



August 2021



Accomplishments

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 didn't slow our Dutchess County agriculture down one bit. Our farmers not only proved how essential they are, they shone as beacons of true entrepreneurship and overcame the challenges presented to them. They are our heroes.

As listed below, much was accomplished in one year, but the work continues as we look towards 2022.

The COVID-19 Response:

The Farm Store listing -

Created in response to grocery store shortages due to the pandemic, the Farm Store/Stand list grew each month to ultimately 50 in Dutchess County. Farm store owners moved quickly to offer on-line ordering and curbside pick-up. In many of these stores, business tripled and more over 2019.

Hand Sanitizer Distribution -

New York State offered free hand sanitizer to farmers, Farmers Markets and Farm Stores. Over 3500 gallons were distributed to our county producers.

NYS Guidance for Farms and Agri-tourism Venues -

As each document was released and updated, information was distributed to those specific farms and venues for continued operation with COVID-19 protocols in place.

USDA and NYS Financial Program Information -

USDA and NYS were quick to offer programs meant to assist small businesses, such as farms, with the Paycheck Protection Program, dumping of milk protocols, Nourish NY and others. The information, eligibility and how-to's were brought to our farmers through emails, phone consults and one on one discussions throughout the year.

Vaccines for Farmers -

Working with County agencies, discussions about the possibilities of getting vaccines to farm workers at the farm did not pan out as most had received the vaccine at that time.

Farming in Dutchess County Virtual Programs -

Work continued with the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee to ensure that programming needs were met. Creating and fulfilling the Farming in Dutchess Series offered farmers, municipal officials and the general public an opportunity to learn about specific issues related to agriculture in our county.

#FarmStandFridays -

Partnering with the DC Chamber, DC Tourism, Inc. and Think Dutchess Alliance for Business, the hashtag symbol celebration of our farm stores and stands was created and still has a presence on social media.

DUTCHESS COUNTY

2020/21 Ag Navigator Report

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 and 2021, our farmers met the challenges, kept us fed and have come out on top.

THANK YOU!



**DUTCHESS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
NAVIGATOR**

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Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator

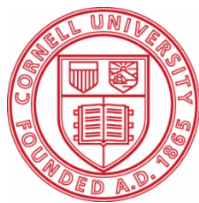
The Agricultural Navigator acts as a conduit for farmers, municipal officials and economic development specialists to provide impartial information and advice when implementation of local regulations are proposed that may have an impact on agriculture, farmland, and agricultural businesses.

The role of the Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator is one of coordinating, 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.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County

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Jennifer Fimbel, Ag Navigator