SEPTEMBER 2026 AG REPORT

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 156 **Farm Visits: 4** **Soil Tests: 6**
Technical Assistance was provided on soil testing, processing, ag assessment and districts, field crops, winter farm planning, garlic production, farmland preservation, kitchen licensing, insurance, high tunnels, starting a farm, growing garlic, pest ID, weed ID, perennial selection, tree assessment, bee swarms, native moths/butterflies, Japanese barberry removal, Japanese stiltgrass removal, autumn olive removal, Asian jumping worm removal. **32 total Hours of Technical Assistance.**

PAST WORKSHOPS

Planning for Climate Resiliency on Farms - (Sept. 1): 24 registrants. Participants learned to assess key farm landscape features, including slope, water flow, and wind patterns, and use these characteristics to improve farm planning and climate resilience. Presented by Kitty O'Neil, PhD, CCA, Statewide Ag Climate Resiliency Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest NY.

Aquatic Invasive Species Webinar - (Sept. 25): 5 registrants. PowerPoint webinar presented with images and videos to identify aquatic invasives in NYS. We talked about the damage to aquatic ecosystems, including native plants and fish, and methods of management.

Hurleyville Rail Trail Invasive Species Walking Tour - (Sept 15): Attendees walked along the path pointing out each invasive we found growing, and talked about identifying characteristics, how each plant/pest spreads and ways to remove.

Poultry Processing Roadshow - (Sept 22): 17 participants. Farmers attended the Sullivan stop of this statewide roadshow, gaining hands-on experience processing poultry from start to finish while building skills to increase confidence, reduce costs, and strengthen farm independence.

Mastwood Farm Tour: Managing Water, Soil, and Slope - (Sept 29): 24 participants. Attendees learned about grant-funded climate resiliency improvements, including a stormwater pond, expanded tree crop plantings, and specialized slope-mowing equipment. Participants toured these systems and learned about tree crop production practices. Hosted in partnership with CCE Ulster

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- **Farmer Mixer at Majestic Farm** *October 21, 2026* | 5:00 - 7:00pm
- **Contour Swale & Rain Garden Workshop for Small Farms & Residential** October 27*, 2026* | 4:00 - 5:30pm
- **Fall Bulb Planting at the CCE Sullivan Teaching Garden** *October 28, 2026* | 5:00 - 6:00pm
- **Integrated Pest Managment for the Small Farm (Farm Tour)** October 29, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:00pm | 4:00 - 6:00pm



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

The Orange County Land Trust (OCLT) in partnership with CCE Sullivan focused on advancing farmland preservation efforts in Sullivan County through the NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG) program.

Key activities included:

- Reviewing and evaluating 8 farms that responded to a farmland preservation funding opportunity, including the development of site plans and soil mapping in coordination with local partners.
- Consulting with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to identify the most competitive funding categories for potential grant applications.
- Conducting site visits to assess farm eligibility and landowner interest in participating in the agricultural conservation easement process.
- Presenting all potential applicants to the Sullivan County Ag Board and obtaining guidance on which projects to advance for the current funding cycle.
- Beginning preparation of a farmland protection grant application and initiating the required appraisal process.
- Supporting efforts related to expanding farmland preservation funding opportunities through inclusion in the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act.
- Participating in community outreach efforts to raise awareness of farmland preservation initiatives and collaborating on the development of a promotional video highlighting this work.

BEGINNER FARMER PROGRAM:

Applications opened on October 6, 2026 for the 2027 Beginner Farmer Mentorship Program, a farmer-to-farmer learning opportunity. Recruitment and outreach efforts focused on promoting the program to aspiring and beginning farmers across the Catskills Mid-Hudson region, with priority given to Sullivan County applicants.

The program will support 20 mentees through one-on-one mentorship, educational workshops, networking events, and farm business training. Participants accepted into the cohort will receive a $10,000 stipend during the 12-month program. Applications remain open through November 3, 2026, with the cohort beginning in December.

A separate Beginner Farmer Mentorship Program for Veteran Farmers will be announced in 2027.

