

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 153 Soil/Hay Tests: 30 Farm Visits: 5

Technical Assistance was provided on land access, ag districts, farmland preservation, Catskills Kitchen (insurance, business structures, permitting & licensing), beginning farmer inquiries, soil tests, soil health, funding opportunities, fertilizer/lime calculations and decisions, cover crops, field prep, pasture renovations, frost/freeze injuries, orchards, native plants, invasive pests, tree decline, weed control, pond weed control, planting schedule, orchard care, permaculture . **41 total Hours of Technical Assistance.**

PAST WORKSHOPS

FAMACHA Workshop - April 16th. 10 participants learned how to use the FAMACHA system to identify anemia in sheep and goats and make informed deworming decisions. FAMACHA is a management tool that allows producers to selectively treat sheep and goats by identifying animals showing signs of anemia.

Fields to Forks Conference - April 21. The event, held in partnership with the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, drew 46 attendees and featured a half-day program of workshops and networking between farmers, chefs, and hospitality professionals. Programming was organized into two concurrent tracks: one focused on wholesale readiness, and the other on sourcing logistics and menu development. The day concluded with a shared networking lunch highlighting locally sourced ingredients.

Farmer Mixer & Tour at Catskill Mountain Sugarhouse - April 27. 16 attendees. An event featuring a tour and overview of the maple sugaring process. The event provided local farmers with an opportunity to network, share experiences, and build connections within the ag community.

Tree Ailments Webinar - April 29. 4 participants. Attendees viewed a PowerPoint presentation covering foundational topics including tree biology and identification, pest identification and management, and best practices for tree care and pruning. The webinar was recorded and subsequently uploaded to the CCE Sullivan YouTube channel to extend access to the material beyond the live session.

Invasive Species Outreach Tabling Event: On April 22, CCE Sullivan participated in an invasive species outreach tabling event at SUNY Sullivan's Earth Day program, engaging approximately 100 participants. A brief presentation and resource sharing focused on invasive species identification, management strategies, and environmental risks.



APRIL 2026 AG REPORT (con't)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

- **High Tunnel Farm Tour & Networking Event** – *May 12, 2026* | Sprouting Dreams Farm, Liberty: On-farm tour highlighting high tunnel use to reduce risk and extend the growing season, followed by farmer networking.
- **Invasive Species Workshop** – *May 14, 2026* | Livingston Manor Library: In-person workshop on invasive species identification, prevention, management, and ecological resilience in Sullivan County.
- **Livestock & Pet Disaster Preparedness (Webinar)** – *May 28, 2026* | 6:00–7:30 PM Emergency planning for farms and households, including livestock evacuation, pet preparedness, and communication planning.
- **Livestock First Aid** – *June 3, 2026* | 6:00–8:00 PM | Brook Edge Farm: Hands-on training on livestock triage, wound care, shock, and first aid kit preparation.
- **Raising Pigs on Small Acreage (Veteran Farmers)** – *June 6, 2026* | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM | All Family Farm: Hands-on workshop covering sustainable swine production, housing, feeding, health, and small-acreage management.
- **Farm & Livestock Emergency Response (Webinar)** – *June 11, 2026* | 6:00–7:30 PM Training on emergency response, responder coordination, and managing farm-specific incidents.
- **Farm-Friendly Communities: Zoning Tools to Support Agritourism** – *June 17, 2026* | Arnold House, Livingston Manor: Workshop for municipal officials and community leaders on zoning tools and NYS guidelines to support agritourism.
- **Connecting Farmers & Landowners: Pathways to Land Access** – *June 24, 2026* | Winterton Farms: Panel discussion and networking event focused on land leasing, land access strategies, and farmer–landowner partnerships.
- **Livestock Behavior & Handling Demonstration** – *June 26, 2026* | Stone Wall Farms: Demonstration on low-stress handling, animal behavior, and injury prevention.
- **Emergency & Fire Preparedness for Farms (Webinar)** – *July 8, 2026* | 6:00–7:30 PM Strategies for reducing fire risk and improving farm emergency readiness.
- **Building a Farm Emergency Response Plan** – *July 14, 2026* | CCE Sullivan: In-person workshop guiding farmers through creating farm-specific emergency response plans.



BEGINNER FARMER PROGRAM:

The Beginner Farmer Program concluded this month, graduating 11 beginner farmers. Participants engaged in mentorship, workshops, technical assistance, and networking focused on production, business planning, land access, and market development, strengthening skills and community connections for long-term farm viability.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

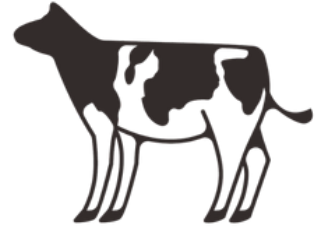
Farmland preservation efforts in April focused on agricultural district enrollment and conservation easement development. A 30-day application window was held during the month of April, resulting in two agricultural district applications; staff are currently conducting site visits, with applications to be reviewed by the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and forwarded to the Legislature for consideration at its June meeting. Work also continued on the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG) projects in partnership with the Orange County Land Trust, including application preparation, mapping, eligibility verification, and AEM coordination.

HARVEST OF THE MONTH: DAIRY

HIGHLIGHTS



- Healthy recipes for your school's food-service team
- Healthy Meals Incentives Initiatives offer innovative ideas for getting students involved in agriculture
- Dairy lessons in 4 Sullivan County districts



CAFETERIA

Harvest of the Month Recipes to Try

- [Breakfast Egg Rolls](#)
- [Broccoli Mac and Cheese](#)
- [Kale Citrus Salad](#)



*Broccoli Mac and Cheese ft.
dairy, whole grains, AND veggies!*

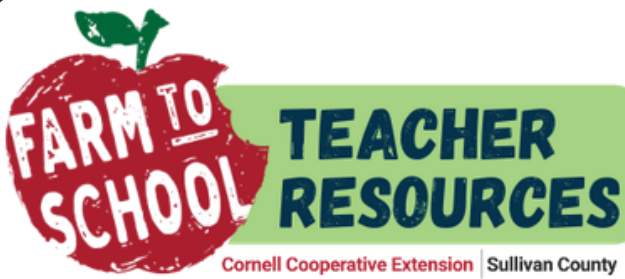
COMMUNITY

Find New Ways to Offer Local Vegetables!

Check out this video from the [Cafeteria Chronicles](#) about procuring local food.

School gardens can thrive year-round—even in cold climates. In Green Bay, Wisconsin, the Ashwaubenon School District uses hydroponic growing towers to produce about 300 pounds of lettuce every eight weeks, providing fresh greens for students while engaging them directly in food production and agricultural learning.

Source: [USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#)



APRIL

Newsletter

IN THE CLASSROOM

In April, CCE Sullivan visited 34 students at Sullivan BOCES, 24 students at Liberty Boys & Girls Club, and Fallsburg JSHS's after-school Cooking Club to share the cheesemaking process using local milk from Tonjes Farm. We also made herb butter with Ms. Diehl's 2nd grade class at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School and ice cream with Mrs. Ryan's Kindergarten class at Rockland Elementary School.



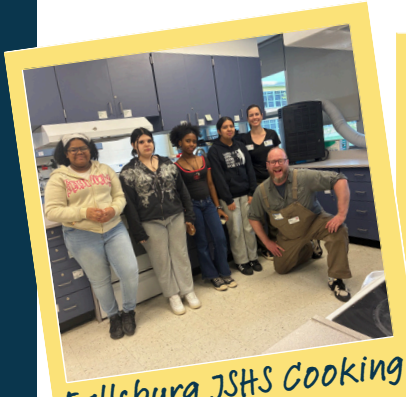
Mrs. Ryan's Kindergarten class makes ice cream!



Sullivan BOCES students say cheese!



Tonjes Farm Dairy samples



Fallsburg JSHS Cooking Club



Sullivan BOCES upper elementary students say cheese

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



May Harvest of the Month:
Spring greens/Snap peas



Contact Joy Leon, Nutrition & Physical Activity Educator, to book an ag in the classroom activity session. Email jll362@cornell.edu

