

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 128 Soil/Hay Tests: 6 Farm Visits: 11

Technical Assistance was provided on land access, ag districts, farmland preservation, Catskills Kitchen (insurance, business structures, permitting & licensing), soil testing, accessing markets, pest and disease control, herbicide/fungicide control, grants and funding, weed identification, Asian jumping worm, native plants, soil testing, tree health – arborist recommendation, garden troubleshooting, tree identification, Japanese barberry, beech leaf disease, invasive species.

40 total Hours of Technical Assistance.

PAST WORKSHOPS

John's Edible Native Garden Tour July 16: 13 people attended. Toured the native edible garden and talked about growing conditions, plant requirements & care, benefits of planting low maintenance natives, preserving natural heritage and supporting wildlife and biodiversity.

Farmer Mixer at Winterton Farms - July 22nd: Attendees visited Winterton Farm, a lavender farm located in Wurtsboro and were able to network and learn farmer wellness strategies.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- Community Preservation Act Workshop - August 6th from 6-8pm
- Berms and Swales: Techniques for Water Management at Unbroken Acres Farm - August 18th from 6-8pm
- Farmer Mixer at Gael Roots Farm - August 19 from 5-7pm
- Invasive Species Workshop: Walking Tour at the Hurleyville Rail Trail - August 27 from 5-6pm
- Farmer Mixer at Angry Orchard - September 8th from 5-7pm
- Soil Health & Management at Bobolink Farm - September 23rd from 5-7pm
- Turning Harvests into Profits: A Value Added Workshop for Farm & Food Businesses with Cornell Food Venture Center - October 1st from 3-5pm.
- Farmer Mixer at Finca Seremos Farm - October 6th from 5-7pm
- Farm Business Management Training Series - October 20th & 27th November 3rd & 10th.
- Pasture Management & Grazing Webinar - October 30th from 6-8pm



FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

Number of Municipal 239 Review's: 2

Ag Assessment, Ag Zoning & Ag District Technical Assistance: 15

2025 Ag District 30 Day Window: A final report has been created for NYS Department of Ag and Markets, with the Legislature set to vote on the resolution to approve the report in August.

County-Wide Farmland Preservation Project (and Report from Orange County Land Trust)

- We are in the processing of developing 3 more workshops for 2025
 - November 13th @ CCE - Farming Training #2: Passing the Torch: Farm Transfer Planning & Legal Pathways
 - December 3rd (Webinar) - Farming Training #3: Protecting Your Legacy: Conservation Easements for Farmers
 - December 8th (Webinar) - Municipal Workshop #3: Planning for Ag Success: Municipal Strategies for Farmland Preservation

In July, the Orange County Land Trust (OCLT), in collaboration with CCE Sullivan County, fielded multiple inquiries from farmers across Sullivan County following the announcement of our joint initiative to promote farmland preservation. OCLT engaged with producers in the Towns of Fallsburg, Delaware, and Bethel to explain the process for submitting their farms for consideration in the upcoming round of New York State Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG) funding. Farmers were guided through the use of our pre-application form to begin the submission process.

OCLT conducted site visits to 8 farms that may be strong candidates for FPIG consideration. These visits included discussions about past experiences with farmland easements and explored new possibilities for participation in the program. Additionally, we provided application materials to interested landowners and offered support in completing the necessary documentation for FPIG eligibility. To find the pre-application process and to learn more about farmland preservation efforts, visit www.sullivanccce.org/agriculture

To raise public awareness, OCLT participated in a radio interview with Radio Catskill, where they discussed the County's farmland preservation efforts. The segment also introduced the concept of a Community Preservation Fund, which—if enacted—could significantly enhance the competitiveness of Sullivan County municipalities in securing State and Federal grant funding. Listen to the interview here: <https://wjffradio.org/sullivan-county-eyes-community-preservation-act-to-protect-farmland-what-you-need-to-know/>

LAND ACCESS PROGRAM:

CCE Sullivan has received funding through the Farmland for a New Generation NY Direct Support Grant from American Farmland Trust. This grant will strengthen CCE Sullivan's role as a Regional Navigator, expanding outreach, education, and

technical assistance to support farmland access and transition across the County. The funding will help connect farmers with landowners, promote conservation easements, and provide individualized support for succession planning and land tenure. We will also utilize the New York Farmland Finder website—a statewide tool that helps match farmers seeking land with landowners looking to lease, sell, or transfer farmland—to facilitate secure and productive land connections. www.NyFarmlandFinder.org

