

OCTOBER 2025 AG REPORT

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County

PAST WORKSHOPS

Farmer Mixer at Finca Seremos - October 6th: Attendees had a private tour of Angry Orchard where they learned about their research projects with Cornell University, toured the apple orchard and the facilities, and learned about the history of the orchard.

Wholesale Market Readiness Training- 11 attendees learned how to navigate and succeed in wholesale markets with practical strategies tailored for small and mid-sized farms. This class covered pricing, packaging, buyer relationships, logistics, and regulatory requirements.

Farm Business Series: Classes 1 & 2- 10/20, 10/27: 23 people registered and enrolled in the series. The first class, taught by Michelle Proscia and Melinda Meddaugh, covered evaluating farmland and things to consider when choosing the right land for your farm operation. The presentation also covered the difference between agricultural districts and agricultural assessments, tax exemptions, and sector regulations. The second class, taught by Rose Wilson and Jack Whettam, covered business plan essentials when starting and building your farm operation. The workshop series is part of CCE Sullivan's Farm Business Training Program. The program offers a step-by-step, hands-on approach to developing business and marketing plans for your farm business, along with providing technical assistance on licensing, permitting, value-added production, and more. In addition, the Farm Business Training Program offers participants pathways to funding and other support services to help new farm businesses get off the ground, and existing farm businesses improve and expand their operations.



Pasture Management and Pesticide Safety Webinar-10/30/2025 - Attendees earned pesticide recertification credits and provided farmers and land managers with practical strategies to improve pasture productivity. This session also covered pesticide safety, focusing on proper handling, storage, and recordkeeping to ensure compliance.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 201 Soil/Hay Tests: 5 Farm Visits: 3

Technical Assistance was provided on land access, ag districts, farmland preservation, Catskills Kitchen (insurance, business structures, permitting & licensing), soil testing, cover crop selection and planting, IPM, farm financial, starting a farm business, insurance, federal and local funding, soil sampling, composting, spotted Lanternfly, japanese stiltgrass, soil amendments, native gardens, cut-flower garden, garden pest control and garden fencing.

30 total Hours of Technical Assistance.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

Number of Municipal 239 Review's: 3

Ag Assessment, Farmland Preservation, Ag District Technical Assistance: 26

County-Wide Farmland Preservation Project (and Report from Orange County Land Trust)

- Met with landowners to discuss the conservation easement process and gather historical context to support state funding applications.
- Responded to inquiries from pre-applicants and continued vetting submissions with input from the state agriculture department.
- OCLT presented at the Upper Delaware River coalition conference on farmland preservation and efforts to include the county in the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act.
- Initiated collaboration with a regional land trust to align conservation efforts and explore joint project opportunities.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- **Passing the Torch: Farm Transfer Planning & Conservation Easements - November 13th from 5:30-7:30pm:** Get practical knowledge about how conservation easements can serve as an effective tool for estate planning, capital gains management, and long-term land protection. Understand how easements can help preserve farmland for future generations while also offering financial benefits. Through a collaboration with NY FarmNet, the program will also discuss the resources offered through NY FarmNet, such as estate and succession planning.
- **Discover the Basics of Raising Sheep & Goats - Wednesday, November 12 from 6- 7:30 PM**
- **Farmers Mixer at Rock Valley Spirits - November 17 from 5:30 - 7:30PM**
- **Protecting Your Legacy: Conservation Easements for Farmers - December 3 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM**
- **Municipal Strategies for Farmland Preservation - December 8 from 5:30 - 7:30PM**

SULLIVAN FRESH MARKET PROGRAM:

The Sullivan Fresh Market season has come to a close. For the 2025 season, we were able to offer 28 cooking classes at the market for a total of 757 participants. Throughout the summer we also offered a variety of programming for kids at the markets, including story time and seed starting.

TOTAL Farms Purchased From: 11

TOTAL Value of Farm Products Purchased: \$27,995.89

TOTAL Farmers Market Nutrition Coupons Redeemed: \$7,140

TOTAL SNAP redemptions: \$3,761.50

TOTAL Fresh Rx Produce Prescription redemptions: \$16,500

