to local decision-makers and possibly others. Within the span of ten weeks, you will go from project conception to project completion, and gain confidence in your interviewing/presentation and research skills.

9. Location of Assignment: CCE Tioga Offices, 56 Main Street, Owego, NY 13827. Field work will be throughout Tioga County.

10. Other: Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.