

Supportive Infrastructure for Agriculture in Ulster County, NY: Interim Report on Educational and Other Resources

August 2024

Agencies, Organizations, and Programs



This interim report was prepared as part of the process to update Ulster County's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

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Inventory of Agencies, Organizations, and Programs that Provide Resources for Agriculture in Ulster County

Cornell Cooperative Extension: <https://ulster.cce.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County has been a leader in providing technical assistance and training to farmers in the County since 1913. It offers a diversity of programs including the following:

- 4-H (youth program)
- New Landowners
- Livestock
- Field Crops/Agronomy
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Farm Worker Labor Programs
- Hemp/CBD Production
- Disaster Preparedness
- Climate Change
- Agriculture Home
- Livestock
- Farm Transition Planning
- NYS Grown and Certified Program
- Hudson Valley Food Systems Map
- Invasive Pests and Plants
- Agriculture Marketing Initiative for Farms in Ulster County
- Protect You & Your Farm from Fires
- Farmer Safety Series
- Healthy Soils
- Agriculture and Horticulture Newsletter Sign-up
- Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program
- Farm to School - The Harvest NY Regional Farm to School Coordinator Program provides comprehensive support to Farm to School stakeholders, including school districts, farmers, distributors, manufacturers, processors, and food hubs. The primary goal of this program is to increase the volume and variety of local farm products purchased by schools for use in child nutrition programs.
- Climate Change
- Food and Nutrition

Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation (HVADC): <https://www.hvadc.org/>

HVADC assists local agribusinesses through a variety of programs. Funding and support includes business technical assistance, loans and grants, marketing and tourism, and the Feed HV program (a regional food rescue and harvesting network dedicated to meeting the needs of households while mitigating the impacts of food waste. It promotes agricultural entrepreneurship, supports sustainability, and enhances economic growth in the Hudson Valley. Some of its past programs include Local Lamb Lessons, the Eastern Broccoli Project, Food

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System Survey, and it has worked with many local farms and agribusinesses to assist them with grants, technical assistance, incubators (the HVDAC Incubator Without Walls program), brand development, regional product launches, business planning, and licensing.

Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming: <https://www.glynwood.org/>

Glynwood provides different educational and training programs to support future farmers, educate stakeholders to advance regional food, form producer coalitions, and improve access to local food. They do this through programs such as:

- Apprentice Program
- Hudson Valley Farm Business Incubator
- Mid-Hudson Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farming Training (CRAFT)
- Farmer Training Workshops
- Regenerative Farm Resilience Guide
- Cider Project
- CSA is a SNAP
- Food Sovereignty Fund
- Grains and Staples Project
- Hudson Valley CSA Coalition
- Kitchen Cultivars

High School Programs

- Rondout Valley High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) program
- Ulster BOCES Career and Technical Center
- Kingston Public Schools FFA program

Hudson Valley Farm Hub: <https://hvfarmhub.org/ag-education/>

The Hudson Valley Farm Hub is a nonprofit agricultural center. It has a 1600-acre farm operation and offers a suite of programs and practices to foster equitable and resilient food systems. It does this through ag education and training, agronomic research, applied farmscape ecology, programs in food access and language justice, and seed growing. It has an agricultural education and training program that works to “improve the capacity of farmers and agricultural workers to plan and sustain their careers in agriculture.” It focuses its programs on farm business planning, farm equipment/safety programming, organic vegetable and grain production, and professional development. It provides workshops, apprenticeships, and leadership development for English and Spanish speakers.

Hudson Valley Research Lab: <https://www.farmhv.org/>

This is a partnership between local growers and Cornell Agritech as part of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Researchers here work with commercial fruit and vegetable growers along with other agricultural producers to support the local food system and to protect the agricultural heritage of the Hudson Valley and Eastern New York. It provides internships and research opportunities related to entomology (insect pests), plant pathology, horticulture, and work with area farms.

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Kingston YMCA Farm Project: <https://www.kingstonymcafarmproject.org/>

This program is an urban, educational farm located at the YMCA in Midtown Kingston, New York. It uses organic growing methods to grow food for our immediate community. It sells our hyper-local fruits and vegetables at farm stands in the lobby of the Y. The Farm Project works with preschoolers through high schoolers, bringing young people to the farm to get their hands dirty as they learn, work, explore, and play on the farm. Its youth development program offers 14-18 year-olds the opportunity to work on our farm, help run our farm stands, and gain valuable employment experience while earning an hourly wage. The Farm Project is located behind the YMCA, across from River Radiology, near the intersection of Susan and Summer Streets.

Rondout Valley Growers Association (RVGA): <https://rondoutvalleygrowers.org/>

The RVGA is a nonprofit organization serving farmers in the Rondout Valley and surrounding areas of Ulster County. It holds fundraising events and provides grants to farmers. It helps market member farms. Besides its events, it advertises events held by member farms and job openings.

SUNY New Paltz Programs: <https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/9-23/9-7-23/ag-tech-summit.html>

An agriculture and technology grant, made possible by the \$75 million Transformation Fund allocated to SUNY by Governor Hochul, has been awarded to SUNY New Paltz. The funding will be utilized for soil regeneration for sustainable agriculture practices and programming at the college.

SUNY Ulster Programs: <https://www.sunyulster.edu/>

SUNY Ulster offers a variety of programs, academic degrees, and certificates related to agriculture. It offers STEM programs that include agriculture.

Ulster BOCES Animal Science: <https://www.ulsterboces.org/about-us/news-communications/news-room/details/~board/all-news/post/ulster-boces-animal-science-program-expands-agricultural-education>

Ulster County Fair: <https://ulstercountyfair.com/>

Started in 1868, the Ulster Agricultural Society is owned and run by the Ulster County Fair. The purpose of the organization is to promote, encourage, and develop an interest in agriculture and horticulture, the improvement of breeds of animals, friendly relations between, and work with, the various agencies of the County for a better understanding, as well as improvement and education of the general public in agriculture. The Ulster County Fair is managed and promoted to inform the public about agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry.

The organization educates and encourages community youth to be active in agriculture, improve agriculture and animal husbandry, disseminate information to the public concerning the organization and its member organizations, keep the agricultural community informed, and promote and manage the Ulster County Fair.

Ulster County Farm Bureau: <https://nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/ulster-county>

Farm Bureau is an organization that supports and advocates for farms and agribusinesses. It works to support farms through policy issues such as taxation, conservation, and food availability.

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Ulster County Planning Department: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/agriculture>

In addition to services and programs such as GIS tools and data, the County Planning Department encourages using land for farming through the state's Agricultural Districts program, the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, and the development of various plans including. The County also provides a variety of documents and publications to aid in land use, community design, economic development, and other planning guides and tools.

Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District: <https://ulster-county-swcd.square.site/>

The local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provides ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in your community. It provides technical assistance and programs to residents, landowners, farmers, and local government in programs such as the no-till drill rental program, cover crop program, cover crop mini-grants, tree and shrub sales, soil health field day, ag value assessments, mapping assistance, stormwater and erosion and sediment control assistance, the Agricultural Environmental Management program (AEM) with the USDA, streambank stabilization and more.