

Mentorship Requirements & Schedule

Mentorship Time Frame: December 2026 – December 2027

Mentor-Mentee Pairing Networking Event @ CCE Sullivan:

Monday 12/14/26. Snow Date: Wednesday 12/16/26

Mentorship Cohort Meet Ups:

Cohorts are an opportunity for the Mentees to meet as a group with CCE Sullivan and sometimes mentors to discuss current needs around specific topic areas. **Mentees are required to attend all 5.**

- Cohort Meet Up #1: Kick Off Meeting: (Tentatively In-Person) – Wed. 1/13 at 6pm
- Cohort Meet Up #2: Climate Farm Planning (Via Zoom) – Tues. 2/9/27 (6:30 – 8pm)
- Cohort Meet Up #3: Marketing (Direct & Wholesale) (Via Zoom) – Wed. 3/10 (6:30 – 8pm)
- Cohort Meet Up #4: Marketing (Direct & Wholesale) (Via Zoom) – Monday 4/12 (6:30 – 8pm)
- Cohort Meet Up #5: End of Season Discussion (In-Person) – Wed. 11/30 @ 6:30pm

Farmer Mixers:

Farmer Mixers are networking events that bring together mentees, mentors, beginning and aspiring farmers, and the broader farming community. Held throughout Sullivan County, many mixers include a tour of the host farm or agricultural business. Mixers are offered nearly every month, and mentees are **required to attend 5 mixers** of their choice plus the End-of-Mentorship Celebration in December. The End-of-Mentorship Celebration date is chosen based off all mentees availability.

One-on-One Mentoring:

Mentees are required to meet with their mentor for a minimum of 50 hours over the course of 1 year, or we recommend at least 4-5 hours each month to stay on track. The mentoring schedule and topics are determined between the mentee and mentor.

Educational Workshops & Food Safety Training

- **Educational Workshops:** Mentees are required to complete a minimum of 15 hours of educational workshops and trainings based on their Learning Plan, developed with their mentor and CCE Sullivan. Workshops may be offered through CCE Sullivan or other approved providers.
- **Farm Food Safety:** Mentees are also expected to implement appropriate farm food safety practices for their operation. The mentorship program will cover the costs of approved food safety training and related educational resources.
- **Farm Business Training Webinars:** Mentees are required to attend the 3 part farm business training webinar series. Participation opens up one on one consulting on business and marketing plan development with consultants through the Hudson Valley Ag Development Corporation. (Webinar Dates: Wed. 10/27, Wed 11/3, Wed 11/10 starting at 6pm)

Meetings, Farm Visits & Technical Assistance

Mentees will work closely with CCE Sullivan staff throughout the program and will receive individualized technical assistance and on-farm support. Meeting dates will be scheduled collaboratively between the mentee, mentor, and CCE Sullivan staff.

4 Required Meetings:

- Kick-Off Meeting with CCE Sullivan, mentee, and mentor (January) [In-Person]
- Mentee Check-In with CCE Sullivan (March) [Via Zoom]
- On-Farm Check-In with CCE Sullivan, mentee, and mentor at the mentee's farm (April)
- Program Check-In with CCE Sullivan, mentee, and mentor (October) [Via Zoom]

In addition to the required meetings, mentees may request additional farm visits and technical assistance from CCE Sullivan staff as needed throughout the program.

We understand that life happens and that applicants may have existing personal, family, work, or farm commitments that conflict with some program dates or requirements. Such conflicts will not automatically disqualify you from participation in the program. If you anticipate any scheduling conflicts, please communicate them with CCE Sullivan staff as early as possible so that we can discuss potential accommodations and support your successful participation in the program.