



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

July 3, 2014 AGENDA

2:00 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Gene Benson, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

Call to Order

Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
3. Ag Advisory Board Update – Legislator Gieger

Presentation: None

Discussion:

1. Energize NY/C-PACE Program – Carol Roig
2. Farmers Markets

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

CCE REPORT:

Greenhouse/High Tunnel Project- In partnership with Sullivan BOCES and Sullivan Renaissance, CCE have constructed a greenhouse at CCE. We anticipate that the High Tunnel will be constructed within 2 weeks. We will plan a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the project once the High Tunnel is up. We have developed a series of classes around high tunnels, mainly focused on commercial growers extending their seasons. We have been able to utilize Cornell State Extension specialists to teach the training series.

Dairy Processing- Currently working with the County to provide educational support for the dairy processing equipment project for both the Cheese Mobile and the RBEG project. CCE staff attended a training on dairy processing taught by an NYS Ag & Markets professional.

Training: CCE educators attended training in June to learn about mill quality grain production in the Hudson valley and how it can be supported in Sullivan County.

Programming: CCE staff have been working to develop programming for the remainder of 2014 and beginning to plan programs for 2015, such as Orchard Production, Insurance Coverage for Farmers, Beef Quality Assurance, Maple Syrup Production, Direct Marketing & Processing of Livestock, Crop Insurance, Pest Management and Funding Opportunities for Farms.

In House Assistance- Received over 50 calls and emails for assistance and information in June. Assistance included information on poultry processing, land requirements for farm animals, business planning, loans/grants and vegetable production.

Upcoming Classes

July 10th Intro to Greenhouses & High Tunnels, 530—800pm.

July 8th, 22nd and Aug. 5th Vet Science Series

August 26th Soil Health & Management for High Tunnels, 530—800pm.

Other High Tunnel Classes:

Sept 18th Business Planning & Marketing your High Tunnel Products, 500—730pm. Learn tips and tricks to market vegetables grown in a high tunnel. Also, how to begin planning for a season extension business.

Nov. 13th Winter Greens/Tomatoes For High Tunnels, 530—730pm. Vegetable Extension Specialist Jud Reid will cover topics about season extension of winter greens and growing tomatoes in a high tunnel environment



SULLIVAN COUNTY
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Ag & Sustainability Committee Update

June 25, 2014

INITIATIVE	JULY ACTIVITY/STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p>County Farmland Protection Plan Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants have gathered and put together preliminary data for SC through the surveys to the public, farmers & municipalities, 4 focus groups and existing data. • SWOT analysis has been conducted and draft property tax analysis has been created. Further review will take place at the next meeting • A draft Ag profile for SC has been conducted • 1st Draft of Goals, Vision and Table of Contents has been drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Committee meeting scheduled for July 21st to begin to review the 1st draft of the goals & strategies of the plan.
<p>Ag Districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Hearing held on June 19th • 4 properties were recommended • Public notifications went out to the newspaper, Town Supervisors & Assessors, property owners & adjacent property owners • Vote to include the parcels takes place at the July 17th Full Legislative Meeting • We need to send NYS Ag & Markets the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with SEQRA process • Legislature votes on inclusion of parcels into Ag District
<p>Dairy Processing Equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View committee convened their 1st meeting • Committee is requesting additional information from the applicant • County Planning worked with the applicant to apply for a CDBG grant for additional money for equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review committee reconvening on July 22nd. The applicant has until July 11th to answer their questions. • Committee will decide on a recommendation at the July 22nd meeting. The recommendation will be on the August 14th Planning sub-committee and the August 24th Full Legislative Board meeting
<p>Ag Revolving Loan Funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag loans being promoted to potential applicants, and meetings scheduled with three prospects. • CCE is doing a funding workshop in the fall that will promote this program along with other County, State and Federal programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate log to track inquiries and follow-up, set benchmarks • Conduct farm visits to discuss potential projects and possible funding opportunities. • Work with applicants to submit a formal

INITIATIVE	JULY ACTIVITY/STATUS	NEXT STEPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The revolving loan fund committee met in June to review the status of current projects and potential projects	application