

SEPTEMBER 2025 AG REPORT

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County

PAST WORKSHOPS

Farmer Mixer at Angry Orchard - September 8th: 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.

Home Composting & Vermiculture Workshop - September 17th: 20 attendees watched presentations by Horticulture subject educator Katie Gasior and Sullivan County recycling coordinator Kassie Thelman. Topics covered included diversion of organic matter waste to landfills and benefits & methods of home composting. Kassie talked about Sullivan County's kitchen scrap collection program. Participants also watched a demo on setting up a small vermiculture compost with red wigglers.

Soil Health & Management at Bobolink Farm - September 23rd: Participants learned how to improve the soil structure, fertility, and resilience of their farm, while also exploring different areas of Bobolink Farm with owner and operator Brenda Miller. Attendees observed soil conditions, discussed soil structure, cover cropping, composting, and reduced tillage.



Agritourism Farm Tour with Mother Earth Farmstead - September 29th: Attendees were able to get an inside look at Mother Earth Farmstead's operations, history, and approach to agriculture. Participants also learned about their direct marketing techniques such as selling at farmers markets, having a farmstand and offering a CSA, along with the process for setting up a farmstand and tips and tricks for having the public on your property.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 147

Soil/Hay Tests: 14

Farm Visits: 2

Technical Assistance was provided on land access, ag districts, farmland preservation, Catskills Kitchen (insurance, business structures, permitting & licensing), soil testing, accessing markets, Irrigation, funding, soil fertility, cover crops, fall plantings, poultry, Integrated Pest Management, spotted Lanternfly, Japanese stilt grass, soil amendments, native gardens, cut-flower garden, garden pest control, and garden fencing.

67 total Hours of Technical Assistance.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

Number of Municipal 239 Review's: 2

Ag Assessment, Farmland Preservation. Ag Zoning & Ag District Technical Assistance: 21

2025 Ag District 30 Day Window: A final report has been created and submitted to NYS Department of Ag and Markets and should be certified in October.

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

- The County Ag and Farmland Protection Board met to review and discuss (6) potential pre-applications from farmers interested in the NYS Purchase of Development Rights program. We are in the process of following up with these farmers, developing maps and discussing the logistics of the program. We continue to meet and discuss farmland preservation options for farmers in Sullivan County, 6 in total.
- Scheduled two additional municipal and farmer seminars for December.
- The resolution to include Sullivan County into the Community Preservation Act was presented and approved in September. The next step is to send the home rule to NYS. From there, we will continue to work with NYS on the home rule and local municipalities.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- **Turning Harvests into Profits: A Value Added Workshop for Farm & Food Businesses with Cornell Food Venture Center - October 1st from 3-5pm:** Hear from the Cornell Food Venture Center about regulatory requirements, food safety standards, product testing and labeling.
- **Farmer Mixer at Finca Seremos Farm - October 6th from 5-7pm**
- **Pasture Management & Pesticide Safety Webinar - October 30th from 6-8pm:** Earn pesticide recertification credits, learn about pasture productivity, pesticide safety, proper handling, storage and recordkeeping.
- **Fall Garden Bulb planting Workshop - October 22nd 4:30-5:30pm**
- **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.

BEGINNER FARMER PROGRAM:

The CCE Sullivan Beginner Farmer Mentorship program continues to operate. We had had a busy month providing education, networking and technical assistance to the mentees in the program. We currently have 11 mentees enrolled in the program, for a total of 25 mentees overall since the program started in 2024. For the fall/winter, we will continue to offer farmer mixers, training on wholesale market readiness, business planning and support for one-on-one mentorship.

