



## WHAT IS TC ARG?

Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group (ARG) is a group of farmers, agencies, educators, businesses and community members working together to contribute to a thriving rural community by creating and promoting agricultural vitality in Tioga County. Meetings are the last Wednesday of the month from 10:00-11:30am at the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District office (183 Corporate Drive Owego, NY) and are open to the public. For more information, you can contact Danielle Singer [singerd@tiogacountyny.gov](mailto:singerd@tiogacountyny.gov) (607) 972-8009



### Looking Ahead

**February:**

- 16 - TCSWCD Mini Grant Applications Due
- 27 - USC Retreat for Partners of Coalition
- 28 - TCARG Meeting (David Behm - NY Ag & Markets - presentation on Farmland Protection Programs)

**March:**

- 6 - TCSWCD - Soil Health Meeting
- 14 - TCFB - Regular Meeting
- 18 - 20 - NYS Ag Literacy Week
- 23 - CCE Tioga - Seed Swap Event
- 27 - TCARG Meeting (Jennifer Wrightman - Cornell University - Presentation on NYS Climate Action Plan)

## ARG Agency Spotlight

### Tioga County Tourism

This agency works to bring visitors to Tioga County. They support our local agriculture by advertising farm stores, farmer's markets, U-picks and produce stands. They also assist with farm trail organization during regional events and advertising Sundaes at the Farm. They keep Tioga County connected to and a member of Finger Lakes Farm Country which bring us new opportunities for visitors!

#experiencetioga



## ARG Member Spotlight

Colleen Mezzano  
USDA FSA



### How long have you been involved in ARG?

- I think maybe I lacked membership for the first year, but pretty much since the group has formed. It's been many years!

### What is your favorite ARG activity?

- My favorite ARG activity, and I think it's most everyone's favorite, is Sundaes at the Farm. I love seeing how it's grown over the years. I really enjoy watching the families together and the children laughing and having fun! I can't wait for my Grandson to be able to attend!

### What is one thing you wish people knew about ARG?

- Because I feel that what we do is important in spreading the word of Agriculture. It's imperative to our future and many generations to come.



# ARG NEWS

We completed our strategic planning session at the January meeting and created some focus areas to work on over the next year. **Bringing new opportunities to Tioga County Farmers is an overarching theme.** Members from ED&P and SWCD continue to work with American Farmland Trust on the Land Trust Grant which would create 6 workshops throughout the county pertaining to lease agreements, working with non-operating landowners and farm succession planning. **Speakers are scheduled from NY Ag & Markets and Land Trusts to understand the possibilities for farmland protection and easements. Creating programs for large ag tire disposal and ag plastics are at the forefront for brainstorming ideas and searching for resources this year.** The Youth Committee will continue to make ARG more visible to all the youth programs in the county and provide resources to them. ARG plans to be very active at the Tioga County Fair and assist where we can with the Pork Chop BBQ. And as always, **we have begun planning our annual Sundaes at the Farm event to bring people to a working dairy farm for fun, educational moments and yummy ice cream sundaes!**

## FARM BUREAU ANNUAL LOBBY DAYS

[Lobby Days in Albany are coming up!](#) New York Farm Bureau will host its popular Taste of NY Reception at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center on Monday evening, March 4. The event brings together county Farm Bureau members, public officials and staff, and agricultural partners to showcase the diversity of NYS agriculture. This event is followed the next day with NYFB's Lobby Day at the Capitol in Albany on March 5. The Taste of NY Reception is on the 4th and free for farmers to table at with their products. If you are interested in participating either day, reach out to Cub at [kfrisbie8@aol.com](mailto:kfrisbie8@aol.com)



### Commonly Used Acronyms

- CCE - Cornell Cooperative Extension
- FSA - Farm Service Agency
- NRCS - Natural Resource Conservation Services
- SCD&FC - South Central Dairy & Field Crops Team
- TCARG - Tioga County Ag Resource Group
- TCFB - Tioga County Farm Bureau
- TCSWCD - Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District
- USC - Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- USDA - United States Department of Agriculture

## FARM BUREAU BRIEF

The Tioga County Farm Bureau meets the second Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Owego Apalachin High School Ag building. Anyone can attend these meetings, you do not have to be a member, the public is always welcome. We are always helping the local FFA, working towards every town in Tioga County having Right to Farm language in their local laws, having a bigger presence at the Tioga County Fair and a host of other events and programs. We have an active role in Sundaes at the Farm event. This takes people, people like you! Come and be a part of Ag in Tioga County. Any questions or comments, thoughts or ideas, contact County President Cub Frisbie - 607-425-2433 or [kfrisbie8@aol.com](mailto:kfrisbie8@aol.com) or County Secretary Marrell Cortright-607-319-6166 or [flywestprim@aol.com](mailto:flywestprim@aol.com).



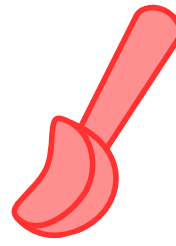
Ways to be

Involved



# The Scoop

SOUTH CENTRAL DAIRY & FIELD CROPS TEAM



Dairy Efficiencies webinars on Tuesdays and Podcast Series on last Thursday of month – Dairies should check them out! Thank you to everyone that came out for the 2024 Winter Crop Meeting!

## CORNELL COW CONVOS



This monthly podcast series led by PRO-DAIRY and CCE Dairy Specialists features current, new and emerging topics of interest to the dairy industry right now. New episodes are released on the last Thursday of the month. Our first few episodes include discussions on preventative healthcare for cows, the trend of beef on dairy, what to look forward to in the new year for dairy, and socially grouping or pair-housing calves. This series also features specially selected interviews with dairy farmers and industry experts and invites suggestions from our listeners for future topics.

- Episode 1: Welcome to Cornell Cow Convos!
- Episode 2: Preventative Health Care for Dairy Cows
- Episode 3: Trends in the Beef x Dairy Industry
- Episode 4: Looking into the New Year, Key Management Strategies
- Episode 5: The research behind pair housing calves



**SUNDAES  
AT THE FARM**

When?

July 21, 2024

Where?

Frisbie Bros Dairy

“Supporting today’s agricultural needs and creating member opportunities for tomorrow through advocacy and education.”

Not a Member?  
Join Today!



nyfb.org  
1.800.342.4143

More info to come. Farmers interested in tabling as part of the farmer’s market, organizations interested in providing an agricultural related education booth or businesses interested in sponsoring the event should contact Danielle Singer at [singerd@tiogacountyny.gov](mailto:singerd@tiogacountyny.gov)

# CCE Tioga



# Buzz

The **county-wide seed swap event** will take place on **March 23rd**. So far we will have the following towns represented: Van Etten, Waverly, Barton, Tioga, Owego, Apalachin, Candor, and possibly Nichols and Spencer. We still need leads in Berkshire or Newark Valley. **Contact Jean Koski at [jas54@cornell.edu](mailto:jas54@cornell.edu) for questions or interest and [go here](#) for more information!**

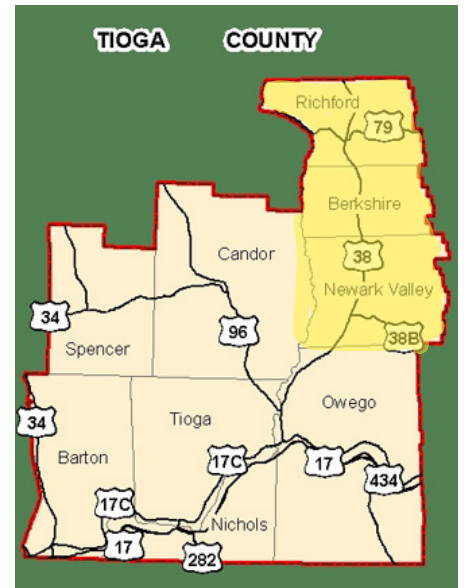
Proceeds will benefit Tioga County Youth Agricultural Programming (4-H & FFA)

## TIOGA CO FAIR PORK CHOP BBQ

**AUGUST 10 2024**

More details to follow in the coming months. Sponsorship opportunities available. Reach out to Jake Brown with any questions or interest in helping at the event at [brownwj@tiogacountyny.gov](mailto:brownwj@tiogacountyny.gov)

The poster features a central black silhouette of a large pot on a stand. It is surrounded by illustrations of pork chops, a spatula, and stars. The text is in white and blue fonts.



# Farmer's MARKET

Farmers interested in participating in this new Farmer's Market opportunity for the northern Tioga county region or for more information, please reach out to the Northern Tioga Chamber at [northerntiogachamber@gmail.com](mailto:northerntiogachamber@gmail.com)

# SWCD

## Conservation Corner

The annual **Tree & Shrub Sale** is live for **2024!** Order early for desired species, all orders are due by April 1st. Orders can be mailed to the office or dropped off during our 10am-2pm office hours, cash or check only.

The order form can be found [HERE!](#)

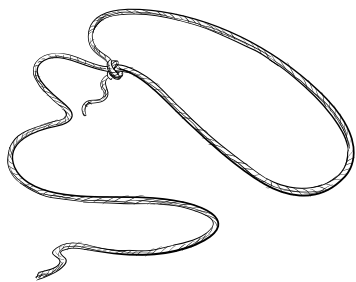


We are happy to announce a **new grant opportunity for School Districts of Tioga County!** This mini-grant is for activities that **conserve, restore or enhance the soil and water resources of NYS.** More details can be found [HERE!](#)

**We are looking for feedback about recycling & disposal needs specific to agriculture.**

- Ag plastic containers, large tractor tires, bale wrap, etc.

All feedback, questions and comments welcome! [survey HERE](#)

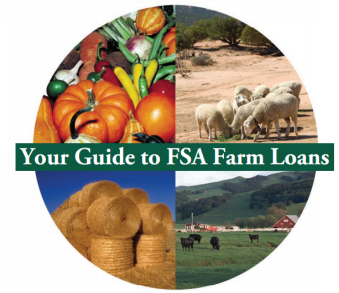


## FSA Round Up

Contact Colleen or Faith for more information at  
109a Chemung Street Waverly, NY 14892  
Phone: (607) 565-2106 x2  
Email: [colleen.mezzano@usda.gov](mailto:colleen.mezzano@usda.gov) ;  
[faith.pipher@usda.gov](mailto:faith.pipher@usda.gov)

- ARC/PLC signup is underway, [deadline is March 15](#)
- **New Crop Insurance Program for Specialty Crops (blueberry, orchard, herbs etc.)**
- No information on Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) signup yet, presumably late February or March
- **The office is in the middle of doing a complete review of all producers eligibility file. If there have been any changes to any farm numbers, increased/decreased acreages, owner changes, a new CCC-902 is being sent for signature**
- Producers who just report hay are starting to receive their 2024 acreage report
- **Farm Loan Facility rates have gone down the past two months. Hoping to see them decrease again on Feb. 1. A \$25,000 or less loan requires no financial paperwork. Very simple and quick.**
- Matthew Donnelly was re-elected to serve LAA#3 (Spencer, Candor and Barton)  
*Congratulations Matt!*
- **Sign up for Text Message updates:Text NYtioga to FSANOW (372669) to sign up today!**

**FSA offers farm ownership, operating and emergency loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers, whether multi-generational, long-time, or new to the industry, obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation. For many loan options, FSA sets aside funding for underserved producers, including, beginning, women, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Hispanic farmers and ranchers. Click [HERE](#) for more information.**



**Chapter Name:** Newark Valley

**Chapter Advisor:** Greg Schweiger

**Chapter Officer Team:** President-Laura Ludwig Vice President-Cassidy Beebe  
Secretary-Rosie Wandell Treasurer-Shaine Anguish Reporter-Destiny Jensen  
Sentinel-Oren Lindridge & Peyton Rhodes

**How does your chapter support agriculture?** By being visible at county wide events such as the Tioga County Fair and Sundae's at the Farm. We have built relationships with local farm business so we can tour their operations and we have been able to help students gain employment in farm-related jobs.

**What's your favorite way to work with your community?** We were able to construct and establish a community garden in 2018 with the help of a grant from the Owego Rotary and the support of the village of Newark Valley. Each year we plant crops, tend the beds and do a fall harvest, with the produce being donated at share tables and food banks. Each year we also sponsor a Christmas tree for Lights on the Greens. We always enjoy our time together decorating the tree and representing our school in this way.

**Tell us about something fun you're doing!** A lot of our fun is in Junior FFA (grades 6-8). In the Fall that means going to Iron Kettle Farm and Stoughton Farm to enjoy the seasonal activities. The highlight of the spring calendar is the petting zoo organized by the high school FFA for the Junior FFA. Springtime also means Christmas tree planting time, an annual event where our district's entire 6th grade class gets an opportunity to plant Christmas trees with the help and guidance from our high schoolers.

