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CCE Monroe County Agriculture Program Update
September 2025

Program Highlights

Direct Education Workshops & Outreach:

- **Conservation Field Days, Sep 18:** aimed at the 6th-grade youth, we will discuss the importance of agriculture and where our food comes from. Students from six different schools will participate in a “Local/Non-local Grown” activity to learn about the produce grown locally.
- **ROC with your hands, Oct. 7:** To showcase an aspect of our work and to inspire the students in 7 to 12th grade about agriculture. This will be a collaboration between Ag and 4-H Programs.
- **Ag Fair, Oct. 4 & 5:** Supported by COMIDA, we will promote the fall season with an apple display and promotion of the NYS apple industry.

Direct/Indirect Farmer Support through Grant-Based Projects

- **Agritourism Workshop Monthly Lunch Series:** this month's “*Pets & Food Safety on Agritourism Operations*” focused on the best practices and ADA regulations around service and pet animals for farmers while offering on-farm activities.
- **Farmland Protection Plan Update, Oct. 2** – Steering Committee Review to discuss draft and submit their comments.

Diagnostic Clinic (DC)

- **Operations** - Jarmila continues to learn and utilize her network (volunteers, IPM) to respond to the phone calls and analyze samples submitted by the community members while making sure that the analyses are being carried out promptly. She has received very positive feedback from clients.

Farmer Communication

Friday Fresh: monthly e-blast

- Biochar Basics: Turning Waste into Soil Wealth – target audience is MC community members
- Soil Health and Reduced Tillage Field Walk, organized by AFT, a farmer-focused workshop
- Guiding Resilience Virtual 5-week Workshop-For agricultural service providers to strengthen their knowledge on legal issues for farmers and ranchers
- America’s Farmers Market Celebration
- Monroe County Legislator Tour – overview and recording

Strategic Plan Update

Strategic Plan Goal(s) this strategy relates to:

1.3 Program Effectiveness: Assess current programs for pertinence, reach, sustainability, and impact (DC) - Monitoring and streamlining the DC process to build an effective and sustainable service

4.1. Leverage our relationships with current partners and identify new collaborators to address gaps

and opportunities: Discussing another garlic workshop and the sale of seed garlic with Fraser Garlic Farm

Story of Celebration or Success— Potato Medley Harvest Reports 2025

Early in the spring, the Ag Program Educator, in collaboration with Fraser Garlic Farm, hosted a “Growing Potatoes at Home” workshop for the public. During the workshop, 33 participants learned about growing potatoes. Most of them also purchased our Potato Medley – a 4-variety pack to take home to plant.

Now, at the end of the season, some of the workshop participants are proudly sharing their experience and pictures of their potato harvest with us. We congratulate all those brave Potato Medley growers!

Maureen Vorndran

Administrative Assistant, CCE Monroe



Deb Muratore

Environmental Council of Monroe County member



Emily Brincka, community member

