Climate change. Food security. Community vitality. Biodiversity. The ideas that keep us up at night are why we get out of bed in the morning.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is a pioneer of purpose-driven science and Cornell University’s second largest college. We work across disciplines to tackle the challenges of our time through world-renowned research, education and outreach. The questions we probe and the answers we seek focus on three overlapping concerns: natural and human systems; food, energy and environmental resources; and social, physical and economic well-being.

Since our founding, we have evolved continuously to meet the changing needs of our world. Our top-ranked programs include over 20 majors in community and rural development, environment and natural resources, food and nutrition, communication, applied economics, agriculture, international programs and life sciences.

The excellence of our science is matched by the generosity of our spirit. We aim to leave the world better than we found it, so we seek out those not simply driven to master their discipline, but who are also passionate about doing so to serve the public good. CALS is fundamentally invested in improving the lives of people, their environments and their communities both in New York state and around the world.

The Cornell CALS experience empowers us to explore the boundaries of knowledge, supported by the leading minds of today and surrounded by the leading minds of tomorrow.
Change In Action: Our Global Impact

A critical piece of our commitment to purpose-driven science is putting our knowledge and research to work to make a positive impact. Students and faculty go beyond the boundaries of campus, partnering with communities to explore ideas and solve difficult, complex problems. Cornell CALS is home to several world-class outreach and extension programs that directly serve the public, sharing knowledge and research throughout our state, nation and in almost every country in the world. Below are a few examples of our current projects.

- **Studying birds to understand the biology of stress resistance**
- **Understanding gender roles in the social media industry**
- **Forecasting megadrought in the American Southwest**
- **Seeking a collaborate solution to dead zones in water habitats**
- **Creating effective and sustainable solutions for the coffee industry**
- **Strengthening partnerships for agricultural and rural development**
- **Enabling dairy farmers to reach their business goals**
- **Helping grape nurseries reduce the spread of viruses**
- **Fostering sustainable community development in post-industrial cities**
- **Providing growers with new apple varieties to meet consumer demand**
- **Cultivating genetically improved maple stock to increase syrup production**
- **Understanding threats posed by invasive species in the Great Lakes**
- **Mapping the rice genome to streamline breeding and improve nutrition**
- **Protecting coral reefs from the impacts of warming oceans**
- **Creating the world’s most detailed wind maps**
- **Studying methods to grow and protect flower bulbs**
- **Integrating indigenous ecological knowledge with scientific data**
- **Partnering with private industry to improve pork product safety**
- **Understanding how landscape changes influence rural communities**
- **Educating the next generation of African cassava breeders**
- **Understanding role of Big Data on rural development**
- **Designing public landscapes to protect from flooding**
- **Advancing computational tools for more efficient plant breeding**
- **Bolstering research and prevention of Lyme Disease**
- **Saving the Adirondack Fisheries**

In the 1950s, professor of fishery biology Dwight A. Webster studied the causes of fish kills in the New York Adirondacks, identifying acid rain as the culprit. This work lead to the passage of the Clean Air Act, requiring power plants to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Born from this, the Adirondack Fishery Program is now researching climate change and solutions to its impact on native fisheries.

**NY Field Stations, Research Farms and Forests**

- **10,314** acres outside Tompkins County
- **2,075** acres within Tompkins County
- **5,022** acres on Ithaca’s main campus

Diversity and inclusion are a part of Cornell University’s heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities.