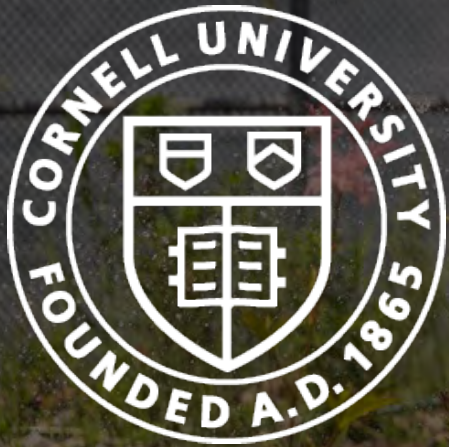


# Study of Urban Agriculture New York State



November 2, 2022

*Photo credit: RJ Anderson, Cornell University*

# Agenda

Time	Item	Details
11am	Orientation	
11:05am	Welcome and introduction	Hosted by Kelly Young, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM)
11:15am	Study team introductions	NYSDAM, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE); name, organization
11:20am	Presentation: urban agriculture study background, methods, and introduction of draft recommendations	Presented by Yolanda Gonzalez, CCE; Kyle Karnuta and Claire Lynch, CCE Graduate Research Assistants
11:45am	Break	
12:00pm	Question and answer	Refer to meeting pre-work; all participants invited to contribute feedback
1:40 pm	Wrap up and next steps	Presented by Claire Lynch, CCE Graduate Research Assistant



LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2021

CHAPTER 747

AN ACT to authorize and direct the commissioner of agriculture and markets to conduct a study on urban agriculture

Became a law December 22, 2021, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

**The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:**

Section 1. 1. The commissioner of agriculture and markets is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a study on all forms of urban agriculture including, but not limited to, vertical farming, community gardens and urban farming. The purpose of this study shall include but not be limited to examining the effects urban agriculture would have on access to locally grown food, job creation and educational opportunities, and the impacts on the environment.

2. Within one year of the effective date of this act, the commissioner of agriculture and markets shall deliver a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly. The report shall include recommendations for legislation and administrative programs related to all forms of urban agriculture practices including, but not limited to, vertical farming, community gardens and urban farming.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

The Legislature of the STATE OF NEW YORK **ss:**

Pursuant to the authority vested in us by section 70-b of the Public Officers Law, we hereby jointly certify that this slip copy of this session law was printed under our direction and, in accordance with such section, is entitled to be read into evidence.

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS

**Temporary President of the Senate**

CARL E. HEASTIE

**Speaker of the Assembly**

# Chapter 747

- Study all forms of urban agriculture
  - Vertical farming
  - Community gardens
  - Urban farming
- December 22, 2022, delivery
- Audience
  - The governor
  - President of the senate
  - Speaker of the assembly
  - Minority leader of the senate
  - Minority leader of the assembly
- Must include recommendations
  - Legislative
  - Administrative

# Housekeeping

- Further opportunities to contribute
  - Survey submissions due to [yg88@cornell.edu](mailto:yg88@cornell.edu) by November 4
- Introduce yourself during your first response
  - Name, organization, location
- Please limit responses to 2 minutes

# Study Methods & Timeline

- Review of Relevant Literature (Summer 2022)
  - Local reports, like “Recommendations from the Rochester Urban Agriculture Working Group for the First Hundred Days of the Malik Evans Administration”
  - Academic publications, like “Increasing City Resilience through Urban Agriculture: Challenges and Solutions in the Global North”
  - Policy reports, like “The New York State Resiliency Report” (2021)
  - Industry reports, like “The Economic Contributions of Agriculture to the New York State Economy: 2019”
- Community Engagement and Participation (Summer - Fall 2022)
  - 50+ hours of on-farm (urban) volunteering
  - Participation in community meetings and calls
  - Attendance at community urban agriculture days in Buffalo, Rochester, and New York City
- Individual Case Study Interviews (In Progress)

# Study Methods & Timeline

- Community Feedback Session (Today)
- Complete and Submit Survey to [yg88@cornell.edu](mailto:yg88@cornell.edu) by November 4
- Final Report Delivered (December 22, 2022)

# Themes

- Urban agriculture looks different everywhere
  - Soil-Based vs Non-Soil-Based
  - For Profit vs Non-Profit
  - Non-Commercial (home-based & community) vs Commercial
- Coverage area
  - Albany
  - Buffalo
  - New York City
  - Rochester
  - Syracuse

# Themes

- Benefits
  - Environmental (ecosystems services, ecological rehabilitation)
  - Social services (green space, community development)
  - Economic (job creation, food access)
- Challenges
  - Environmental (soil conditions, heavy metals, pollution)
  - Institutional (access to capital, access to land, zoning and regulation)
  - Social (green gentrification, exclusion of historically marginalized communities)



# Recommendations Overview

The following statements represent potential recommendations for the New York State Legislature and Administrators to implement with the purpose of expanding the benefits of urban agriculture.

For each recommendation, please consider and respond to:

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Recommendations Overview

- 1. Increase coordination and collaboration of urban agricultural systems**
- 2. Create better, sustained access to capital and funding**
- 3. Promote urban agriculture as a source of community, physical, and social wellbeing**
- 4. Create a regulatory environment that is friendly to urban agriculture by promoting standardized regulation and zoning across the state**
- 5. Reduce obstacles to land access for urban farmers**
- 6. Support business and/or community development**
- 7. Expand incentives and subsidies for urban growers that extend ecosystems services and increase resilience to environmental shocks**
- 8. Increase investment in urban agriculture education to inspire and create the New York food sector workforce of the future**
- 9. Develop greater access to markets and increase independent and regional distribution capacity**

# Question & Answer

## 1. Increase coordination and collaboration of urban agricultural systems

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## 2. Create better, sustained access to capital and funding

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## **3. Promote urban agriculture as a source of community, physical, and social wellbeing**

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## **4. Create a regulatory environment that is friendly to urban agriculture by promoting standardized regulation and zoning**

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## 5. Reduce obstacles to land access for urban farmers

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## 6. Support business and/or community development

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?



# Question & Answer

## **7. Expand incentives and subsidies for urban growers that extend ecosystems services and increase resilience**

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## **8. Increase investment in urban agriculture education to inspire and create the New York food sector workforce of the future**

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

## 9. Develop greater access to markets and increase independent and regional distribution capacity

- Does this recommendation resonate with you? Please elaborate on how well this recommendation fits or does not fit the needs of urban agriculture that you encounter.
- How would you envision bringing this recommendation to life? What steps would need to be taken, what would success look like, and what groups should be involved?
- Is this something you have seen in your work? Is this something being done in your area and, if so, what learnings could be applied?

# Question & Answer

What themes did we not discuss that are critical for the success of urban agriculture in your area?

# Next Steps

Survey submissions due to [yg88@cornell.edu](mailto:yg88@cornell.edu) by November 4

Final report delivery December 22, 2022