Topics Derived from Program Council Discussions and Comments from the Floor (in order of discussion; no relative priority implied)

- Local Government
  - Need to explore the full implications of local government consolidation? Long-term social and economic effects.
  - Local government leaders are in need of capacity development relative to community change and current issues
  - Many communities are in crisis mode and need help with future orientation, risk and systems analysis

- Population Changes
  - Need better understanding of the implications of an aging population for issues such as housing, health care access, taxation
  - Need community-level understanding of population change and associated implications
  - Implications of NY’s slow population growth/loss of younger people upstate
  - How to attract and retain youth
  - Need to actively identify and address underserved audiences
  - Implications of expansion of grandparents raising kids

- Health and Nutrition
  - Mental health implications of economic, social, and environmental changes – implications for individuals, organization, government
  - Relationships between childhood obesity and health care costs
  - Need to identify local government interests and roles in nutrition and obesity issues; links to trends in consolidation of local governments and services
  - Need for expansion of ecological approaches to education
  - Consider public health implications of all major issues like climate change, energy sustainability, food systems, etc.

- Sustainable Food Systems
  - Local foods – opportunities for new partnerships/shared services, need for reorganized approaches, influence of farm subsidies
  - Opportunities to expand NY role in providing healthy foods to the NE US
  - Labor supply issues in food system including push toward commodity crops instead of fruits and vegetables
  - Ways to generate interest among youth in food system
  - Influence of NY regulatory climate on sustainable food systems
  - Waste management and disposal
  - Ways to scale up regional food systems to compete effectively with large-scale importing – need for mainstream marketing mechanisms
  - Focused efforts such as broccoli on east coast
  - Infrastructure needs of agriculture, e.g., processing, storage
  - NY’s heavy reliance on imported organic foods – need for leadership and expanded emphasis on conversion to organic production
  - Need strategies to capitalize on our resource advantages – water, transportation, seasonality

- Economic development
  - Growing economic disparities/increased poverty – implications and possible approaches
  - Poverty and growth of small farms – are there potential links that could benefit all
  - Green job development – what works, options available
  - Many Industrial Development Agencies do not recognize agriculture
  - Need comprehensive analysis of economic benefits and costs at individual, community, and state level to address issues like energy, gas development, food sustainability, etc.
  - Need to balance growth with adaptation considering social, economic, and environmental impacts
Energy/Environment

- Community level implications of energy policy, alternatives, links to local foods
- Relationships between energy policy and migration patterns
- Identify actions available to address changes in energy availability and costs
- How to encourage environmental sustainability among the farming community
- Need guidance on which issues to focus on in light of increasingly limited public funding
- How does availability of natural gas resources factor in to energy cost and competitiveness of NYS
- Need economic analysis of loss of agricultural production to natural gas development
- Influence of natural gas development on industry investment in solar and wind power

- Approaches for Addressing Issues
  - Decision making models
    - Understanding of/perceptions of relative risks in many contexts; need to identify and address fears raised by change and/or specific issues
    - Change initiatives in light of uncertainty, need for new models
    - Ecological models for decision making – holistic approaches
    - Identifying critical factors for creating positive change
    - Careful behavioral analysis to identify incentives for change
  - New Approaches
    - Need for new approaches for working across interests, finding common interest
    - Need for multi-disciplinary, multi-audience, multi-issue approaches for major challenges like nutrition and childhood obesity, economic development, family wellbeing
    - Need for new models of public/private partnerships and funding to address issues
    - Need for change initiation and management models
  - Need for indicators for major issues that can be tracked to assess progress/needs
  - Eroding credibility of science – understanding causes and addressing

- Education
  - Opportunities for 4-H SET contribute substantively in preparing youth for future jobs
  - Roles of 4-H in shoring up school programs facing cuts
  - Need to identify systematically how different educational initiatives can best complement each other, e.g., SET initiatives in formal and informal education

- Climate Change
  - Developing fuller understanding of subtle changes
  - Specific adaptation strategies at all scales
  - Need more time studies of impacts
  - Strategies for addressing huge understanding/credibility issues

- Programming Strategies
  - Lack of social science analysis of major issues like energy, climate change, economic development, obesity, etc.
  - Actively engage new Regional Economic Development Councils
  - Expand emphasis on ecological model within CCE
  - Adopt evidence-based approaches for choosing educational approaches
  - Need for more active policy education at the state level
  - Community-level participatory research and engagement is important
  - Partner actively with rural development organizations
  - Include measurable outcomes in funding proposals
  - Need to work with both large and small institutions/organizations and the public to affect important changes