



## 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@tiogacounty.ny.gov](mailto:singerd@tiogacounty.ny.gov) (607) 972-8009



### Looking Ahead

**January:**

- 24 - 10:00am - TC ARG Meeting - TCSWCD Office (183 Corporate Drive Owego): Strategic Planning for 2024

**February:**

- 28 - 10:00am - TC ARG Meeting: David Behm from NYS Ag & Markets to discuss NYS Farmland Protection Programs

**March:**

- 27 - 10:00am - TC ARG Meeting: NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan overview and discussion about its potential impacts to local agriculture (Speaker TBD)

## ARG Agency Spotlight

The Tioga County Economic Development and Planning Department plays a key role in ARG. The Department oversees the Tioga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board whose duties include developing an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. The plan created ARG to implement the strategies identified in the plan and assist the Board with coordinating all the agencies involved with carrying out farmland protection in the county.



## ARG Member Spotlight



Danielle Singer is the current Chair of ARG. She works at Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District as a Water Quality & Nutrient Mgmt Specialist.

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

- I have been a member for 7 years, 1 as the Chair

**What is your favorite ARG activity?**

- I love Sundaes at the Farm, it brings out a wonderful sense of community in everyone involved and at the event

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

- This group is a free and useful resource to anyone in the community. It's full of connections, opportunities and support for local agriculture.





# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

TIOGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP

## AG & FARMLAND PROTECTION

Carrying out the strategies identified in the county's Ag & Farmland Protection Plan is the main purpose of ARG. In 2023 we reviewed our progress and began preparations for a plan update in 2025.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Established in 2023 with a goal of partnering with local educators to share resources and increase community engagement with our youth!

## SUNDAES AT THE FARM

Our annual dairy promotion event was held at Engelbert's Farm this year drawing a crowd of over 1,000 people!







## TIOGA COUNTY FAIR

ARG partners tabled at the fair each day to outreach about county resources and programs, as well as, promote local agriculture with free dairy products and honey sticks.



TC ARG had another great year of collaboration! We began the year by reviewing the county's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (2015) and the strategies laid out for the ARG and collective partners to contribute to the implementation of the plan. We were glad to see success on many tasks, made note of areas we should look at and started collecting edits for a plan update in the future. This year we hosted several speakers that prompted great discussions and new action items. We heard a state of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL update, information and updates from Tioga County Sustainability/Recycling/Waste, the Tioga County Ag and Farmland Protection Board and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), as well as, a tour of CCE's Hilltop Community Farm location and updates about their new incubator farmer program. We spent time discussing issues affecting our farmers such as solar facilities, ag tire disposal, dairy industry, agrotourism opportunities, land access and hiring on-farm help. Our annual outreach event, Sundaes at the Farm, brought over 1,000 people to a local dairy farm for free educational activities. We also tabled at the Tioga County Fair to promote local agriculture with fun children's activities. This year we created a Youth Engagement Committee to bring educators in our local schools to the table to share our resources, help them with issues they are facing and overall increase the engagement between our group and schools. And finally, this year we decided to start an ARG newsletter! The newsletter will have information, updates and opportunities from the ARG partners for the Tioga County ag community!

## SUNDAES AT THE FARM

We welcomed over 1,000 attendees to Engelbert Farms in Nichols on July 16th. It was our largest event yet! Many thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and organizations that provided educational booths, it was a fun day for all who were there. And a huge thanks to Engelbert Farms for hosting us this year! Sponsors: Tioga State Bank, Wegmans, Farm Bureau, Scott Smith & Son, Ward & VanScoy, Dairy Farmers of America and Tioga Downs Product Sponsors: Organic Valley, Wegmans, Chobani, Cabot, Sweetrees Maple Products, Gary's Berries and Engelbert Farms

