



August 2023



Ag Navigator

The Year in Review

Municipal and Elected Officials Work

- Worked with 12 municipal officials on issues pertaining to agriculture for zoning, building permits, properties, agricultural conflicts, Agricultural Value Assessment denials and Ag District properties.
- Presented at the Town of Northeast Board meeting to discuss the importance of Agriculture to towns through the CCEDC Community Ag Profiles and a cost of community services document.
- Met with several members of the Assembly and Senate as part of a team effort.

Youth in Ag Work

- There are currently 4 schools (Pine Plains, BOCES, John Jay and Red Hook) in the county with an agricultural program and an FFA, with a 5th onboarding in September 2023 (Pawling).
- Fall 2023 semester, a section of General Biology will be taught from an "agricultural perspective". Assignments, lab exercises, and presentations on botany, animal science, ecology, and biochemistry will focus on agricultural applications and problems, and students will have the opportunity to pursue independent research projects under the umbrella of this course. DCC will continue to investigate roles that we may serve in ag education in Dutchess County.

Farming in Dutchess Virtual Agricultural Forums (2022)

- New, Beginning & Urban Farmers – 58 in attendance
- Regenerative Farming & Soils Health – 31 in attendance
- Purchase of Development Rights and Conservation Easements – 43 in attendance
- Agricultural Education Part #2 - 31 in attendance

Other Topics

- Worked with 15 farmers having agricultural conflicts within their towns
- USDA Slaughterhouse need is at a critical stage – continue to work on this issue
- 2023 Ag District 8-Year Review
- Statewide Cornell Cooperative Extension Agri-tourism Program Work Team—exciting news coming!
- Farm and Ag Report is heard 5 days/week – weekly reach 18,000
- Daily posts on "Dutchess County Agriculture...It's A Growing ThingSM" Facebook Page.



DUTCHESS COUNTY

2023 Agricultural
State of the County

Agriculture

Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator

The mission of the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory is to foster better understanding of the importance of local agriculture by local officials and economic specialists.

The Agricultural Navigator acts as a conduit for farmers, municipal officials, and economic development specialists to provide impartial information and advice when implementation of local regulations are proposed that may have an impact on agriculture, farmland, and agricultural businesses.

The role of the Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator is one of collaborating, and communicating with county and municipal officials, the farming community, agricultural organizations, and other agencies on:

- Agricultural issues and solutions;
- Economic viability and sustainability of farming, and
- Opportunities and feasibility of new infrastructures related to agriculture.

The Agricultural Navigator also assists in the implementation of the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan under the guidance of the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The County of Dutchess awarded funding for the Agricultural Navigator initiative to Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County.

We continue to connect our communities with our farms for the betterment of Dutchess County. It is clear that more work needs to be accomplished in order for Dutchess County agriculture to continue to evolve and succeed.

DUTCHESS COUNTY AG NAVIGATOR

**2715 Route 44, Suite 1
Farm and Home Center
Millbrook, NY 12545**

Phone: 845-867-3075

E-mail:

AgNavigator@dutchessny.gov

*Dutchess County Agriculture...
It's A Growing Thing! SM*

Photos: Jennifer Fimbel, CCEDC



**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County**

**Th!nk
DUTCHESS
ALLIANCE FOR BUSINESS**