

**PAST WORKSHOPS****Farmer Mixer at Seminary Hill - December 11th:**

Attendees had a tour of Seminary Hill Cider with the cider maker where they learned about the history of the operation and the production methods.

**Protecting Your Legacy: Conservation****Easements for Farmers Webinar - December 3rd.**

Participants learned about how conservation easements can be tailored to protect farmland, support farm viability and preserve working landscapes for future generations.

**Municipal Strategies for Farmland Preservation Webinar - December 8th.** Participants learned about zoning tools and planning practices that support farmland preservation and agricultural viability.**Invasive Species Webinar: a 2 part series Webinar - December 9th.** Participants learned about invasive species currently threatening Sullivan County, what ecosystems they cause damage to, and how to identify and manage them.**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:****Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 103      Soil/Hay Tests: 2      Farm Visits: 1**

Technical Assistance was provided on land access, ag districts, farmland preservation, Catskills Kitchen (insurance, business structures, permitting & licensing), beginning farmer, soil tests, field crops, Business planning, poultry, soil testing, christmas trees, livestock, health and disease, whole farm planning, bulb planting, imap reporting and invasive species.

**17 total Hours of Technical Assistance.**

**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:**

**Agri-Tourism Series:** CCE Sullivan is partnering with the Sullivan Catskills Visitor's Association to offer agri-tourism training for farmers, food businesses and municipalities. As part of the first portion of the program, farmers will have the opportunity to participate in the following workshops:

- Know the Law: On Farm Risk Management & NYS Legal Requirements
- Biosecurity for Farm Experiences
- Creating Accessible Farm Experiences
- Designing the Farm Experience: Tours, Storytelling & Visitor Engagement
- Marketing Your Farm Experience

**Ag Climate Resiliency Series Lunch & Learn Webinar Series:**

- **Adapting to Changing Growing Seasons: January 5th** - Participants will learn about the different ways that you can adapt to more variable growing seasons with Brett Budde from Majestic Farm.
- **Ag Energy Efficiencies: January 12th** - Participants will learn about available funding and best options for energy upgrades.
- **Invasive Plants and Insects: January 20th** - Participants will learn about how you can plan for the impacts of invasive species due to temperature fluctuation.

## **FARMLAND PRESERVATION OVERALL REPORT FOR 2025:**

### **County-Wide Farmland Preservation Project (Report from Orange County Land Trust in partnership with CCE Sullivan)**

#### **Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG) – Candidate Identification & Vetting**

- Worked with the Sullivan County Agricultural Board to identify three farms for potential FPIG funding.
- Conducted site visits to all three farms to assess eligibility and landowner willingness to proceed with conservation easements.
- Held multiple calls with NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to clarify eligibility requirements under various award categories.
- One farm was deemed qualified, and an appraisal (funded by OCLT) was ordered.
- Continued to vet the remaining farms to determine suitability for submitting FPIG applications.
- Governor Hochul announced a new round of FPIG funding on December 20, with informational webinars scheduled for January 5 and 7; attendance planned.

#### **Farmland Preservation Outreach, Education & Municipal Engagement**

- Delivered an in-person seminar on November 13 at CCE Sullivan County covering: Conservation easements, Tax implications for farmland under easement and Estate planning for farm transition
- Conducted two December webinars addressing conservation easements plus benefits of including Sullivan County in the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act (HVCPA).
- Hosted a third webinar for municipal leaders highlighting Farm-friendly zoning techniques and HVCPA overview.

#### **Conference Presentations & Regional Coordination**

- Presented at the Upper Delaware River Coalition conference at Villa Roma on October 16 on: Farmland preservation progress in Sullivan County and HVCPA inclusion efforts.
- Engaged with attendees (30–40 participants) and Assemblymember Paula Kay regarding the HVCPA legislative process and home-rule request.
- Invited to present on HVCPA to a coalition of county conservation groups on January 10 in Monticello.

#### **Land Trust Collaboration & Program Development**

- Continued support for forming the Hudson Delaware Land Conservancy (HDLC), including the addition of a new board member representing Sullivan County.
- Met with Beaverkill Valley Land Conservancy and Sullivan County Planning regarding the Harlen Swamp protection initiative.
- Conducted community outreach to build a long-term farmland preservation program.