

Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee

April 14, 2026

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Steuben County Annex Building, CCE Conference Room

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order – 4:32 pm – Present C. Susick, K. Peterson, G. Longwell, C. Comstock D. Massaro, S. Walker, and T. McKinley
2. Approval of Minutes – February 2026 – K. Peterson moved to approve and C. Comstock seconded. All approved.
3. CCE Reports/Updates – 15 minutes

Susan – Ag/NR/MGVP Updates

- Grafting classes were very popular; we ended up holding 2.
- Beginning stages of preparing and building the Canisteo Community Garden.
- Working with Explore Steuben to plan a County wide Agritourism event for 2027 – farmers' market and conference/luncheon).
- Indoor Mushroom Cultivation was cancelled due to low registration. Undecided on rescheduling at present.
- Composting events are postponed until May – TBD
- Rain Barrel and Water Conservation Workshop – May TBD
- Aug 11 meeting will be canceled due to a schedule conflict. We will target June 9 and October 13; we must have at least 1 of these.
- Pasture Walk in June
- Susan presented on Katie's updates
 - Doing weather installations
 - Moving Milk Quality Forward Lunch and Learn – April 14, 2026
 - Dairy of Distinction applications are out now for dairy farmers to apply
 - Virtual Fecal Out Count Trainings – April 23
 - Women in Ag Legislative Breakfast – April 24
 - Webinar on Starting a Farm Stand – May 12

Upcoming Steuben County Dates to Remember:

April 23rd: Volunteer Recognition Night

Tess – CCE Updates

- SNAP Ed
 - Veggie Van – happening in 2026 with three farmers. Will continue even if SNAP Ed ends.
 - Creating Healthy Schools and Communities – waiting on grant notification as SNAP Ed will be ending in September 2026.
- Youth Development
 - AITC going well – AG Lit Week – C. Susick read.
 - 4-H doing various classes including Tractor Safety

Katie Callero – Team Updates and 2026 Events Planned

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

- Explore Steuben will be at a tourism conference next week and K. Peterson is presenting at it. Communications Director is retiring but have hired a new person to take over. Finger Lakes Farm County campaign rolls out next week. There is a new tourism magazine for Steuben County that Explore Steuben created. There are SPARC groups working on various projects through Steuben County – including signage in Steuben County to welcome people to various places. Also doing a watershed conservation project to treat river as a recreation resource. Soil and Water offered support and G. Longwell would love to have his high school students involved. Also launching a regional social marketing program for www.paddle607.com.
- Black Sheep Distillery in Prattsburgh is working on recovering from flooding from a recent storm as well as the onion farm close by. C. Susick mentioned that NYCAM would be willing to do the safety course for any population related to tractor safety. There is a digital course but they will do in person ones. Maybe we could do a farm safety campaign digitally and then do a farm safety event when staff have more time.
- C. Comstock asked about timing for mushroom cultivation workshops. S. Walker will be rescheduling. Discussed having webinars or recording these workshops. K. Peterson offered for CCE to check out their Explore Steuben equipment for recording.
- G. Longwell shared that he is taking students on an adventure based learning to Old Forge later this school year. Also taking students on hikes in the summer for earth science on Fridays. Grants are used to pay for most of this. G. Longwell will likely be doing a third year at Pro Action doing some adventure based learning.
- C. Susick shared that Soil and Water is handling some flood events in the northern part of Steuben County so they are trying to help landships and townships with the flood damage. There are some agricultural grants available

and some that are coming up. Working on some silvopasture grant as well. Tree sale is this week at Soil and Water as well.

- C. Susick also presented on Alfred State poultry class. There is a showmanship class at Alfred State this Saturday (April 18) that is open to the public. The students will be doing showmanship for the public. There is a trapping camp October 9-12 – you get a trappers certificate after the Pat Arnold Trapping Camp. The contact information for the camp is 315-591-0581.

5. Any Other Business?

6. Future Meeting Dates:

2026 Meeting Dates: ~~Jan 13, Feb 10, April 14, June 9, Aug 11~~ - canceled due to schedule conflict, Oct 13

Meetings are 4:30-5:30 pm in the CCE Steuben Conference Room within our own office space (20 East Morris Street Bath 2nd Floor). This conference room location is a change from the past and will now be within our private office space so please enter through the CCE Office Door instead of heading to the County Conference rooms as usual!

We are required to have at least **4 meetings** (with quorum) each year.

7. Motion to Adjourn at 5:35 by G. Longwell and seconded K. Peterson . All approved.