

Youth members are first to serve on Ag committee

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro announced the appointments of Stissing Mountain High School senior Cailin Halladay and John Jay High School junior Jenna Franco to the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee and its Education Subcommittee during the 2022 Agriculture Breakfast at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck on Friday, April 22.

Halladay and Franco are the first two youth leadership members who have been appointed to the committee. Halladay and Franco were appointed to a one- and two-year term, respectively.

The Education Subcommittee, which reports to and advises the County Executive on issues and policies regarding agriculture and agri-business, provides organization and leadership in carrying out the vision of the agricultural plan, and facilitates the implementation of programs outlined in the agricultural plan. Both appointees are active in their local Future Farmers of American chapters (FFA) and participate in agricultural education programs through their schools.

Molinaro said, "Dating back to Dutchess County's founding, agriculture has been integral in our community's identity and success, and farming remains a fundamental part of our county's heritage and future. Today, we celebrate not only Dutchess County's agricultural legacy and current prosperity, but with the appointment of Cailin and Jenna, the future of farming in our community. Our Agricultural Advisory Committee will benefit from these young women's experience, expertise and perspective."

The County Executive also announced that a 2022 solicitation for farmland, open space and pocket park projects through the

County's Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) program will open on Monday, May 2. The PMG program has enabled the preservation of more than 5,000 acres of farmland and open space in Dutchess County through the completion of 36 projects; an additional 1,000 acres will be preserved through eight pending projects. In January 2022, Molinaro announced PMG awards for four farmland projects: Hahn Farm in Pleasant Valley, Heritage Acres in East Fishkill, Obercreek Farm in Wappinger and Primrose Hill Farm in Clinton.

Dutchess County agricultural organizations, including the Dutchess County Dairy Committee Inc., Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dutchess-Putnam-Westchester Farm Bureau, Dutchess County Ag and Farmland Protection Board, Dutchess County Agricultural Society, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, hosted Friday's event.

Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver, a former FFA member and multi-generational farmer in the Town of Pine Plains, said "Dutchess County remains steadfast in its commitment to farming, and we thank the Agricultural Advisory Committee for its guidance in efforts to both promote farming throughout our community and its insight to County leaders, which helps us make informed decisions to ensure agriculture not only survives but thrives in our community."

Organizers of the event presented the annual Tractor Awards to those involved in various aspects of agriculture for the work they do not only on the farm, but throughout their community. Awards were presented to Jen DeForest of Hudson Valley Fresh, Patrick Hancock of John Jay High School, Matt Sabellico of Sabellico Greenhouses &



Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, left, is pictured with new youth members of the County Agricultural Advisory Committee Cailin Halladay of Stissing Mountain High School and Jenna Franco of John Jay High School and County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver.

-Courtesy photo

Florist and Dr. Mark Condon of Dutchess Community College.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee, created out of a recommendation of the 2015 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, continues to, as part of its mission, to implement the actions and initiatives outlined in the agricultural plan. As part of this effort, the committee will once again host a "Farming in Dutchess Virtual Series" to convene agricultural stakeholders and members

of the public to discuss opportunities and challenges facing local agriculture; session topics for the 2022 series will be announced in August at the annual Agricultural Forum at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds.

Agricultural land comprises more than 100,000 acres in Dutchess County, which is almost one-fifth of the County's total acres. Accounting for nearly \$44 million in market value products, local agriculture is one of the County's primary industries.

Spring shopping at craft fair in Town of Wappinger

By Kristine Coulter

Ready for some shopping this spring? The 2nd annual Spring Craft Fair will be held at the Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Rd., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 30. There will be 21 vendors taking part this year.

For those who attend, Jessica Fulton, recreation director for the Town of Wappinger, said, "They can expect to have a nice time browsing the items our crafters are selling, and they will meet nice people, too. As well, there will be bagels for sale in the morning and hot dogs and turkey sandwiches for sale at lunchtime."

Donna Lenhart, with the Wappinger Recreation Department, remarked, "We have a great assortment for folks to choose from: jewelry, pet bandanas, hand-turned wood items, crocheted items, candles, wreaths, tote bags & accessories, bath products, country home décor, hot sauces, baked goods,

teacup bird feeders, handmade ceramics, hand-cut rocks and minerals."

Some of the vendors that will be there during the event with their wares are Hudson Valley Woodworking, Bownd, Yvonne's Beauty and Bath, Kriss Thomas, Heather Spadafino, Janice's Jewelry, Three Chick Candles, Mango Papaya, Michele Gratz, Barbara Greenberg, Amy Hauck, Dana Lamanna, Indigo Jewelry, Bea's Crochet, Lee Pratico, Angry Uncle Mike's, Soul Natural Sweets, and T A Martin Crafts.

"This craft show benefits our local crafters, allowing them a venue to sell their handmade goods. We will also have a pet food drive to benefit an area shelter, so we ask people to drop off unopened pet foods," said Fulton.

The Wappinger Senior Association will have raffle baskets that attendees may take a chance on, remarked Fulton. Parking is free.



The annual Spring Craft Fair will be held at the Wappinger Town Hall on April 30. More than 20 vendors will take part in the three-hour event.

-Courtesy photo

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