

## AUGUST 2022 AG REPORT

## Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County

### PAST WORKSHOPS

**Beginner Livestock (8-part) Lunch and Learn Webinar Series, 12-1:30pm, Session 8 (August 4)**

**Livestock Auctions** - participants will learn strategies for buying or selling livestock at an auction. Including body conditioning scores, preparation for sale, and potential advantages and disadvantages.

### PAST WORKSHOPS

**Cornell Small Farms: BF 130- Intro to Poultry Production: 6-week online course, November 1st-December 6th, 6:00-7:30pm.** The course is for aspiring and beginning farmers (individuals with limited or no experience with poultry rearing) seeking to learn about poultry production and the marketing, processing, and sales of poultry and poultry products in New York State. At the completion of this course, you will: Know the basics of poultry production from field to plate, have knowledge of breed selection, production systems, flock management practices, and cost of production, identify rules and regulation for sale of poultry products to various market outlets.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

**Farm Visits: 4 Technical Assistance/Inquiries: 127**

Inquiries and technical assistance consisted of Agritourism, FSMA, Business and Marketing Plans, Sales Channels, Ag Districts, beginning farmer, livestock auctions, poultry production, plant pests, disease, and ID, vegetable production, whole farm planning, farmers markets, Farm to School, hop production, Dry and Cold Storage, Grant and Funding sources, Barn Preservation.

**Catskills Kitchen:** We currently have 6 food producers renting our commercial kitchen and 1 in the licensing phase. Inquiries consisted of better processing control school, DOH permits, NYS Ag and Markets 20c licensing, packaging, shelf stable sauces and chutneys, starting a food truck, using a commissary, and developing products such as salsa, juice mixers, bruschetta and jams.

### PROJECTS

**Agricultural Districts Program-** The annual agricultural district review has been completed and the report is being prepared to be submitted to NYS Agriculture and Markets. For 2022, over 1,000 acres was added to Agricultural District #4.

**Sullivan Catskills Farmers Markets Promotion:** For the months of September and October we are launching a campaign to highlight our farmers selling at farmers markets so that people get to know where their food comes from. There is a special section added on the website and there will be social media promotion.



**Farm to School:** After piloting a Harvest of the Month local procurement program with three school districts last school year, CCESC is moving towards assisting each School District in the ability to purchase a monthly harvest item highlighted from a New York State Farm. Staff are working with existing distribution networks, regional farm producers and the Harvest NY Farm 2 School Coordinator to secure the best quality, consistency, and pricing for Food Service Directors. This September, the Harvest of the month is Tomatoes, which are plentiful in our region this time of year and a flavorful experience for adapting student palates. October will highlight New York State Apples.

**Local Food Promotion Grant Project:** CCE staff continue to work with the Catskills Food Hub Board on the process of restructuring operations and securing funding to continue their work to provide wholesale distribution and market opportunities for Sullivan County farm and food producers. Staff are also working with partners to develop a Food Insecurity network and working group.

**Sullivan Fresh Markets:** Markets continue to operate into October. For August, we launched a Power of Produce Program for kids at the market, with support from Sullivan Renaissance. The program developed a scavenger hunt program for kids at the market. If kids participate, they receive Sullivan Fresh Bucks to spend on produce at any Sullivan Fresh market. Other farmers market throughout Sullivan County have been provided with the scavenger hunt cards to develop their own program.

