



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

October 13, 2016 AGENDA  
12:30 PM

Committee Members:

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

**Call to Order**

**Attendance**

**Comments:** Committee Chair

**Presentation:** None

**Reports:**

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

**Discussion:** None

**Resolutions:** None

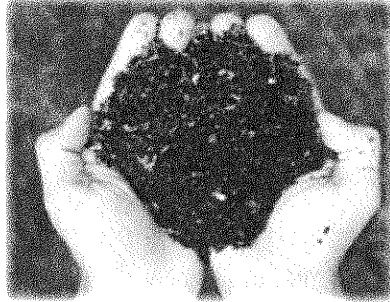
**Public Comment**

**Adjourn**

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

**September 27th : Manure Management** Over 20 farmers came out to learn about agriculture districts, right to farm, nutrient management practices and soil testing. Presenters included NYS Agriculture and Markets, NRCS and CCESC staff. Participants were offered free soil testing.

**September 18th Bethel Woods Ag Day:** Over 2500 People attended the Bethel Woods Harvest Festival. CCE staff were on hand to talk about agriculture, gardening, invasive species, and provided demonstrations on composting and youth activities.



**Tuesday, Sept. 27**  
**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**\$5.00 per person**  
**Lunch Provided**  
**Extension Education**  
**Center, Liberty**

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

**October 4th:** Getting Into the Food Business

**October 5th:** Growing Distilling Grains

**November (TBD):** Agriculture District Public Information Session.

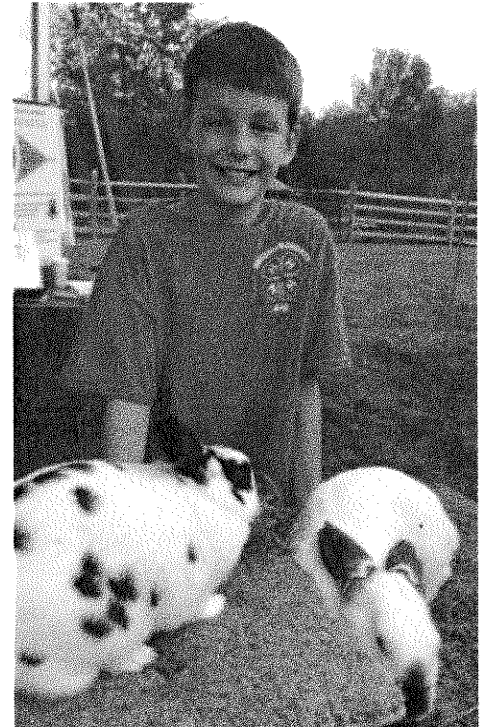
**November 2nd—4th:** Intro to Artisan Cheesemaking

**November 9th:** Technology for Farmers

**December (TBD):** Agri-Tourism 101

## Agri-Business Retention & Expansion Program:

- **Farm Inquiries.** Topics Include: Ag assessment, ag districts, business planning, beginning a farm, value added products, town codes, maple value added, field crops, soil testing, and pest management, poultry processing and organic dairy.
- **Farm Visits (to date)** 55 Farm Visits
- **Farms Assistance:** Assisted 60 farm through phone, email and field visits. Assistance includes business planning, grants, value added, information in regards to their specific needs.
- **Egg Shell & Manure Management:** Working with Cornell University to develop best management practices for egg shell usage. Currently offering free soil testing for Sullivan County farmers.
- **Farmer Manual:** Developing the farmer manual for both existing and new farmers to Sullivan County. Anticipate print date is the end of November.



## FARM TO INSTITUTION PROJECT

- Finishing the Farm to Institution planning grant through the USDA. We are currently in the process of surveying farmers and large institutions. The plan and strategies will be put together in November.
- We have met with school districts to discuss educational strategies and ways to develop a Farm to School program with Sullivan County.
- Currently applying for a grant to develop wholesale market readiness training for farmers for winter 2017. We are currently in the process of developing the curricula for the program.

# AGRICULTURE REPORT

September 2016



## Sullivan Catskills Farmers Markets Project

As part of the project, we launched a fall harvest campaign. We utilized social media advertising and radio. We were able to track the results through customer foot traffic and facebook analytics. As a result of this marketing push, fall attendance was up at farmers markets. We are in the processing of developing a video campaign and completing the marketing plan, which will include our survey results and individual analysis of each farmers market.



October 21st 9am-4pm at CCE Sullivan County

Learn Strategies to Turn Your Farm Products to Profit

**catskills FARM FOOD+ conference**

-SPEAKER FROM Taste NY  
-INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS  
-TOUR THE ALL NEW, ON-SITE Commercial Kitchen!  
USE IT TO PREP + PACKAGE VALUE ADDED FOOD ITEMS

Packaging Promotion Profit

RSVP (845)292-6180  
www.sullivanccc.org

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Sullivan County

## Catskills Farm + Food Conference

An all day conference focused around farm and food businesses. Attendees will participate in the following classes:

- Marketing Your Food Business
- Packaging and distributing Your Product
- Starting from Scratch: Processing 101
- Avenues for Distributing & Purchasing Products
- Food Processing Rules & Regulations
- Food Labeling: The Dos and Don't's

## Dairy Processing Project:

The equipment list has been finalized and all contracts and leases have been signed. The official bid for the equipment is due back on October 14th. We anticipate presenting a contract to the legislature in October.

## SC Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Activities Report for October 2016

Reporting on September 2016

### I. Grant Readiness

Carol Roig attended the Hudson Valley Regional Council's day-long conference on the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program and grant opportunities.

- \$16-million available in grants to municipalities
- Goal is to help local governments reduce energy consumption and drive clean energy use in their communities. Local governments must complete 4 out of 10 High Impact Actions to qualify to apply for funds
- SC would be eligible to compete for grants up to \$250,000 with no local share or match
- Opportunity is open through September 30, 2019, until funds are exhausted
- High Impact Actions dovetail with goals the County has set in the Climate Action Plan adopted in 2014.
- Hudson Valley Regional Council is available to provide technical support.

The High Impact Actions that municipalities can take are:

- 1. Benchmarking energy use at municipal and large privately owned buildings.**
- 2. Performing energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to municipal buildings.**
3. Replacing street lights with energy-efficient LED lighting.
4. Streamlining local approval processes for solar projects through adoption of the NYS Unified Solar Permit.
- 5. Undertaking a community-based Solarize campaign to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing.**
6. Providing energy code enforcement training to code officers.
- 7. Earning Climate Smart Communities Certification by reducing the community's impact on the environment.**
8. Passing a local law to allow aggregation of residents to gain greater choice and control over energy use as a group (called Community Choice Aggregation).
- 9. Installing electric vehicle charging stations and using alternative fuel vehicles, such as hybrid and electric cars, for municipal business.**
- 10. Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits.**

Items in bold are actions Sullivan County can take. We will be meeting with HVRC's Clean Energy Communities Coordinator Carla Castillo to move forward with documentation tools to achieve Climate Smart Communities certification, move forward with benchmarking for GHG reductions in County operations, and to discuss potential projects for which Sullivan County might seek grant funds.

### II. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

Work on the following priority projects is ongoing:

- NYPA project 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

### **III. Zoning for Solar in Sullivan County**

The Town of Bethel is making great progress in developing their solar zoning law, which we believe will serve as a good model for other municipalities.

The Upper Delaware Council and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway have engaged in discussions of the appropriateness of large scale solar in the Delaware River Corridor/Scenic Byway and are preparing position papers. Concerns focus on protecting the view shed .

### **IV. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES**

SASD performed an energy efficiency walk-through of the Town of Highland court building. We identified ventilation and air-sealing actions that will help this building achieve healthier indoor air quality, reduce mold and moisture, and conserve energy.

We are working with Highland and Bethel to support grant-readiness for the Clean Energy Communities Program.

### **V. Other Community Education and Outreach**

#### **Solarize Sullivan**

*Solarize Sullivan* concludes on October 31. Presentations this month include:

Thursday, October 6th at 4:30PM in Monticello at the Ted Stroebele Recreation Center

Saturday, October 15th at 11:00AM at Cornell Cooperative Extension

Saturday, October 15th at 2:30PM in Bethel at the Dr. Duggan Community Center, 3460 Rt 55,

Thursday, October 20th at 7:00PM at the Ellenville Public Library & Museum, 40 Center Street

#### **Statewide EV Initiative**

SASD is also providing consultation to WXY Architecture + Urban Design and Energetics Incorporated, which has been awarded a grant to help NYS communities plan for local deployment of electric vehicles and EVSE including charging stations. WXY will be reaching out to town officials and planning boards across NYS with information and presentations. We provided guidance as to best approaches in a rural county, and will be reviewing and advising as WXY assembles their informational materials and formulates communication strategies.

Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart

10-6-16