

PAST WORKSHOPS

FSMA Health and Hygiene Farm Worker Training: May 24th, 12-1pm: Fruit and Vegetable Producers were able to complete their yearly FSMA/GAPs training requirement for Farm Worker Health and Hygiene by attending this webinar, hosted and taught by Ag Educator Michelle Proscia.

Intro to Poultry Production- May 8th 6-8pm.

50 attendees and over 100 registered to learn about backyard poultry production. Topics included breed selection, feed and nutrition, housing requirements, and egg/meat production. The workshop was hosted in partnership with the Southeast Regional Livestock Team.

NIFA Annual Meeting: Grant recipients from across the country met to discuss their Food Safety projects. Hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, this Food Safety Outreach Project meeting was a 2 day event that had 25 speakers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Farm Visits: 13 Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 95 Soil Tests: 26 Hay Tests: 0

Business and Marketing Plans, Sales Channels, Ag Districts, beginning farmer, soil tests, field crops, poultry production, Ag Assessments, plant pests, disease, and ID, vegetable production, whole farm planning, farmers markets, Farm to School, Dry and Cold Storage, Grant and Funding sources, manure management, H2A employees, Livestock density, Farm employee wages, advertising farm jobs.

Farm Business Management Program: Through our farm business technical support program, staff are assisting 5 farm operations with farm business planning, with the support of the Hudson Valley Ag Development Corporation, to develop business and/or marketing plan. The farm operations consists of 2 start up operations, one poultry operation, one cider operation and one diversified operation.

Horticulture Program: Technical Assistance was provided to 40 contacts. Topics consisted of declining conifers & Japanese maple, soil test inquiries & amendments, young tree care, drought, weed ID, Pest ID.

Agricultural District Program & County Ag Board

Staff are in the process of developing the final draft for the Ag District Eight Year Review Report. A public hearing was conducted and a final vote for approval and inclusion will take place in August. Overall, there was an increase of almost 4% in viable agricultural land.

The Sullivan County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board also appointed a new chairperson for the Board. Erika Malmgreen, a farmer representative and co-owner of Winterton Farms, will now serve as the chairperson. John Gorzynki was the previous chair for the Board.

Farm to School:

Staff partnered with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest NY team to host a farmer and school food service director meeting and networking event. NY recently awarded funding to school districts to purchase products from local farms. Farmers and Directors were able to meet, discuss their needs and potentially set up future sales of Sullivan County farm products.



MAY 2023 AG REPORT

BEGINNER FARMER PROGRAM:

The Advisory Committee for the Beginner Farmer Program had its first meeting on May 31, 2023. At the meeting, the Advisory Committee reviewed the mentorship guide, a summer/fall workshop plan, and brainstormed ideas for workshop topics and farm visits in the future. We are in the process of developing a more concrete late summer & fall work plan, reaching out to farmers to host workshops and farm tours, create a curriculum/guide for the mentorship guide, create an outreach plan, and organize a social event for farmers in late August. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be in late July.



Our program supports historically underserved individuals & communities.

This includes beginner farmers in operation for less than 10 years; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) owned and operated farms; women owned and operated farms; veteran farmers; farmworkers; small farms; organic farms; and folks looking to get into farming.

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

We're here to support you!

Our team members are available to meet one-on-one with prospective farmers to provide technical assistance. Together, we'll spend time reviewing business plans, "vetting" ideas for soundness, and directing you to more in-depth resources if you need them. Our goal is empowering you to turn your farming dreams into reality!



Take a closer look at our program...

sullivanccce.org/agriculture/beginner-farming

Contact us today to get started.

Call: 845-2929-6180 ext.130

Email: tea46@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

Turn Your Farming Dreams Into Reality



Learn, connect, and grow with other Catskills farmers!

The Beginner Farmer Program assists beginners farmers in the Catskills Hudson Valley Region through group trainings, one-on-one conversations, farm visits, farmer to farmer mentoring, and an intensive learning cohort.

We provide technical assistance and workshops focused on essential topics.

- Direct marketing
- Wholesale marketing
- Business planning
- Farm financial management
- Farmland access
- Agricultural production
- Farm food safety plans
- Urban farming
- Compliance with laws & regulations
- Soil health
- Composting
- Rotational grazing
- High tunnel extension
- And much more!

Helping beginner farmers create successful, resilient farm operations!

Farmer Advisory Committee

Our Farmer Advisory Committee is helping to develop the Beginner Farmer Program, provide guidance for program implementation, and most importantly, providing new farmers with perspective rooted in their respective agricultural and business experience.

Bring your farming vision to life...

This project is supported by USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture award #2022-06508.