



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

March 10, 2016 AGENDA

1:30 PM

Committee Members:

Catherine Owens, Chair, Nadia Rasjz, Vice-Chair, Mark McCarthy, Terri Ward, Scott Samuelson

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: None

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

Agriculture Report February 2016

Agriculture Districts:

The 30 Day window is April 1st – April 30th. The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board are meeting on March 21st to go over the timetable to review and accept applications.

Educational Programs:

We are continuing to develop and implement educational programs for 2016 such as:

- Ag Business Series (a series of 4 ag businesses classes)
- Beginner Farmer Series (a series of 4 workshops, with 1 at the Gorzynski Farm) (see attached brochure)
- No-Till Workshop Series (a series of 3 on farm workshops)
- Ag Legislative Tour, April 22nd.

Dairy Processing Project:

We are finalizing the equipment list and anticipate ordering the dairy processing equipment this month for the new organic, yogurt facility.

Ag Loan Program:

We worked with loan recipients to put together a loan brochure in order to promote the program and get information out to the public. We are currently putting together a distribution schedule for the new brochures.

Inquiries:

We received over 150 inquiries this month on the following topics:

- Financing/business planning
- Farmland Preservation
- Agricultural Districts
- Livestock production
- Poultry Processing and equipment
- Vegetable production
- Apple pruning
- Beginner Farmer inquiries
- Distilling grains
- Maple Syrup

Farmers Market Promotion:

- Project: CCE and Planning are working with the Farmers Market Managers for all of the farmers markets in Sullivan County to develop a marketing plan for 2016 – 2017, in order to increase attendance at our farmers markets. We recently met with and interviewed consultants for this project. We anticipate starting the project by April 1st. A resolution to enter into contract with Centermost Marketing will be presented to the Executive Committee at their March 17th meeting.

- WIC/FMNP Webinar: CCE hosted our yearly webinar for farmers who would like to participate in the NYS Agriculture and Markets WIC/FMNP program for farmers markets. As result, we have noticed an increase in the number of farmers participating in these programs.

Radio Promotion:

- Ag Reports & Market Reports: CCE provided weekly ag market reports for Thunder 102

Continuing Education:

CCE staff participating in a number of educational training activities

- Farmers Market Webinars: CCE staff are participating in weekly farmers market webinars to learn about marketing, outreach and public education.
- Hudson Valley Grain School: CCE staff participated in the HV Grain School as a way to gain additional knowledge for our no-till workshops and to assist with the development of our no-till programs.
- Organic Vegetable Webinar: As a result of an increased interest in organic vegetables farmers, cce staff participated in an organic vegetable webinar.
- Tractor Safety Training: A CCE staff person recently became certified to teach youth tractor safety.

OUR MISSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.



Cornell University
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Sullivan County

Beginning Farmer Series

*Learn farming for
beginners and enjoy
a farm tour in this
popular series!*



845-292-6180 | sullivancce.org



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Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County
Gerald J. Skoda Extension Education Center
64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd.
Liberty, NY 12754

Upcoming Beginning Farmer Workshops

March 10 | Introduction to Farming | 5:30 – 7:30 pm
CCESC educators Michelle Lipari and Melinda Meddaugh will present this introductory session covering the rules and regulations associated with farming. Discussion will include getting started with a farm, zoning and lease options, agriculture assessment and business plan development, and various marketing considerations. Class at Extension Education Center in Liberty.

April 14 | Common Diseases of Small Ruminants | 6:00–8:00 pm
Dr. Joseph D’Abraccio of Catskill Veterinary Services will present this class on identification of different diseases commonly found in small ruminants and how to take and interpret vital signs. Sound management practices will be determined to help keep disease and illness at bay. A light meal will be provided, sponsored by Catskill Veterinary Services. Class at Extension Education Center in Liberty.

May 12 | Introduction to Poultry | 6:00–8:00 pm
CCESC educator Michelle Lipari will cover various topics on poultry farming including breed selection, egg hatching, raising chicks and adult birds, feed and nutrition, equipment, healthcare, and the regulations for selling eggs and meat. Class at Extension Education Center in Liberty.

June 8 | Vegetable Farm Tour | 6:00–8:00 pm
John Gorzynski, local farmer of Gorzynski Ormery Farm in Narrowsburg, NY, will offer a tour of his farming enterprise which consists of vegetables, fruit trees, high tunnels, and bees. Gorzynski will discuss his diversified farming operation, with lessons on techniques in crop rotation, pest control, and tillage with tractor implements. This class takes place at Gorzynski Ormery Farm.

Cost is \$15 per person ; \$10 per CCESC enrollee* ; \$30 for entire series.
Paid non-refundable RSVP is required in advance. *Anyone can enroll for \$25 per household per year.
In the event of financial hardship or special needs contact the office.

OPEN 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday—Friday
VISIT 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY 12754
CALL 845-292-6180 **FAX** 845-292-4946
EMAIL sullivan@cornell.edu **CLICK** sullivanccce.org
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Directions



CCE Sullivan County
Gerald J. Skoda Extension
Education Center
64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd.
Liberty, NY 12754

Coming from Binghamton, exit Rt 17 East at Exit 101, Ferndale. Proceed to end of ramp. Turn right. Go less than 1/10 of a mile, turn right onto “Ferndale-Loomis Rd at Ferndale Marketplace store (white antique building). Proceed for 2.3 miles. Stop sign. At intersection, straight. Look for CCE building on left with large sign “Cornell Cooperative Extension Gerald J. Skoda Education Center” out front. Red brick building.

Coming from New York City, exit Rt 17 at Exit 101, Ferndale. Proceed to end of ramp. Turn right to go 2/10 mile (under Rt 17). Bear right (sign for “Swan Lake”). Go 2/10 mile to Ferndale-Loomis Road (first right after quickway ramp, turn at Ferndale Marketplace, white antique building). Stay on Ferndale-Loomis Road for 2.3 miles to our red brick building on left. Large sign in front of building says: “Cornell Cooperative Extension & Gerald J. Skoda Education Center”.

Thruway from Albany, exit Kingston, Rt 209 to Ellen-ville. Turn right, Rt 52 to Liberty.

Option 1. Proceed straight to Main St. Liberty through 2 traffic circles to 2nd Stop light. Left onto Rt 52/Chestnut St. Several miles to Ferndale-Loomis Rd., turn left.

Option 2. Make a left at second set of lights by “Sam’s Service Center”. Pizza Hut & the Liberty Diner on right. At light, straight through. Pass fast food restaurants. Go under Rt 17, bear right toward “Swan Lake” sign. Go 2/10 mile to Ferndale-Loomis Road. (First right after quickway ramp to 17 East.) Ferndale Marketplace (white antique building) on left at bottom of hill. (This is Ferndale-Loomis Road). Stay on Ferndale-Loomis Road for 2.3 miles to our red brick building on left. Large sign says “Cornell Cooperative Extension & Gerald J. Skoda Education Center” in front near entrance.

SC Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Activities Report for March 2016
Reporting on February 2016

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

Current initiatives. Work continues on the following priority projects:

- NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center
- Hybrid Vehicles for SC Fleet
- Solar Installation at the Liberty Health and Community Services Campus
- Adult Care Center Energy Efficiency Measures

II. SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

We have been advised that the Public Service Commission will likely notify us in April regarding approval to move forward with the SC CCA.

We have letters or resolutions of support from:

Town of Bethel	SC IDA
Town of Highland	SLAC
Town of Tusten	SUNY Sullivan
Town of Delaware	Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy

Presentations have been given in the Towns of Liberty, Lumberland and Rockland, and to various community groups. Presentations continue.

III. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

Work continues with the SC towns that have adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and are working on a variety of energy initiatives.

Tusten: Tusten is moving forward with a solar array for municipal energy supply at their town garage under a Power Purchase Agreement. They have also secured energy audits from local contractors and will move forward with energy efficiency improvements at their town hall.

Bethel: Bethel is moving forward with energy efficiency and lighting improvements at town buildings and with a formal policy regarding energy efficient vehicles for the town fleet. In discussion with solar energy developers for large scale shared solar project. Bethel is the only town in Sullivan County that has adopted the Unified Solar Permitting Process for residential scale solar installations.

IV. NY PRIZE Micro-Grid Projects Liberty and Monticello

The deadline for Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) to submit their Phase 1 Feasibility Studies for Liberty and Monticello was February 28, 2016. SASD provided project support as requested by BAH. BAH has scheduled a briefing with OSE on March 3rd to share information about the Phase I Feasibility Studies.

VI. Presentations and Community Education

Solar Leasing: Follow up to local property owners regarding solar leases for utility scale solar installations: OSE continues to provide one-on-one information to local landowners approached by Cypress Creek. Property owners' concerns include control of the property, siting of the solar array on the property, assessment issues, agricultural and forestry exemptions, tree cutting, 40 year potential term of the lease, restoration of property at the end of the lease, restrictions on the use of adjacent parcels, arbitration of disputes, plus complaints about the company's lack of willingness to negotiate and lack of response to questions and issues raised.

We have shared information and resources with groups in Ulster County who are responding to similar issues.

March 2: SC Division of Planning held a workshop for municipal officials called "Community Net Metering & Zoning for Large Scale Solar" to help prepare local communities for zoning and planning issues surrounding utility scale solar installations. The presentation featured speakers from the NY Sun PV Trainers Network and Pace University Law School Land Use Law Center.

OSE is helping the Division of Planning and Environmental Management with 239 reviews of new solar projects.

Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart
3-3-16