

# Cornell Cooperative Extension | Steuben County

## Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee

January 13, 2026

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

*Steuben County Annex Building, CCE Steuben Conference Room*

### MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 4:30 pm K. Callero, S. Walker, C. Susick, E. Merry, G. Longwell, S. Sammis, and K. Peterson
2. Approval of Minutes – September 2025 – K. Peterson motions to approve, and G. Longwell seconded. All approved.
3. CCE Reports/Updates – 15 **minutes**

#### S. Walker - CCE Updates

- C. Susick is willing to be the Chair of the Committee and S. Sammis will be the Vice Chair
- The following people are joining the following committees:
  - Nominating (C. Susick)
  - Finance (K. Peterson)
  - Strategic Planning (S. Sammis)
  - Personnel Committee (G. Longwell)
- Reminder to take Sexual Harassment Training as a volunteer

#### Upcoming Steuben County Dates to Remember:

- January 15 – Plant BINGO with Master Gardeners
- January 21 – Manure Applicator Training
- Late Winter – Pruning Workshop at Crooked Line Apple Orchard
- Looking for sponsorships for Ag Literacy Week (March) books
- Lots of opportunities for pesticide credits this winter – check Ag News

#### K. Callero – Team Updates Events

- Hoof Health Training in January
- Zoom Training on converting dairy barns to swine facilities
- Crop Congress in Belfast NY
- Winter Field Crops meeting in North Collins NY
- Looking to have a safety series with one event being in Steuben

#### T. McKinley – CCE Updates

- January reorganization board and PAC meetings
- Strategic planning meeting January 30

- Looking for grants for SNAP Ed and for Veggie Van program

4. Member Input & Updates – **What are Committee members seeing as needs for the community related to Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Horticulture? 20-30 Minutes**

- K. Peterson – Talked about doing a potential Agritourism Conference in our area. Would need a lot of support from various organizations including CCE. Launching on the 28<sup>th</sup> – video for Finger Lakes Farm County at the Palace Theater – S. Walker is going.
- E. Merry – Looking forward to Manure Applicator training. Milk prices are not looking good for 2026. Milk production is up. Rumors are Fair Life is opening in Webster, NY. Had a discussion about what is considered local.
- G. Longwell – Seeing disconnect between reality and education. There has been a decline in student participation in some extracurricular activities. Took a group of students to Appalachian Trail in November. Had discussion about food deserts.
- S. Sammis – Would like to do a big community garden and place that holds fresh produce for people in need as produce from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier is not always fresh.
- C. Susick – Soil & Water had a Cooperator of the Year luncheon and award. Working on some stream projects as weather allows. Have a few grants available through the state that local farms can apply for that C. Susick is helping with. Applying for projects for the next three years at this time to be due in May. Hoping to serve 35 – 40 farms with some of these grants. Soil and Water gets \$300,000 to spread across farms for grants for county AEM. Looking to do some training opportunities with CCE. C. Susick will be working part time at Alfred State on the subject of poultry production.

5. Any Other Business?

6. Future Meeting Dates:

February 10

April 14

June 9

August 11

October 13

7. Motion to Adjourn 5:38 – E. Merry motioned to adjourn, K. Peterson seconded, all approved.