



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

May 14, 2015 AGENDA

1:30 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. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
2. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart

Presentation: None

Discussion:

1. Sullivan County Farmers Market Promotion
2. Agricultural Districts

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

Farmland Protection Plan Update: We have formalized the Ag Task Force. So far, we have met 3 times and we have determined a timeframe for priorities. We are currently working on building staff capacity. We anticipate presenting the priorities and the overall schedule to the Legislature at the June and July meetings.

Dairy RBEG: Staff are currently in the process of working with Catskill Mountain Dairies on the terms of the different lease agreements. Once signed we can move forward with purchasing equipment. Staff also submitted the contract for Catskill Mountain Dairies for the CFA funding. We are just awaiting next steps.

Educational Programming: CCE was able to offer necessary certification classes in April and the beginning of May. In partnership with CCE Orange, we offered a 2 day Good Agricultural Practices Certification and Farm Food Safety Plan Certification. This certification is directed towards vegetable farmers. We also offered a pesticide re-certification class for farmers. We anticipate offering a second pesticide re-certification class in September. We are started our Beginner Farmers Series. The first class was Introduction to Farming, where we covered basic business set up, Agriculture Districts, Assessments, Zoning and marketing. The class was very interactive and class attendees left with a great deal of knowledge. Our next Beginner Farmer Classes are Commercial Vegetable Farming, Introduction to Poultry and Introduction to Hops (see attached flyer). We are also in the process of developing on farm workshops around High Tunnel production.

Greenhouse/High Tunnel Project: CCE is in the process of implementing the operational plan for the High Tunnel. CCE worked with BOCES to start seedlings. These plants will then be used for the High Tunnel for our educational programs and the Edible Garden. BOCES students are completing the High Tunnel this week. Sullivan Renaissance and staff are developing a pilot program to financially support commercial growers who want to incorporate High Tunnels into their farm operation.

Farm Directories: Staff are in the process of developing the second and third series for the Sullivan County Catskills Farm Directories. We are creating a Farmers' Market Directory and a Vegetable Directory.

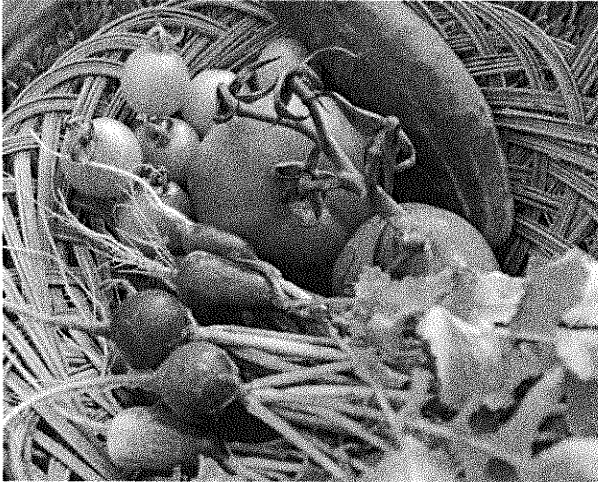
Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund: Staff are also in the process of developing outreach around the loan program in order to attract new applicants. We currently have a few potential applicants and are working on a brochure. We are going to start to conduct interviews to utilize the new brochure that will be released this summer.

In House Assistance: Assistance included information on:

- Assistance with Livestock production and processing
- Loan and grant information, specifically info on the County Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Information on Agriculture Districts & Agriculture Assessments
- Assistance with Dairy Processing Requirements & equipment
- Assistance with general Beginner Farmer information
- Provided assistance with business planning information
- Animal Health
- Assistance with Maple Production
- Information on land use resources
- Information on hops and wine production
- Soil testing
- Pesticide applications
- Vegetable Farming



Beginning Farmer Series



*Learn to start your own
farming business!*

Thursdays | 5:30-8:00 pm

April 23 Intro to Farming

May 21 Commercial Vegetables

June 25 Poultry Farming

Public: \$15 Each Class

Enrollees: \$10 Each Class *

Enrollees: \$25 Entire Series*

April 23 Introduction to Farming will focus on the basic rules and regulations of farming. Topics to be discussed include zoning and lease options, agricultural assessments, tips on business plans, and direct marketing rules and regulations.

May 21 Introduction to Commercial Vegetable Farming is intended for anyone interested in starting a vegetable farm. Topics to be discussed include insect, disease, and weed management, soil fertility, and organic certification requirements.

June 25 Introduction to Poultry Farming will cover breed selection, egg hatching, raising chicks and adult birds, feed and nutrition, equipment, healthcare, and the regulations for selling eggs and meat.

Pre-registration with payment is required in advance:

Call 845-292-6180 • E-mail srb46@cornell.edu • Visit sullivanccce.org

**Anyone can enroll in CCESC for \$25 per household. Enrollees must identify membership status at time of payment to receive discount.*

Beginning Farmer Workshops at CCESC | 5:30 pm | Apr 23 May 21 June 25

Please send registration and non-refundable payment to 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd., Liberty, NY 12754

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

OSE Activities Report for May 2015
Reporting on April 2015 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

All of these projects are pending:

- **NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center**
- **Hybrid Vehicles for SC Fleet**
- **Solar PPA**
- **Main Street Programs 2015**

II. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN/CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

We have scheduled our Municipal Street lighting CSC Roundtable for May 19th at the Senior Center in Bethel, 11:00 AM t 1:00 PM. Representatives from VHB Engineering, the CSC Mid-Hudson Regional Coordinators, will help us present several different strategies for towns to switch out street lighting to more economical and reliable fixtures, and towns will share their experiences.

Two strategies for achieving a switch out to LED fixtures will be discussed in depth: working with NYSEG (or another utility), and working with a private company to redesign and replace the lighting.

III. NY PRIZE Micro-Grid Projects Liberty and Monticello

SASD is working with Booz Allen Hamilton to develop Phase 1 applications for the Villages of Liberty and Monticello.

NY Prize is a \$40 million competition for funding to design and build micro-grid projects in NYS. Micro-grids are community-scale energy systems that contribute to overall grid reliability and resiliency. The micro-grid can be islanded from the main grid in case of a power failure, providing continuity of service for critical community infrastructure such as municipal facilities, emergency responders, health care facilities, schools, law enforcement, and essential services such as food stores and gas stations. Micro-grids can also accelerate the development of renewable energy assets (solar, wind, biomass) within the load zone, and can also help lower electricity rates for residents, businesses and other facilities located within the micro-grid. Economic development is supported by expanding local power generation and increasing the reliability of the energy supply. In Sullivan County, the villages of Liberty and Monticello have been identified by NYSERDA as vulnerable areas that could realize significant benefits from these important infrastructure projects.

The Phase 1 award is \$100,000 for a feasibility study. The deadline is May 15th. Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) is writing applications on behalf of both villages at no cost. If successful, BAH would receive the \$100,000 award directly and complete the feasibility studies for both villages.

SASD is working pro bono to guide the villages through the process, collect energy use data for the application, and secure letters of support from key stakeholders.

Potential Consortium members -- Liberty: NYSEG, Village of Liberty, Town of Liberty, NYS Police Barracks (backup for SC Emergency Communications), Liberty Police Department, Liberty School District, Liberty Fire Department, BOCES, Cornell Cooperative, wastewater treatment plants, libraries, places of worship, shelters and additional schools within the designated load zone.

Potential Consortium members -- Monticello: NYSEG, Sullivan County Government Center, the Village of Monticello, Ted Stroebel Community Center, Monticello police, fire district, water treatment plant, village wells, MobileMedic, Monticello School District, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library, places of worship, shelters and additional schools, fire departments and police departments within the designated load zone.

- April 14th: Informational session at CCE with Viraf Soroushian and Natalya Youngstrom of Booz Allen Hamilton and key stakeholders from Monticello and Liberty.
- Village of Liberty signed a letter of support on April 27th.
- Village of Monticello signed a letter of support on May 4th.
- We have met with key stakeholders in both villages, including both School Superintendents, to secure letters of support.

Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart
5-7-2015