

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 159 Soil/Hay Tests: 10 Farm Visits: 1

Technical Assistance was provided on invasive species management, soil testing, ag assessment, ag districts, ag zoning, farmland preservation, farm funding, farm food safety, starting a farm, livestock production, vegetable production, access to wholesale markets, connections to farmers markets, business planning, poultry, recordkeeping, field crops, farm to school, land access, starting a food business, value added products and marketing.

- 40 Hours of Technical Assistance.
- 34 farmers understanding federal USDA, NYS, and local assistance opportunities.
- 27 One-on-One Meetings with Farmers.

PAST WORKSHOPS

Raising Laying Hens for Eggs: Is it all it's cracked up to be? (Tuesday March 11th, 6:30pm – 7:30pm): 350 Registered. This virtual program explored local regulations for chicken ownership, expectations for your flock, and raising layers from chicks to egg-laying adults. Additionally, this workshop explained the costs of owning a laying flock as well as the best practices and regulations for selling eggs.

Avian Disease and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – The Latest Updates and What it Means for Poultry Health (Tuesday, March 18th, 6:30pm – 8:00pm): 400 Registered.

This virtual program welcomed Dr. Jarra Jagne of Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Chad Wall of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets who spoke about avian disease, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Topics covered included updates on the HPAI outbreak, the symptoms of HPAI, and common small flock diseases. Additionally, this workshop discussed HPAI disease look-alikes and the ins and outs of keeping your birds safe.

Land Access for Landowners and Farmers Webinar (Tuesday, March 25th 6:00-8:00pm): 41 registered, 12 attended. This program offered tools and real-world perspectives in the process of leasing and/or purchasing farmland. Michelle Proscia presented on evaluating farmland, ag assessments and ag districts. The panelists Eugene Kwak, Chris Nickell and Brenda Gonzales, and Jennifer Grossman offered valuable perspectives on navigating the process as farmers, as landowners and as legal counsel in support of the ag community.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS for April

- **Farm to School Meet & Greet: Monday, April 7th 2:00 - 4:00pm:** An opportunity for farmers, food service directors and distributors to network and learn about the logistics to sell to school markets.
- **Farm Tour & Potluck at Bobolink Farm: Tuesday, April 22nd 5:00 - 7:00pm**
- **Small Scale and Backyard Layer Chicken Workshop: Tuesday, April 29th- CCE Sullivan, 6-7:30pm:** This workshop will help you understand the commitment and risks to help set yourself up for success. You will learn: Basics of small scale layer production, incorporating biosecurity into your operation, and egg sales, cleaning, and regulations.
- **Apple Pruning Workshop and Demonstration: Wednesday, April 30th 5:30-7:30pm:** An educational workshop and demonstration on apple orchard pruning at Town of Thompson Park with Brett Budde from Majestic Orchard and Ryan Watson from Wild Russet Farm.

CATSKILLS KITCHEN FOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR PROGRAM:



Technical Assistance was provided to 9 potential users/inquiries on product labeling, licensing and regulations, the permitting process for using the kitchen, branding and insurance. We currently have 3 Users, 3 Users in the process of being onboarded and 2 seasonal users.

The Catskills Kitchen program has also been busy updating the kitchen with new equipment and supplies to make the cooking experience for efficient and user friendly.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

Number of Municipal 239 Review's: 5 (and more in the process of being reviewed)

Ag Assessment Technical Assistance: 7

Ag District Technical Assistance: 3

2025 Ag District 30 Day Window: The 30 day window to apply to be included in Ag District #1 or #4 is from April 1st - April 30th. Applications are now available and the press release has gone out.

County-Wide Farmland Preservation Project: A “kick-off” meeting for the farmland preservation project was held on March 12th at CCE Sullivan. Participants were Jim Delaune, executive director of the OCLT, Mike Sweeton, community liaison OLC, Melinda Meddaugh, CCE SC Agriculture & Food Systems Sr. Issue Leader and Heather Brown, Director of Planning for Sullivan County. The scope of work was further refined and a timeline, with benchmarks, for the deliverables was established. Planning for three municipal workshops and three farmer workshops was begun. A schedule for outreach to State, County and local officials was discussed. A draft contract is being prepared by CCE SC to be reviewed by both parties. Contact between OCLT staff and several municipalities as well as farmers in Sullivan County has already begun as word of the County's commitment to preserving Sullivan farms has spread. Towns of Bethel, Liberty and Thompson have begun a conversation as had a farmer in the Town of Delaware who wishes to preserve the farm.

SULLIVAN FRESH PROGRAM:

CCE Sullivan launched our very first Sullivan Fresh Cooking Class in March in the Catskills Teaching Kitchen, which is a separate facility than our commercial kitchen program. Hermana Catering, who is currently a user of the commercial kitchen, taught attendees how to cook using seasonal ingredients. At the end of the program, attendees sat down and had a meal together.

