



August 2022

Ag Navigator

Overview of the program



DUTCHESS COUNTY 2022 Agricultural State of the County

Municipal and Elected Officials Work

- Worked with 10 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 Millbrook Rotary virtually about preventing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and the science of how it spreads
- Member of Congressional District 19 Ag Advisory

Youth in Ag Work

- Two new schools (in addition to the three we already have) have shown interest in creating an FFA Agricultural program in their schools
- Met with Dutchess Community College personnel and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County staff concerning collaborative programming efforts in agriculture
- Provided input for the application process and review of applications for our two new youth positions on the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Advisor to two of our FFA Agricultural Committees

Farming in Dutchess Virtual Agricultural Forums (2021)

- Communicating with Your Farmer, Landowner, or Assessor
- Pathways for Agricultural Education
- Local Foods and their Importance
- Agricultural Land/Uses Under Pressure
- Food Security

Other Topics

- Worked with several farmers having agricultural issues within their towns
- USDA Slaughterhouse need is at a critical stage – continue to work on this issue
- 2023 Ag District 8-Year Review planning
- Statewide Cornell Cooperative Extension Agri-tourism Program Work Team
- 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



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.



Farming in Dutchess

Upcoming Virtual Agricultural Forums (Fall 2022)

- Urban, New & Beginning Farmers: October 4th - 7:00 p.m.
- Regenerative Farming & Soils Health: October 12th—6:30 p.m.
- Ag Value Assessment vs. Ag Districts Programs: October 13th - 6:00 p.m.
- Purchase of Development Rights Programs and Conservation Easements: October 25th - 5:00 p.m.
- Ag Education/Part #2: November 9th - 7:00 p.m.

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. As the world was put on pause for much of 2020—2022, our farmers met the challenges, kept us fed and have come out on top. THANK YOU!

DUTCHESS COUNTY AG NAVIGATOR

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

Photos: Jennifer Fimbel, CCEDC



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County

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