

Brief Bio

Deborah Aller is a soil scientist who currently serves as the agricultural stewardship specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. She oversees the coordination and implementation of the Agricultural Stewardship Program, which works directly with the commercial horticultural and agricultural industries to reduce nutrient and pesticide loading from agricultural lands to the ground and surface waters of Long Island. She conducts applied research, leads on-farm demonstration projects, and coordinates field days and other outreach events to educate farmers about current technologies and agricultural best management practices including soil health. She holds an MSc in Environmental Science and International Development from the University of Edinburgh and PhD in Soil Science from Iowa State University. Her expertise is in soil amendments and soil management for improved soil health on farms and across the landscape.

Programs and projects:

The Agricultural Stewardship Program has numerous on-going and planned projects and activities.

Major active programs/projects:

- 'Implementation and Management of Suffolk County's Agricultural Stewardship Program'.
- 'Impact of Biochar on Moisture and Nutrient Retention in Long Island Nurseries'. Follow project activities here: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/Ine19-384r/
- 'Using UAVs in Suffolk County as a predictive tool to reduce fertilizer, water and pesticide use'.
- Soil Health Programs in cooperation with the SC-SWCD - <http://ccesuffolk.org/agriculture/agricultural-stewardship/soil-health-programs>
- Full list of current activities by the Agricultural Stewardship Program - <http://ccesuffolk.org/agriculture/agricultural-stewardship/current-projects>

Further educational and reference materials on topics of nutrient/pesticide management and soil health can be found at: <http://ccesuffolk.org/agriculture/agricultural-stewardship/>

Field days and educational workshops are held annually and currently in the planning stages for 2021. The Agricultural Stewardship Program also has several pending projects related to the use of biochar on Long Island for agricultural and environmental applications, cover cropping, organic products as local fertilizer – nutrient reuse, and a collaborative project with the CCE Marine program to evaluate edge of field permeable reactive barriers for improved water quality.

Contact Info: Deborah Aller, PhD, email: da352@cornell.edu; office: 423 Griffing Ave, Riverhead, NY