

Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee

June 9, 2026

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Steuben County Annex Building, CCE Conference Room

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order – 4:37 pm – Present C. Susick, K. Peterson, C. Comstock, E. Merry, S. Sammis, K. Callero, S. Walker, and T. McKinley
2. Approval of Minutes – April 2026 – E. Merry moved to approve and K. Peterson seconded. All approved.
3. CCE Reports/Updates – 15 minutes

S. Walker – Ag/NR/MGVP Updates

- Canisteo Community Garden
 - NYS Ag and Markets grant
 - Two pantries getting produce from garden
 - Two classes did plant starts for garden
 - Susan has been working a lot to get the garden started
- Indoor Mushroom Cultivation – September 23 at Civil Defense
- Rain Barrel and Water Conservation Workshop – July 9 in Atlanta
- Had three public Growing Dahlia workshops with J. Slayton
- Plan to meet in October with this committee – no August Meeting

K. Callero - SWNYDLFC

- Dairy Rotational Grazing – Heaven Scent Dairy July 1
- Soil Health Day in Cattaraugus County
- Dairy Apprenticeship Program
- AI Training at Lismore Dairy – already happened with 17 attendees
- Farm Business position will be posted soon
- Part of a board for saving animals when there are natural disasters (CART)

T. McKinley – CCE Updates

- SNAP Ed
 - Veggie Van – happening in 2026 with three farmers. Will continue even if SNAP Ed ends.
 - Nutrition Education ending September 30

-
- Youth Development
 - AITC going well – Four field trips over these last two weeks Two at Smith Stock Farm, one at GST BOCES and one at Empire
 - 4-H doing various classes including Tractor Safety
- Coordinated Ag Business Roundtable in May on behalf of the AIP Committee of the Steuben County Legislature with Mike Hanna.

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

- S. Sammis – Master Gardeners are making great progress! S. Sammis helped start a garden Carder Elementary. S. Sammis has helped start gardens at Erwin Valley Elementary as well. Need to find someone to provide nutrition education with produce once SNAP Ed is gone. T. McKinley is working on a pumpkin smash with B. Lavery on this.
- Explore Steuben – K. Peterson - did a Ribbon Cutting Event for a “Paddle the 607” project and is giving a custom wrapped kayak to go with it. Finger Lakes Farm Country has gained a lot of traction and have gotten a lot of website hits. FLFC covers 5 counties and builds out campaigns to get more people to visit farms around agriculture. Helping communities with economic development funds that have been received (Bath and Watkins Glen). Tourism is fairly flat right now. State passed legislation within the last few years that short term rentals must be registered and pay taxes.
- C. Comstock started a nonprofit in November 2025 called Ribbons and Routes. The nonprofit is to help people with cancer treatment and to help families affected by cancer. Doing a car show June 19th to help raise more money for Ribbons and Routes. Built a rebar ribbon 5 by 7 foot that is now placed in Texas on Route 66 that now has over 1,000 locks in memory of cancer victims. Moving forward with the farm.
- E. Merry talked about Lismore Dairy. Been a wet spring but now everything is drying out. Fertilizer prices are up, oil prices are up. Milk prices are not great but are not terrible. Some of Lismore milk is going into Campbell and Arkport. Lismore is in a new coop. Working with Upstate Coop. New York is growing 1-3 percent a year in milk production. Cuba Cheese built a new larger plant in Franklinville, Fair Life built a plant in Rome and Chobani also is building a plant in NY. NYS is fourth largest Dairy state. Has saved money with new machinery. Offered to host a meeting at the dairy.
- C. Susick is working on grants and contracts for various projects in Steuben County through Soil and Water. Climate Resilient Farming grant is now being pushed further into the year because of NYS funding being pushed out. The state is very behind. There is still funding for most grants though. Still behind on

flood cleanout. Trying to get projects and planning done to help as many people as possible. Have a summer intern and new staff. Ash trees that are dying and falling in the creek – C. Susick recommended getting a TRP permit to clean up. If you want to do any stream disturbance in various streams – then may need a permit based on mussels in certain streams.

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 5:43 by E. Merry and seconded by K. Peterson . All approved.