Debbie Aller, Agricultural Stewardship Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Debbie Aller oversees the coordination and implementation of the Agricultural Stewardship Program in Suffolk County. Major responsibilities include supervising, managing research projects, data collection, and leading educational and outreach programs. She received an MSc from University of Edinburgh and a PhD from Iowa State University studying the effects of different types of biochar on plant available water, soil health, and crop yield. Debbie enjoys her current role working with the Long Island agricultural community to promote sustainable soil management strategies.

Aaron Gabriel, Crops and Soils Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Washington County

Aaron Gabriel has been a Crops and Soils educator for the last 24 years serving the Capital area of New York, which includes Albany, Colombia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Washington counties. He received degrees from Cornell University and Iowa State University. Aaron brings a wealth of experience to his work providing extension education in field crop production, soil management, pasture management, and composting.

Harold van Es, Professor, Cornell University

Harold van Es is a 30-year Professor of Soil Science at Cornell University, with primary expertise in digital agriculture and soil health. He received degrees from the University of Amsterdam, Iowa State University, and North Carolina State University. He is the lead inventor of a computational tool for precision nitrogen management: Adapt-N, winner of the Tulane Nitrogen Reduction Grand Challenge, and a comprehensive soil health management framework. He has published more than 150 scientific papers and co-authored the widely-read book Building Soils for Better Crops. He was the 2016 President of the Soil Science Society of America, and is a Fellow of the SSSA and American Society of Agronomy.
Conrad Vispo, Ph.D., Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program

Conrad is a wildlife ecologist with the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program. He received degrees from Cornell University, Indiana State University, and University of Wisconsin. Before returning to Columbia County, where he grew up, Conrad conducted ecological research on a variety of organisms, including mammals, birds, and fish in a variety of places, including the woods of northern Wisconsin and tropical Venezuela. Conrad’s recent focus is on agroecology - what habitats can farmland provide for native species and, in turn, what can those native species provide to farming? Conrad’s passion is understanding historical and modern patterns of animal (including human) ecology on the land.

Ben Dobson, Farm Manager at Stone House Grains, Director of Hudson Carbon Project, and Chief Executive Officer at Hudson Hemp

Ben grew up in Hillsdale, New York, and he has owned and managed several farms throughout the Northeast. In 2007 Ben founded Atlantic Organics, which was the largest organic fresh vegetable farm in the state of Maine. Between this farm and his other venture, Locally Known LLC., Ben provided the first 100% East Coast grown and packaged organic salads for sale to the broader retail market in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Ben has also worked in the Dominican Republic, where he learned about the production and export of organic bananas, coffee, and mangoes, and he developed an organic coffee business in Haiti. Ben currently works as Farm Manager for Stone House Farm, a producer of certified organic and non-GMO grains for cover crop seed, human consumption, and livestock feed located in Hudson Valley, NY. He is also the director of Hudson Carbon, a collaborative research project focused on monitoring the ecological impacts of farming systems with relation to carbon sequestration.

Matt Sheffer, Stone House Grains

Apologies to Matt, but we were unable to access his biography before the event.
WORKSHOP FOUR – ADAPTIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR SOIL HEALTH
OCTOBER 29 AND 30, 2019 • HUDSON VALLEY, NY

Sarah Brennen, Associate Director of Programs, Hudson Valley Farm Hub

Sarah previously worked as a senior policy analyst at the New York City Council, where she advised the speaker on economic development and food policy issues. While there, she researched, designed, and launched the FoodWorks initiative to improve economic, health, and environmental outcomes in the New York City food system. While at the Council, Sarah also helped launch a kitchen incubator at La Marqueta in East Harlem and successfully lobbied the Mayor’s Office to begin a system of expedited inspections for new businesses. Sarah received a BA from Barnard College and her MPP from Johns Hopkins University.

David Wolfe, Professor, Horticulture Section Cornell University

David Wolfe is a Professor of Plant and Soil Ecology at Cornell University. He’s a co-leader of Cornell’s New York Soil Health research and outreach program (www.newyorksoilhealth.org), and author of the award-winning popular science book on soil ecology, Tales From the Underground: A Natural History of Subterranean Life. He is also a leading authority on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sector, including soil carbon sequestration and monitoring. His work is both regional and international, with several recent soil conservation and climate change resilience projects in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Kenya. At Cornell he teaches “Climate Change and Food Security”. For more information, see his website: www.hort.cornell.edu/wolfe.

Jay Goldmark, Field Crops Production Manager at Hudson Valley Farm Hub

Jay grew up on his family’s 8,000-acre wheat and cattle ranch in Washington State. After receiving an MFA in nonfiction writing from Columbia University, he managed the family farm for 8 years, adding organic and no-till farming practices to help address the needs of the soil. He brings to the Farm Hub a wide-range of experience growing field crops on a large scale.
McEnroe Organics

McEnroe Organic Farm has been NOFA-NY Certified Organic for over 25 years; it is one of New York’s oldest and most diverse certified organic farms and stands at over 1,200 acres of fields, pastures, and greenhouses. The farm’s methods include crop rotation, biological pest control, composting, careful cultivation, and cover cropping. We grow certified organic vegetables, fruits, herbs, and feed for our livestock. With green houses and cold frames, we extend the season for organic tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, field greens and herbs, enabling us to grow as early as April and as late as December.

For more than 20 years McEnroe’s premium soil blends and compost have been used by other organic growers, regional farms, commercial landscapers, municipal parks, home gardens and for green rooftops. Our composting operation receives manures, leaves and food waste, all of which we organically convert to a high-quality compost soil amendment, which we use to ensures a rich and biodiverse organic farm.

Our goal is to give our customers confidence in the food they eat, knowing where it was grown, and that it is high-quality, healthy, and free of pesticides and added hormones.

**Todd Walter, Professor, Dept. of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University**

Professor Todd Walter is a Professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering. His research emphasis is on the interactions between hydrology, ecology, and biogeochemistry. He applies physical hydrology and water resources engineering to a broad range of multidisciplinary research interests and pursues questions that cross the traditional academic boundaries of hydrology and terrestrial ecology. Todd has conducted fascinating research on P as a non-point source pollutant and denitrifying bioreactors.
Sara Katz, Associate Manager, Education Program, Hudson Valley Farm Hub

Sara joins the Farm Hub from The New York Botanical Garden, where she worked as a community horticulturist – designing, coordinating, and teaching educational programs for urban growers. She holds a masters degree from the New School and received her BA from the University of Vermont. As a founding member and faculty of Farm School NYC and speaker at the NOFA summer conference, she has been an energetic advocate for sustainable agriculture in our region.

Anne Bloomfield, Farmscape Ecology Coordinator, Hudson Valley Farm Hub

Anne comes to us with a background in wildlife and conservation biology, applied field research, outdoor education and horticulture. For over 10 years, Anne has worked at leading conservation organizations including National Audubon Society, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mohonk Preserve and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Anne is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island. She is originally from the Capital Region and currently lives in the Hudson Valley.