

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 274 Soil/Hay Tests: 5 Farm Visits: 4**

Technical Assistance was provided on Soil testing, farm planning, planting schedules, pruning, poultry, HPAI, FSMA, Ag districts, ag assessment, fertilizer and lime recommendations, spreading calculations, starting a farm business, farming regulations, business structures, invasive species, starting seeds, soil testing, insect identification, fungal diseases on trees. 60 total Hours of Technical Assistance.

PAST WORKSHOPS

High Tunnel Production at Sprouting Dreams – May 8th 5:30-7:30pm. 19 registered. Eugene Thalmann, owner of Sprouting Dreams Farm, toured his farm property to take a look at how he is using high tunnels on his farm. Attendees learned about construction, equipment, site selection, and tips of growing in a high tunnel.

Writing a Farm Food Safety Plan Webinar – May 22nd 1-2pm. 8 registered. This webinar taught attendees how to write a produce safety plan for their farm, helped them learn how to create standard operating procedures (SOP's) and recordkeeping strategies that will help them fulfill the reporting requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

Farmworker Health and Hygiene Training Webinar – May 27th 6-7pm. 10 registered. CCE Staff presented on the principles of food hygiene and food safety, importance of health and personal hygiene, including recognizing symptoms of a health condition that could result in direct or indirect contamination of produce and other standards in the FSMA that are relevant to the farm worker's job.

Farmers Market Panel- May 29th , 6-7:30. 13 registered. Participants heard from a panel of farmers' market vendors and farmers' market managers on how to get started, increasing sales and navigating challenges in direct-to-consumer sales. The panelists shared their experiences, challenges, and best practices related to farmers' market sales, pricing strategies, customer engagement, and market policies. Afterwards, folks had the opportunity to ask direct questions to panelists and received tailored advice.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS for June

Produce Washing and Packing Facility Tour- June 3rd from 10-12pm. Join us for a tour at Berry Brook Farm, Hamden, NY, featuring their certified organic vegetable operation. The tour will highlight the process of efficiently delivering quality vegetables to market from harvest through a demonstration of the processes utilized in their wash and pack facility.

Farmer Mixer at Little Pebble Farm - June 10th from 5-7pm. Join us at Little Pebble Farm for great conversation and community with seasoned, beginner, and aspiring farmers in our region! This is a potluck, please bring food and drinks to share.

Gardening 101 Series – Part 2 - June 11 from 6 - 7pm. Hands on gardening workshop to cover seed sowing, transplanting, starting a garden at home. Taught by Katie Gasior, Horticulture program educator.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION:

Number of Municipal 239 Review's: 2

Ag Assessment Technical Assistance: 15

Ag District Technical Assistance: 16

2025 Ag District 30 Day Window: CCE staff and the County Ag Board reviewed the Ag Districts applications and conducted site visits. A report has been created for the legislature with their recommendations.

Right to Farm Project:

CCE Sullivan recently picked up "Right to Farm" road signs that were created by the County DWP and supported through the County Planning Dept. The signs are put up in different municipalities that have Right to Farm protections written into their code. We are in the process of distributing the signs to the different municipalities throughout the town.



County-Wide Farmland Preservation Project (and Report from OCLT)

CCE and the OCLT have scheduled 3 presentations:

- **1st Municipal forum** – May 28th in Livingston Manor – Farm Friendly Zoning & Community Preservation
- **1st Farmer Forum** – June 4th at CCE SC - Farm Easements 101 & How to apply to NYS Farmland Preservation Implementation Grants
- **2nd Municipal Forum**- August 6th - Farm Friendly Zoning & Community Preservation Act

CCE and OCLT held our 1st Municipal forum in Livingston Manor at the Town Hall. 30 + attendees from across Sullivan County attended. Great discussion followed the presentation and all were grateful to the County, its

Ag Board and CCE for this effort. Follow up with one-on-one meetings were offered to further help their communities.

OCLT Deliverables:

- Fielded several farm owner inquiries regarding preserving their farms.
- Provided an "intake form" to CCE SC to be used to process farm owner preservation inquiries for review and ranking by the SC Ag Board.
- Met with Sullivan 180 representatives to look to share our mission and look for possible ways to collaborate to advance both our goals & objectives for the betterment of Sullivan County.
- Finalized several PowerPoint presentations customized to Sullivan County that will help advance our efforts to increase farmland preservation.

