

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 146 Soil/Hay Tests: 16 Farm Visits: 3

Technical Assistance was provided on land access, ag districts, farmland preservation, Catskills Kitchen (insurance, business structures, permitting & licensing), beginning farmer inquiries, soil testing, fertilizer/lime calculations, grants, whole farm planning, business management, emergency farm plans, vineyards/grape, native plants, invasive pests, tree decline, weed control, pond weed control, planting schedule, orchard care, weed control, Japanese barberry. **47 total Hours of Technical Assistance.**

PAST WORKSHOPS



High Tunnel Farm Tour at Sprouting Dreams Farm (May 12): 20 Participants toured Sprouting Dreams Farm to learn how high tunnels are used in practice. Owner Eugene Thalmann shared insights on successes, challenges, and risk management, while stops covered construction, ventilation, irrigation, crop choices, and seasonal planning, followed by a Q&A on farmer strategies.

4-H Club Gardening Workshop - May 26: 12 youth participated in an engaging gardening workshop where members learned about plants and the essential conditions they need to grow. Participants had hands-on experience sowing seeds, planting seedlings, and watering the garden.

They also explored how plants develop and discussed where our food comes from through interactive questions and activities.

Livingston Manor Library – Invasive Species of the Catskill Region Workshop (May 14) 15 participants attended a presentation focused on invasive species impacting the ecology of the Catskill region. The workshop covered both aquatic and terrestrial species, providing guidance on how to identify them and strategies for effective management and control.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

- **Livestock First Aid** – June 3, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 PM
- **Raising Pigs on Small Acreage (Veteran Farmers)** – June 6, 2026 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
- **Farm & Livestock Emergency Response (Webinar)** – June 11, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM Training on emergency response, responder coordination, and managing farm-specific incidents.
- **Connecting Farmers & Landowners: Pathways to Land Access** – June 24, 2026 | 5:30–8PM
- **Livestock Behavior & Handling Demonstration** – June 26, 2026 | 6:00 - 7:30PM
- **Emergency & Fire Preparedness for Farms (Webinar)** – July 8, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM
- **Building a Farm Emergency Response Plan** – July 14, 2026 | CCE Sullivan

REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS HERE: [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Events](#)

FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

Number of Municipal 239 Review's: 3

Ag Assessment Technical Assistance: 6

Ag District Technical Assistance: 9

2026 Ag District 30 Day Window: CCE staff and the County Ag Board reviewed the Ag Districts applications and conducted site visits. A report has been created for the legislature with their recommendations. A public hearing is proposed for July.

County-Wide Farmland Preservation Project (and Report from OCLT): Legislation to include Sullivan County in the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act (HVCPA) has passed both houses, and we are currently awaiting the Governor's signature. Outreach also continued with local partners, including planning a May webinar with Catskill Mountainkeeper to support implementation. OCLT also established the Hudson Delaware Land Conservancy, forming a governing board and holding its first meeting to support long-term farmland preservation efforts.

CATSKILLS KITCHEN:

During this reporting period, technical assistance was provided for 7 inquiries related to use of the Catskills Kitchen. Support included guidance on product development (such as salsa, cookies, and teas), as well as navigating licensing, permitting, labeling, and FDA requirements.

The kitchen currently has 12 approved users producing a variety of products, including kettle corn, pizza, coffee, packaged and herbal teas, BBQ sauce, pesto, and spice rubs. The facility also supports catering operations and serves as a commissary kitchen for hot dog and coffee carts.



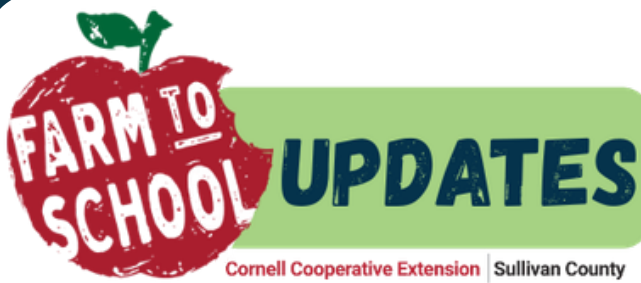
UPCOMING MUNICIPAL TRAINING: Farm-Friendly Communities: Zoning Tools to Support Agritourism – June 17, 2026 | 5:30 - 7:30PM

Farm Friendly Communities:
ZONING TOOLS TO SUPPORT AGRI-TOURISM

AGRICULTURE
SULLIVAN CATSKILLS

This event is designed to empower municipal officials with the tools needed to enhance agri-tourism in their community through farm-friendly land use and zoning practices.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County



MAY

Newsletter

HARVEST OF THE MONTH: SPRING GREENS & SNAP PEAS



HIGHLIGHTS



- Local produce to be used for June 17th taste test at Sullivan BOCES
- Benefits of school gardens
- CCE Sullivan & Sullivan 180 join forces to facilitate garden visits with Kindergarten and 3rd graders at Liberty Elementary School

CAFETERIA

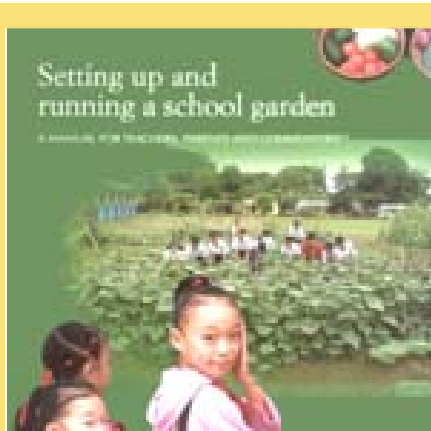
Harvest of the Month Recipes to Try:

[Veggie-Rich Ramen Noodle Bowl](#)

[Berry Chicken Salad](#)

CCE Sullivan is teaming up with Sullivan BOCES for a local food taste test this June - stay tuned to find out how it goes!

June's news-
letter will be
the last
edition for
the 2025-
2026 school
year.



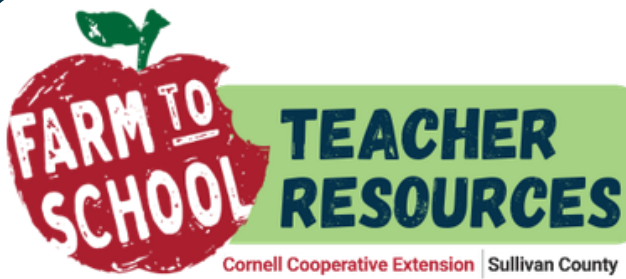
*A wealth of resources are
linked at right!*

COMMUNITY

*School gardens can grow food,
flowers, and friendship*

School gardens can serve as learning labs, production gardens to help supply school cafeterias, and/or informal settings for folks young and old to exchange ideas and practice accountability while getting to know their neighbors.

Are you interested in starting or growing a school garden project? Check out this comprehensive guide to [Setting up and Running a School Garden](#) from the Food and Agriculture Organization.



MAY

Newsletter

IN THE CLASSROOM

Joy visited Kindergarten & 3rd graders in their classrooms in early May to share virtual garden tours, and hands-on planting and tasting experiences at Liberty Elementary School. Later in the month, Eva Bednar from Sullivan 180, Alan Carroll and Katie Gasior joined in to facilitate activities in the garden lessons with both grades. Students loved being in the garden and digging in the dirt!

As summer approaches...

Are there books or other resources that you would like to have in your classroom to use with students year after year to help build agriculture and gardening into your lesson plans? I recommend [Ag Classroom Store](#) and [Kids Gardening Store](#) for all your ag-related curriculum planning needs.

CCE Sullivan is looking for ways to support sustainable connections to agriculture in Sullivan County schools and may be able to help provide materials. Please reach out to me if you'd like to learn more about how CCE can support your in-classroom goals.



Kindergarteners try a taste of leafy greens!



Alan and Eva introduce basic gardening principles to 3rd graders

UPCOMING EVENTS



All of June: Berries are the Harvest of the Month!



June 5th: Farm to School Day at Rockland Elementary

August 19th: 3rd Annual Sullivan County Food Service Staff Conference

August 20th: Chef Ann Community Event

Questions? Email Joy at jl362@cornell.edu