The faculty, staff, and students of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) discover, integrate, disseminate and apply knowledge about the life sciences, environmental sciences, food and energy systems, and economic and community vitality to improve the lives of people throughout New York, the nation, and the world.

Informed by discoveries from the college's broad spectrum of expertise, CALS' research, educational, and extension programs:

- Advance knowledge of the unity and diversity of life;
- Impart to our students a world-class education and passion for life-long learning and discovery;
- Promote wise stewardship of the environment and natural resources, and create economical, sustainable energy strategies;
- Develop agricultural systems to establish and maintain safe, nutritious food supplies for current and future generations, and;
- Foster economic vitality and individual and community health and well-being.

Challenges confronting the global community are growing in complexity for many reasons, including the increasing human population and climate change in the context of finite natural resources. Establishing sustainable societies through sound policies, strategies, and technologies that improve the health and well-being of present populations without compromising the needs of future generations is among the greatest challenges facing humanity.

Solutions to today’s global challenges will require novel insight into the dynamics of coupled human and natural systems. Many of these solutions will be found at the intersection of the four interdependent and interacting areas of focus [see image] that inform and support CALS’ mission and shape the college’s commitment to advancing the land grant mission. From the social sciences to the life sciences, in fundamental and applied disciplines, CALS has the broad and deep expertise needed to affect real change in the world.

Through our curriculum and experiential opportunities, CALS develops leadership ability, civic responsibility, and curiosity in its students. Through our research, CALS makes invaluable contributions to an ever-increasing knowledge base. Through Cornell Cooperative Extension and other outreach mechanisms, we serve the public directly, sharing knowledge and improving lives around the world. In all facets of our mission, CALS honors the past, is engaged in the present, and helps shape the future.

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Cornell University provides equal program and employment opportunities.