

CCE - Monroe County Agriculture Program Update February 2026

Program Highlights –

Direct Education Workshops & Outreach:

- **30-Hour Pesticide Applicator Training Course, Jan. 26 – Feb. 9:** the course is aimed at individuals seeking the DEC pesticide applicator license. It acts as a prerequisite for the NYD DEC exam to become a certified pesticide applicator. Over 50 landscapers, municipal personnel, golf course, and commercial property maintenance staff registered, and 20 of them took the NYS DEC in-person exam immediately after completing the training.
- **Soybean & Small Grain Congress, Feb. 11:** In support of the NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crop Team, Jarmila assisted at the registration table. Over 150 farmers gathered at the Double Tree by Hilton to learn about the latest Cornell research in soybean, wheat, and other grain crops. This was a good opportunity for her to connect directly with farmers in our county and the region.
- **Urban Ag Spring Conference, March 21:** we will be setting up a table and presenting an educational workshop to feature Diagnostic Clinic services, promote local CSA, and small-fruit growing.

Direct/Indirect Farmer Support through Grant-Based Projects

- **Urban Agriculture Community Enhancement Project:** Collaboration of SWCD, Harvest NY, and CCE Monroe, to support community garden efforts in the City of Rochester by providing funding for raised beds, fencing, irrigation, or other expenses, and to offer a workshop, free soil testing, and other technical assistance. 11 gardens filled out the survey. The following gardens were awarded the grant: Gandhi Garden, Beechwood Beauty, and St. Peter's Garden. We will connect with these garden coordinators.
- **Farmers' Market Resiliency Grant –** Funded by the NY DAM to ensure a more resilient food supply chain. Grant must be used to increase farmers' markets' resiliency by enhancing their infrastructure, online presence, marketing, and outreach efforts. Collaboration between Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, and Yates Counties.

Strategic Plan Update

Strategic Plan Goal(s) this strategy relates to:

1.3 Program Effectiveness: Assess current programs for pertinence, reach, sustainability, and impact.

Diagnostic Clinic – Capture learnings from the NY 30 Hour Pesticide Course and write an SOP for the next time.

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

- a. Growing Potato workshop and sale in collaboration with Fraser Garlic Farm
- b. Urban Agriculture Community Enhancement Project in collaboration with SWCD and Harvest NY

Story of Celebration or Success— 30-Hour Pesticide Applicator Training Course was a success!

The 30-Hr Pesticide Training Course is a DEC-regulated course, and the CCE of Monroe County is its trusted sponsor, which organizes the training for landscape professionals. Over the 6 full days of training sessions, the participants learned about important topics such as pesticide laws, mixing chemicals and instrument calibration,

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Cornell Cooperative Association in Monroe County provides equal program opportunities.

application techniques, PPE, plant pests and diseases, insect identification, and wildlife management. Over 50 landscapers, municipal personnel, golf course, and commercial property maintenance staff joined.

This was also a good opportunity for collaboration between the Agriculture and Horticulture programs. Jarmila Haseler, Ag Program Educator, and Juliana Alvarado, Horticulture Program Leader, navigated the course's complexities, including managing in-person and virtual participants, full-course enrollees, and those attending only for re-certification, and fielded many expert questions about the DEC exam. Because both were new to this training course, the experience was even more exciting!

The training concluded with the NY DEC exam. 20 participants took the exam, scheduled after the training, in person and two are scheduled for the following week. The rest plan to take the exam in their respective regions at a testing center, the DEC office, or online.



Above – 51 attended the 30 Hour Pesticide Applicator Training Course

Above - Mike Helms, Pesticide Safety Edu. Program, Cornell, covering pesticide security, including proper transportation, storage, and safety precautions issues.



Left - Karen Klingenberger, one of the dedicated MGVs, came to help during the course.