



Teaching the
HUDSON VALLEY
Explore a place. Discover your world.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available on request.

Featuring scholars and local experts

Farms & Food: Teaching the Hudson Valley from the Ground Up

Hyde Park, NY – Educators and the public are invited to discover new and innovative ways to learn about the region’s culture, history, and future at **Farms & Food: Teaching the Hudson Valley from the Ground Up**, a conference to be held July 29-31 at the Henry A. Wallace Education and Visitors Center on the grounds of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Presidential Library in Hyde Park.

The keynote address, **Educating our Next Generation to Eat with Consciousness**, features Pam Koch, associate professor of nutrition education and executive director, Laurie M. [Tisch Center for Food, Education, & Policy](#), Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition, Koch will lead a workshop, **Empowered Eaters: Making Connections through Food and Nutrition Education**. To see Koch cooking with her own children, visit [Kids Cook Monday](#).

Other featured presentations include:

- **Farming in the Valley Today**, a panel with farmers from [Dutch Hollow Farm](#) (Rensselaer County), the [Rockland Farm Alliance](#), [Hearty Roots Community Farm](#) (Columbia County), the [National Young Farmers Coalition](#), [Rondout Valley Growers](#), and [Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corp.](#) (Thursday morning)
- **Climate Change and Agriculture: No Longer Business as Usual – Local to Global** featuring Mike Hoffmann, associate dean, [College of Agriculture & Life Sciences](#), and director, Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University. (Tuesday afternoon)

More than 15 workshops will be offered. For instance: **Breaking Old Ground: A History of Hudson Valley Agriculture** with Kelli Huggins, education coordinator, Chemung County

Historical Society; **Growing Curriculum: Creating School Gardens**, featuring representatives from New Paltz High School, Lake Avenue Elementary School Garden (Saratoga), and JFK Magnet School (Port Chester); **Teaching Food Equality** with Susan Grove, [Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Coalition](#); and **What do animals need to stay alive? FOOD!**, featuring environmental educator Rebecca Houser, [Hudson River Estuary Program](#), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

On the second day of the institute, participants will choose one of four in-depth field experiences incorporating tours, lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on activities to explore a specific aspect of food or farming in the Hudson Valley:

- [Cropsey Community Farm](#) – get an introduction to the farm and the intersection of suburbia and agriculture and savor a food truck lunch. New City, Rockland County.
- **Food Arts in Albany** – take a cooking class with chef and blogger, Deanna Fox, followed by sketching and instruction with Carol Coogan, artist and illustrator.
- **Our Ecosystem, Our Health: Exploring School and Community Gardens** – visit urban gardens at schools and neighborhoods in Poughkeepsie and get ideas for starting, planning, and maintaining your own garden.
- **The Scoop on Dirt: Soil, Farming, and History** – learn about the complexities of farming past and present. [Roxbury Farm](#) and [Martin Van Buren National Historic Site](#), Kinderhook, Columbia County.

While **Teaching the Hudson Valley from the Ground Up** was developed for K-12 teachers and informal educators, anyone interested in the subject matter is encouraged to participate. For a detailed schedule and more information, visit [THV's website](#). To get first choice of field experiences participants are urged to register immediately. Registration is \$115 for all three days, \$80 for two days, and \$40 for a single day for those who register by July 18. There is a supplemental charge for some field experiences. [Register here](#).

About THV Launched in 2003, Teaching the Hudson Valley (THV) helps educators discover, appreciate, and share the region's natural, historic, and cultural treasures with children and youth. THV fosters collaboration among schools, museums, parks, historic sites, art galleries, libraries, and other physical resources and promotes the value of place-based learning.

THV's growing collection of free K-12 lesson [plans](#) uses significant Valley sites to teach virtually all subjects. Our [grant programs](#) have enabled tens of thousands of students to visit significant places in our region and make it easier for teachers to get students out of the classroom and into the community. And, our summer [institute](#) and other programs offer rare opportunities for school and informal educators to meet each other and exchange ideas.

THV is a program of Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area & Greenway Conservancy | Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites/National Park Service | Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation | Hudson River Valley Institute/Marist College. Additional Institute sponsors include the FDR Presidential Library/ National Archives & Records Administration, and Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association.