

2026 Food Systems Career Day Agenda

- 8:30** Registration Check-In
- 9:00** Keynote Speaker: Owen Weikert, Director of Corporate Sustainability, Cayuga Milk Ingredients
- 9:30** Apprenticeship Panel - Ed Staehr, Facilitator
- Erin Humphrey Konuma of Silver Tree Forest Farm
 - Tad Patterson, Youngstock Manager, Patterson Farms
 - Eileen Donovan, Manager of Apprenticeship and Workforce Development, MACNY
 - Julia Smith, Director of Learning and Development at Upstate Niagara Cooperative
- 10:30** Break
- 10:45** Spruce Haven Farm Biochar Research Project
- Doug Young, Spruce Haven Farms
 - Kirstin Workman, Cornell PRO Dairy
 - Alyssa Roorda, Ag Teacher & FFA Advisor, Union Springs & Port Byron CSDs, Union Springs FFA youth leaders
- 11:15** Growing Hope Globally Mission and Project Support
- Curtis Veiock, Growing Hope Globally Regional Director- OH, PA, Eastern Appalachia & East Coast
 - Doug Young, Spruce Haven Farms, Growing Hope Globally Board Member
- 11:30** Artificial Intelligence and Food Systems - Alyssa Roorda
- Anthony Colangelo, Senior Innovation and AI Lead, Farm Credit East
- 12:00** Lunch
- 12:30** Growing Hope Locally Project Highlights
- 12:45** Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Frank Clarke, Agriculture and Horticulture Program Lead; Sara Wagner, 4-H Program Lead; Katy Drake, 4-H Educator
- 1:15** Global Farmer Experience, Curtis Veiock

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