

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Farm & Food Business Planning Series returns for two – 6-part series starting in winter of 2023. This series is for new or beginning farmers and food businesses looking to expand, and/or create a business plan and marketing fund. Attendees will be required to fill out an application since space is limited. Attendees that complete the training series and develop a business plan will be eligible to apply for the County loan program.

Agricultural Training Series for Municipal Officials: Agricultural Districts vs Agricultural Assessments: Wednesday, February 15th @ 6pm at Mamakating Town Hall. Municipal officials will hear from NYS Dept. Of Ag & Markets and CCE staff about what agricultural assessments and agricultural districts are and how they apply to the local municipality and ag community. Municipal officials will receive 1.5 hrs of training credits.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Farm Visits: 2 Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 51 Soil Tests: 5

Agritourism, FSMA, Business and Marketing Plans, Sales Channels, beginning farmer, livestock pricing, poultry production, plant pests, disease and ID, value added dairy, whole farm planning, farmers markets, Farm to School, ag assessment, financial planning, soil tests, agricultural districts, Dry and Cold Storage, Grant and Funding sources, livestock feed efficiency and agricultural energy resources.

Horticulture Program: Technical Assistance was provided to 10 individuals. Topics consisted of tree and orchard care, information on arborists to help with fruit tree maintenance and winterizing gardens.

Catskills Kitchen Program: We currently have 7 renters using the kitchen. We have provided assistance on setting up a commissary license, labeling, packaging, testing, Ag & Markets and Dept of Health permitting and how to start a food business incubator program. We have recently developed a relationship with Growing Soul, a non-profit that takes extra products from farms and processes them into prepared food. They are currently making bone broth for our Community Cupboard program.

PROJECTS

Local Food Promotion Project: As part of this USDA funded project, staff are working on a number of different items to support our local food system.

- **Food Security Network:** CCE is working with our partners to strengthen the food security system in Sullivan County. This has entailed data collection, surveys, future mapping, focusing on the necessary infrastructure, procurement of local farm products, coordination of food donations and food waste and the development of a networking and discussion event this spring.
- **Farm to School:** Staff, through the CCE regional Farm to School program, continue to support schools that have implemented a farm to school program by providing assistance on procurement and state reimbursements.

CATSKILLS FARM FOOD SAFETY PROJECT SUMMARY

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County (CCESC) was awarded a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to develop a food safety program for farms located in Sullivan and Delaware Counties, NY and Wayne County, PA. The Catskills Food Safety Outreach Project will help to provide farm food safety outreach and education for vegetable and fruit farms through educational workshops, farm visits, access to consultants and one-on-one assistance. The program will target farms that need to come into compliance with the Produce Safety Rule under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and even farms that may be exempt from the rule, but their local markets are requiring a farm food safety plan, or farms who would like to learn more about farm food safety in general.

The Catskills Food Safety Outreach Project will expand existing Farm Food Safety educational and outreach efforts at CCE by working with our partners and fruit and vegetable producers to provide technical assistance and farm visits to assess each farms understanding of the Produce Safety Rule and their plans to adapt, help farms with recordkeeping compliance and help farms complete their farm food safety plan. The program will also offer workshops on topics such as FSMA compliance on your farm, Farm Food Safety Plan writing, Farmworker Training hygiene training, wholesale and recordkeeping and Farm Composting methods for FSMA compliance.

Not only will the program provide workshops and one on one support, but the program will help farms participate in the NYS Grown and Certified program, which can help them access funding for their farm through NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets under their New York State Grown & Certified Agricultural Producers Food Safety Grant. We also want to highlight that we have funding available to provide consulting to farms to prepare for a third-party Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit, which will help the farm become GAP certified.

The Produce Safety Rule, outlined in the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and signed into law, establishes science-based minimum standards for safe production and harvesting of fresh fruits and vegetables. These standards are based on a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and cover the following: Worker health, hygiene, and training, Agricultural water, both for production and post-harvest uses, Biological soil amendments (e.g., compost, manure), Domesticated and wild animals, Equipment, tools, buildings, and sanitation and Production of sprouts. The FSMA Produce Safety rule has already come into effect on January 27, 2020. All size farms who gross \$25,000 annually or more in covered produce sales are required to become compliant with the law.

If you are interested in working with CCE Sullivan to get FSMA compliance, assistance with GAP certification, develop a FSMA plan or learn more about farm food safety, please contact the CCE Sullivan office at 845-292-6180 or by email, please reach out to, Michelle Proscia at mml249@cornell.edu. For more information on the Food Safety Modernization Act, please visit our website at <http://sullivancce.org/agriculture/farm-food-safety>. This project is supported by USDA, NIFA award #2022-70020-37567.

Agricultural Training Series for Municipal Officials, CEOs, and Realtors Part One: Agricultural Districts vs Agricultural Assessments—What are they?

Wednesday, February 15th, 2023

6 PM - 7:30 PM

Town of Mamakating Town Hall

**Stay tuned for more information about upcoming workshops:
Part 2: Agricultural Zoning and Farmland Preservation Techniques
Part 3: Farm Visits for Municipal Officials**

Come learn about NYS Agriculture and Markets Law and what it means for the work of municipal officials, code enforcement officer and realtors. Topics covered will include ag districts and municipal zoning, ag assessments, right to farm laws, ag data statements including the 239 review process, ag disclosure notices, and more.

Planning and Zoning Board members are eligible for 1.5 NYS training credits (if approved by their municipality). Refreshments will be provided.

Registration is required in advance. Available spots limited!

sullivan@cornell.edu 845-292-6180

Co-sponsored by CCE, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development and Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Contact the office to request accommodations.**

