

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (September):**

**Farm Visits:** 10    **Technical Assistance/Inquiries:** 85    **Soil Tests:** 2

Business and Marketing Plans, Sales Channels, Ag Districts, beginning farmer, soil tests, field crops, poultry production, plant pests, disease, and ID, vegetable production, whole farm planning, farmers markets, Farm to School, Grant and Funding sources, Mobile Markets, agricultural job posting, beginner farm/starting farm, County loan program, NRCS funding, mentorship, land access and beginner farmer resources.



## **SULLIVAN FRESH PROGRAM**

The final Sullivan Fresh Monticello Farmers Market was held in September. However, the mobile farmers market continues into October. The market had a very successful year, offering 13 educational demonstration on wellness, health and cooking demos, where participants were able to receive \$10 in Sullivan Fresh Bucks.

**Cornell Livestock Program Work Team:** CCE Sullivan staff Michelle Proscia participates in this statewide team. They are currently preparing for meetings with county officials (emergency management) with discussions regarding BERP (Bovine Emergency Response Program). Sullivan County has been identified as an area where BERP workshop

would be ideal due to proximity to interstates, processors, and agriculture transportation in our area. More details to come!

**2024 Farmer Mentorship Cohort:** Through our Beginner Farmer Program we are organizing our 1st farmer mentorship cohort for 2024. We currently have 2 pairs of mentors and mentees, for our 2023 mini mentorship, but our 2024 mentorship cohort will have 15 mentee openings, 5 of the mentee spots will be saved for veteran farmers. Our cohort will bring their farm business goals into their mentorship, engage in monthly farm visits with their farmer mentor, attend workshops to help fulfill their goals, and learn alongside their fellow mentees. CCE, through a USDA grant, will also provide a \$10,000 stipend to each mentee to support them through the mentorship and the beginning steps of their farm businesses. The farm mentors will be compensated monetarily for their time and labor. The application window for mentees is November 1st – December 22nd, with the mentorship officially starting February 5th, 2024.



### PAST WORKSHOPS

**Farmer Mixer at Majestic Farm on September 23rd:** Our September Farmer Mixer was hosted at Majestic Farm in Mountain Dale, NY. The monthly Farmer Mixers are opportunities for seasoned, beginner, and aspiring farmers to connect, and the turn outs for these events continue to be incredible. There were approximately 20-25 people at this event, and following the event farms informed me of the new connections they made at the Farmer Mixer. The Windsor Group staff have been attending these events to share information about 22007 Discrimination Financial Assistance Program with the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

**Beef Quality Assurance Training- Thursday, October 5, 2023, 10:00am - 2:00pm at Sinsabaugh Rd, Pine Bush, NY.** Participants learned about Beef Quality Assurance, which is a nationwide certification program to help ensure a safe, wholesome, and quality beef product for consumers. Topics covered included herd health management, nutrition, behavior and handling.



**The Nuts & Bolts of High Tunnels at Sprouting Dreams Farm on October 11th:** Eugene Thalmann and LeeAnna Maniace showed 11 participants around the farm. They explained the process for building high tunnels and specific tools that have become essential for them in high tunnel construction. Sprouting Dreams Farm has received several NRCS – EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) grants for their high tunnels and were able to explain to participants the eligibility requirements for applying and the application process itself.

**Farmer Mixer at Sprouting Dreams Farm on October 11th:** Our September Farmer Mixer was hosted at Sprouting Dreams Farm in Liberty, NY. There were approximately 20 people at this event. Our next Farmer Mixer will be November 2nd at Hidden Acre Farm in Bloomingburg, NY, we will be co-hosting with CCE Orange County and the Hudson Valley Young Farmers Coalition.

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

**Getting Started with Pigs on October 28th:** we are hosting the workshop Getting Started with Pigs at ALL Family Farm, with owners and operators Nate and Misty Allanach. In the workshop they will explain the basics of raising hogs, from farrow to finish, and the benefits of integrating pigs into a farm operation, especially for beginner farmers.

**Farm Food Safety Workshops-** 10 workshops are in planning stages that will be delivered via webinar and in-person. These include: Produce Safety Certification, Farm Composting, Alphabet Soup: Understanding FSMA, GAPs, and PSR, Farmworker Health & Hygiene Training, Wholesale Market Readiness, Washing, Packaging, and Sanitizing Produce, Writing a Farm Food Safety Plan.

**Funding Webinar Series:** The series will be monthly 1-hr informational webinars about agricultural funding resources December – March. Each month will focus on a different funding resource, December – Farmer Service Agency, January – National Conversation Resources Services, February – NYS Grown & Certified, and March – General Funding Opportunities. The webinars will be added to the CCESC YouTube page to be available for future viewership.