



# ONEIDA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN June 2017



Cover Photo: Eddie B's Honey, Finndale Farm, Link Maple Farm, North Star Orchards, Stoltzfus Family Dairy, Wightman Farm

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## Executive Summary

This *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* presents insights and information about the role of agriculture in Oneida County gained as the result of a process of inventorying resources, analyzing capacities and trends, and engaging the public in a dialogue on the issues. It highlights a number of opportunities, and also identifies some concerns, that will shape the future of agriculture in the County. Most importantly, it establishes a long-term vision for agriculture in the County; identifies strategies to ensure that agriculture remains a strong contributor to the County's economy and quality of life for many years into the future; and sets out an Action Plan for implementation of those strategies.

This Plan incorporates an in-depth discussion of local policies that affect agriculture and farmland protection, with a special emphasis on the important role of municipal land use regulations, and identifies farmland in the County that should be prioritized for protection. Stakeholders in the County, including County Government and local municipalities should use this Plan to help ensure that local decisions that may affect farms and farmland are supported by objective information, analysis, and practical recommendations.

### Why a New Plan?

- After 17 years, new challenges mean new ideas and strategies are needed.
- Updated data, maps and other information are needed to target and support new programs.
- A cohesive framework for farmers, farm groups and agencies is needed to guide collaboration on programs.

## Role of Agriculture in the County

Agriculture has played an important role in Oneida County historically, and it continues to do so. Although the acreage of land devoted to active farming operations has decreased over many decades, farmland still is the predominant non-residential use of land in the County: according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture, 1,066 farms utilize 26.5% of the total acreage of the County. Actively farmed land is distributed throughout the County, and in many of the County's 26 Towns farming occupies most of the land.

Beyond being the predominant land use throughout most of the County, our diverse agricultural sector is a significant economic contributor, as evidenced by the USDA Census of Agriculture 2012 report of sales receipts:

- \$113 Million in farm sales, of which more than half is from milk; the remainder is from diverse farm products, including:
  - \$8.9 Million in cattle and calf sales
  - \$5.5 Million in nursery and greenhouse sales
  - \$3.5 million in sales of vegetable crops
  - \$1.7 Million in fruit sales
  - \$1.6 Million in other livestock sales

Agriculture in Oneida County drives indirect economic benefits as well, by supporting economic activity in commercial and industrial sectors that benefit from the presence of agriculture, and by providing a significant source of jobs and income.

Agriculture also contributes to the County’s visual landscape and character; it provides access to fresh, healthy, local food products; it preserves open space and wildlife habitats; and it contributes to recreation and tourism attractions including hunting, fishing, motorized vehicle use, and farm tours.

### Agriculture-Friendly Oneida County Initiative

To assist in driving priority action items of this Plan, the County Executive has tasked Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County with the development of *an Agriculture-Friendly Oneida County Initiative*. This Initiative will ensure that planning, regulatory and enforcement decisions made at the local level strike the best possible balance between the needs of a diverse and changing agriculture sector and other local interests, including residential neighbors.

Specifically, as a result of this Initiative, in 2017 the County will develop and deploy the following print and website resources:

**Ag-Friendly Oneida County Toolkit, including support for:**

- Comprehensive Planning
- Zoning
- Subdivision Regulations
- Definitions
- Agricultural Districts
- Right-to-Farm laws
- Maps

**Recommended local actions, including:**

- Ag-friendliness reviews
- Resident surveys
- Municipal official professional development, etc.

**Resource guide, including:**

- New York State Planning Grants
- Oneida County Planning Department
- Oneida County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, etc.



## Priority Action Items

This Plan identifies certain specific actions for priority implementation in Year 1. These actions will ensure that:

- **Oneida County is ag-friendly.**

Town governments have a critical role to play in ensuring that their policies support agriculture. Oneida County will support and encourage farm-friendly Town regulations and procedures, and will help bring in New York State funding to help Town's improve those policies when appropriate.

  - Survey and identify local regulations and procedures that may limit growth of agritourism and recommend changes
  - Inventory and map zoning relevant to agribusiness
- **Oneida County agriculture is an amenity for residents and an attraction for visitors.**

Strengthening farmers' markets and other direct connections between farmers and consumers brings farmers new business opportunities and consolidates the importance of agriculture as a contributor to the local economy.

  - Develop promotional tools for agritourism businesses (print, electronic)
  - Produce and distribute printed guides to local food
  - Increase the capacity of Union Station, which currently serves as the home of the Oneida County Public Market, to serve as a sustainable community hub for local food and tourism with new funding sources including REDC application
  - Create a website (or new section of an existing website) to celebrate Oneida County agriculture
- **Oneida County is planning for the future of agriculture.**

The one constant in agriculture is change, and Oneida County is planning for changes by developing a strong shared understanding of the role of agriculture in the economy, the environment, and public health; and by encouraging new entrants into food and agriculture careers.

  - Support development and distribution of agriculture and food system asset map envisioned by the MV500 Regional Economic Development task force
  - Develop pilot agriculture career day event with BOCES with the goal of it becoming a regular regional event
  - With MVCC and the thINCubator, pursue REDC and other funding for an agricultural business incubator; participating entrepreneurs will develop products and business models to serve emerging markets including farm-to-school and farm-to-institution

The Farmland Protection Board will encourage and assist in the development of Regional Economic Development Council and other funding proposals to support these and other actions identified in the Plan.

## Strengths, Issues and Opportunities

This Plan identifies features and characteristics that make our agriculture strong, as well as issues that challenge our farms. It also highlights opportunities for which we should prepare and invest. These include:

### **Strengths:**

- Experienced, resourceful farming population
- Strong local agribusiness infrastructure
- Temperate climate and sufficient clean water
- Competitive advantage of location near population centers
- Supportive local policies

### **Issues:**

- High property taxes
- Barriers to entry for new farm enterprises
- Volatile commodity markets
- Insufficient local food processing and distribution infrastructure
- Historical lack of emphasis on marketing
- Labor supply challenges
- Burdensome regulatory environment
- Aging farm population

### **Opportunities:**

- Increasing advantages of climate, water, and proximity to population centers
- Growing support for buying local
- Development of niche markets and small farm opportunities
- Support for craft beverage and value-added enterprises
- Interest among the public in agritourism
- Growing connections to downstate markets
- Farm to School and Farm to Institution sales
- Marketing to diverse immigrant populations

## Strategies and Goals for Agricultural and Farmland Protection

The creation of this *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* involved inventorying resources, analyzing capacities and trends, and engaging the public in a dialogue on the issues. As a result of that process the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Update Task Force and the agency staff responsible for developing this updated Plan identified the following overall **strategies** for the coming years:

### Strategies

- Sustain and increase agriculture's contributions to the local economy
- Sustain and increase agriculture's contributions to the quality of life in the County, preserving rural landscapes, a clean environment and access to fresh food.

### Goals

In order to accomplish these overall strategies, this Plan has established the following five primary **Goals**:

1. Support new farm- and agriculture- related businesses
2. Connect local farms with local consumers
3. Bring new people into agriculture careers through education initiatives
4. Increase public awareness and focus local policy on protecting and strengthening agriculture
5. Protect important farmland resources

### Action Plan: Putting this Plan to Work

This Plan includes a carefully considered list of **Action Items**, each of which will further the achievement of the five Goals listed above. For each Action Item, the group or agency that will take the lead on implementation is identified; required resources are described; and the anticipated timeframe for the completion of the Action Item is specified.

Equally important, this Plan lays out an *accountability process*, which will ensure the continued engagement of the stakeholders over the life of the Plan by committing the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board to a bi-annual review of progress on these initial Action Items and identification of new Action Items needed to ensure continued progress toward the Goals. The results of each bi-annual review will be documented in writing and submitted to the County Legislature, with a description of successes, challenges, and recommended modifications, additions, or updates to the Goals and Action Steps in this original plan.



## Action Plan Summary

### **Goal 1: Support new farm- and agriculture- related businesses**

#### Year 1:

- Survey and identify local regulations and procedures that may limit growth of agritourism and recommend changes
- Support development and distribution of agriculture and food system asset map envisioned by the MV500 Regional Economic Development task force
- Develop promotional tools for agritourism businesses (print, electronic)

#### Year 1-5:

- Seek funding for a planned agricultural business Incubator alongside MVCC's thINCubator in downtown Utica
- Encourage participation of agricultural/food businesses in business plan competition
- Develop a value-added cook-chill processing plant as part of agribusiness park
- Create a downstate-upstate marketing initiative
- Develop a food processing and distribution facility with a primary focus on Farm to School
- Launch Taste NY store

#### Ongoing:

- Update agribusiness directory - every two years
- Agribusiness outreach
- Update agritourism directory information annually
- Deploy ag business revolving loan funds (MV EDGE/MVEDD)

### **Goal 2: Connect local farms with local consumers**

#### Year 1:

- Produce and distribute printed guides to local food
- Increase capacity of Union Station REA

#### Year 1-5:

- Market development support for farmers to sell their products to local public K-12 schools
- Market development support for farmers to sell their products to local institutional buyers (colleges, hospitals, etc.)
- Strengthen the alliance of farmers' market managers
- Strengthen the alliance of community gardens

#### Ongoing

- Provide forums (e.g., Mohawk Valley Food Action Network) for increasing connections and understanding between sectors of the food system

### **Goal 3: Bring new individuals into agriculture careers through education initiatives**

#### Year 1:

- Develop agriculture career day event with BOCES to be held every 3 years

#### Year 1-5:

- Support local school districts' enhancements to existing ag program
- Support veterans getting into agriculture

- Develop and implement tailored new farmer education for refugees

Ongoing

- Support and improve Farm Fest celebration of Oneida County agriculture
- Continue development of Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH) program

**Goal 4: Increase public awareness and focus local policy on protecting and strengthening agriculture**

Year 1:

- Inventory and map of zoning relevant to agribusiness
- Create a website (or new section of an existing website) to celebrate Oneida County agriculture

Year 1-5:

- Develop and establish a system for updating a database of "farm units" (similar to Dutchess County)
- Provide training opportunities to municipal assessors on ag-related property class codes
- Study transportation issues that affect agriculture including road safety, adequacy of bridges, regulation
- Conduct a study of the contribution of private forest land resources to the local economy and SWOT analysis
- Promote development of new or updated comprehensive plans
- Encourage Towns that have comprehensive plans to promptly reflect them in current land use plans and regulations
- Provide Towns with tools and information that help them improve the farm-friendliness of local regulations (as further detailed in this plan)

Ongoing

- Communicate through media, social media, etc. on Farm to School and other food system initiatives to the general public
- Farmland Protection Board members participate in assessor meetings
- Strengthen mutual understanding between Amish and neighbors
- Act as a resource to provide information related to farmland protection to consumers and municipal officials

**Goal 5: Protect important farmland resources**

Year 1-5:

- Provide educational opportunities on Ag Districts through assessor training, landowner programs, and improved web materials
- Increase awareness in Agricultural Assessment program
- Research ways to improve methods of measuring farm viability to contribute to farmland protection

Ongoing

- Encourage and support landowner applications for New York State's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program

- Create ongoing committee to evaluate priority farmlands for protection including updating on development pressure

## Mission Statement

The purpose of this *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* is to provide information, analysis, a vision, and a plan of action that will support and guide local stakeholders in their efforts to preserve, protect, and develop existing and potential agricultural assets of Oneida County and the Mohawk Valley region.

## Vision Statement

Oneida County stakeholders envision a future in which agriculture will play a significant and increasing role as part of a strong local economy and as a key element of the quality of life in the County, offering job opportunities, contributing to a strong social fabric, and preserving an attractive and healthy environment.

## PART 1: BACKGROUND

### Why Create an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan?

New York State's Agriculture and Markets Law states: "...agricultural lands are irreplaceable state assets. In an effort to maintain the economic viability and environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture, the state must explore ways to sustain the state's valuable farm economy and the land base associated with it. It is therefore declared the policy of the state to promote local initiatives for agricultural and farmland protection." (Article 25AAA)

The creation of an *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* is an opportunity, supported by New York State and the Oneida County Legislature, for local stakeholders – farmers, farm landowners, local elected and appointed officials, and other interested residents – to share insights, concerns and hopes for the future of agriculture in the County, and to contribute to the establishment of a vision and strategies to ensure that agriculture remains a vital contributor to the economy and quality of life well into the future.

New York State is a "home rule" state, which means that many decisions that can affect agriculture and farmland preservation in both positive and negative ways will occur at the very local – town, village or city – level. The findings and guidance in the County's *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* cannot replace or supersede those local decisions. However, a successful Plan can ensure that decisions made at those local levels benefit from good, objective information and analysis, and clear, practical recommendations.

Oneida County created one of the earliest *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans*, which was adopted in 2000. That Plan included specific recommendations for actions to support agricultural economic development; to promote the awareness of and support for agriculture among the general public; and to plan for the protection of farmland. Many of those recommendations remain relevant and are updated in the "Goals and Objectives" section of this Plan.

Since Oneida County's original plan was written, many more Counties have adopted farmland protection plans, and New York State's Department of Agriculture and Markets has provided updated guidance for new County Plans. Specifically, the Department expects current Plans to:

- Identify priority farmland areas for protection
- Establish a shared vision of the future of agriculture that can inform local government decision-making
- Recommend specific actions to be taken to move toward that future

This updated Plan is intended to address those needs and expectations.

### The Process of Creating this Plan

In recent years, the Oneida County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board\* and other interested parties have noted that the *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* adopted by the County in 2000 was in need of updating. The issues and pressures affecting the County's important agricultural and farmland resources were changing due not only to the passage of more than a decade, but also due to specific developments occurring in Oneida County and the region, notably, but not limited to, the arrival and expected growth of the nanotech industry.

In light of those concerns, in October 2014 Oneida County submitted an application to New York State's Department of Agriculture and Markets for \$15,000 in state funding to assist with the development of an updated Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. For its part, the County committed \$12,000 in in-kind services to support the project and \$3,000 in cash for the hiring of an expert consultant. In February 2015, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets approved the county's grant application and in January 2016 the county entered into a subcontract with Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County to have CCEOC write/develop the plan.

In order to ensure that the updated Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan reflected the insights of all stakeholder sectors, Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente recruited and named a Planning Task Force\* including farmers, farm landowners, municipal officials, business owners, and other interested residents who were asked to participate actively in the planning process. In February and March of 2016, Cornell Cooperative Extension staff convened a series of topic-specific meetings of the Task Force at the CCEOC offices in Oriskany:

Task Force Meeting #1, February 25, 4pm to 6pm

Topic: Inventory and Analysis of farmland and agricultural productive resources in Oneida County

Task Force Meeting #2, March 10, 4pm to 6pm

Topic: Inventory and Analysis of the economic role and contributions of agriculture in Oneida County

Task Force Meeting #3, March 31, 4pm to 6pm

Topic: Inventory and Analysis of the policy environment relevant to agriculture in Oneida County

Over the course of the spring and summer, CCEOC and County Planning staff collected and reviewed recent Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans adopted by other New York State counties, and developed a draft table of contents and list of maps for the proposed update to Oneida County's plan. Staff also collected and analyzed important relevant data that had not previously been readily available, including real property class and tax information; water and sewer infrastructure data; and important natural resource data. County Planning staff also assembled and scanned for easy access municipal policy documents including comprehensive plans, zoning, and subdivision regulations for all municipalities in the County. In late September



the Task Force met again to review the results of staff's work and to plan public outreach during the fall.

In October and November, public meetings were held in diverse geographic locations around the County:

October 27, 6 to 8pm, Steuben Town Hall  
November 10, 6 to 8pm, Sangerfield Town Hall  
November 17, 6 to 8pm Verona Town Hall

At each of these meetings, the purpose and preliminary outline of the Plan was presented and participants had the opportunity to provide input through a facilitated discussion of the existing strengths and weaknesses of Oneida County agriculture as well as the opportunities and threats that the Plan should address.

Simultaneously, a written survey designed to elicit insights from farmers, farm landowners, municipal officials, and other interested residents, was fielded both in hard copy and in an online format and was completed by more than 125 respondents.

On December 1, 2016 a Task Force meeting reviewed the results of the public meetings and the surveys. On December 13, 2016 at the annual meeting of the County's Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board, staff reviewed a proposed Vision Statement, and developed a recommended set of action steps to be incorporated in the final draft Plan. On January 12, 2017 the Task Force met and reviewed a final draft and agreed on a methodology to ensure that the Plan becomes a tool for ongoing engagement with the issues and long-term trends identified in the Plan. That methodology has been incorporated into the Action Plan below (Part 4).

On February 13, 2017 staff presented the final draft Plan at a meeting of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board with the recommendation that it be forwarded to the County Legislature for review, discussion, and formal adoption. The communication to the County Legislature included the offer of staff and the Task Force to present the Plan and answer questions at an upcoming meeting.

*\* For a list of the members of the Oneida County Farmland Protection Board and the Plan Update Task Force please see the Acknowledgements page at the end of this document.*

## PART 2: PROFILE OF ONEIDA COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Oneida County encompasses 1,212.42 square miles located near the geographic center of New York State, approximately 260 miles west of Boston; 246 miles southwest of Montreal, Canada; 240 miles northwest of New York City; 95 miles west of Albany; and 54 miles east of Syracuse.

The county includes three cities (Utica, pop. 62,235; Rome, pop. 33,725; Sherrill pop. 3,071). The remainder of the county's 2010 population of 234,878 resides in suburban or rural areas. Census figures describe a historical trajectory of overall population decline but also of suburbanization and spreading of the population outside the urban centers.

	1970	2010	Change
<b>Oneida County</b>	273,037	234,878	- 14%
<b>Utica (City)</b>	91,611	62,235	- 32%
<b>Rome (City)</b>	50,418	33,725	- 33%

*Population Source: US Census*

Enriching this population picture is the establishment in 1979 of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, as a result of which Oneida County now has the fourth highest concentration of refugees in the US. Refugees now represent almost 12% of the population of the City of Utica.

### a. Natural Resources

Oneida County is located in Central New York, with the Tug Hill Plateau in the northeast, Adirondack Uplands to the northwest and the Mohawk Valley dissecting the county north and south. The rivers and streams in the County feed into 3 watersheds: the Oneida Lake Basin, the Mohawk River Basin and the Susquehanna River Basin.

Elevation varies greatly in the County going from the highest elevation at Tassle Hill (1944 feet) down to the lowest elevation along the Mohawk River (270 feet). The length of the growing season in the County varies by elevation and ranges from 113-153 days. Oneida County's precipitation is influenced by its position relative to the Great Lakes; the County receives "lake effect" snows and rainfall events as weather patterns cross Lake Ontario. Average rainfall for Oneida County is 45 inches annually.

Oneida County is divided into seven land regions or physiographic areas. These seven regions are unique in terms of climate, relief, flora and fauna, and geological history. The accumulated effects of these differences result in diverse soil types, which support a variety of land uses. The soils of Oneida County are greatly influenced by the former presence of glaciers that blanketed much of what is now New York State. Soil type, productivity and structural properties play significant roles in the determination of land use development trends in Oneida County. A brief description of the seven regions follows:

**ONTARIO (ONEIDA) LAKE PLAIN:** The numerous soil types on the Ontario Lake Plain are derived from sedimentary bedrock including sandstone, siltstone, shale and limestone. Low topographic

relief produces a flat, plain-like appearance. The land is generally devoted to dairy farming. There are several large areas where acid sandy soils with a cover of brushy woods predominate. Poor drainage coupled with the difficulty of finding outlets are the chief limitations to productive agriculture. Grassland farming is recommended unless land is adequately drained. Less than 10% of the land in Oneida County is located within the Ontario Lake Plain. The major natural hazard of concern in this area is flooding. In addition, Sylvan Beach, located on the eastern shore of Oneida Lake is susceptible to major damage from lake ice pushed onto the shore from the prevailing westerly winds.

**ERIE-ONTARIO LOWLAND:** Approximately 25% of the land in Oneida County is located in the Erie-Ontario Lowland area. This area is an extension of the areas in the northwestern parts of New York that roughly parallel the Thruway from Buffalo. The soil types are derived from glacial till from high limestone content. In general, the land has low to moderate relief, north of Route 5 with potential for moderate erosion and wetter soils predominating. In the area south of Route 5, moderate relief and potential for moderate to severe erosion predominate. Many of the soils in this area are considered prime farmland.

**APPALACHIAN PLATEAU:** This region covers almost one-half of New York State, including the southern tier from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. In Oneida County, the southernmost region is part of the Appalachian Plateau. The soil types are derived from glacial till from siltstone, sandstone, and shale. The area has moderate to high relief and may have moderate to severe erosion. This area is about 80% wooded with some tracts in state ownership. Some idle land is reverting back to woodland.

**BLACK RIVER - MOHAWK RIVER LOWLANDS:** Approximately 20% of the land in Oneida County is located within the Black River-Mohawk River Lowlands. The soils in this region are derived from glacial till from shale and some sandstone. Relief is moderate and erosion can be moderate to severe. This area has a higher snowfall than the areas south of the Mohawk River.

**TUGHILL PLATEAU:** The soils in the Tughill Plateau are derived from glacial till comprised of sandstone with some shale. The area has moderate relief and potential for moderate erosion. The soils are rolling and naturally acidic. The land is predominantly wooded but there are a few dairy farms located on the more productive soils in the area. This area is characterized by a measurably shorter growing season and higher snowfall than the areas south of the Mohawk River. Almost 20% of the land in Oneida County is located in the Tughill Plateau.

**ADIRONDACK FOOTHILLS:** In this portion of the County, ample evidence of past glaciation exists. As the glacier migrated from the Adirondacks carrying large granite boulders, it gouged and broke into the underlying limestone which left a soil material of both local and foreign origin, covered with glacial erratics which are sometimes several hundreds of tons. In the extreme northeastern portion of the County, at the edge of the Adirondack Park, the glacial soils have been modified by residual material from the underlying metamorphic rocks and by soil forming material from the same rocks. Soils in this region are derived from outwash and glacial till from crystalline metamorphic rock. These soils are naturally acidic. The southern part of the area is rolling with some large level areas which tend to be droughty. The northern part

of the area has higher relief with many swampy areas and lakes. This area is mostly wooded with some abandoned land and reforested state land, and is part of the State Forest Preserve. The frost-free growing season is measurably shorter than the southern part of the county and the region generally records a high snowfall. Approximately 10% of Oneida County's land base is located in the Adirondack Foothills.

**MOHAWK AND OTHER VALLEYS:** The soils in the valleys are derived from alluvial and outwash deposits derived from the rocks upstream. In the southern part of the county, the soils are derived from sandstone, shale and limestone. The highly productive soils in this portion of the County make it a natural fit for many farms. In the northern part of this province, the soils are derived from red and gray sandstone, with some limestone components at a depth of 3 to 6 feet. Small amounts of shale are sometimes present. Soils in the northern portion of this province can have shallow depths to bedrock and can be sporadically droughty. In addition, the productivity of these soils is hampered by a shorter growing season. The soils in the southern portion of this province tend to be more productive than their northern counterparts. Soils in the southern portion of this province also tend to be generated from alluvial deposits. Just over 12% of the County's land base is located in this province.

The complexity of the soils in Oneida county, with over 200 mapped soil variants, combined with significant animal agriculture make it very important to regularly test soils to optimize crop production and maintain the quality of the environment.

### *Agricultural Land Use*

The US Department of Agriculture conducts a Census of Agriculture every five years, the most recent of which was in 2012. This Census data, which is available at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov), is the most comprehensive single source of data for agricultural land use in the US. However, participation in the Census of Agriculture is incomplete, and as shown elsewhere in this document the Census appears to substantially undercount actual farmland acres in Oneida County. Nonetheless, the Census provides a reasonable starting point for analysis of Oneida County's agricultural land use.

The 2012 Census identifies 205,106 acres in Oneida County as currently used for agriculture, or approximately 26.5% of Oneida County's total land acreage (775,442). This indicates a significant decline from historical levels; about 41% of the land base, or 319,806 acres were farmed in 1969. As discussed in *Appendix 1*, the overall decline in agricultural land use in the County correlates with an increasing concentration of the local farm sector on dairy production, and a simultaneous reduction of the role of grazing in modern dairy production practices. Pasturelands, which represented 17% of total agricultural land use in 1969, occupied only 5% of farmed lands in 2007.

Nonetheless, agriculture remains an essential driver of the county's economy, as discussed below; agriculture also provides a vital part of the identity of most towns and villages in the county. As shown in *Map 1 (All Farmed Parcels)* and *Table 1 (Agriculture by Municipality – Acres and Number of Parcels)* agricultural lands are distributed throughout the County.

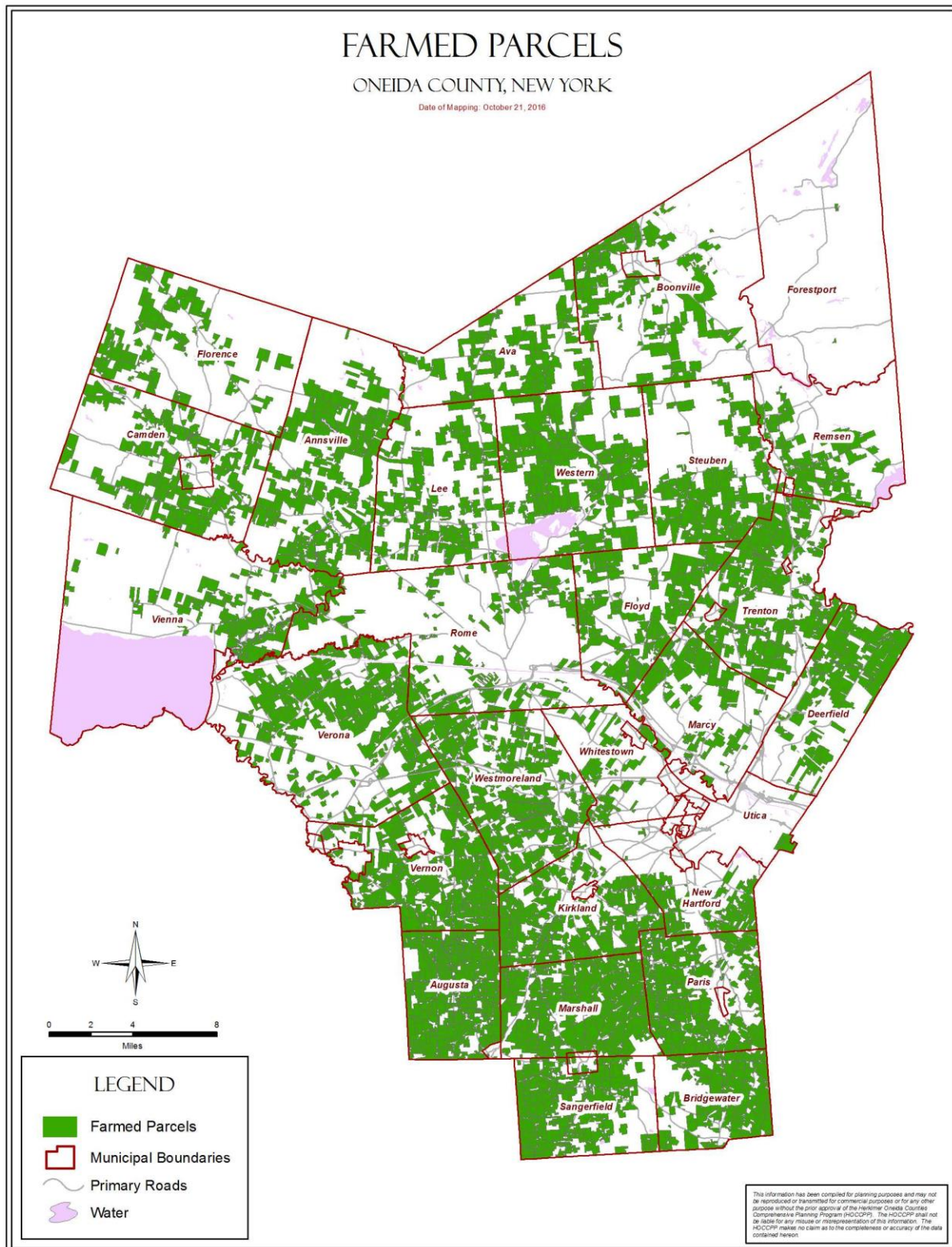
Of the 26 Towns in the County, only one (Forestport) has less than 20% of its acreage devoted to farmland:

Percent of Town Farmed	Number of Towns
0 – 20%	1
20 – 40%	10
40 – 60%	9
60 – 80%	6

The ten Towns with the highest percentage of acreage devoted to agriculture are:

Town	Percent farmed	Acreage farmed
Augusta	83.1%	14,477
Marshall	79.0%	16,431
Paris	69.6%	13,637
Vernon	65.3%	15,191
Sangerfield	62.0%	11,808
Bridgewater	60.1%	9,162
Kirkland	59.4%	12,552
Westmoreland	58.2%	16,085
Trenton	52.6%	14,224
Western	52.5%	17,142

**Map 1: Farmed Parcels**





## b. Agricultural Production and Agricultural Support Industries

### *Oneida County's Agricultural Activity*

The 2012 Census of Agriculture counts 1,066 farms in Oneida County, of which more than half are very small to medium-sized farm businesses:

Gross sales less than \$10,000	552	52%
Gross sales between \$10,000 and \$100,000	283	27%
Gross sales greater than \$100,000	231	22%
Total number of farms:	1,066	

The Census attributes sales of \$113,189,000 to Oneida County's diverse agriculture sector. The largest components of the sector are milk, which contributed 53% of 2012 sales value, and commodity feed crops – grains, oilseeds, dry beans - which represented 21%. But the County's farmers also produced about \$3,524,000 in vegetable crops as well as \$1,736,000 in fruit crops. Included in these specialty crop production numbers are substantial acreages dedicated to green bean production for the fresh market as well as smaller acreages of operations selling direct from the farm (farmstands, U-pick), through farmers' markets, CSAs, and other direct channels, and to local wholesale outlets. Nursery and greenhouse operations contribute an additional \$5,488,000 to the County's agricultural production.

Oneida County is also home to a substantial livestock sector. The 2012 Census reports \$8,899,000 in cattle and calf sales, a number which includes both dairy and beef breed sales; and an additional \$1,620,000 in other livestock sales - poultry and eggs, hogs, sheep and goats and their products. The Census also reports equine sales of \$239,000

Smaller, but significant contributors to Oneida County's agricultural sector include Christmas trees; maple syrup and honey production.

### *Agriculture-Related Support Businesses*

A repeated theme of the public input collected in the process of developing this Plan is that Oneida County has the good fortune of retaining a strong and diverse network of agriculture-related support businesses. The presence of these businesses is essential to the continued opportunity for agriculture in the County, and also serves to multiply the economic benefits of agriculture by keeping farm dollars circulating locally.

Located throughout the County and in nearby neighboring locations, these include animal feed suppliers; auction services; dairy cooperatives and processors; seed and agricultural chemical suppliers; dairy equipment suppliers; equipment dealers; fencing contractors; insurance agents specializing in farm insurance; slaughter facilities; veterinarians; and more.

*Included as an Appendix to this plan is a directory of local agriculture support businesses.*

### *Agriculture Economic Trends*

Agriculture in Oneida County has for many years been subject to the impact of long-term trends toward increasing consolidation and specialization in agricultural markets. The need to

compete in an increasingly global, and increasingly volatile, market for agricultural commodities has pressured Oneida County farmers to achieve economies of scale and emphasize cost control. As a result, Oneida County farms are fewer in number, larger on average, and less diversified than was historically the case. Even as it adapts, though, Oneida County's agriculture industry has faced significant headwinds in a globalized market given its relatively challenging topography and climate.

More recently, however, market tendencies have emerged that run counter to these long-term trends and seem to offer opportunities in the coming years for Oneida County farmers to benefit increasingly from the specific competitive advantages of their location. Consumers are increasingly seeking out and willing to pay for local food products as well as for products with unique and place-based characteristics. Responding to this consumer demand, farmers and local communities are developing new marketing avenues, including farmers' markets, CSA's and other direct-to-consumer sales channels. During the growing season, Oneida County now boasts at least one farmers' market every day of the week; and several farmers' markets in the Mohawk Valley now continue throughout the year, offering new market outlets for storage vegetables, meats, cheeses, honey and maple syrup, and a variety of value-added food products.

The government of Oneida County has actively encouraged the development of these new market opportunities, having sought and received federal support and invested local funds to launch in 2012 the Oneida County Public Market at the historic Union Station in downtown Utica and to support its growth in the ensuing years. The Oneida County Public Market has been named one of the "Best 101 Farmers Markets in America" by the Daily Meal website for four years running. In addition to the County government, several municipalities and community organizations have recognized the value of supporting local farmers by encouraging the development of new farmers' markets. See Appendix 3: Directory of Oneida County Farmers' Markets.

In addition to direct marketing of farm products, the same consumer trends hold out the promise of increased sales of Oneida County farm products to local institutions including schools, colleges, medical facilities, and senior centers. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County has been a leader in helping farmers develop profitable business approaches to these new market opportunities for a number of years, including through its role in launching the Upstate New York Growers & Packers Cooperative; and through its Farm to School initiative, supported by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties and in partnership with the Waterville Central School District and Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. Most recently, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County wrote a successful grant proposal for funding from New York State's Department of Agriculture and Markets which will allow CCEOC to hire staff to work specifically on developing the supply side of the Farm to School effort in the Mohawk Valley. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County has also been on the leading edge in connecting local farmers with premium market opportunities that have emerged as a result of a variety of trends, including the "meal-kit" trend represented by Blue Apron and others, as well as the potential for exporting unique New York products to distant markets such as China.

In addition to these emerging food market opportunities, other trends that may represent alternatives for the future of Oneida County agriculture include the production of bioenergy crops and the production of ingredients for the burgeoning craft beverage industry.

### c. Local Land Use Policies

#### *An Inventory and Audit of Municipal Policies Affecting Agriculture*

In New York State, a municipal comprehensive plan is the foundation for local land use regulation, and is important because it also establishes the vision a municipality has for itself and the policies and strategies to be undertaken to achieve that vision. Land use regulation, including zoning, should flow from the plan, and should be designed to meet the community objectives developed through the planning process. Both the plan and land use regulations can affect agriculture in a variety of both positive and negative ways. Zoning can create opportunities for agriculture; it can also create undue and sometimes unintentional barriers to farming practices. Land use regulations, including zoning, may explicitly prohibit certain farm activities, allow for others; they may also introduce confusion when they fail to effectively address a topic.

An overarching goal of this *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* is to sustain and increase the capacity of agricultural operations and related businesses to contribute to the local economy and quality of life in the region. Understanding barriers to agricultural viability related to land use regulations is a first step to making recommendations for improvement. An additional goal of this Plan is to help communities in Oneida County be farm-friendly. The audit described in this section identifies both challenges and opportunities to agriculture that arise as a result of the various land use regulatory programs in the County.

How can land use regulations place challenges and barriers to farming? Zoning laws sometimes regulate where and how farms can operate, and what review processes a farmer may be required to undertake. Zoning also identifies whether a farm use is permitted as of right (with no further planning board review), or if a more involved review process such as a site plan or special use permit approval is required. Some zoning laws go beyond even these requirements and regulate setbacks, height, the minimum number of acres required to be considered a farm, or regulate the number of animals a farmer may have. Zoning sometimes can place barriers that can't be overcome so in essence, farms are 'zoned out' of an area.

Choices made by local communities in their zoning can affect land values; make farm expansion or start-ups difficult; contribute to land use conflicts; and even hasten conversion of farmland to other uses. When local laws restrict agricultural uses, a sense of impermanence for farming can develop. That feeling of impermanence can in turn, foster disinvestment in farm operations and ultimately lead to sale of the land for development. This effect, coupled with non-farm growth pressures such as residential and commercial development, can make selling land for non-farm development appealing. As such, understanding the regulatory climate in the County is an important aspect of agriculture and farmland protection planning.

Understanding the regulatory climate is also important in light of Agriculture and Markets Law 25-aa. In New York State, the Agricultural Districts Law (25-aa) establishes agricultural districts where farmers receive protection against local laws that unreasonably restrict farm operations as well as "right-to-farm" protection from private nuisance claims. Agricultural Districts support

a favorable operating environment for farms. Protections that flow from 25-aa include regulations that protect farmers against local laws that unreasonably restrict farm operations. This audit was completed, in part to understand the local land use regulatory environment - how local governments approach farming in Oneida County – and also to offer suggestions as may be needed for improvement.

To accomplish this, comprehensive plans and land use regulations were evaluated. Four towns (Paris, Westmoreland, Camden and Trenton) were evaluated in detail as representation of different locations and conditions in the County. The results for each of these communities are offered below to point out strengths and weaknesses. The audit is not a criticism of any local law or plans, but simply a mechanism to point out ways local land use regulations work with, or present challenges to, agriculture.

In addition to the detailed review of these four towns, an inventory of plans and zoning laws was done for the entire county. Further, general observations of the state of farm-friendliness in Oneida County are also offered below. The results of this review are further translated into recommendations that could be made locally to improve the farm-friendliness of plans and zoning laws. These recommendations are also informed by guidance offered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets through their “Guidelines for Review of Local Zoning and Planning Laws” ([www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/305-aZoningGuidelines.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/305-aZoningGuidelines.pdf)) and “Local Laws and Agricultural Districts: Guidance for Local Governments and Farmers” ([www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/new305/guidance.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/new305/guidance.pdf)).

*Farm-Friendly Criteria Used in the Review*  
(see Zoning and Land Use Law Audit)

*Four Town Zoning and Land Use Law Audit*  
(see The Four Towns Selected for Audit)

*Planning and Land Use Tools in Place - Oneida County Towns, 2016*

<b>Town</b>	<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Comprehensive Plan</b>	<b>Zoning Ord.</b>	<b>Subdivision Regulations</b>	<b>Site Plan Review</b>	<b>Wind Energy</b>	<b>Telecommunication</b>	<b>Sign Ord.</b>	<b>Available Online</b>
ANNSVILLE	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
AUGUSTA	Y	Y(1972)	1989	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	N
AVA	Y	Y(1988)	1997	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	N	N	Y
BOONVILLE(T)	Y	Y(2010)	2012	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	N
BRIDGEWATER(T)	Y	Y(1994)	1995	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	*	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
CAMDEN(T)	Y	Y	1992	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	N	N	N
DEERFIELD	Y	Y(1993)	2004	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	*	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
FLORENCE	Y	N	2013	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	N
FLOYD	Y	Y(1993)	2008	Y	Y	N	N*	N	N
FORESTPORT	Y	Y(2004)	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
KIRKLAND	Y	Y(1993)	1999	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
LEE	Y	Y(1968)	2008	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
MARCY	Y	Y(2016)	2016	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
MARSHALL	Y	Y(2013)	2002	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
NEW HARTFORD (T)	Y	Y(2014)	2014	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
PARIS	Y	Y(2014)	2013	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y*	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
REMSSEN (T)	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
SANGERFIELD	N	Y(2015)	1980	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	*	N	N	Y
STEUBEN	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
TRENTON	Y	Y(1997)	2009	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
VERNON (T)	Y	Y(2005)	2007	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
VERONA	Y	Y(1996)	2011	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	*	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	N
VIENNA	Y	Y(2007)	2016	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	*	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
WESTERN	Y	N	1974	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	N
WESTMORELAND	Y	Y(2009)	2010	N	Y	*	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y
WHITESTOWN	Y	Y(1997)	1999	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y

<sup>1</sup> Regulations included in zoning ordinance.

\* Updating or adoption pending



### *Observations on Local Land Use Policies in Oneida County Towns*

All the towns that have comprehensive plans address agriculture in some way in their plans. Many incorporated input from the public about the critical role agriculture plays in their community. Public comments showed a high level of support for agriculture. The level of importance of agriculture, even in very old plans, is evidenced by the fact that most plans have goals and strategies directed to maintain agriculture. However, many plans are quite old and out of date, are no longer based on current land use patterns and information, nor do they address the changing nature of agriculture and its role in local communities. While soil conditions have not changed, land uses, roads, infrastructure, and farming itself have changed quite a lot over the past 40 years, and most plans don't reflect this.

More effort needs to be put into updating comprehensive plans. Eleven plans were written before 2000, with some as far back as the 1960s. Four were written between 2000 and 2010, and six were completed since 2010. There are five towns with no plan at all: of those, three have neither plan nor zoning – and all of these towns have agricultural activity within them. About 71% of towns in Oneida County have out-of-date comprehensive plans.

Zoning and comprehensive plans should be consistent with each other. Five towns have an old plan but newer zoning, and four towns have a new plan but have not yet updated their zoning. Overall, the comprehensive plans establish an important role for agricultural land uses, but zoning is not as encouraging of those land uses. Without strong purpose statements establishing an important role of land use regulation to protect and encourage farms, agriculture often seems to be treated as an afterthought in the regulatory policies. Where a town has, and wants to continue farming, the zoning law should position agriculture front and center as a primary and desired land use.

Zoning regulations should be reviewed to ensure they are up-to-date to address changes in state authorizing rules (such as time frames and Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals voting requirements) and new topics that now have more chance of needing to be addressed or that affect farms such as agri-tourism, breweries/distilleries, solar farms, use of ag buffers, use of conservation subdivision or other modern residential subdivision techniques. Overall, eight towns have very old zoning (adopted before 2000), 7 have old zoning (between 2000 and 2010) and seven have new zoning laws (after 2010).

Most towns have subdivision laws, but three do not. Without such regulations, land development for residential development is not reviewed for any impact on the community, roads, the environment or agriculture. Without a subdivision law, there is no mechanism for input, for evaluating potential conflicts with agriculture, or limiting fragmentation of farmland. Few of the plans include data, maps and specific information in their resource sections showing the current state of agriculture. Mapping of soils and NYS Agricultural Districts is sporadic, although more common in the newer plans. Basic mapping to help municipalities adequately plan for agricultural land uses should include those that identify land use, which parcels receive agricultural assessments, natural resources that influence farming such as topography and wetlands, locations of water and sewer infrastructure, and locations where non-farm development has taken place. Some communities find it helpful to also map viewsheds that

farms may contribute to, locations of farmers markets, farm stands, and agri-tourism operations.

Newer plans are more detailed and assertive about the role agriculture plays.

There is much variation in the farm-friendliness of zoning laws in Oneida County communities. Some have strong farm-friendly aspects, while many are silent in their treatment of agricultural uses, or in establishing development policies that help non-farm uses co-exist with agricultural operations.

Most of the regulations found in the County do not include specific land use tools such as conservation subdivision, use of agricultural buffers, or modified site plan review to facilitate new agricultural uses. Few provide any guidance for site layout or development standards that serve to direct new non-farm building to locations that would still allow for agriculture to take place.

While most of the laws allow agriculture as a permitted use without any kind of review, many laws do require site plan review for animal agriculture, or place barriers by narrowly defining what a farm is based on acreage or gross income.

Agriculture can be highly impacted by new non-farm uses that go in near or adjacent to a farm operation. One mechanism to help local communities understand impacts on agriculture is through use of the Agricultural Data Statement. Long-required by AML 25-aa, but often not used, the Ag Data Statement ensures that adjacent farmers are aware of a project in the Ag District and have the opportunity to offer input. Development processes that require applicants to provide the reviewing board information on where and what type of farming might be nearby and whether the parcel is in a NYS Agricultural District can ensure that the reviewing board has the information needed to fully evaluate a proposal's impact on agriculture. Only a few towns specifically require completion of an Ag Data Statement as part of a review application, and thus the opportunity to fully evaluate impacts are hampered by lack of information.

Very few towns ask for any information about agriculture on their site plan or special use permit applications. That means that the Planning Board has no information about ag uses, ag soils, ag districts, or other nearby ag activities that they would need to pay attention to. This is especially important when a project is reviewed that is in or within 500 feet of a NY ag district and leaves the Board without good information upon which to determine if there are any impacts to agriculture. These requirements should be added into zoning and subdivision review processes.

Although limitation of farms by number of allowed animals is rare in Oneida County, limitation of farms by acreage is quite common and is not generally considered a farm-friendly practice. These days, many farms require growing, processing and selling of their products as part of their farm businesses. As such, they often have multiple businesses on the farm property and a farm-friendly zoning law would allow for this. None of the zoning reviewed clearly articulated whether multiple uses on one farm were allowed or not, although in some it could be inferred

that these other uses might be accessory uses to the farm. All the laws could be strengthened by clarifying and expanding allowance for this type of farm operation. Zoning would be strengthened to promote farming if they outlined exactly how multiple aspects of farming, farm processing, and farm selling are handled.

Most of the Town laws in Oneida County are silent about food processing and slaughterhouses. This should be addressed as a critical component of farming and farm infrastructure. Food processing and small slaughterhouses can be uses that can fit into light industrial zones, and some consideration should be given as well for on-farm processing.

None of the laws require new residential uses to provide their own setback or buffer when adjacent to a farm. Farm buffers should be evaluated and included in zoning laws to minimize farm and non-farmer conflicts.

Some laws allow for clustering that would result in preservation of open space. However, these are oriented to preserving undeveloped or unused open spaces, rather than for active agriculture. Conservation subdivisions that allow or are oriented to farmland protection should be included in the land use tool boxes of Oneida County towns.

Overall, ag-related definitions are inconsistent. Some use the State definition which offers flexibility and many years of known interpretation, but others do not. Often a basic definition is included but may not be consistent with NYS DAM guidance. Definitions of agriculture that include acreage limitations may be considered overly restrictive, especially when a farm is in a NYS Ag District. For more information on farm definitions, see also [www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/AgGuideline-FarmOperation.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/AgGuideline-FarmOperation.pdf) Silos and other farm buildings are exempt from height requirements in some of the Towns but not in others. Farm structures should be exempt from height requirements.

Several Towns have regulations relating to wind mills and solar panels; however none discuss that wind mills and solar panels used to power a farm are considered by New York State to be part of that farm operation. The State does recognize that some review through a modified site plan process would be appropriate though.

### *Recommendations to Improve Local Planning for Agriculture in Oneida County*

- Promote development of new or updated comprehensive plans. Plans should include basic data on the number and types of farms in the municipality, where they are operated, and acreage in farmland. Maps should include soils, location of agricultural districts, farmed parcels, and parcels that receive an agricultural assessment, viewsheds, natural resources, locations of water and sewer infrastructure, and locations where non-farm development has taken place. Some communities find it helpful to also map locations of farmers markets, farm stands, and agri-tourism operations. Public input should be collected to gauge public interest in farms and farmland and to identify future desires and direction for farming in the community. Assuming agriculture remains an important land use, the plan should offer strategies and actions the Town could take to ensure agriculture remains sustainable.
- After plans are updated or developed, the Town should work diligently to translate the plan's direction into land use policies and regulations so that plans and laws are consistent. Only a few Towns in Oneida County with up-to-date plans have also updated their regulations to reflect those policies.
- The County can assist in improving farm-friendliness of Town policies by:
  - Providing towns with maps of prime farmland soils, soils of statewide importance, and agricultural districts when they are writing or updating a plan.
  - Providing other data from the Ag Census, US Census, and other sources to provide them with a snapshot of the quantity (acres, farms, parcels, volume) of agricultural activities taking place in the community.
  - Providing sample goals related to promoting and strengthening agriculture that they could consider.
  - Providing a toolbox of options and strategies that towns could consider including in their local plan.
  - Providing a set of agriculturally related definitions that could be used in local laws.
  - Providing language for a modified site plan review to be used when the municipality feels it critical to review certain farm operations such as livestock operations that maybe located near streams or wetlands instead of a special use or conditional use permit process. See discussion of modified site plan review in [www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/305-aZoningGuidelines.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/305-aZoningGuidelines.pdf)
  - Provide training and informational materials to towns to show the benefits of agriculture in the community.

## PART 3: PUBLIC INPUT and ANALYSIS

### SWOT Analysis and Public Survey

The Task Force responsible for developing this updated Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan for Oneida County organized a series of three public meetings at locations distributed around the County in October and November 2016. The format for each of the meetings was:

1. A presentation about the purpose of the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan; the history of such planning in Oneida County; and a description of the process being undertaken for this update.
2. A review of relevant data and maps that have been developed in support of this update.
3. A facilitated discussion of strengths and weaknesses (internal) as well as opportunities and threats (external) that characterize Oneida County agriculture and should guide planning for the future.

More than 30 members of the public participated in these meetings, and the results of their participation are reflected in the SWOT Analysis summary that follows.

The Task Force also fielded, in October through December, a survey designed to identify the particular perspectives of (1) farmers; (2) non-farming landowners; (3) municipal officials; and (4) other members of the public with an interest in agriculture and farmland protection. The survey was made available both in hard copy and online via Cornell's Qualtrics facility, and 124 surveys were completed. The survey instrument, and a summary of the results of the survey, are included as attachments to this Plan.

Highlights of the survey results include:

Farmer participation: A diverse group of 38 farmers from across the County completed the survey, with the largest proportion being dairy farmers but also including field crop and fruit and vegetable growers, livestock producers, and others. Most of the farmer participants farm more than 100 acres, but we also heard from farmers with smaller operations. All of the respondents indicated that they had been farming for at least ten years at their current location. Farm respondents indicated high levels of participation in multiple programs designed to support agriculture, with especially high participation in the Ag District Program and the Ag Value Assessment Program, but also significant participation in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). It may be noteworthy that only 4 respondents indicated that they participate in the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program, a voluntary New York State program through which "farmers can document their environmental stewardship and contribute to a positive image of agriculture in their communities" ([www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem](http://www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem)). A significant number of respondents (80%) acknowledged that farming does not provide all of the family's income; however, for most respondents (60%) the farm provides at least half of the family's income, and in fact for almost a quarter of respondents the farm supports more than one household.

Landowners (non-farmers) participation: Twelve survey respondents identified themselves as non-farming landowners. Most of these respondents own at least ten acres that are currently farmed, with five owning more than 100 acres; most of the land involved is used for crop production. It is worth noting that just less than half of these landowners have a written agreement with the farmer who uses their land, which may raise some concern as to the long-term continuation of these relationships.

Both farmer and non-farming landowner respondents were asked if they expect that their land will continue to be available for farming in ten years, and in general they were optimistic that it would be, with most saying that all of their land would continue to be available; a minority (17.5%) saying that “some” would likely be converted to commercial or residential use; but none saying they expect all of their farmland to be converted.

Municipal official participation: In recognition of the important role that municipalities play in the future of agriculture, the survey was mailed to about 200 municipal officials, and 48 responses were received from officials across the County representing a variety of roles; the largest groups of respondents were Board members, Planning Board members, Supervisors, and Clerks. The survey asked these respondents to identify policies that their municipalities had adopted to support agriculture, and by far the most frequent response (24 respondents) was that they had adopted zoning districts in which agriculture is the primary use. A smaller number (five) indicated that their municipality had adopted a municipal farmland protection plan, suggesting some confusion since there are no existing municipal level farmland protection plans in the County at this time. Municipal officials identified a variety of agriculture-related issues that they have dealt with recently, especially interpretation issues, including the definition of a “farm” and difficulties in understanding the relationship between Agricultural Zoning vs. New York State Ag Districts. Respondents also indicated their municipalities are dealing to some extent with farmer/neighbor conflicts; road/traffic issues; questions of the relationship of solar developments to agricultural uses; and environmental issues. Municipal respondents were asked whether local boards include members from the agricultural community; according to these respondents, more than half of Town Boards (and almost half of Zoning Boards of Appeals) do not include an agricultural representative; but most Planning Boards do have at least one person from the agriculture sector. Municipal respondents were asked which of various agriculture-related information resources they found most useful; while they use a variety of resources, the Oneida County Planning Department and Soil & Water Conservation District resources appear to be most valued. Finally, these municipal officials were asked to identify agriculture-related topics for which they are seeking more information; Agriculture Districts; Ag-Friendly Zoning; Conservation Subdivision/Cluster Development; Conservation Easements; Land Trusts; and Ag Value Assessments all were identified as topics of interest by at least ten respondents.

All respondents: All survey participants were asked about their perception of support for agriculture; across the board, respondents identified high levels of support among the local population and at local government, with a decline in the perception of supportiveness at higher levels of government. As for what government programs are important for the protection of agriculture, respondents identified local policies (e.g. zoning); New York’s



Agricultural Districts Program and Ag Value Assessment Program; state and federal grant and loan programs; agricultural education programs including Cornell Cooperative Extension; and local economic development programs as especially important. They also wrote in support for the importance of school-based programs including FFA. New York State's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program was not identified as especially important, perhaps reflecting a lack of local experience with this program as noted elsewhere in this document. Respondents were also asked to identify potential government policies and programs that could serve to support agriculture; highest-scoring in these responses was a County Comprehensive Plan; there was also support for a revolving loan fund for agriculture. It's worth noting that for each response option for this "potential policy" question there were significant numbers of respondents indicating a lack of familiarity with the option, suggesting a need for further development and public discussion of policy options.

Finally, all survey respondents were asked to identify threats and opportunities faced by Oneida County agriculture. (Responses to these questions are summarized in the Appendices.)

Threats: The threats to agriculture in Oneida County (i.e., external conditions that may over time threaten the viability of the sector) that raise the greatest concern among respondents include business conditions that may be difficult to resolve through local policy actions, such as *price volatility* and *state and federal regulatory burdens*. Other threats may be reflective of broader social and economic issues, but may be at least partially susceptible to local actions; these threats would include *high costs of doing business*, *rising cost of farmland*, *high property taxes*, *insufficient availability of labor*. Finally, some of the identified threats, though less highly ranked, are significantly affected by local actions and are worthy of special attention by local governments; these would include the threats of *residential and commercial development pressure*, *development of solar "farms"*, *farmer/neighbor conflicts*, and the *burden of local regulations*.

Opportunities: The most highly-ranked opportunity identified by respondents is *increased productivity and cost-efficiency on farms*, which should encourage a continued commitment to support agricultural educational programs such as traditionally offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension and other agricultural agencies as well as FFA and BOCES. The *competitive advantage of Oneida County's geographical location*, especially in regard to climate and water resources, is also recognized as an opportunity and should encourage local policy makers to plan for the continuation and potential growth of agriculture in the County. Some non-traditional or emerging opportunities were also ranked highly by the respondents, including *selling direct to consumers (farmers' markets, CSAs, etc.)*; *new opportunities for value-added processing*; and *new entrants into agriculture (veterans, refugees, millennials, Amish etc.)*

## SWOT Analysis Summary

### ONEIDA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLANNING SWOT ANALYSIS

#### ANALYSIS OBJECTIVES

Identify the internal factors – strengths and weaknesses – that affect agriculture in Oneida County; identify areas of opportunity that can be developed, and threats that should be anticipated and protected against. This analysis provides the basis for identifying a variety of goals and actions that over time, can build on the strengths, take advantage of the opportunities, address weaknesses, and work to prevent the threats.

#### INTERNAL FACTORS

STRENGTHS (+)	WEAKNESSES (-)
<p>Strong support system of products and services</p> <p>Good local agricultural business infrastructure</p> <p>Good transportation system</p> <p>Climate/Adequate rainfall/Available water</p> <p>Proximity to major urban markets and population centers</p> <p>Long history of agriculture</p> <p>Diverse agriculture sector</p> <p>Good at production, with special strength in dairy</p> <p>Supportive local policy: Ag District, ag assessment, conservation policies</p> <p>NYS is a farm friendly state</p> <p>Reasonably priced farmland</p> <p>Successful ag outreach events (Farm Fest)</p> <p>Good direct market venues such as farmers' markets</p> <p>Good agritourism resources – farmstands, craft beverages – and programs to support for them</p> <p>Strong farm education programs (Cornell Cooperative Extension, FFA, BOCES, etc.)</p> <p>Effective Ag Economic Development program</p> <p>Farmers support each other</p>	<p>Marketing</p> <p>High property taxes</p> <p>Lack of knowledge about how to access grant funding, especially for existing farmers</p> <p>Barriers to entry for new farmers (financial, access to land, cost of equipment, operating costs)</p> <p>Volatility of commodity markets</p> <p>Insufficient local processing capacity (meat, fruit/veg, dairy)</p> <p>Labor regulations/cost of labor</p> <p>Operating regulations</p> <p>Insufficient transportation available for labor</p> <p>Distressed transportation infrastructure</p> <p>Established farmers need assistance</p> <p>Farmers aging</p> <p>Cost of doing business is high in New York</p> <p>Too many regulations</p> <p>Public perception of farmers</p>

#### EXTERNAL FACTORS

OPPORTUNITIES (+)	THREATS (-)
<p>Urban consumers close by</p> <p>Availability of grant funding to support agriculture development</p> <p>Marketing to diverse immigrant populations</p> <p>Farm to school</p> <p>Farm to other institutions</p> <p>Local immigrant labor force</p> <p>Buy local trend</p> <p>Niche markets including organic, antibiotic-free, etc.</p> <p>New opportunities for small farms</p> <p>Growth in the craft beverage sector – need for agricultural inputs (hops, barley)</p> <p>Growth in equine sector</p> <p>Agritourism</p> <p>Increased automation allowing more efficient production</p>	<p>Competition for agricultural land from residential and commercial uses when nanotech and related industry developments arrive</p> <p>Potential for conflict between agriculture and urban/suburban neighbors</p> <p>Potential for issues with farm machinery traveling on roads</p> <p>Price volatility</p> <p>Potential change in availability of migrant labor/loss of labor force</p> <p>Excessive regulations - esp. EPA</p> <p>Farmers aging</p> <p>Potential decrease in availability of ag support services – e.g., large animal vets</p> <p>Public perception of farmers</p> <p>Labor</p> <p>Farm loans</p> <p>FSA/Farm Credit</p> <p>Industry consolidation</p> <p>Automation/mechanization increases cost of entry into agriculture</p>

## Priority Farmlands

Article 25AAA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (Circular 1500 of 2006) provides for the promotion of local initiatives for agricultural and farmland protection, and further states that:

“County agricultural and farmland protection boards may develop plans, in cooperation with the local soil and water conservation district and soil conservation service, which shall include, but not be limited to:

- the location of any land or areas proposed to be protected;
- an analysis of the following factors concerning any areas and lands proposed to be protected:
  - i. value to the agricultural economy of the county;
  - ii. open space value;
  - iii. consequences of possible conversion; and
  - iv. level of conversion pressure on the lands or areas proposed to be protected"

One of New York State's principal relevant funding initiatives, the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) program, provides for the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) from farm landowners on a voluntary basis as a means of permanently preserving farmland. This competitive grant program utilizes a project scoring system that emphasizes, among other factors:

- the agricultural value and viability of the land to be protected;
- evidence of development pressure;
- evidence that the land serves as a buffer for a significant natural public resource; and, importantly,
- *evidence that the land proposed to be preserved is consistent with an existing agricultural and farmland protection plan and, preferably, that it is located within a mapped area designated as a priority for protection.*

In response to these requirements and incentives at the state level, recent County agriculture and farmland protection plans adopted across the state have included in various forms a description of a process for identifying priority farmland for protection, and a map showing the location of farmlands thus identified. Oneida County's existing Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, adopted in 2000, did not include any such identification of priority farmlands, which is one of the reasons why the current update is important.

Following is a description of the methodology utilized in the development of this plan for the identification of priority farmlands for protection.

## Identification of All Farmed Parcels:

To state the obvious, a first step toward identifying priority farmland for protection is the identification of all farmed parcels in the County. One might assume that this would be a simple process, but in fact there is no single source for this information. It's worth noting that in this regard, Oneida County is in the same situation as other counties in New York State that have gone through this process.

In order to develop a complete database of farmed parcels in Oneida County for this plan, four data sources were utilized:

- Real Property Classification Codes (from Oneida County Office of Real Property Services): Parcels classified in the 100 (Agricultural) code range as well as parcels classified with the 241 ("Primary residential, also used in agricultural production") code
- Parcels receiving the Agricultural Value Assessment (from Oneida County's Office of Real Property Services)
- Parcels enrolled in a New York State recognized Agricultural District (from Oneida County's Planning Department)
- Parcels NOT listed as agricultural in any of the datasets listed above but verified as farmed during a recent inspection of aerial photosets by a CCE intern who identified those parcels with assistance from Oneida County's Planning Department

All farmed parcels thus identified are shown on Map 1 ("Farmed Parcels").

## Mapping of Prime Farmland Soils and Farmland Soils of Statewide Significance:

The *US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Services* provides map information<sup>1</sup> for what it designates as *prime farmland*, defined as "...land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding."

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<sup>1</sup> National Soil Survey Handbook, [soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook](https://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook)

In addition, consistent with Federal guidelines, New York State has designated *farmland of statewide significance*, defined as: “Land in addition to prime and unique farmlands that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the appropriate state agency or agencies. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some may produce as high a yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable. In some states, additional farmlands of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by state law.”

As shown in Map 2 (“Farmland Soil Classifications”), these valuable farmland soils are widely distributed throughout Oneida County; and more than 56% of the total acreage of Oneida County is identified in one of these two categories of valuable farmland (prime soils 26.9%; soils of statewide significance 29.7%).

It’s important to note, however, that much viable agriculture in Oneida County takes place on soils that are not identified as “prime” or of “statewide significance”. In light of that it would be inappropriate to limit any prioritization of farmlands for protection solely to those highlighted locations.

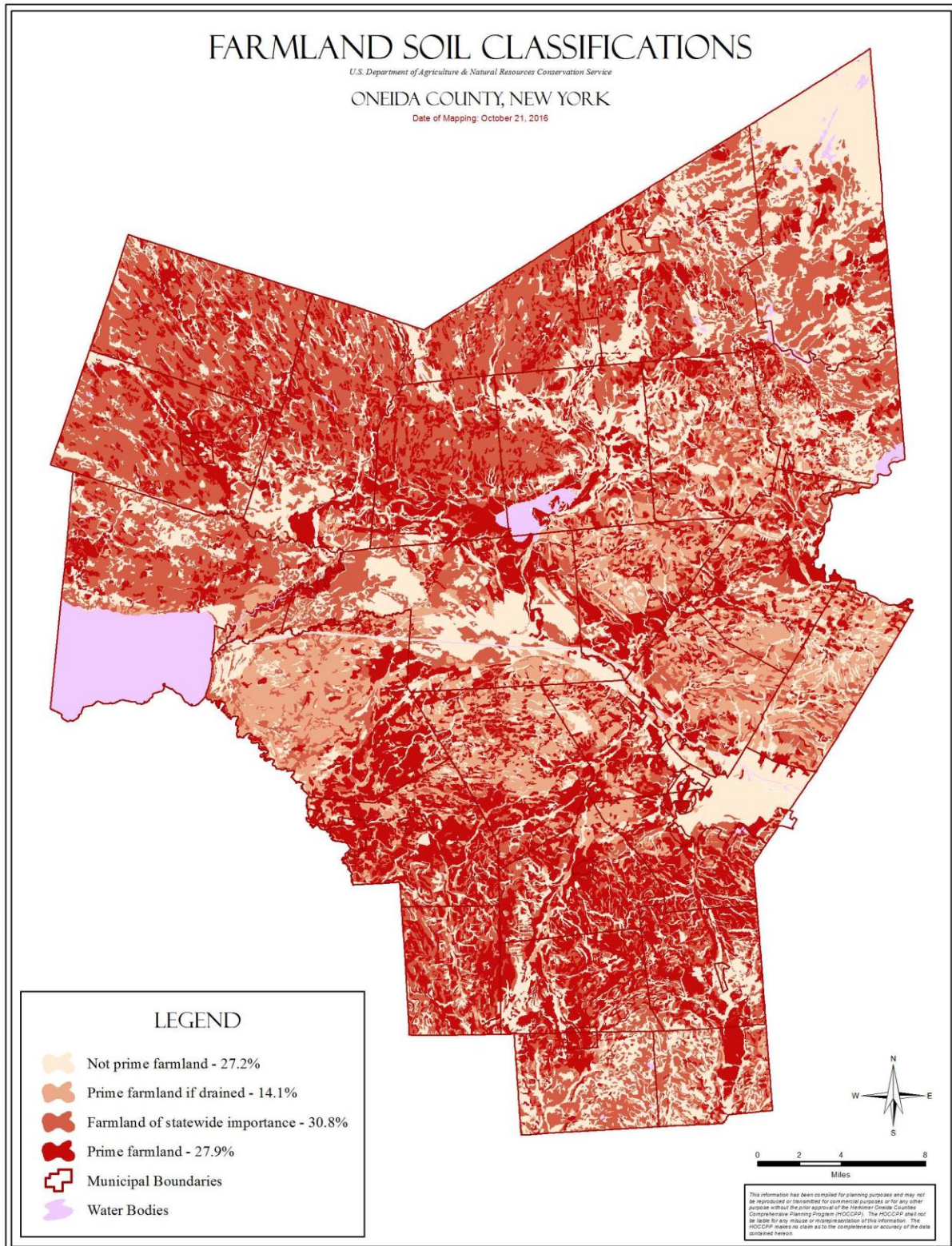
### **Development Pressure**

As noted above, a key consideration in the allocation of the limited farmland protection resources is the identification of locations where the pressure to convert farmland to non-farm uses is likely to be highest. Key indicators of such pressure include recent residential development patterns, as shown in Map 3 (“Residential Development Patterns 2000-2016”) and the presence of water and sewer infrastructure (Map 4, “Water and Sewer Infrastructure”).

### **Buffering Significant Natural Resources**

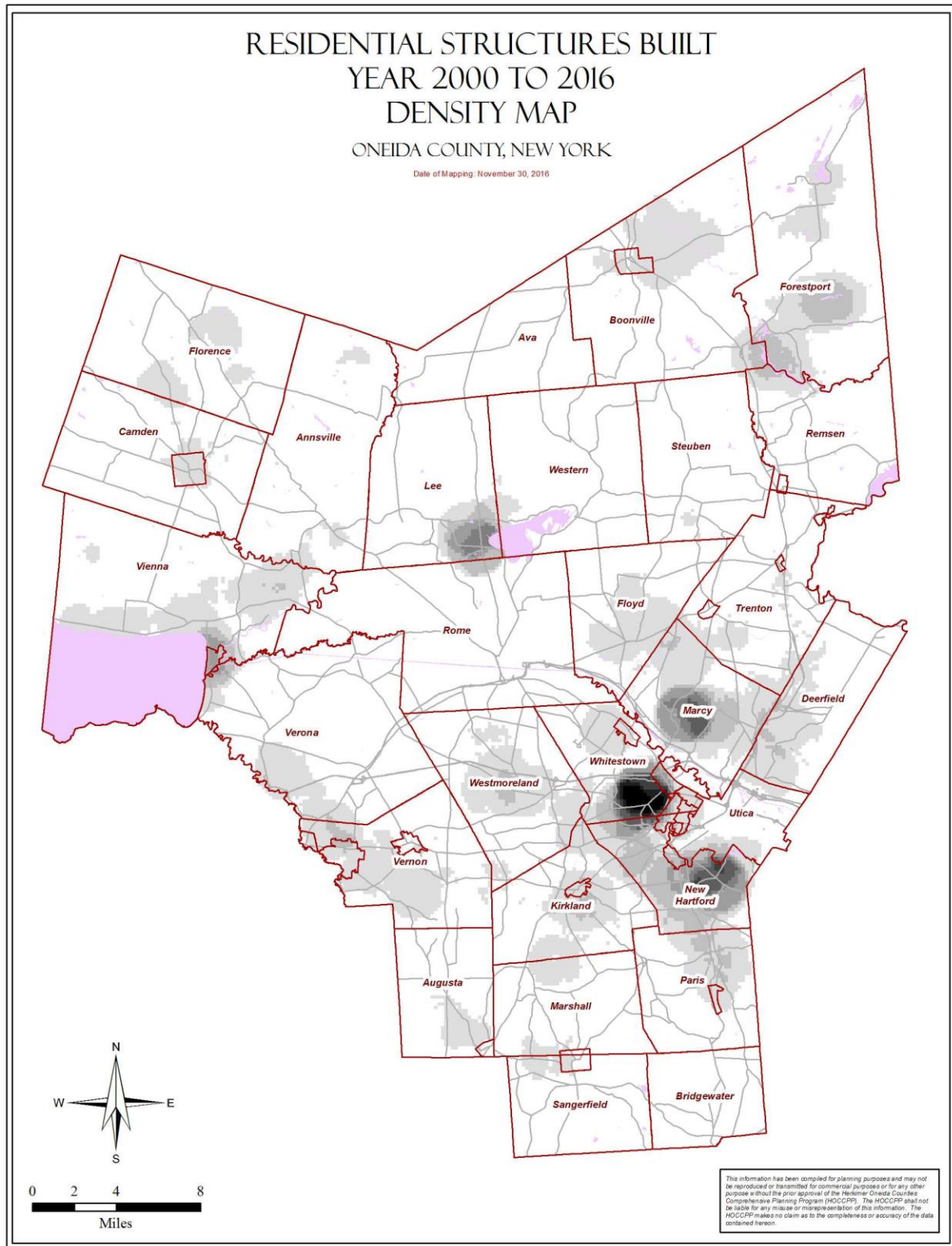
In addition to maintaining agricultural productive capacity, farmland protection can serve as a buffer for other important natural resources, and it is appropriate for farmland protection activities to place priority on proximity to such resources. Among the significant natural resources considered in this context are “Significant Natural Communities” identified by New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC); these include “rare or high-quality wetlands, forests, grasslands, ponds, streams and other types of habitats, ecosystems, and ecological areas”. Also considered are “Rare Plants and Rare Animals” locations mapped by NYS DEC, general vicinities where actual confirmed observations and collections of rare animals and rare plants have occurred.

**Map 2: Farmland Soil Classifications**

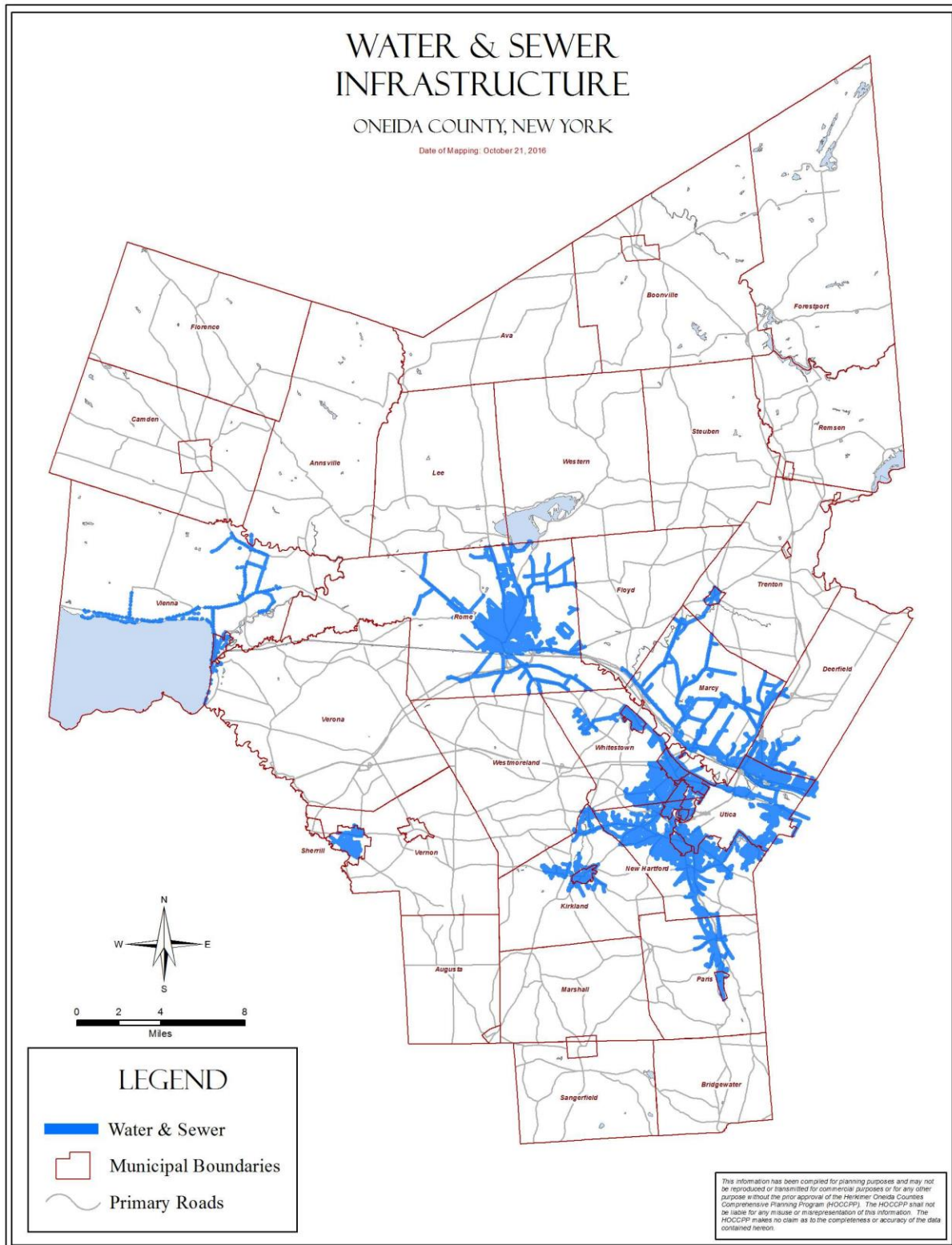




**Map 3: Residential Structures Built**

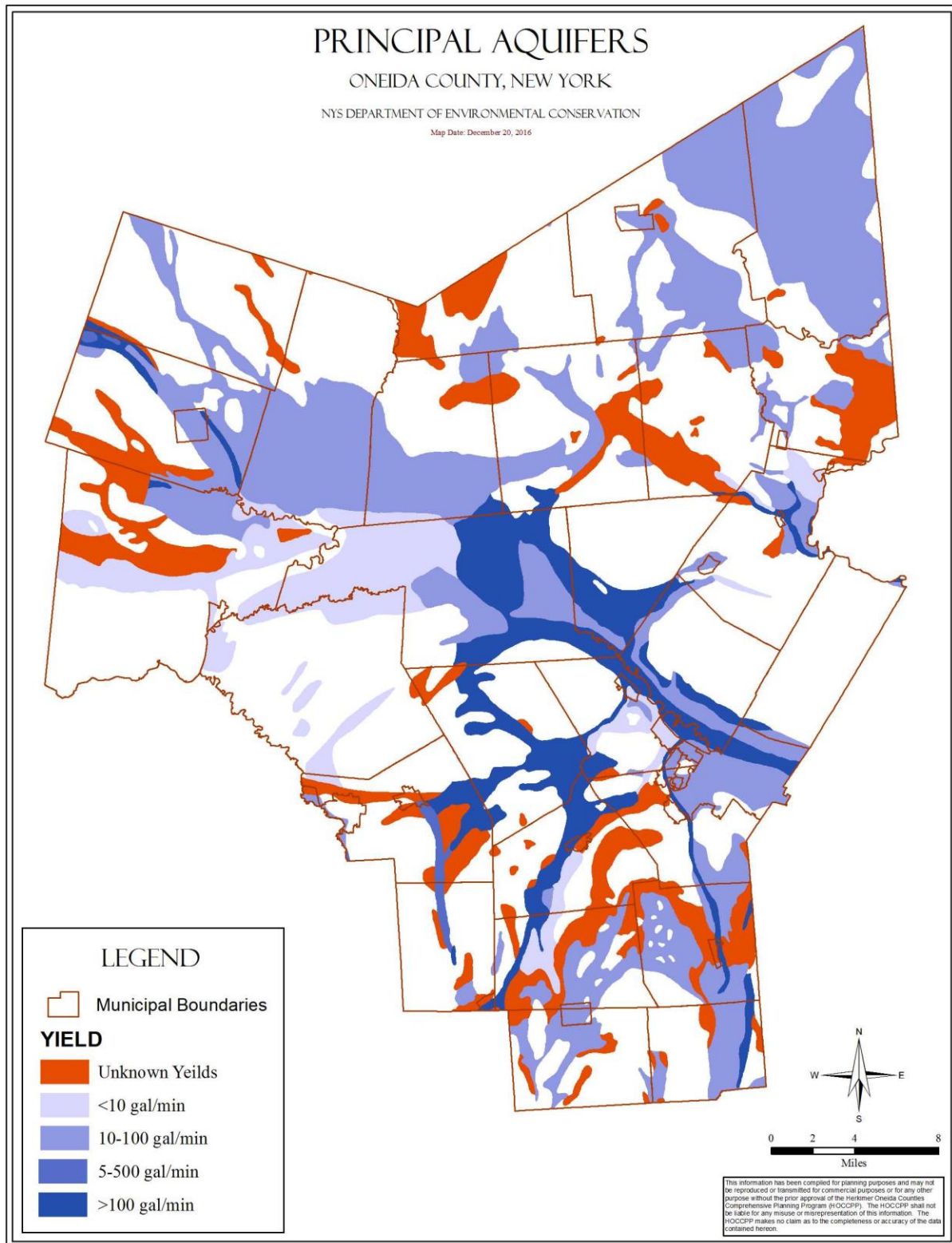


Map 4: Water and Sewer Infrastructure

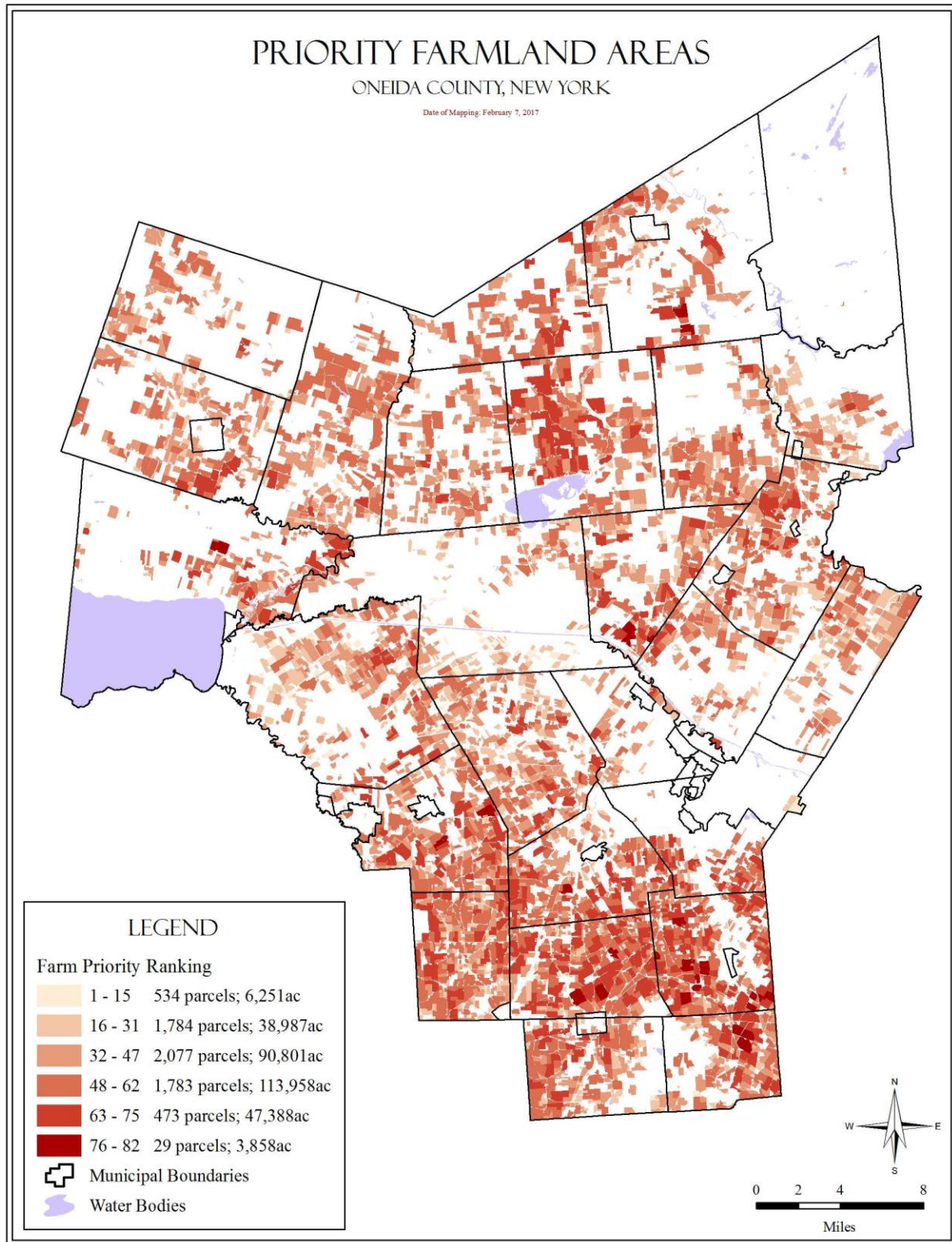




**Map 5: Principal Aquifers**



**Map 6: Priority Farmlands**



## Priority Land for Protection in Oneida County

As provided by Article 25AAA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (Circular 1500 of 2006) this Plan creates and implements a methodology for identifying farmed parcels throughout the County that should be high priority for protection. This methodology is based on an analysis of key relevant factors as identified during the planning process and summarized below.

### **Value to the local agricultural economy**

The diversity of Oneida County's agricultural economy is one of its strengths, and this Plan recognizes that the protection of that economy needs to give priority to a diverse range of farmland resources. Soil characteristics, including prime soils and soils of statewide significance, are one important consideration in the assessment of the value of a parcel's potential contribution to the local agricultural economy. However, other characteristics, including a parcel's current status as an active and ongoing farmed parcel; its size; and its inclusion in a larger farmed unit also are important indicators of that value and are taken into account in this Plan's ranking system.

### **Open space value**

Farms and their associated working landscapes contribute to open space characteristics in locations throughout Oneida County. These open spaces are a valued amenity for residents and an attraction for visitors; they also serve as a buffer for other protected lands, parks and forests, and add to the value these lands contribute to the County's quality of life and environmental protection. This Plan prioritizes farmed parcels that can be identified as making a particular contribution to open space values.

### **Consequences of possible conversion**

The conversion of actively farmed parcels on good soils, especially large parcels and those that are part of a larger farmed unit would be of great concern in the context of farmland protection. Even more consequential would be the conversion of farmlands whose location allows them to serve as a buffer for natural resources such as water sources and aquifers; locations with unique environmental values; as well as protected lands including parks and forests. This Plan's ranking system gives additional weight to parcels whose continued use as farmland will avoid the negative consequences of conversions that would impact these significant natural resources.

### **Level of conversion pressure**

Farmland throughout Oneida County has for many years been subject to pressure from competing land uses – especially low-density residential development, but also commercial and industrial uses in a number of locations. The nature, intensity and long-term trends of that pressure on the continued use of land for agriculture in Oneida County varies due to specific characteristics of a given parcel's location. Proximity to existing development, including locations where high numbers of building permits have been issued in recent years, is an indicator of likely higher conversion pressures going forward. The presence of municipal water and sewer facilities attracts competing uses and applies conversion pressure to existing farming uses. This Plan identifies locations in the County where valuable farm resources may be under particularly high conversion pressure; these characteristics contribute to priority allocation of limited farmland protection resources.

## Priority Farmland Ranking

In order to incorporate all of the considerations noted above, a 100-point numerical ranking system for priority farmland was developed and applied to the identified farmed parcels in the County. (This ranking system is adapted from Dutchess County, NY's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.)

*The results of applying this ranking system to farmed parcels in Oneida County are shown in the Map entitled "Priority Farmland Areas" included as an attachment to this plan.*

### 1. Contribution of soils to agricultural economy

(Maximum Points Available: 40)

Parcel size	Percent Prime/Statewide Significant Soils	Points
100+ acres	75%+	40
50 - 100 acres	75%+	35
10 - 50 acres	75%+	20
Under 10 acres	75%+	5
100+ acres	25 - 75%	30
50 - 100 acres	25 - 75%	25
10 - 50 acres	25 - 75%	20
Under 10 acres	25 - 75%	3
100+ acres	< 25%	15
50 - 100 acres	< 25%	10
10 - 50 acres	< 25%	5

### 2. Consequences of conversion

(Maximum Points Available: 10)

Parcel is subject to Public or Privately Funded Agricultural Permanent Easement	10
Parcel is protected by another Conservation Easement	9
Parcel is buffered by Permanent Easement Property	8
Parcel is buffered by a property with another Conservation Easement	7

### 3. Conversion Pressure

(Maximum Points Available: 4)

Parcel is within 1 mile of Developed Area*	4
Parcel is outside 1 mile of Developed Area* but within 2 miles	3
Parcel is within a Residential "Grey" Pressure Area	1
Parcel is within Developed Area*	-1

\* Developed areas are in Urban Clusters/Areas, Water/Sewer

### 4. Open Space Value

(Maximum Points Available: 6)

*If parcel is greater than 20 acres, multiply the criteria by 2*

Parcel Intersects the Buffer of 3 or more of the following	2
Parcel Intersects the Buffer of 2 of the following	1.5
Parcel Intersects the Buffer of 1 of the following	1
Wetland buffer	1
Natural heritage ecological community	1
Natural heritage rare plant	1
Natural heritage rare animal	1
if in primary aquifer buffer, add 2 points to the total.	2

## 5. Long Term Viability

(Maximum Points Available 40)

### *Contribution to a larger farm unit (maximum 10 points)*

Included in a Farm Unit over 2,000 acres	10
Included in a Farm Unit over 1,000 acres	8
Included in a Farm Unit over 500 acres	6
Included in a Farm Unit over 100 acres	4
Included in a Farm Unit under 100 acres	2

*\*Farm Units are parcels with a common owner*

### *Indicators of agricultural activity (maximum 20 points):*

Parcel has Agricultural Value Assessment and in Agricultural District	20
Property has Agricultural Value Assessment	15
Property is in Agricultural District	10

### *Indicators of municipal support (maximum 10 points):*

Municipality has a Comprehensive Plan	1
Municipality has a current Comprehensive Plan (after 2007)	1
Municipality has a Zoning Ordinance	1
Municipality has a current Zoning Ordinance (after 2007)	1
Municipality has Subdivision Regulations	2
Municipality with >50% enrollment in Agricultural Districts	2
Municipality with >50% enrollment in Agricultural Value Assessment	2



## PART 4: ACTION PLAN

### a. Strategies and Implementation Plan

This Action Plan is designed not primarily to establish a one-off "to-do" list for the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and other stakeholders, but more importantly to provide a mechanism and accountability to ensure that this Plan is a living, breathing tool for the ongoing support of agriculture and farmland protection over the coming years.

The actions resulting from this plan will always be in support of two over-arching strategies that have been identified as essential to ensuring the strength of agriculture and the protection of farmland in Oneida County for many years into the future:

*Strategy 1: Sustain and increase the contributions of agriculture to the local economy, offering a rewarding livelihood for farm operators, farm employees, and the many related businesses that succeed when agriculture succeeds.*

*Strategy 2: Sustain and increase the contributions of agriculture to the quality of life of County residents, preserving valued rural landscapes and a clean environment, and offering access to fresh wholesome food.*

### b. Action Plan Accountability

In order to ensure effective implementation of this Action Plan, the Oneida County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board agrees to hold a bi-annual Action Plan Meeting, starting immediately after the formal adoption of this Plan and then in the first quarter of every other year, to establish the plan of action for the coming months and years. That meeting will also include a formal review of performance against the goals and action steps previously established. The results of the bi-annual review will be documented in writing and submitted to the County Legislature, with a description of successes, challenges, and recommended modifications, additions, or updates to the Goals and Action Steps in this original Plan.

Each of the agreed-upon goals will be supported by (1) *short-term actions*, which should be undertaken and completed within the first year of adoption of the Plan; (2) *long-term actions*, which should be undertaken and completed within the first five years of adoption of the Plan; and (3) *ongoing actions*, which should be continuous during the life of the Plan.

### c. Stakeholder Organizations – Names/Abbreviations

AED – Oneida County Agricultural Economic Development (CCE)  
BOCES - Several Boards of Cooperative Education Services (including Oneida-Herkimer-Madison, Madison-Oneida, etc.)  
BOL – Oneida County Board of Legislators  
CCE – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County  
County Executive’s Office  
FLPB – Farmland Protection Board  
MV EDGE – Mohawk Valley EDGE  
MVEDD – Mohawk Valley Economic Development District  
MVFAN – Mohawk Valley Food Action Network  
MVFMMA – Mohawk Valley Farmers’ Market Managers Alliance  
MVFPAC – Mohawk Valley Food Policy Action Council  
MV REDC – Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council  
OCPD - Oneida County Planning Department  
OCPM – Oneida County Public Market  
OCRPS – Oneida County Real Property Services  
SWCD – Oneida County Soil & Water Conservation District  
VVS – Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District  
Waterville School District

#### d. Action Items, Leadership, Resources, and Timeframes

Action Planned to Achieve the Goal	Who leads?	Resources required	Outcomes	Timeframe
<b>Goal 1: Support new farm- and agriculture- related businesses</b>				
Survey and identify local regulations and procedures that may limit growth of agritourism and recommend changes	CCE/Oneida County Planning	Staff time, temporary help	Create a welcoming business environment for new and innovating agritourism enterprises	Year 1
Support development and distribute agriculture and food system asset map envisioned by the MV500 Regional Economic Development task force	CADE/SUNY Cobleskill	CCE staff time	Increased understanding of the capacities and needs of the local ag and food system to support the most effective public and private investment	Year 1
Develop promotional tools for agritourism businesses (print, electronic)	County Executive, Oneida County Tourism	Funding for printing and media purchases	Increased business at farmstands, U-Pick operations, farmstead breweries/wineries/distilleries, etc.	Year 1
Seek funding for an agricultural business incubator alongside MVCC's thINCubator in downtown Utica	MVCC, AED	Funding for kitchen build out and program staff	Create a self-sustaining program that launches successful new businesses based on value-added processing of locally grown food products	Year 1-5
Encourage participation of agricultural/food businesses in business plan competition	MV EDGE	Funding for administration and awards; EDGE, CCE, SBDC staff time	Support the launch of new agricultural/food businesses	Year 1-5
Develop a value-added cook-chill processing plant as part of agribusiness park	AED, MV EDGE, Waterville First	Feasibility study - funding obtained from USDA Rur Dev (\$40,000). Projected cost \$18,000,000	Plant will buy meat (1/8s) from cull dairy cows from local farms and market to New York/Long Island schools. (300 dairy cows per week currently being utilized; projected 50 cows/day) keeping more economic impact in NYS (currently going to PA)	Year 1-5
Create a downstate-upstate marketing initiative	AED	Funding for AED and EDGE staff time, marketing materials	Increase sales of local products to consumers and wholesale buyers in the downstate/metropolitan areas	Year 1-5
Develop a food processing and distribution facility with a primary focus on farm to school	AED, MV EDGE	RBEG Funding to create a feasibility plan	Increase the opportunities for schools and other institutions to purchase products from local farms by making them available cost-effectively and in the purchasers' preferred form	Year 1-5



Launch Taste NY store	CCE	New York State funding	Increase sales of local products to tourists and travelers and enhance branding of Oneida County's agricultural offerings	Year 1-5
Update agribusiness directory - every two years	AED	Staff time, temporary help	Provide easy access to support businesses for farm- and related entrepreneurs	Ongoing
Agribusiness outreach	AED/EDGE	Staff time	Identify emerging needs	Ongoing
Update agritourism directory information annually	CCE/Oneida County Tourism	Staff time, temporary help	Accurate and up to date information to support promotion of agritourism businesses	Ongoing
Deploy ag business revolving loan funds	MV EDGE	Existing funds	Support new value-added initiatives with affordable and accessible financing	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2: Connect local farms with local consumers</b>				
Produce and distribute printed guides to local food	CCE	Funding for printing and distribution; CCE and County Planning staff time	Increase sales of local products at farmers' markets, farmstands and other on-farm sales	Year 1
Increase capacity of Union Station REA	County Executive	Multi-year, multi-million dollar investment in renovating and equipping historic facility for a variety of community uses	Strengthen existing Oneida County Public Market and implement additional related uses	Year 1
Market development support for farmers to sell to local public K-12 schools	CCE, FPAC	Funding for staff to work on business plan and market development with farmers	Increase the percentage of local foods consumed in local K-12 schools	Year 1-5
Market development support for farmers to sell their products to local institutional buyers (colleges, hospitals, etc.)	CCE	Funding for staff to work on business plan and market development with farmers	Increase the percentage of local foods consumed in local institutions	Year 1-5
Strengthen the alliance of farmers' market managers	Oneida County Public Market, CCE, Farmers' Market Federation	Funding for staff time, website and other communications materials	Increase sales of local products at farmers' markets	Year 1-5

Strengthen the alliance of community gardens	Utica Greens, CCE	Funding for garden development and educational programming	Increase participation in community gardens	Year 1-5
Provide forum for increasing connections and understanding between sectors of the food system	Mohawk Valley Food Action Network	Funding for network coordination and communications capabilities	Maintain an open dialogue about the impacts of the food system on the economy, the environment, and public health	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3: Bring new individuals into agriculture careers through education initiatives</b>				
Develop ag career days event to be held every 3 years	BOCES	Staff time CCE, volunteer time Farm Bureau	Expose 1000+ students each year to careers in ag	Year 1
Support local school districts' enhancements to existing ag program	CCE, VVS, Waterville, Remsen	\$500,000 Oneida County STEM funds for animal science curriculum at VVS; funding for new green house	Increase interest and knowledge for local students preparing for careers in agriculture	Year 1-5
Support veterans getting into agriculture	CCE, Vets2Farm	REDC funding \$100,000 to pay for equipment for farms	Increase operations, production; 20+ veterans to go through the program	Year 1-5
Develop and implement tailored new farmer education for refugees	CCE, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees	Extension support for educational program development, staff time and travel	Refugee populations will learn about healthy eating, best growing practices, and development of businesses offering traditional foods to immigrant consumers	Year 1-5
Support and improve annual Farm Fest celebration of Oneida County agriculture	4-H, CCE, community volunteers	Funding for promotion and operations	Increase interest and knowledge among local students (K-6) in farming	Ongoing
Continue development of Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH) program	EDGE, CCE, BOCES	Staff time	No-cost associate's degree opportunity for 25 students per year with agriculture/food production focus	On-going
<b>Goal 4: Increase public awareness and focus local policy on protecting and strengthening agriculture</b>				
Inventory and map of zoning relevant to agribusiness	County Executive	Planning, CCE staff time	Encourage supportive zoning and identify zoning situations that may impede agriculture	Year 1
Create a website (or new section of an existing website) to celebrate Oneida County Agriculture	County Executive; MV Food Policy Advisory Council	CCE, Planning, Tourism, FLPB	Increased understanding of the capacities and needs of the local ag and food system to support the most effective public and private investment	Year 1
Develop a database of "farm units" (similar to Dutchess County)	Oneida County Planning	Funding for staff time for Planning, CCE, SWCD staff	Data to support farmland protection and planning that more accurately reflects reality	Year 1-5

Provide training opportunities for municipal assessors on ag-related property class codes	Office of Real Property Services	Planning, Office of Real Property Services, NYS Taxation & Finance trainers	Increase value of property classification data in accurately analyzing the role of agriculture	Year 1-5
Study transportation issues that affect agriculture including road safety, adequacy of bridges, regulation	Oneida County Planning	NYS Department of Transportation, Oneida County Department of Public Works, municipal governments	Improve safety and minimize conflicts between agricultural and other uses	Year 1-5
Conduct a study of the contribution of private forest land resources to the local economy and SWOT analysis	Farmland Protection Board	CCE and County Planning Staff time	Increase local awareness and support for the contributions of forestry resources to the local economy	Year 1-5
Promote development of new or updated comprehensive plans.	Farmland Protection Board	CCE and County Planning Staff time	Local policy is based on a agreed-upon goals and a well-documented process of public input	Year 1-5
Encourage Towns that have comprehensive plans to promptly reflect them in current land use plans and regulations	Farmland Protection Board	CCE and County Planning Staff time	Land use regulations are consistent with the public's interest as expressed in a Comprehensive Plan and legally supported.	Year 1-5
Provide Towns with tools and information that help them improve the farm-friendliness of local regulations (as detailed in 2017 plan)	Farmland Protection Board	CCE and County Planning Staff time	Local policymakers base decisions on good information and have access to tools that help them develop good policy	Year 1-5
Communicate through media, social media, etc. on Farm to School and other food system initiatives to the general public	MV Food Policy Advisory Council	Funding to support staff time for the Council	Increased understanding of local ag and food system issues to support the most effective public policy actions	Ongoing
Farmland Protection Board members participate in assessor meetings	Farmland Protection Board	FLPB members staff time	Increase support from assessors for ag programs and accuracy of assessment data	Ongoing
Strengthen mutual understanding between Amish and neighbors	Oneida County Sherriff/CCE	CCE, County staff time	Continue the successful integration of Amish farms into the Oneida County agriculture sector	Ongoing
Act as a resource to provide information related to farmland protection to consumers and municipal officials	CCE, Oneida County Planning	CCE, Planning staff time	Increase the knowledge of local municipal officials and consumers to better understand the importance of agriculture in the community	Ongoing
Ongoing updates of "farm unit" database	Oneida County Planning	Planning, CCE, SWCD staff	Data to support farmland protection planning that more accurately reflects reality	Ongoing

Update "Historical Profile of Agriculture" data with 2012 (and soon 2017) census data	CCE	Funding for staff or intern time	Current information on long-term trends will improve local policy making	Year 1-5
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#### Goal 5: Protect important farmland resources

Provide educational opportunities on Ag Districts through assessor training, landowner programs, and improved web materials	Farmland Protection Board	Farmland Protection Board and CCE, County Planning, Office of Real Property Services staff time	Increase participation in Agricultural Districts and provide associated protection to agricultural activities	Year 1-5
Increase awareness in Agricultural Assessment program	Farmland Protection Board	Farmland Protection Board and CCE, County Planning, Office of Real Property Services staff time	Ensure interested farm landowners benefit from the tax savings of the agricultural assessment program	Year 1-5
Research ways to improve methods of measuring farm viability to contribute to farmland protection efforts	Farmland Protection Board	CCE staff time, consultant	Improved ranking system for priority farmlands by incorporating measures of farm viability	Year 1-5
Encourage and support landowner applications for New York State's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program	CCE, Oneida County Planning	Staff time	Protect top-quality farm operations that have excellent long-term prospects for farm viability but are likely to be under increasing development pressure	Ongoing
Create ongoing committee to evaluate priority farmlands for protection including updating on development pressure	Farmland Protection Board	County Planning, Farm Credit, ORPS, CCE staff time	Update priority farmland ranking and analysis of development pressure every two years	Ongoing

## Acknowledgements

### **ONEIDA COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

Brymer Humphreys	Farmer	New Hartford
Thomas Cassidy	Agribusiness	Barneveld
Michael Cosgrove	Farmer	Clinton
Roger Crary	Farmer	Vernon
Andy Gale	Agribusiness	Cassville
Paul Snider	Farmer/Forestry	Ava
Brian Mandryck	County Legislator	Oneida
John R. Kent Jr.,	Planning Commissioner, OC	Utica
Kathy Pilbeam	Real Property Tax Services, OC	Utica
Marty Broccoli	Cornell Cooperative Extension	Oriskany
Paul van Lieshout	Brabant Farm	Verona

### **AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLANNING TASK FORCE**

Steve Adams	Dairy farmer/Farm Bureau
Chris Burtch	OC Real Property Tax Services
Kelly Blazosky	Oneida County Tourism
Mike Candella, Jr.	Farmer (fruits/vegetables)
Linda Garrett	Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
George Joseph	County Legislator
Nancy Luna	Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation
Remi Link	Cornell Cooperative Extension/Maple Producer
Jim Manning	Cornell Cooperative Extension
Craig Pollock	Agribusiness (Farm Credit East)
Donna Purdy	Farm Service Agency
Howard Regner	Farmer (field crops/beef)
Dawn Richardson	Agri-business/Crop farmer
Guy Sassaman	Oneida County Planning Department
Jake Schieferstine	Dairy farmer/MV Food Policy Advisory Council
Don Schlueter	County resident, retired engineer
Joan Smith	Dairy farmer/Oneida County Dairy Promotion Cmte
Shelby Sweet	Greenhouse/Vegetable/SUNY Polytech SBDC
J. Caroline Williams	Cornell Cooperative Extension
Peter Zawko	Mohawk Valley EDGE

### **CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS**

Nan Stolzenburg	Community Planning & Environmental Associates
Matt Pawlusik	Oneida County Planning Department

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## TABLES

Table 1: Agriculture by Municipality – Acres and Number of Parcels

Towns/Villages/Cities:	Total Acres	Total Acres w/o Water	Total Farmed Acres	Number of Farmed Parcels	Percent of Municipality Farmed (w/o Water Acres)
<b>Towns (26):</b>					
Annsville	8,660	8,459	6,603	72	43.2%
Augusta	7,423	7,422	4,477	56	83.1%
Ava	4,256	4,232	3,305	15	38.4%
Boonville	5,336	4,892	1,137	56	24.8%
Bridgewater	5,243	5,238	3,162	78	60.1%
Camden	3,113	3,024	2,541	13	38.0%
Deerfield	1,160	1,108	909	92	46.9%
Florence	5,222	5,162	3,108	21	23.1%
Floyd	2,253	2,142	1,201	25	50.6%
Forestport	50,475	9,234	6	7	0.1%
Kirkland	1,156	1,114	2,552	07	59.4%
Lee	9,000	8,717	1,110	23	38.7%
Marcy	1,237	2,097	6,860	74	32.7%
Marshall	2,805	2,805	6,431	93	79.0%
New Hartford	5,513	5,435	3,720	31	30.6%
Paris	9,883	9,595	3,637	87	69.6%
Remsen	3,583	2,694	5,179	04	27.2%
Sangerfield	9,164	9,047	1,808	66	62.0%
Steuben	7,436	7,406	1,054	87	40.3%
Trenton	7,263	7,016	4,224	06	52.6%
Vernon	3,252	3,248	5,191	19	65.3%
Verona	4,531	4,304	9,037	23	43.0%
Vienna	50,525	9,143	3,000	11	20.4%
Western	54,864	5,662	7,142	82	52.5%
Westmoreland	7,631	7,621	6,085	62	58.2%
Whitestown	5,611	5,600	3,152	5	20.2%
<b>Total Towns:</b>	<b>34,595</b>	<b>206,296</b>	<b>289,681</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>41.0%</b>
<b>Villages (17):</b>					
Barneveld	22	22	5		4.1%
Boonville	1,108	1,105	22		11.0%
Camden	442	442	09	2	21.4%
Clayville	284	281			0.0%
Clinton	392	392			0.0%
Holland Patent	20	18	7		14.8%
New Hartford	100	100			0.0%
New York Mills	33	33	5		0.8%
Oneida Castle	46	46	28		8.1%
Oriskany	62	62			0.0%
Oriskany Falls	27	27	24		7.3%
Remsen	33	33	2		9.4%
Sylvan Beach	55	35			0.0%
Vernon	605	502	4		7.3%
Waterville	907	907	03	4	33.4%
Whitesboro	87	87			0.0%
Yorkville	38	38			0.0%
<b>Total Villages:</b>	<b>2,261</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
<b>Cities (3):</b>					
City of Rome	8,273	7,747	3,932	300	20.8%
City of Sherrill	1,471	1,471	285	10	19.4%
City of Utica	10,613	10,697	3,440		4.1%
<b>Total Cities:</b>	<b>20,357</b>	<b>19,915</b>	<b>7,657</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>54,952</b>	<b>226,211</b>	<b>307,338</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>38.8%</b>
			244,851 farm acres OUTSIDE the borders of the Oneida Nation		

Table 2: Agriculture by Municipality – Acres in Ag Districts

	Total Acres	Total Acres w/ or w/o Water	Total Farmed Acres	Acres in NYS Agricultural District	Percent of Farmed Land in Ag District
<b>Towns (26):</b>					
Annsville	8,660	8,459	16,603	10,797	65.0%
Augusta	7,423	7,422	14,477	10,765	74.4%
Ava	4,256	4,232	5,305	3,539	48.8%
Boonville	5,336	4,892	11,137	5,766	51.8%
Bridgewater	5,243	5,238	5,162	3,139	67.0%
Camden	3,113	3,024	2,541	1,705	29.5%
Deerfield	1,160	1,108	9,909	5,018	50.6%
Florence	5,222	5,162	5,108	3,664	4.5%
Floyd	2,253	2,142	1,201	6,441	57.5%
Forestport	50,475	9,234	56	37	83.9%
Kirkland	1,156	1,114	2,552	3,667	53.1%
Lee	9,000	8,717	1,110	3,390	30.5%
Marcy	1,237	20,976	5,860	3,467	65.1%
Marshall	20,805	20,805	6,431	10,654	64.8%
New Hartford	5,513	5,435	5,720	3,401	72.1%
Paris	9,883	9,595	3,637	3,361	76.0%
Remsen	3,583	2,694	5,179	2,317	37.5%
Sangerfield	9,164	9,047	1,808	6,863	58.1%
Steuben	7,436	7,406	11,054	3,317	75.2%
Trenton	7,263	7,016	4,224	3,145	57.3%
Vernon	3,252	3,248	5,191	3,944	65.5%
Verona	4,531	4,304	9,037	11,108	58.3%
Vienna	5,525	9,143	5,000	3,813	72.7%
Western	4,864	2,662	7,142	10,809	63.1%
Westmoreland	7,631	7,621	6,085	10,205	63.4%
Whitestown	5,611	5,600	5,152	3,337	42.4%
<b>Total Towns:</b>	<b>34,595</b>	<b>706,296</b>	<b>289,681</b>	<b>167,379</b>	<b>57.8%</b>
<b>Villages (17):</b>					
Barneveld	22	22	5		0.0%
Boonville	1,108	1,105	22	22	100.0%
Camden	1,442	1,442	309	35	14.6%
Clayville	284	281			0.0%
Clinton	392	392			
Holland Patent	20	18	7	1	44.7%
New Hartford	100	100			
New York Mills	733	733	6		0.0%
Oneida Castle	346	346	28	28	100.0%
Oriskany	62	62			
Oriskany Falls	27	27	24		0.0%
Remsen	233	233	22	25	13.6%
Sylvan Beach	55	35			
Vernon	605	602	4		0.0%
Waterville	907	907	303	96	31.7%
Whitesboro	687	687			
Yorkville	38	38			
<b>Total Villages:</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>34.6%</b>
<b>Cities (3):</b>					
City of Rome	8,273	7,747	5,932	3,701	37.3%
City of Sherrill	1,471	1,471	285	201	70.5%
City of Utica	10,613	10,697	1,40		0.0%
<b>Total Cities:</b>	<b>20,357</b>	<b>19,915</b>	<b>7,657</b>	<b>3,902</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>60,213</b>	<b>775,442</b>	<b>301,248</b>	<b>171,596</b>	<b>57.0%</b>
			244,851 farm acres OUTSIDE the borders of the Oneida Nation		

Table 3: Agriculture by Municipality – Acres receiving Ag Value Assessment

	Total Acres	Total Acres w/ or w/o Water	Total Farmed Acres	Acres Receiving Agricultural Value Assessments	Percent of Farmed Land Receiving Ag Assessment
<b>Towns (26):</b>					
Annsville	8,660	8,459	6,603	873	5.3%
Augusta	7,423	7,422	4,477	0,970	75.8%
Ava	4,256	4,232	5,305	562	16.8%
Boonville	5,336	4,892	1,137	757	42.7%
Bridgewater	5,243	5,238	5,162	5134	56.0%
Camden	3,113	3,024	2,541	55	0.4%
Deerfield	1,160	1,108	909	750	37.8%
Florence	5,222	5,162	5,108	36	1.7%
Floyd	2,253	2,142	1,201	776	60.5%
Forestport	50,475	9,234	56		0.0%
Kirkland	1,156	1,114	2,552	822	62.3%
Lee	9,000	8,717	1,110	35	2.1%
Marcy	1,237	20,976	5,860	2,571	37.5%
Marshall	20,805	20,805	6,431	2,335	75.1%
New Hartford	5,513	5,435	5,720	5197	67.7%
Paris	9,883	9,595	3,637	1,026	80.9%
Remsens	3,583	2,694	5,179	2,956	47.8%
Sangerfield	9,164	9,047	1,808	7149	60.5%
Steuben	7,436	7,406	1,054	7113	64.3%
Trenton	7,263	7,016	4,224	5177	43.4%
Vernon	3,252	3,248	5,191	7396	48.7%
Verona	4,531	4,304	9,037	725	40.6%
Vienna	5,525	9,143	5,000	5017	50.2%
Western	4,864	2,662	7,142	0,115	59.0%
Westmoreland	7,631	7,621	6,085	2,576	47.1%
Whitestown	5,611	5,600	5,152	838	26.6%
<b>Total Towns:</b>	<b>734,595</b>	<b>706,296</b>	<b>289,681</b>	<b>132,261</b>	<b>45.7%</b>
<b>Villages (17):</b>					
Barneveld	22	22	5		0.0%
Boonville	1,108	1,105	22		0.0%
Camden	1,442	1,442	309		0.3%
Clayville	284	281			0.0%
Clinton	392	392			0.0%
Holland Patent	20	18	7		0.0%
New Hartford	100	100			0.0%
New York Mills	33	33	6		0.0%
Oneida Castle	46	46	28		100.0%
Oriskany	62	62			0.0%
Oriskany Falls	27	27	24		0.0%
Remsens	233	233	22	9	86.4%
Sylvan Beach	55	35			0.0%
Vernon	605	602	4		0.0%
Waterville	907	907	303	55	21.5%
Whitesboro	687	687			0.0%
Yorkville	38	38			0.0%
<b>Total Villages:</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Cities (3):</b>					
City of Rome	8,273	7,747	5,932		0.0%
City of Sherrill	1,471	1,471	285	222	77.9%
City of Utica	10,613	10,697	1,40		0.0%
<b>Total Cities:</b>	<b>20,357</b>	<b>19,915</b>	<b>7,657</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>764,213</b>	<b>725,442</b>	<b>301,248</b>	<b>132,599</b>	<b>44.0%</b>
			244,851 farm acres OUTSIDE the borders of the Oneida Nation		



Table 4: Agriculture by Municipality – Acres of Prime or Statewide Significance Farmland

	Total Acres	Total Acres In/Out of Water	Total Farmed Acres	Acres of Prime Farmland	Percent of Municipality Prime Farmland	Acres of Farmland of Statewide Significance	Percent of Municipality Farmland of Statewide Significance	Percent of Municipality Either Prime or Statewide Significance
<b>Towns (26):</b>								
Annsville	8,660	8,459	6,603	10,591	27.5%	17077	44.4%	71.9%
Augusta	7,423	7,422	4,477	8,684	49.8%	5653	32.4%	82.3%
Ava	4,252	4,232	3,305	5,319	22.0%	14254	58.8%	80.8%
Boonville	5,336	4,892	1,137	2,272	20.7%	17242	38.4%	59.1%
Bridgewater	5,243	5,238	1,162	2,103	20.4%	5102	33.5%	53.8%
Camden	3,113	3,024	2,541	2,924	27.0%	17981	54.4%	81.5%
Deerfield	1,160	1,108	909	2,881	13.6%	3501	16.6%	30.2%
Florence	5,222	5,162	3,108	8,725	24.8%	21081	60.0%	84.8%
Floyd	2,253	2,142	1,201	7160	32.3%	2857	12.9%	45.2%
Forestport	5,475	9,234	2,56	3,984	8.1%	17790	36.1%	44.2%
Kirkland	1,156	1,114	2,552	1,030	52.2%	3092	14.6%	66.9%
Lee	2,900	2,871	1,110	2,354	43.0%	11851	41.3%	84.3%
Marcy	1,237	2,0976	8,860	1,602	21.9%	3606	17.2%	39.1%
Marshall	2,805	2,805	6,431	7,738	46.8%	3595	17.3%	64.1%
New Hartford	5,513	5,435	720	2,282	53.7%	2168	14.0%	67.7%
Paris	5,883	9,595	3,637	2,482	48.4%	3940	20.1%	68.5%
Remsen	3,583	2,694	5,179	2,785	16.7%	8343	36.8%	53.4%
Sangerfield	9,164	9,047	1,808	2,858	15.0%	8013	42.1%	57.1%
Steuben	7,436	7,406	1,054	5,527	20.2%	7586	27.7%	47.8%
Trenton	7,263	7,016	4,224	5,485	31.4%	5278	19.5%	50.9%
Vernon	3,252	3,248	5,191	2,414	53.4%	2800	12.0%	65.4%
Verona	4,531	4,304	9,037	1,546	26.1%	6679	15.1%	41.1%
Vienna	5,525	9,143	2,000	6,577	16.8%	20536	52.5%	69.3%
Western	4,864	2,662	7,142	8,542	26.2%	10071	30.8%	57.0%
Westmoreland	7,631	7,621	6,085	1,055	40.0%	2383	8.6%	48.7%
Whitestown	5,611	5,600	1,152	2,482	35.1%	1534	9.8%	45.0%
<b>Total Towns:</b>	<b>34,595</b>	<b>706,296</b>	<b>29,681</b>	<b>200,402</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>224,013</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>60.1%</b>
<b>Villages (17):</b>								
Barneveld	22	22	5	2	58.8%	21	17.1%	75.9%
Boonville	108	105	22	59	14.4%	278	25.1%	39.5%
Camden	442	442	9	93	61.9%	84	12.8%	74.7%
Clayville	84	81			0.0%	5	30.2%	30.2%
Clinton	92	92		37	86.0%	23	5.9%	91.8%
Holland Patent	20	18	7	36	74.2%	24	7.5%	81.7%
New Hartford	00	00		76	44.0%	7	1.8%	45.8%
New York Mills	33	33		87	39.2%	5	0.4%	39.6%
Oneida Castle	46	46	28	66	48.0%	3	3.8%	51.8%
Oriskany	62	62		54	55.0%	1	8.9%	63.9%
Oriskany Falls	27	27	24	24	37.9%	9	18.0%	55.9%
Remsen	33	33	22	28	42.1%	2	9.4%	51.5%
Sylvan Beach	55	35			0.0%	7	22.3%	22.3%
Vernon	505	602	4	63	76.9%		0.0%	76.9%
Waterville	07	07	03	55	83.2%	2	7.9%	91.2%
Whitesboro	87	87		1	11.8%	1	8.9%	20.7%
Yorkville	38	38			0.0%		0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total Villages:</b>	<b>2,261</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>
<b>Cities (3):</b>								
City of Rome	8,273	7,747	932	8,636	18.1%	12035	25.2%	43.3%
City of Sherrill	471	471	285	885	73.8%	67	4.6%	78.3%
City of Utica	0,613	10,697	40	1,045	9.8%	610	5.7%	15.5%
<b>Total Cities:</b>	<b>9,357</b>	<b>18,915</b>	<b>10,657</b>	<b>10,766</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>12,712</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>39.2%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>44,952</b>	<b>175,442</b>	<b>40,338</b>	<b>215,269</b>	<b>27.76%</b>	<b>236,725</b>	<b>30.66%</b>	<b>58.4%</b>
			244,851 farm acres OUTSIDE the borders of the Oneida Nation					

Table 5: Farmed Parcels: Real Property Class Codes

	Farmed Parcels with Agricultural Property Class Codes:	Acres		Parcels	
112	Dairy Products: Milk, Butter and Cheese	11,990	20.6%		
105	Agricultural Vacant Land (Productive) Land Used as Part of an Operating Farm. It Does Not Have Living Accommodations and Cannot Be Specifically Related to Any of the Other Divisions in the Agricultural Category. Usually Found When an Operating Farm is Made Up of a Number of Contiguous Parcels.	58,658	19.5%		
120	Field Crops: Potatoes, Wheat, Hay, Dry Beans, Corn, Oats, and Other Field Crops.	26,941	8.9%		
241	Primary Residential, Also Used in Agricultural Production	3,849	7.9%		
113	Cattle, Calves, Hogs	6,801	1.9%		
117	Horse Farms	452	1.1%		
110	Livestock and Products	407	1.1%		
116	Other Livestock: Monkeys, Goats	650	0.5%		
100	Agricultural Not Further Classified	504	0.5%		
170	Nursery and Greenhouse: Buildings, Greenhouses and Land Used for Growing Nursery Stock, Trees, Flowers, and hothouse plants, Mushrooms, etc.	63	0.2%		
140	Truck Crops Not Mucklands: Nonmuckland Used to Grow Onions, Snap Beans, Tomatoes, Cabbage, Lettuce, Cauliflower, Sweet Corn, Celery, Carrots, Beets, Peas, etc.	71	0.2%		
114	Sheep and Wool	28	0.1%		
130	Truck Crops Mucklands: Muckland Used to Grow Potatoes, Sugar Beets, Onions, Snap Beans, Tomatoes, Cabbage, Lettuce, Cauliflower, Sweet Corn, Celery, etc.	98	0.1%		
160	Other Fruits: Strawberries, Raspberries, Dewberries, Currants, etc.	94	0.1%		
151	Apples, Pears, Peaches, Cherries, etc.	92	0.1%		
190	Fish, Game and Wildlife Preserves	57	0.1%		
150	Orchard Crops	51	0.1%		
111	Poultry and Poultry Products: Eggs, Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks and Geese	06	0.0%		
181	Fur Products: Mink, Chinchilla, etc.	9	0.0%		
180	Specialty Farms	8	0.0%		
115	Honey and Beeswax		0.0%		
129	Acquired Development Rights: Land for which Development Rights have been acquired by a governmental agency (e.g., certain agricultural lands in Suffolk County).		0.0%		
152	Vineyards		0.0%		
182	Pheasant, etc.		0.0%		
183	Aquatic: Oysterlands, Fish and Aquatic Plants		0.0%		
184	Livestock: Deer, Moose, Llamas, Buffalo, etc.		0.0%		
	<b>Total Farmed Parcels with Agricultural Property Class Codes:</b>	89,789	63.0%	1,066	60.9%
	<b>Total Farmed Parcels with NON Agricultural Property Class Codes:</b>	11,459	37.0%	1,607	39.1%
	<b>Total Farmed Parcels:</b>	101,248		2,673	

# SURVEY

## Survey results – Threats to Agriculture

Question	Very significant		Somewhat significant		Not significant		Total
Milk and/or crop price volatility	85.87%	79	13.04%	12	1.09%	1	92
High costs of doing business	92.47%	86	7.53%	7	0.00%	0	93
Farmer/neighbor conflicts	32.97%	30	45.05%	41	21.98%	20	91
High property taxes	73.91%	68	25.00%	23	1.09%	1	92
Rising cost of farmland	60.67%	54	38.20%	34	1.12%	1	89
Commercial development pressure	38.89%	35	46.67%	42	14.44%	13	90
Residential development pressure	51.09%	47	43.48%	40	5.43%	5	92
Development of solar "farms"	28.89%	26	50.00%	45	21.11%	19	90
Negative consumer perceptions of agriculture	46.15%	42	35.16%	32	18.68%	17	91
Burden of local regulations	37.50%	33	42.05%	37	20.45%	18	88
Burden of state/federal regulations	65.93%	60	30.77%	28	3.30%	3	91
Insufficient availability of ag services (feed, seed, equipment dealers, etc.)	30.68%	27	42.05%	37	27.27%	24	88
Insufficient availability of financing	38.64%	34	47.73%	42	13.64%	12	88
Insufficient availability of labor	51.69%	46	38.20%	34	10.11%	9	89
Other (please specify): (Minimum wage; politics)	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	3

## Survey Results – Opportunities for Agriculture

Question	Very significant		Somewhat significant		Not significant		Total
Increased productivity and cost efficiency on farms	82.76%	72	17.24%	15	0.00%	0	87
Competitive advantages of Northeast agriculture (vs. areas more susceptible to drought, excessive heat)	78.82%	67	20.00%	17	1.18%	1	85
Selling direct to consumers (farmers' markets, CSAs, etc.)	65.17%	58	33.71%	30	1.12%	1	89
Selling direct to local institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.)	58.62%	51	36.78%	32	4.60%	4	87
Agritourism	54.22%	45	36.14%	30	9.64%	8	83
New entrants into local farming (e.g., veterans, refugees, millennials, Amish, etc.)	45.78%	38	46.99%	39	7.23%	6	83
New opportunities for local value-added processing	55.95%	47	40.48%	34	3.57%	3	84
Alternative energy crops	40.00%	34	44.71%	38	15.29%	13	85
Distributed energy production (solar, windmills, etc.)	42.35%	36	36.47%	31	21.18%	18	85
Other (please specify): (Industrial hemp)	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	2

## Survey Instrument

### ONEIDA COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION

#### 2016 Stakeholder Survey

What is your interest in agriculture and farmland protection planning in Oneida County? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ I am a farmer in Oneida County (Complete **SECTION 1** and **SECTION 4**)
- ☐ I own farmland in Oneida County, but I am not a farmer (Complete **SECTION 2** and **SECTION 4**)
- ☐ I am a County/Town/Village/City official or a member of a County/Town/Village/City Board (Complete **SECTION 3** AND **SECTION 4**)
- ☐ I believe that protecting agriculture and farmland is an important part of planning for Oneida County's future (Complete **SECTION 4**)

#### SECTION 1 – FARMERS

In which Town/Village/City is your farmland located? Choose all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annsville                | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida Castle (Village) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augusta                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oriskany (Village)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ava                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Paris                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barneveld                | <input type="checkbox"/> Steuben                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonville (Town)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenton                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonville (Village)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitestown              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridgewater              | <input type="checkbox"/> Remsen (Town)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camden (Town)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Remsen (Village)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camden (Village)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rome (City)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clayville (Village)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sangerfield             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton (Village)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sherrill (City)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deerfield                | <input type="checkbox"/> Steuben                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florence                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sylvan Beach (Village)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floyd                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Utica (City)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestport               | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernon (Town)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holland Patent (Village) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernon (Village)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kirkland                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Verona                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vienna                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marcy                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterville (Village)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Western                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hartford (Town)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Westmoreland            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hartford (Village)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitesboro (Town)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New York Mills (Village) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yorkville (Village)     |

What is your primary farm business?

Dairy

Field crops

Fruits/vegetables

Livestock (other than dairy)

Horses

Nursery

Maple syrup/honey

Christmas tree

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

How many acres do you currently farm?

Less than 10 acres

Between 10 and 100 acres

More than 100 acres

How many years have you (or your family) been farming at this location?

Less than ten years

Between ten and fifty years

More than fifty years

Do you participate in any of the following programs designed to support agriculture and encourage farmland preservation? (Check all that apply)

☐ County Agricultural District

☐ Ag Value Assessment (property tax reduction)

☐ Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM)

☐ NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program

☐ Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP)

☐ Other similar government programs (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately what percent of your total household income came from the farm last year?

Less than 25%

25 to 49%

50 to 74%

75 to 99%

100%

Does your farm support more than one household?

No

Yes; one household in addition to my own

Yes; more than one household in addition to my own

In ten years, which of the following do you think is most likely:

All of my farmland will continue to be available for farming

Some of my farmland will be available for farming, but some will be converted to residential or commercial use

All of my farmland will be converted to residential or commercial use

## SECTION 2 - LANDOWNERS, NOT FARMERS

In which Town/Village/City is your farmland located? Choose all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annsville                | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida Castle (Village) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augusta                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oriskany (Village)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ava                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Paris                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barneveld                | <input type="checkbox"/> Steuben                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonville (Town)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenton                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonville (Village)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitestown              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridgewater              | <input type="checkbox"/> Remsen (Town)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camden (Town)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Remsen (Village)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camden (Village)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rome (City)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clayville (Village)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sangerfield             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton (Village)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sherrill (City)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deerfield                | <input type="checkbox"/> Steuben                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florence                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sylvan Beach (Village)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floyd                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Utica (City)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestport               | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernon (Town)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holland Patent (Village) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernon (Village)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kirkland                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Verona                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vienna                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marcy                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterville (Village)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Western                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hartford (Town)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Westmoreland            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hartford (Village)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitesboro (Town)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New York Mills (Village) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yorkville (Village)     |

How many acres that you own are currently farmed?

Less than 10 acres

Between 10 and 100 acres

More than 100 acres

How is your land currently farmed?

Crop production

Pasture/grazing

Other \_\_\_\_\_



Do you have a written agreement with a farmer who uses your land?

Yes

No

In ten years, which of the following do you think is most likely:

All of my farmland will continue to be available for farming

Some of my farmland will be available for farming, but some will be converted to residential or commercial use

All of my farmland will be converted to residential or commercial use

### SECTION 3 – MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

Which local government are you affiliated with? (check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annsville                | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida Castle (Village) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augusta                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oriskany (Village)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ava                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Paris                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barneveld                | <input type="checkbox"/> Steuben                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonville (Town)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenton                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonville (Village)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitestown              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridgewater              | <input type="checkbox"/> Remsen (Town)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camden (Town)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Remsen (Village)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camden (Village)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rome (City)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clayville (Village)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sangerfield             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton (Village)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sherrill (City)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deerfield                | <input type="checkbox"/> Steuben                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florence                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sylvan Beach (Village)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floyd                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Utica (City)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestport               | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernon (Town)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holland Patent (Village) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernon (Village)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kirkland                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Verona                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vienna                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marcy                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterville (Village)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Western                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hartford (Town)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Westmoreland            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hartford (Village)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitesboro (Town)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New York Mills (Village) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yorkville (Village)     |

In what capacity do you serve in local government?

Town/Village Supervisor

Town/Village Clerk

Town/Village Board Member

Town/Village Planning Board Member

Town/Village Assessor

Town/Village Zoning Board of Appeals Member

Town/Village Zoning Enforcement Officer

Town/Village Codes Enforcement Officer

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Has your municipality adopted any of the following policies intended to support agriculture and related businesses? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Municipal farmland protection plan
- ☐ Municipal right to farm law
- ☐ Zoning district(s) in which agriculture is the primary use
- ☐ A broad definition of agriculture (including agritourism, on-farm processing, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Not sure/don't know

Has your municipal government dealt with any of the following issues related to agriculture in the last year? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Farmer/neighbor conflicts
- ☐ Interpretation of zoning and/or codes related to agriculture (please specify the issue)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Road/traffic issues
- ☐ Environmental issues
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Not sure/don't know

Do the following boards in your municipality include one or more members who is a farmer or ag business person?

	Yes	No	Not sure/don't know
Town Board			
Planning Board			
Zoning Board of Appeals			

In your role as a municipal official, how frequently do you use the following agriculture-related resources that are available to you?

	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Oneida County Planning staff			
Oneida County Planning training sessions			
Oneida County website			
Cornell Cooperative Extension staff			
Cornell Cooperative Extension training sessions			
Cornell Cooperative Extension website			
NYS Ag & Markets staff/website/training			
Soil & Water Conservation District staff/website/training			
USDA staff/website/training			
Other (please specify): _____			

In your role as a municipal official, which of the following agriculture-related topics would you like to learn more about? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)
- ☐ Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
- ☐ Conservation easements
- ☐ Land Trusts
- ☐ Agriculture districts
- ☐ Ag value assessments
- ☐ Ag-friendly zoning
- ☐ Municipal farmland protection plans
- ☐ Conservation subdivisions/cluster development
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION 4: ALL RESPONDENTS

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements (or neither):

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
Our local population supports agriculture and related businesses			
My town/village government supports agriculture and related businesses			
Oneida County government supports agriculture and related businesses			
New York State government supports Oneida County agriculture and related businesses			
The Federal government supports Oneida County agriculture and related businesses			

Following is a list of **EXISTING** government policies and programs intended to protect agriculture and farmland. For those that you are familiar with, please indicate how important you believe they are for protecting Oneida County's agriculture and farmland:

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Not familiar with this program
Local land use policies (e.g., town and village zoning)				
New York State's Agriculture Districts program				
Ag Value Assessment (property tax reductions for agriculture)				
New York State's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program				
State/federal grants and loan programs				
Agricultural education programs (e.g., Cornell Cooperative Extension)				
Local economic development programs				
Other (please specify):				

Following is a list of **POTENTIAL** government policies and programs intended to protect agriculture and farmland. For those that you are familiar with, please indicate how important you believe they are for protecting Oneida County's agriculture and farmland:

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Not familiar with this program/policy
County Comprehensive Plan				
County Purchase/Transfer of Development Rights				
Exclusive Agricultural Zones				
Revolving Loan Fund for Agriculture				
Other: (please specify)				
_____				



Following is a list of possible future **THREATS** to agriculture and related businesses in Oneida County. Please indicate how significant you believe each of these threats is:

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Not significant
Milk and/or crop price volatility			
High costs of doing business			
Farmer/neighbor conflicts			
High property taxes			
Rising cost of farmland			
Commercial development pressure			
Residential development pressure			
Development of solar "farms"			
Negative consumer perceptions of agriculture			
Burden of local regulations			
Burden of state/federal regulations			
Insufficient availability of ag services (feed, seed, equipment dealers, etc.)			
Insufficient availability of financing			
Insufficient availability of labor			
Other (please specify):			

Following is a list of possible future **OPPORTUNITIES** for agriculture and related businesses in Oneida County. Please indicate how significant you believe each of these opportunities is:

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Not significant
Increased productivity and cost efficiency on farms			
Competitive advantages of Northeast agriculture (vs. areas more susceptible to drought, excessive heat)			
Selling direct to consumers (farmers' markets, CSAs, etc.)			
Selling direct to local institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.)			
Agritourism			
New entrants into local farming (e.g., veterans, refugees, millennials, Amish, etc.)			
New opportunities for local value-added processing			
Alternative energy crops			
Distributed energy production (solar, windmills, etc.)			
Other (please specify):			

Please add any specific recommendations you have for actions to be taken at the local level to protect agriculture and farmland in Oneida County:

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# ZONING AND LAND USE LAW AUDIT RESULTS

## Indicators of Farm-Friendly Local Policies

The following questions were used to explore the topics and issues that help evaluate farm-friendliness in this audit. The answers offer insight into whether a regulatory environment is farm-friendly or not. These questions evaluate how agriculture is addressed in plans and local land use regulations, and form the basis for the detailed audit for Trenton, Paris, Westmoreland and Camden. A highly farm-friendly plan or land use regulation would positively address the majority of these criteria.

### Comprehensive Plans

Does the plan have a section on agriculture?

Does the plan include maps of agricultural lands, important farmland soils, agricultural districts, etc.?

Was there public input that explored the role of agriculture in the community? E.g., did a survey include questions about agriculture? Was there anything in workshops about it?

Do the vision statement or goals of the plan address agriculture in any way? Is there any visible demonstration of the value of agriculture to the community in the plan?

Does the plan consider agriculture as an important resource in Town?

Does the plan recognize or reference a local or County agriculture and farmland protection plan?

Does the plan include any data on farms and farmland? Acreage? Income or occupations from farming or other demographic data?

Does the plan establish policies towards farmland and farming?

Does it identify the value of farmland and farms to the community?

Does it offer any recommended actions related to farming or farmland or ways to preserve or enhance farming?

Does the plan establish a policy and/or future actions for the agricultural use of open space that may be created in a conservation subdivision or clustering?

Does the plan discuss New York State's agricultural district program and how the town can be supportive of that program?

Does it consider farmland a natural resource and encourage easements or other protections of that land? Is there a policy discussed for Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), (Leasing of Development Rights (LDR) or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)?

Is agriculture a consideration of where growth does or does not take place?

### Regulations (Zoning)

Does the regulation's purpose statement include a discussion of agriculture, or the promotion or preservation of agriculture specifically?

Does zoning allow agriculture as a permitted use by right in any district?

Does zoning not prohibit agriculture in any district other than hamlet centers or commercial areas?

Are no special use permits required for agriculture or ag-related uses in any district?

Are no higher density or commercial growth activities encouraged in core farm areas or where a NYS Agricultural District exists?

Does the zoning establish a local agricultural zoning district, ag overlay district, or special use district for agriculture?

Does the zoning allow farms to have more than one business, or offer flexibility to accommodate the needs of agricultural businesses?

Are buffer zones between farmland and residential uses required for new construction or subdivision?

Are innovative development patterns that preserve farmland encouraged, allowed, or mandated (conservation subdivision, clustering, TDR)?

Are off-site or on-site signs allowed to attract and direct people to farm stands?

Are farm stands, farm retail markets, agri-tourist businesses, breweries, etc. allowed?

Are farm processing facilities such as community kitchens, slaughterhouses, etc. allowed?

Are farm stands not limited to selling just products from that one farm?

Do farm stands not need a site plan review or special use permit?

Does zoning allow for accessory uses such as greenhouses, barns, garages, equipment storage etc. permitted as of right?

Do application requirements include asking for submittal of information or maps about farming that might be taking place on or near the project parcel? Whether it is in an ag district? What farming activities take place on or near the site? Whether prime farmland soils are present?

Do standards exist that require the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals to evaluate impacts of a project on agriculture?

Do any design standards exist to direct building envelopes to areas on a parcel that would still allow farming to occur on remaining open spaces?

Does the regulation define agriculture, agricultural structure, farm worker housing, agri-tourism, agri-business?

Are farm-related definitions broad and flexible and not confined to a certain number of acres or income earned?

Are non-traditional or retail based farm businesses allowed? For example, can a farmer set up a brewery on site and sell products onsite?

Is an *Agricultural Data Statement*\* an expected part of an application for site plan, subdivision, special use or other zoning?

Does the community require inclusion of an *Agricultural Data Statement* or and *Agricultural Disclosure Form* on plans or plats when development takes place in a NY certified Ag District? (see attachments for these forms)

Are any ag-related uses required to get a special use permit or go through site plan review?

Does the regulation define and allow for farm worker housing? Are mobile homes allowed as farm worker housing?

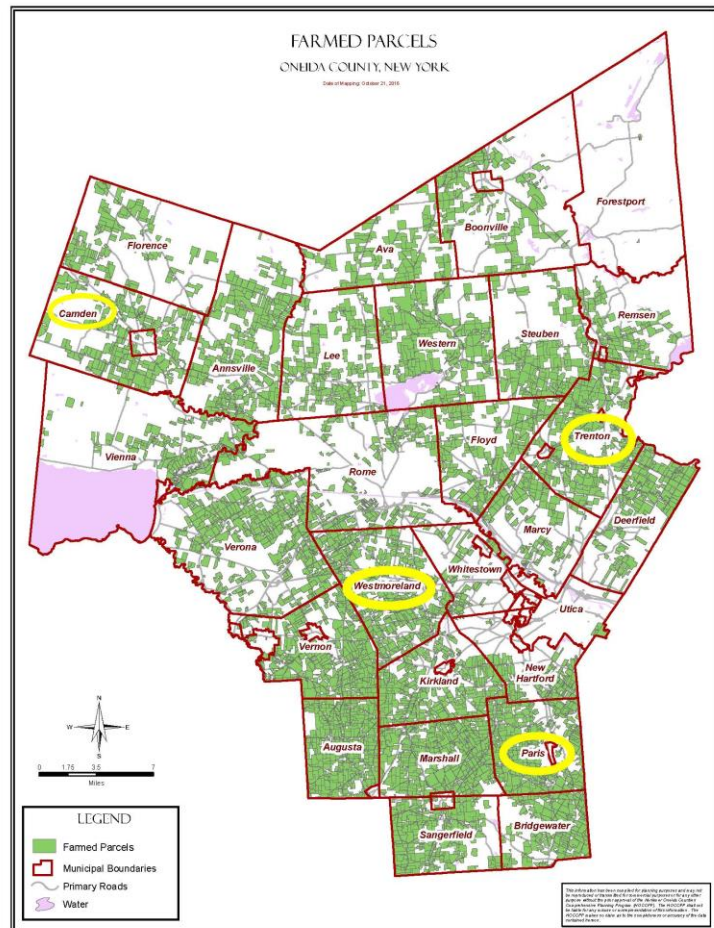
Are silos and other farm structures exempt from height requirements? Are personal wind mills and solar panels allowed for farms? With permits or permitted as of right?

Does zoning not regulate farms by acreage or number of animals?

## The four towns selected for audit

Four towns, representing different locations, farm characteristics, and growth pressures in Oneida County, were selected for a detailed review of their plans and land use regulations (see map below). Note that we opted *not* to do a detailed analysis of the Town of Marcy for this discussion; although Marcy may be the Oneida County Town most immediately impacted by pressures related to nanotech development, and includes substantial agricultural resources, the Town has in 2016 undergone a thorough analysis of these issues in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and Land Use regulations. We felt it was more important to use this opportunity to study Towns that may not have been as thoroughly or recently analyzed.

- **Trenton**, in the eastern part of the County, was chosen because it has both agricultural land uses and a high potential for development pressure, similar to Marcy.
- **Paris** also has a significant portion of its land base in agriculture, but is in the southern part of the County where development pressure may compete for a high concentration of quality farmland. Trenton and Paris both have water/sewer infrastructure beyond village borders that could influence future growth.
- **Westmoreland** is centrally located, with a significant land base in agriculture, and also experiences growth pressures, but no water/sewer infrastructure is available.
- **Camden** was chosen to represent a western Oneida County town with less growth pressure, and where water/sewer infrastructure is not present.



A comparison of agricultural characteristics in each of the four towns

<b>Town</b>	<b>Trenton</b>	<b>Camden</b>	<b>Paris</b>	<b>Westmoreland</b>
Total acres in Town (excl. water)	27,016	33,024	19,595	27,621
# of structures built 2010-2015	133	110	112	190
Water and/or sewer infrastructure (miles)	5.17 miles (0.95 mi excl. village)	(No spatial data for this Town)	22.26 miles (18.45 mi excl. village)	0.25 miles
Total farmed acres in Town	14,224	12,541	13,637	16,085
<i>Farmed acres as % of Total acres</i>	<i>52.6%</i>	<i>38.0%</i>	<i>69.6%</i>	<i>58.2%</i>
Acres of Prime Soils	8,485	8,924	9,482	11,055
Acres of Statewide Significant Soils	5,278	17,981	3,940	2,383
<i>Prime/Statewide Significant Soils as % of total acres</i>	<i>50.9%</i>	<i>81.5%</i>	<i>68.5%</i>	<i>48.7%</i>
Total # of farmed parcels in Town	306	213	387	462
# of farmed parcels in Ag District	202	61	322	332
<i>Farmed parcels in Ag District as % of all farmed parcels</i>	<i>66.0%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>83.2%</i>	<i>71.9%</i>
Farmed acres receiving Ag Value Assessment	6,177	55	11,026	7,576
<i>Farmed acres receiving Ag Value Assessment as % of all farmed acres</i>	<i>43.4%</i>	<i>0.4%</i>	<i>80.9%</i>	<i>47.1%</i>
Farmed acres in Ag District	8,145	3,705	10,362	10,205
<i>Farmed acres in Ag District as % of all farmed acres</i>	<i>57.3%</i>	<i>29.5%</i>	<i>76.0%</i>	<i>63.4%</i>

## *Paris*

### **A. Comprehensive Plan:**

Paris has a 2014 Comprehensive Plan that includes a discussion of agriculture. The Plan has basic maps showing agricultural land uses and NYS Agricultural districts and recognizes the importance of working landscapes in the Town. Public input was garnered in development of the plan and there was a great deal of support expressed by the public for preservation of farmlands. Goals and actions are established related to farming, and the Town has prioritized some of those actions to take place early after adoption of the Plan. However, there is little data in the plan on farms or farmland or farmer demographics.

The Plan does establish a goal to maintain the working landscapes in Paris and a strong agrarian economy. The Plan also recommended actions to address that goal, including:

- Ensure that new development does not create conflicts with farming or infringe on agricultural operations whenever possible through careful study and consideration of development siting during the subdivision review or site plan review process.
- Protect prime agricultural soils by focusing development in settled areas and hamlets whenever possible.
- Allow a wide range of farm-based businesses that enable farmers to diversify their operations.
- Increase property owner awareness of the State's Agricultural District program including their locations within the Town, its benefits and responsibilities.
- Evaluate development of a purchase of conservation easements program for the conservation of agricultural lands and prime agricultural soils.

Although not very detailed, the Paris Comprehensive Plan has the basics and a good foundation for farm-friendly policies in Town.

### **B. Zoning Law:**

The zoning law in Paris is generally very farm-friendly based on the criteria evaluated for this Audit. Zoning includes language indicating protection of farmland and farming are important purposes of the law, and generally, the law is consistent with the Plan. The Zoning does not place undue burdens or challenges on farming if the farm is located within the NYS Agricultural District, but would be more burdensome if a farm is outside that district. The zoning law could be improved with addition of use of a modified site plan review process for agricultural activities that are located outside the NYS Ag District; use of buffering between new residential uses and existing farms; and lower densities in the AR district to reduce farm/non-farm conflicts that often arise.

Zoning in the Town of Paris allows for agriculture as a permitted use for properties located in a certified New York State Agricultural District. Outside such district, agricultural uses require site plan review. Although it appears that the NYS Ag District and the Paris AR (Agriculture Residential) district largely overlap each other, the zoning does not promote or make it easy to continue or establish agricultural operations outside those areas. No special use permits are required in any area, however. The zoning appears to be set up to focus higher density in the hamlet and commercial districts, and the AR district is



reserved for the lowest density in Town. However, the density in the AR district is a two-acre minimum lot size, and although that is lower than all other areas in Paris, that density is a suburban level and not one that over time and with more residential development could sustain farmland.

What is not addressed are mechanisms that allow farms to diversify and have multiple farm or farm-related businesses on one parcel. Since it is not explicitly discussed in the zoning, it is likely that, should this situation arise, it would require interpretation from the ZBA, or would be disallowed. The zoning could be improved for farm-friendliness by specifically allowing farms to have multiple types of farm-related businesses on site, following NYS Agriculture and Markets guidelines ([www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/305-aZoningGuidelines.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/305-aZoningGuidelines.pdf)).

The zoning does not discuss buffers between new residential developments and existing farms which serve to reduce conflicts. Nor does it require use of the Agricultural Data Statement or mention the Agriculture Disclosure notices. The Agricultural Data Statement is used to inform farm landowners in the area when a non-farm use is proposed nearby, and the Disclosure notice is used to inform non-farm landowners that they are purchasing land where agriculture takes place.

Some other points identified in the Audit include:

- Zoning does allow for clustering, but it is not specifically set up to allow or address agriculture.
- Farm stands, both permanent and temporary are allowed, as are signs for those uses. Some farm related structures are allowed such as greenhouses, but agritourism businesses, breweries, community kitchens, and food processing are not included in the use table, and would therefore be considered prohibited.
- There is some confusing language used in the Use Table. For example, “agriculture” is considered a permitted use by right within NYS Ag Districts (and with Site Plan Review outside of the NYS Ag District), but “agriculture, excluding livestock” is also included in the Use Table. This appears to mean that the town treats agriculture with animals differently than those that do not have livestock, and depending on how this is interpreted locally could be farm-friendly or not. This is one area that needs clarification and better definitions.
- Farm worker housing is defined, and is allowed with site plan review and a special use permit. Site plan review for farm worker housing is not unusual, but requiring a special use permit may be contrary to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets guidelines. All accessory uses in Town require a building permit, and the law exempts agricultural accessory uses from the two-building per parcel limitation. It also allows farm uses to be in a front yard, and allows farm accessory uses to be greater than the 1200 square foot limitation.

- The zoning recognizes the unique needs of agriculture by stating that normal restrictions on use of trailers and outdoor storage do not apply to agriculture. That is a positive, farm-friendly approach.
- Small solar panels are allowed for all properties in Paris, and no distinction is made for such use on farms. While this would not prohibit solar panel use on farms, it does not recognize that New York State considers solar panels on farms a farm structure (like a silo or barn) and would thus receive additional protections from being in the NYS Ag District. It is recommended that the regulations for solar panels specifically discuss and allow for their use for farm energy production and follow the NYS guidelines for such uses  
([www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/Guidelines\\_for\\_Solar\\_and\\_Small\\_Wind\\_Energy\\_Facilities.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/guidancedocuments/Guidelines_for_Solar_and_Small_Wind_Energy_Facilities.pdf)).

### **C. Subdivision Regulation**

This regulation, adopted in 2015, is a very good example of a farm-friendly subdivision law, and it could serve as a model for other Oneida County towns to use. It has many farm-friendly components. Agriculture is an important component of the law as evidenced by its inclusion in the purpose statements. Further, several places in the law refer to a project needing to be consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan. Continuation of agriculture as a land use in Paris is a well-articulated goal of their comprehensive plan, which elevates the role that agricultural impact considerations can play in review of a subdivision.

The law's purpose statements also indicate that it is the intent of the town to protect prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance. The law also includes allowance for a conservation subdivision that has protection of agricultural lands as one of its primary goals.

The law is also excellent in that adverse impacts on agriculture are identified as part of the water and sewer analysis, and farm access roads are included in the Town's functional road classification system. Agricultural activities are exempt from stormwater requirements, which is a farm-friendly approach. Those aspects of the regulation represent significant acknowledgements of the role agriculture plays.

The Town offers a density bonus to incentivize permanent protection of working farmland. When land is considered an open space lot and permanently protected under the provisions of the law, agricultural uses are allowed on those lands.

For major subdivisions, the law requires a resource analysis be conducted, and that analysis requires mapping of prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance on the parcel.

Preliminary plats for both minor and major subdivisions recognize Agriculture and Markets Law 25-aa and require submission of the Agricultural Data Statement and identification of whether the parcel is in a NYS Agricultural District.

The conservation subdivision technique is required in the Planned Use Development Districts (PUDD) lands identified on the zoning map. A weakness of this is that the PUDD is limited in area, specifically to

locations most likely served with public water and sewer. Conservation subdivision may be required at the Planning Board's discretion elsewhere in the Town for major subdivisions. That is an understandable approach but means that it is less likely that conservation subdivision design will actually take place elsewhere.

While it is exemplary that the subdivision law recognizes the importance of farmland soils, further inclusion of identification of active farm activities on or near a proposed project site would further enhance the farm-friendliness of this subdivision law by allowing the Planning Board to have a full slate of information upon which to evaluate the proposed subdivision's impact on working farms.

### *Camden*

#### **A. Comprehensive Plan:**

Camden has a very old comprehensive plan (1965) which, while perhaps reflective of the state of the Town and the goals of its residents at that time, is now quite outdated. The Plan does offer a few statistics on agriculture related to 1960 farm employment, but it does not include any agricultural land use data. One map does show land uses, but the plan was developed before NYS agricultural districts came into being. Even if it did have more agriculture-related maps, that information would not likely be relevant or useful anymore. The 1965 text does mention farms as part of the land uses in the Town, but recommends more suburban style growth in much of the Town that was farmed at that time. Further, it discusses the expansion of water and sewer for residential uses throughout the town with no consideration of the likely growth impacts of such expansion on agricultural land uses. Much of the planning included in the Plan is oriented towards the Village, and there is no planning done for continuing agriculture. This plan is not up to par with farm-friendly planning efforts.

#### **B. Zoning:**

Zoning is dated 2014. Almost the entire Town of Camden (outside the Village) is in the Rural zoning district. The overall purposes of zoning do not mention agriculture or farmland protection in any way. However, the purpose statement for the Rural District does state that "The purpose of this district is to provide areas for commercial, industrial, agriculture and forestry uses in a low-density, rural environment without the need for being constrained due to residential uses." Farm operations are broadly defined using reference to the New York State AML 25-aa definition. Roadside farm stands are also defined as a temporary use for selling farm products grown only on site. Stables, public and private are also defined. No other ag-related uses are included in the definition section.

Camden is very farm-friendly in that the zoning states that farm operations and their accessory structures need only a building permit in the Rural District. Processing facilities for farms, and forestry and food processing require a special use permit from the Planning Board, as do stables. The law is also farm-friendly in that it does not require a certain number of acres to be considered a farm, and does not prohibit certain farm animals.

Some other observations from the Audit include:

- There are no special districts established related to agriculture in the Town, and no specific siting or planning techniques included. (Examples of such techniques: conservation/clustered subdivisions, agricultural overlay districts, agricultural buffers, or requirements to site new non-farm buildings to avoid prime farmland soils.)

- The Rural District and the Residential District both have the same density requirements: 40,000 square foot minimum lot size without water and sewer and 25,000 square feet with water and sewer. Since there is no water or sewer infrastructure in the Town, the effect of the zoning is to allow for lots slightly below 1 acre minimum throughout, including the farmed areas. A one-acre lot density has not been shown to be protective of farmlands and in the face of higher development pressure, would result in suburban style development that could give rise to conflicts with farmed areas.
- Zoning does not address allowing farms to have more than one farm business on the premises. Since uses that are not specifically allowed are assumed to be prohibited, this lack of detail may prevent a farmer from undertaking a new activity or require a difficult process of obtaining a zoning amendment or variance.
- Farm stands are defined, but not specified as a use in the Use Table and that lack of clarity may foster ambiguity as to whether they are allowed or not. Lack of other common terms related to agricultural uses such as agri-tourism, farm retail, and agri-business are not specifically defined or included in the Use Table. Knowing that Camden relies on AML 25-aa for its definition of 'farm operation' it can be assumed that some of these are also allowed. More definition and specificity in the zoning as it relates to the diversity of farm uses would offer clarification and avoid unnecessary delays and complexity for farmers wishing to start or expand some farming operation.
- Farm and food processing is an allowed use with a special use permit.
- The zoning does allow for accessory uses such as greenhouses and barns as a permitted right.
- Applications for site plan or special uses do not require information about adjacent farms or ag districts, but the ag data statement is a required part of the site plan procedure. Although SEQR would require the Planning Board to evaluate impacts on agriculture, the zoning itself does not offer any criteria for the Planning Board to evaluate impacts of a project on a neighboring farm.
- Farm worker housing, retail based agricultural operations, breweries/distilleries, farm use of solar panels, and wind mills on farms are not addressed.
- Silos and other farm structures are not exempted from the height requirements.

### ***C. Subdivision:***

A brief review was done of Camden's subdivision law. This law is a basic subdivision law, but needs updating, especially related to the procedures used for approving a subdivision. For example, the time frames established in the law still use the old 45 day time period. New York State legislation in the 1990's changed those time frames to 62 days. Section 31.62 does mention the allowance for cluster development, which is a technique that may benefit continuation of agriculture, but the law offers no

rules, regulations or procedures on how to do a clustered subdivision. There is no mention of agriculture in other locations of the subdivision law, and preservation of farmlands is not among its purpose statements.

### *Trenton*

#### **A. Comprehensive Plan:**

Trenton's 2011 Comprehensive Plan is supportive of agriculture and does have a vision statement established for the Town that recognizes agriculture and the rural character to which it contributes. Mapping includes NYS Agricultural Districts in the Town, and the plan offers basic data on agricultural land uses in Trenton. While there is no specific goal oriented solely to agriculture, there is a chapter that discusses the importance of agriculture to the Town. The Plan lists a variety of agricultural land protection programs that could be used in Trenton. Importantly, those discuss the need to preserve large lots for farming; to minimize non-farm intrusion into farm areas; and to allow agriculture support uses near primary agricultural areas. Those are all very important and supportive agricultural policies.

Appendix A of the plan includes nine different suggestions related to agriculture. These suggestions are all excellent and range from support for ag districts and ag assessment programs to clustering and conservation subdivision methods and the use of Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) to protect farmlands. While these are excellent suggestions, the Plan does not elevate these into specific policy recommendations or actions so it is unclear how the Town will treat these ideas, or if they will be implemented in the future.

#### **B. Zoning:**

The 2009 zoning law for the Town of Trenton is somewhat farm-friendly. Although the laws' purpose statements do not include reference to agriculture or farmland protection, the Rural Agriculture (RA) district does specifically discuss agriculture. The RA district's purpose is in part, to allow for agricultural activities. Agricultural operations are defined to mirror NYS Agriculture and Markets Law 25-aa definitions which are broad and flexible enough to accommodate a wide variety of agricultural uses. A possible issue is that some farms in Town are located in the RR district (Rural Residential) and, while agriculture is allowed there, the purpose of that district is primarily for residential uses. In both the RA and RR districts, where most of the agriculture in Town is located, agricultural operations are permitted by right. Only stables need a special use permit.

The law establishes the RA as the least dense area in the town, with a 3-acre minimum lot size for residences. The other district where agriculture takes place is in the RR district, which requires a 1.5 acre minimum lot size. Other districts establish higher density for development as it moves closer towards the town center. Although the RA district is established to be the most farm friendly, there are several farms that are in the RR district; those would have more chance of development pressure and conflicts with non-farm neighbors, as that district's purpose is primarily residential. There may be an advantage to re-looking at the overlap between farms and the RA district.

Other Audit observations for Trenton are:

- Zoning does not establish any local agricultural zoning district or overlay designed to further protect farmland. Buffer areas between new residential development and farms

is not a method included in the zoning or subdivision laws. Clustering, added in 1992, however, is a development technique allowed for and encouraged via the subdivision law. There is a wellhead protection overlay district in town but it does a good job of ensuring that it does not impose unreasonable requirements for agriculture. That overlay also restricts parcels to having one principal structure, but there too, agriculture is exempt from this rule. Ag operations are also exempt from height limitations.

- The zoning does not ask for either the Agricultural Data Statement or an Agriculture Disclosure notice during review procedures. Neither does it outline specific criteria to be evaluated to ensure that new projects are compatible with farm operations in the RA district. No design standards exist to direct building envelopes to areas that would not interfere with farming operations.
- There are regulations in place that allow for a mobile home to be used for farm worker or farm owner housing, only with a mobile home affidavit of occupancy from the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- Roadside stands are defined and allowed but the law does place some regulatory barriers for them because a special use permit and an annual operating permit are required. These regulations may place barriers to such a use and are not considered particularly farm-friendly.
- Farm processing including slaughterhouses are allowed in the C-B-3 Industrial District as a permitted use.
- Some farm related uses do require a conditional use permit. These include holding areas, riding stable, poultry/hog or specialty farms, or “reactivation of previous ag operation”. This is of concern because it would force farmers to seek a conditional use permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The regulations require “No such use shall be located within 200 feet of any adjoining residential lot or any existing dwelling other than the principal residence on the same parcel. The Board shall determine that any such proposed use shall not jeopardize the health, welfare or useful enjoyment of any surrounding property before any permit is authorized.” Within the New York State Agricultural District, farms are specifically protected from over-regulation at the local level, and requiring a conditional use permit for these farm uses may be considered an undue burden. While the 200’ may not be difficult to meet when there is a large parcel, it may pose difficulties for farmers to meet. Further, the general statement that these farm uses shall not jeopardize the “health, welfare or useful enjoyment” of any surrounding property is problematic especially since ‘surrounding’ is not defined, nor is a “specialty farm” or “reactivation of a previous ag operation”. This requirement introduces not only a burdensome review process, but uncertainty and the need for ZBA interpretation. Because there may be more residential uses in the district than farm uses, the ZBA may be less protective of agricultural uses that are legitimate farm uses allowed and permitted by right. This requirement seems to be contradictory to the

allowance for “agricultural operations” as a permitted by right use and is not considered farm-friendly in nature. This would be especially so in areas within the NYS Ag District.

- Finally, the requirement that agricultural operations must have 5 acres and be located on parcels with 300’ width and 100’ front yard is not considered farm-friendly. Hobby farms require 3 acres, and riding stables require both a conditional use permit and 10 acres of land. This means that any farm that meets New York State farm operation definition but that is on less than 5 acres of land would not be considered permitted by right in the Town. As the size, type and variety of farms grow and change, this acreage limitation can be a huge challenge to innovative agricultural uses. For example, an organic vegetable farm, hydroponics operation, greenhouse, or even a hop growing operation may need a small area of land. Would these not be desirable farm types to include in the Town? Limitations on acreage to be considered a farm operation are generally not considered farm-friendly.

### ***C. Subdivision Regulation:***

The Town of Trenton’s subdivision regulation minimally addresses the agricultural goals and land uses of the community. The purpose statements do not specify protection of agriculture as a goal of subdivision review. However, the regulation does specify that subdivisions should be “properly related to proposals as shown in the Master Plan.” So that means that, if their Plan addresses agriculture, the subdivision review process should look for consistency there. Without specific details on what and how to do that, it would be hard for a Planning Board to use such vague language to weave agricultural consideration into a subdivision approval.

The regulations do allow for cluster development and within that process, preservation of farmland is outlined as an allowed use for the preserved portion of the parcel. Agriculture is included as part of the definition of open space. Implementation of clustering, however, is voluntary, but the law does give the Planning Board discretion to require clustering under certain circumstances. The Planning Board can require both a conventional design and a conservation design and determine which design is better. In the former, agriculture could be a consideration.

There are no requirements in the law for identification of agricultural activities, prime or important farmland soils, agricultural districts, NYS Agriculture and Markets Law 25-aa or agricultural data statements. The subdivision regulations reflect an older style approach that focuses only on ensuring buildable lots are created. The clustering provision is an important method to include, but as incorporated in this regulation that planning technique may rarely or never be implemented in practice.

### ***Westmoreland***

#### ***A. Comprehensive Plan:***

Westmoreland’s Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2009. The plan is very farm-friendly and most of the Audit criteria are answered in the affirmative. The Plan does have a section on agriculture, and the appendix includes data and maps that characterize agricultural conditions in Town. The plan was based on public input, which was highly supportive of agriculture. Both the vision statement and the goals of

the Plan address agriculture, and the Plan recognizes the importance of agriculture to the Town and environment. General policies favorable to continue farming are found throughout. The Plan offers several recommendations to promote farming, and emphasizes the need for a Purchase of Development Rights program (PDR) in Town. Some zoning changes were suggested in the Plan, but most of the recommendations were more general in nature. A density of 1 dwelling per 2 acres is recommended in an RA district. (Note that the 2010 zoning map does not include an RA district.) Overall, the plan is up-to-date and farm-friendly. To implement those ideals, the Town may need more detailed land use methods or policies to incorporate into their regulations.

### **B. Zoning:**

Westmoreland's zoning was originally from 1964 and amended in 2010. Customary agricultural operations are an allowed use, but livestock agriculture would face barriers in the form of the acreage requirements and need for site plan review approval when animals are added to a farm. Overall, the zoning does not reflect the farm-friendly policies established in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Some observations related to Westmoreland's Audit are:

- The zoning's purpose statement does not match those articulated in the Comprehensive Plan, and there is no mention of agriculture in it.
- It defines hog farm, migrant labor camp, riding academy, animal units, and 'customary agricultural operation.' The customary agricultural operation definition is consistent with that in AML 25-aa.
- There is no agricultural zoning district although R-3, titled as a one-family residential district, is where agriculture in the Town takes place.
- The zoning does place limitations on agriculture. In the R1 district, customary ag operations are allowed only if they are within a NYS Ag District and if there is no storage of manure or odor/dust within 25' of the property lines. There is a 1 acre minimum lot size and 30% lot coverage maximum.
- In the R2 district, temporary farm stands are allowed only with a ZBA permit. Farms are further regulated by needing at least 40,000 square feet per animal unit (just under and acre) and if there are more than 5 animal units added, there must be both site plan review approval and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District review. The R2 District allows a 35% lot coverage maximum, and requires 1 acre minimum lot size in locations without access to municipal water and ½ acre with access to municipal water.
- In the R3 district, which is the largest district in Westmoreland, the same uses are allowed as in the R2 district; in addition riding stables are allowed with a ZBA permit and conditions; and customary agricultural operations need 100' setbacks for manure/odor and dust. It is not stated, but implied therefore that in the R3 district, the 1 animal unit per 40,000 square feet rule still must be followed. This should be clarified. Note that if a farm is in a NYS Ag District, this acreage requirement may be overly burdensome for a farmer and not allowed. Migrant labor camps are allowed in the R3 with both site plan



review and special use permits. The minimum lot size in this district is also 1 acre in locations without access to municipal water and ½ acre in locations with access to municipal water. Note that the Comprehensive Plan recommended an RA district with a 2 acre density.

- There is no special district established for agriculture in Westmoreland. No buffers are required between agricultural and non-farm uses. No other development patterns such as clustering, conservation subdivision or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) are mandated or voluntarily allowed.
- Farm stands are allowed with ZBA permits and are limited to selling produce grown on the premises. The zoning does not address other on-farm businesses such as breweries, agri-tourism businesses, or restaurants; because these are not addressed, they would likely either be considered prohibited or would require interpretation and perhaps a use variance from the ZBA.
- No other food processing is mentioned as an allowable use in the zoning.
- Westmoreland's zoning does not ask for specific information during site plan review or special permit consideration to ensure that new projects are consistent with adjacent agriculture. No development or design standards are specified to help ensure that new uses are sited to be compatible with farming. Neither Agricultural Data Statement nor Agriculture Disclosure notices are used in Westmoreland (see attachments for these forms).
- Regulations do allow for farm worker housing.
- Silos and other farm structures are not listed as exempt from height requirements.
- Wind and solar uses are not included in the zoning.

***C. Subdivision Regulation:***

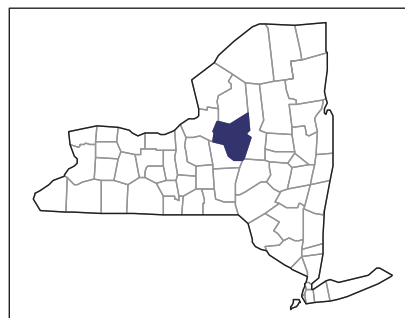
The Town of Westmoreland has no subdivision regulation. This is a concern with regard to agriculture-friendliness, since subdivision development without careful planning can result in the loss of important agricultural resources.

## APPENDICES

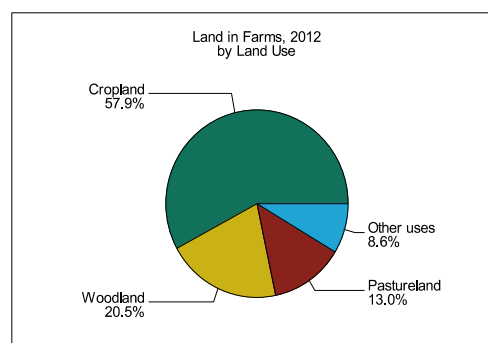
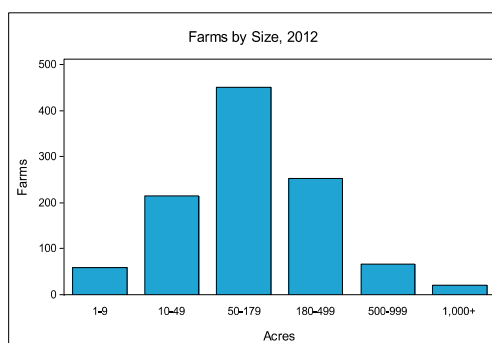
### Appendix 1: 2012 Census of Agriculture – Oneida County Profile



#### Oneida County New York



	2012	2007	% change
<b>Number of Farms</b>	1,066	1,013	+ 5
<b>Land in Farms</b>	205,106 acres	192,232 acres	+ 7
<b>Average Size of Farm</b>	192 acres	190 acres	+ 1
<b>Market Value of Products Sold</b>	\$113,189,000	\$90,113,000	+ 26
Crop Sales \$42,170,000 (37 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$71,018,000 (63 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$106,181	\$88,956	+ 19
<b>Government Payments</b>	\$2,155,000	\$2,077,000	+ 4
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$6,414	\$6,332	+ 1



US Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)



## Oneida County – New York

### Ranked items among the 62 state counties and 3,079 U.S. counties, 2012

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Rank	Universe <sup>1</sup>
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)</b>					
Total value of agricultural products sold	113,189	22	62	1,048	3,077
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	42,170	21	60	1,263	3,072
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	71,018	18	61	691	3,076
<b>VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)</b>					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	23,996	14	54	1,159	2,926
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	436
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	635
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	3,524	24	59	454	2,802
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	1,736	21	58	352	2,724
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	5,488	13	60	407	2,678
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	105	19	53	274	1,530
Other crops and hay	7,321	15	55	408	3,049
Poultry and eggs	81	40	57	1,457	3,013
Cattle and calves	8,899	22	55	1,399	3,056
Milk from cows	60,270	15	52	135	2,038
Hogs and pigs	130	23	54	1,193	2,827
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk	(D)	(D)	56	(D)	2,988
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	239	40	59	1,092	3,011
Aquaculture	(D)	4	33	(D)	1,366
Other animals and other animal products	204	25	59	757	2,924
<b>TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)</b>					
Forage and used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	52,075	8	55	190	3,057
Corn for grain	24,682	11	54	884	2,638
Corn for silage	11,572	17	52	148	2,237
Soybeans for beans	8,464	12	49	1,152	2,162
Vegetables harvested, all	2,297	18	59	287	2,801
<b>TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)</b>					
Cattle and calves	37,206	14	56	761	3,063
Layers	4,014	31	59	892	3,040
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	3,349	11	54	697	2,723
Horses and ponies	2,376	12	60	355	3,072
Sheep and lambs	1,862	15	56	501	2,897

### Other County Highlights, 2012

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales:		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	282	Farming	604
\$1,000 to \$2,499	61	Other	462
\$2,500 to \$4,999	112	Principal operators by sex:	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	97	Male	873
\$10,000 to \$19,999	97	Female	193
\$20,000 to \$24,999	33	Average age of principal operator (years)	
\$25,000 to \$39,999	51		55.7
\$40,000 to \$49,999	33	All operators by race <sup>2</sup> :	
\$50,000 to \$99,999	69	American Indian or Alaska Native	5
\$100,000 to \$249,999	117	Asian	2
\$250,000 to \$499,999	71	Black or African American	4
\$500,000 or more	43	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	85,372	White	1,632
Average per farm (\$)	80,086	More than one race	4
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	34,361	All operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin <sup>2</sup>	15
Average per farm (\$)	32,233		

See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, and methodology.

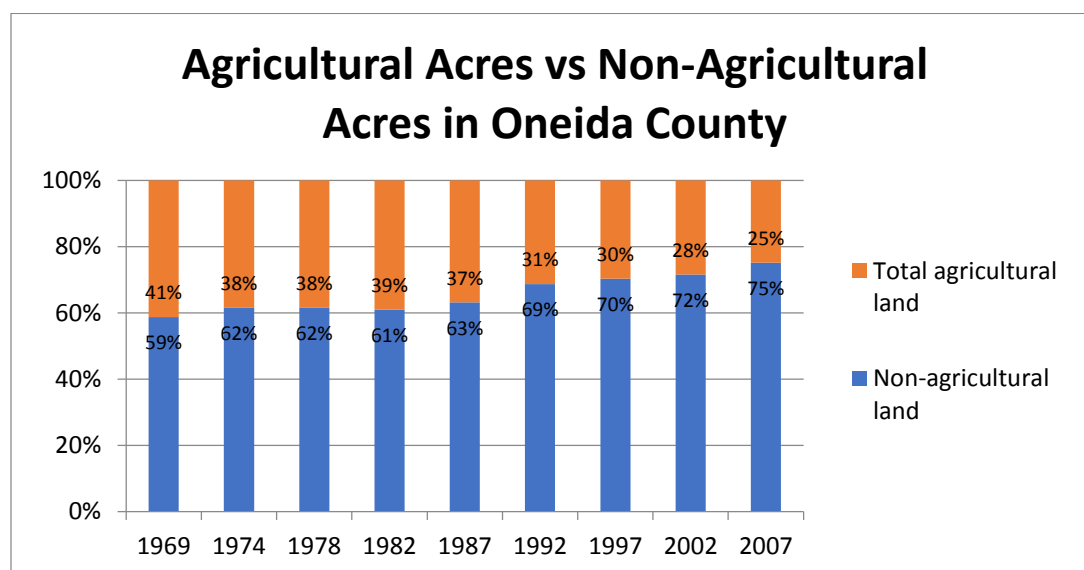
- Represents zero. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item. <sup>2</sup> Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.

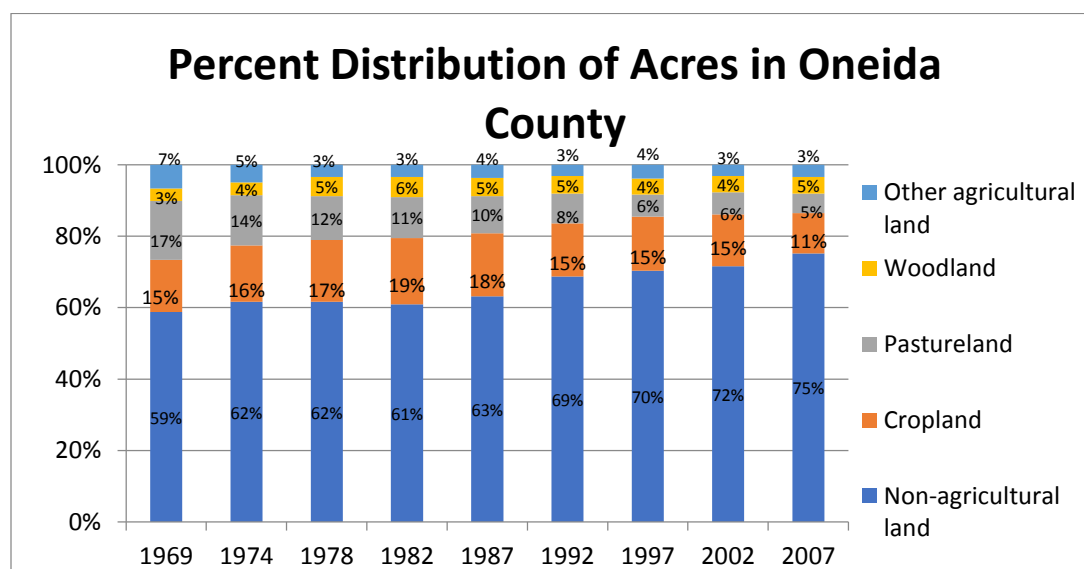
## Appendix 2: Historical Profile of Agriculture in Oneida County

In 2012, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County developed an extensive collection of historical data and analysis using the US Department of Agriculture Census data from 1969 through 2007. This data set has not been updated with the 2012 Agriculture Census data, but it nonetheless provides useful trend lines.

1. The share of total acreage in Oneida County dedicated to agricultural uses declined substantially over the time frame.

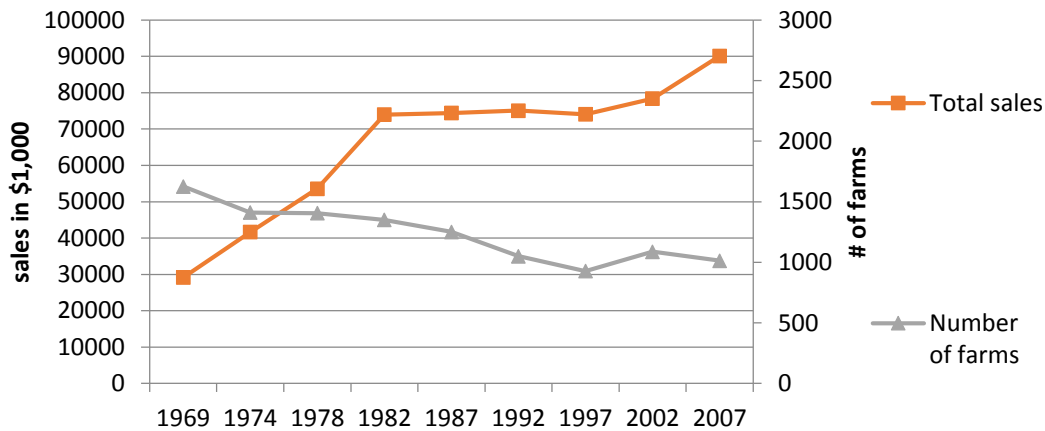


2. The decline is attributable in substantial part to fewer acres being used for pastureland, consistent with a shift in the dairy industry away from grazing.



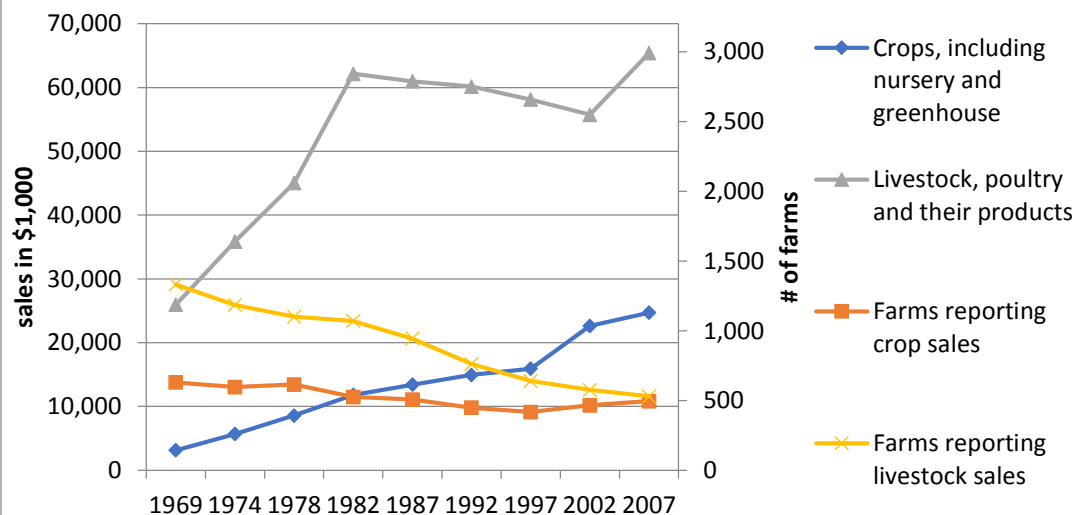
3. While the number of farms has decreased over the time period, the total sales receipts of the sector (unadjusted for inflation) have increased.

## Total Sales and Number of Farms in Oneida County



4. While the number of farms of all types has declined, the proportion of farm sales derived from “livestock, poultry and their products” – which in Oneida County is primarily dairy products – has increased substantially, representing an increased concentration of the sector in dairy over this time frame.

## Crop Sales & Farms vs Livestock Sales & Farms in Oneida County



## Appendix 3: Directory of Agriculture-Related Support Businesses

Ag-Business Directory 2017					
NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP	PHONE	Website	
<b>AGRICULTURAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</b>					
Farm Service Agency	9025 River Road	Marcy, NY 13403	315-736-3316	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a>	
Onesida County Soil and Water Conservation	121 Second Street	Oriskany, NY 13424	315-736-3334	<a href="http://www.orkasocd.org">www.orkasocd.org</a>	
Natural Resource Conservation Service	9025 River Rd., Room 203	Marcy, NY 13403	315-736-3316	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a>	
NYS Ag & Markets	108 Airline Drive	Albany, NY 12235	518-457-4188	<a href="http://www.agriculture.ny.gov">www.agriculture.ny.gov</a>	
<b>AGRICULTURAL SUPPORTING AGENCIES</b>					
American Dairy Association & Dairy Council INC	100 Elwood Davis Rd.	Syracuse, NY 13212	315-472-9143	<a href="http://www.adadc.com">www.adadc.com</a>	
Christmas Tree Growers	PO Box 705	Salem, NY 12865	518-854-7386	<a href="http://www.christmas-tree-growers.org">www.christmas-tree-growers.org</a>	
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County	121 Second Street	Oriskany, NY 13424	315-736-3394	<a href="http://www.cceoneida.com">www.cceoneida.com</a>	
DairyOne	730 Warren Rd.	Ithaca, NY 14850	607-257-1272	<a href="http://www.dairyone.com">www.dairyone.com</a>	
Mid-York Beekeepers Association			315-225-1775		
Mohawk Valley EDGE	584 Phoenix Drive	Rome, NY 13441-4105	315-338-0393	<a href="http://www.mv-edge.org">www.mv-edge.org</a>	
NY Beef Industry Council	6351 NY 26	Rome, NY 13440	315-338-6922	<a href="http://www.nybeef.com">www.nybeef.com</a>	
NY Holstein Association	957 Michael Street	Ithaca, NY 14851	607-273-7591	<a href="http://www.nyholsteins.com">www.nyholsteins.com</a>	
NYS Beef Producers Association	290 Four Rod Road	Alden, NY 14004	716-902-4305	<a href="http://www.nybdpa.org">www.nybdpa.org</a>	
NYS Maple Producers Association	301 Mynton Road	Syracuse, NY 13219	315-877-5795	<a href="http://www.nyapple.com">www.nyapple.com</a>	
NYS Vegetable Growers Association			585-983-0775	<a href="http://www.nyvga.org">www.nyvga.org</a>	
OC Farm Bureau-John Wagner/Field Advisor	6355 Sullivan Rd.	Munsville, NY 13409	315-495-2258	<a href="http://www.nyfb.org/oneida">www.nyfb.org/oneida</a>	
<b>AUCTION SERVICE</b>					
Empire Livestock Marketing	11 Ruth Street	Verona, NY 13476	315-829-3105	<a href="http://www.empirelivestock.com">www.empirelivestock.com</a>	
<b>Butchering/Slaughter House/Rendering/Meat Storage</b>					
Artic Frozen Foods	4981 Commercial Dr.	Yorkville, NY 13495	315-736-3026		
Gold Medal Packing	6269 River Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-1911		
E & M Custom Slaughterhouse	6205 RT 233	Rome, NY 13440	315-533-6921		
Kelley's Meats LLC	8937 Beckwith Rd.	Taberg, NY 13471	315-337-1422	<a href="http://www.newyorkcustomprocessing.com">www.newyorkcustomprocessing.com</a>	
NY Custom Processing, LLC	430 State Street	Bridgewater, NY 13313	315-204-4084		
Smith Packing/Regional Meat Co	105-125 Washington St.	Utica, NY 13503	315-732-5125	<a href="http://www.smithpacking.com">www.smithpacking.com</a>	
<b>COMMERCIAL KITCHEN</b>					
Nelson Farms	3261 Route 20	Cazenovia, NY 13035	315-655-8831	<a href="mailto:evaness@morrisville.edu">evaness@morrisville.edu</a>	
<b>CROP SERVICE (Chemical, Fertilizer, Seed)</b>					
Carovall, Matt Entwistle	8341 State Route 20	Oriskany Falls, NY 13425			
Holland Patent Farmer's Co-op	9560 Depot St.	Holland Patent, NY 13354	315-865-5281	<a href="http://www.hollandpatentcoop.com">www.hollandpatentcoop.com</a>	
Louis J Gale & Son Inc.	7885 Canning Factory Rd.	Waterville, NY 13480	315-841-8411		
FS Growmark	7810 US RT 20	Sangerfield, NY 13455	315-841-8896	<a href="http://www.fs-growmark.com">www.fs-growmark.com</a>	
Performance Premises, Inc.	6872 Mallory Rd.	Holland Patent, NY 13354	315-338-1222		
T&P Sales and Service	5959 Skinner Rd.	Vernon Center, NY 13477	315-829-8000		
<b>DAIRY PROCESSORS &amp; MILK COOPS</b>					
Agri-Mark			(800) 225-0532	<a href="http://www.agrimark.net">www.agrimark.net</a>	
Chatham LLC	147 NY 320	Nonotch, NY 13815	607-337-1246		
Dairylea Cooperative, Inc.	PO Box 4844	Syracuse, NY 13057	315-433-0100		
Holland Patent Farmers Co-op	9560 Depot St.	Holland Patent, NY 13354	315-865-5281	<a href="http://www.hollandpatentcoop.com">www.hollandpatentcoop.com</a>	
HP Hood Inc.	19 Ward St.	Vernon, NY 13476	315-829-2360		
Mercer's Dairy Inc	Utica Blvd.	Boonville, NY 13309	315-942-2811		
Onesida Lewis Milk Producers	Fish Creek Rd.	Conestablenville, NY 13325	315-397-8008		
Onesida Madison Milk Producers Co-op	566 W. Seneca St.	Sherill, NY	315-363-0740		
Queensboro Dairy	Radbach	Canastota, NY 13032	315-697-2235		
<b>DAIRY SUPPLIES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>					
Eagle Dairy Direct	5001 Britton Field Pky.	Syracuse, NY 13221	315-433-0100		
Eastern Crown	4221 Peterboro Road	Vernon, NY 13476	315-829-3505		
Fisher Farms	8753 RT 13	Canastota, NY 13032	315-697-7039		
Westmoor Ltd.	PO Box 99	Sherill, NY 13461	(800) 367-0972		
Wormuth Dairy & Refrigeration	3859 Swamp Rd.	Morrisville, NY 13408	315-684-9152		
<b>FEED</b>					
Baker's Boonville Feed Mills Inc.	148 Street	Boonville, NY 13309	315-942-2131		
Blue Seal Richer Dairy	7593 State Route 20	Waterville, NY 13480	315-841-4166		
Brown's Feed	124 West Orchard Street	Frankfort, NY 13340	315-894-5021		
Gale Louise J & Sons Inc.	7885 Canning Factory Rd	Waterville, NY	315-841-8411		
HD Rowell Estate	11125 Route 13	Waterville, NY	315-245-1290		
Holland Patent Farmers Co-op	9560 Depot St.	Holland Patent, NY 13354	315-865-5281		
Pho's Feedway	4560 Route 31	Vernon, NY	315-829-2753		
Runnings	5949 Rome-Taberg Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-0730		
T&P Sales and Service	5959 Skinner Rd.	Vernon Center, NY 13477	315-829-8000		
Tractor Supply of Rome	1183 Erie Blvd. West	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-2710		
Tractor Supply of Utica	790 Horatio St.	Utica, NY 13502	315-735-5745		
Williams Fence of CNY	2033 Brothertown Rd.	Deansboro, NY 13328	(315) 841-4910		
<b>FENCING</b>					
Empire Fence Co.	4097 RT 348	Union Springs, NY 13160	(315) 364-5240		
Holland Patent Farmers Co-op	9560 Depot St.	Holland Patent, NY 13354	315-865-5281		
Runnings	5949 Rome-Taberg Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-0730		
Tractor Supply of Rome	1183 Erie Blvd. West	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-2710		
Tractor Supply of Utica	790 Horatio St.	Utica, NY 13502	315-735-5745		
Williams Fence of CNY	2033 Brothertown Rd.	Deansboro, NY 13328	(315) 841-4910		
<b>GRAIN BUYERS</b>					
Pho's Feedway	4560 Route 31	Vernon, NY	315-829-2753		
Sangerfield Grain Co.	7593 State Route 20	Sangerfield, NY	315-841-4147		
<b>LENDING INSTITUTIONS</b>					
Farm Service Agency	9025 State RT 49	Marcy, NY 13403	(315) 736-3316	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a>	
First Pioneer Farm Credit	995 State RT 12	Sangerfield, NY 13455	(315) 841-3398	<a href="http://www.farmcredutia.com">www.farmcredutia.com</a>	
Mohawk Valley EDGE	584 Phoenix Drive	Rome, NY 13441-4105	315-338-0393	<a href="http://www.mv-edge.org">www.mv-edge.org</a>	
<b>MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT DEALERS</b>					
Cazenovia Equipment	8186 Seneca TPK.	Clinton, NY 13323	315-734-9015	<a href="http://www.cazenoviaequipment.com">www.cazenoviaequipment.com</a>	
Clinton Tractor & Implement	31 Meadow Street	Clinton, NY 13323	(315) 853-6151	<a href="http://www.clintontractor.net">www.clintontractor.net</a>	
Empire Tractor	State Route 20	Cazenovia, NY	(315) 655-8146	<a href="http://www.empiretractor.com">www.empiretractor.com</a>	
George Kahler Sales	4833 Rome-New London Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-336-3825	<a href="http://www.gkassales.net">www.gkassales.net</a>	
Hobby Hill Farms	8727 Turin Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-571-5338	<a href="http://www.hobbyhillfarmsales.com">www.hobbyhillfarmsales.com</a>	
Hud-Son Forest Equipment	8201 State RT 12	Barneveld, NY 13304	315-896-7207		
Link Maple Equipment	4045 Mackland Rd.	Taberg, NY 13471	(315) 336-3030	<a href="http://www.linkmaple.com">www.linkmaple.com</a>	
Mable Bros.	8571 Kinderhook Rd.	Kirkville, NY 13082	(315) 687-7891	<a href="http://www.mablebros.com">www.mablebros.com</a>	
White's Farm Supply	Route 31	Canastota, NY 13032	(315) 687-2214	<a href="http://www.whitesfarmsupply.com">www.whitesfarmsupply.com</a>	
White's Farm Supply	Route 12	Waterville, NY	(315) 841-4181	<a href="http://www.whitesfarmsupply.com">www.whitesfarmsupply.com</a>	
White's Farm Supply	Route 26	Lowville, NY	(315) 376-0300	<a href="http://www.whitesfarmsupply.com">www.whitesfarmsupply.com</a>	
<b>TACK SUPPLIES</b>					
Jack's Turf Goods	Ruth St.	Vernon, NY	315-829-2875		
Runnings	5949 Rome-Taberg Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-0730		
Tractor Supply of Rome	1183 Erie Blvd. West	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-2710		
Tractor Supply of Utica	790 Horatio St.	Utica, NY 13502	315-735-5745		
<b>VETERINARY SERVICE</b>					
Adriodick Veterinary Service	5500 Rome-Taberg Rd.	Rome, NY 13440	315-337-4160		
Footfalls Vet Clinic	12568 Polato Hill Rd.	Boonville, NY 13309	315-942-5320		
Herkimer Vet Associates	121 Marginal Rd.	Herkimer, NY 13350	315-866-9999		

Visit [www.cceoneida.com](http://www.cceoneida.com) to download

## Appendix 4: Directory of Oneida County Farmers' Markets

<b>ONEIDA COUNTY FARMERS' MARKETS 2016/2017</b>	
<b>Westmoreland Farmers' Market</b> <i>Sundays, 9:00 to 1:00</i> <i>June 5 to Oct 2</i>	Seymour's Diner, 4825 State Rt. 233 Contact: Denise and Bernie Szarek, (315) 853-5901 E-mail: <a href="mailto:denisea7446@adelphia.net">denisea7446@adelphia.net</a>
<b>Whitesboro Farmers' Market</b> <i>Mondays, 3:00 to 7:00</i> <i>June 6 to Oct 10</i>	Corner of Main & Clinton, near St. Paul's Church Contact: Vincent Malagese (315) 736-1613 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vmalagese@whitesboro.us">vmalagese@whitesboro.us</a>
<b>Sherrill Farmers' Market</b> <i>Tuesdays, 3:00 to 7:00</i> <i>May 17 to early fall</i>	Adjacent to Reilly Mumford Park, 377 Sherrill Rd.. Contact: Sara Getman (315) 897-0139 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sgetman@sherrillny.org">sgetman@sherrillny.org</a> <a href="http://www.sherrillny.org">www.sherrillny.org</a>
<b>Sylvan Beach Farmers' Market</b> <i>Tuesdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm</i> <i>June 24 to Sept 21</i>	By the bridge at Spencer Ave (315) 264-0215 <a href="mailto:info@sylvanbeachny.com">info@sylvanbeachny.com</a>
<b>West Utica Farmers Market</b> <i>Tuesdays 3:30 to 6:30</i> <i>June 7 to Oct 11</i>	Parking lot of the Shops at the Finish line in West Utica Rebecca Spataro-Kearns (315) 731-3707 email: <a href="mailto:wuticapm@boilermaker.com">wuticapm@boilermaker.com</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/westuticapublicmarket">www.facebook.com/westuticapublicmarket</a>
<b>Rome Farmers' Market</b> <i>Wednesdays 2 to 7</i> <i>June 15 to Oct 12</i>	Franklyn Field by Rome Hospital off of Black River Blvd. Contact: Jake Dibari (315) 271-7090 email: <a href="mailto:positivelyrome@gmail.com">positivelyrome@gmail.com</a>
<b>Utica Farmers' Market</b> <i>Wednesdays, 8:00 to 5:00</i> <i>late June to Early Oct</i>	<b>Chancellor Park, Elizabeth Street</b> Contact: (315) 792-0114 email: <a href="mailto:thunter@cityofutica.com">thunter@cityofutica.com</a> <a href="http://www.nfmd.org/ny/utica/1000603.html">www.nfmd.org/ny/utica/1000603.html</a>
<b>Waterville Farmers' Market</b> <i>Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00</i> <i>June 1—Sept 28</i>	On the Village Green Contact: Debra Atkinson, (315) 750-5785
<b>Clinton Farmers' Market</b> <i>Thursdays, 10:00 to 4:00</i> <i>June 2 to Oct 6</i>	On the Village Green in Clinton Contact: (315) 853-1735 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@clintonnychamber.org">info@clintonnychamber.org</a> <a href="http://www.clintonnychamber.org">www.clintonnychamber.org</a>
<b>Boonville Farmers' Market</b> <i>Thursdays, 12:30 to 5:30</i> <i>June 16 to Mid Oct</i>	<b>Erwin Park</b> Phone: (315) 942-5112 E-mail: <a href="mailto:boonvillefarmersmarket@yahoo.com">boonvillefarmersmarket@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="http://www.boonvillefarmersmarket.com">www.boonvillefarmersmarket.com</a>
<b>Rome Farmers' Market</b> <i>Fridays 9:00 to 6:00</i> <i>May 6 to Nov</i>	Berkshire Bank Parking lot, 100 block of W. Dominick Street. Contact: Judy Wagner (315) 335-6748 email: <a href="mailto:wagner_farms@yahoo.com">wagner_farms@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Trenton Farmers' Market</b> <i>Saturdays, 9:00 to 1:00</i> <i>June 18 to October 8</i>	<b>Village Green in Holland Patent</b> Contact: Bonnie Churcher (315) 865-5854 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bonniechurcher08@gmail.com">bonniechurcher08@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.trentonmarket.com">www.trentonmarket.com</a>
<b>Oneida County Public Market</b> <i>Saturdays 9:00 to 1:00</i> <i>May 21 to Oct 29</i>	<b>Union Station, Downtown Utica</b> Contact: Beth Irons (315) 798-3639 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@oneidacountymarket.com">info@oneidacountymarket.com</a> <a href="http://www.oneidacountymarket.com">www.oneidacountymarket.com</a>
<b>FALL/WINTER MARKETS</b>	<b>2016/2017 FALL/WINTER MARKETS (updated 5.10.2016)</b>
<b>Oneida County Public Market</b> <b>Union Station, Downtown Utica</b>	<b>Holiday Markets are Nov 12, 26, Dec 3, 17</b> <b>Winter Markets are every other week Jan 14 to April 22</b> Contact: Beth Irons (315) 798-3639 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@oneidacountymarket.com">info@oneidacountymarket.com</a> <a href="http://www.oneidacountymarket.com">www.oneidacountymarket.com</a>
<b>Westmoreland Winter Farmers' Market, Westmoreland Fire House</b> <b>101 Station Road 9am-12pm</b>	First Saturday of month for Nov, Jan, Feb, March & April Second Saturday of the month for December Contact: Denise and Bernie Szarek, (315) 853-5901 E-mail: <a href="mailto:denisea7446@adelphia.net">denisea7446@adelphia.net</a>
<b>Waterville Market</b> <i>Wednesdays, 2:00 to 6:00</i> <i>2nd &amp; 4th Wed Dec 14—April 26</i> <i>Dec until May</i>	122 Barton Ave. (Village House) Contact: Debra Atkinson (315) 750-5785 Email: <a href="mailto:watervillefarmersmarket@yahoo.com">watervillefarmersmarket@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Dunham Public Library/ Whitesboro Winter Market</b> <i>1st &amp; 3rd Mondays, 3:00 to 7:00</i>	76 Main St, Whitesboro, NY 13492 First and Third Monday October 3rd to May 15th Contact: Sue Hansen (315) 736-9734
This guide to Oneida County's Farmers' Market is brought to you by Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County. Find out more about buying local and supporting local agriculture at <a href="http://www.cceoneida.com">www.cceoneida.com</a>	

## Appendix 5: Existing Local Support Programs and Initiatives

Oneida County has a wide array of agencies, programs and activities that support local agriculture, including the following among many others:

### **Oneida County Farm Bureau**

[www.nyfb.org/about\\_nyfb/new\\_york\\_county\\_farm\\_bureau\\_detail.cfm?ID=33](http://www.nyfb.org/about_nyfb/new_york_county_farm_bureau_detail.cfm?ID=33)

*Oneida County Farm Bureau gives farmers and non-farmers alike the opportunity to be part of an organization dedicated to supporting and enriching agriculture. It provides an opportunity for individuals interested in the food system, land issues and rural living to join together and make their voices heard.*

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County**

[www.cceoneida.com](http://www.cceoneida.com)

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is a key outreach system of Cornell University with a strong public mission and an extensive local presence that is responsive to needs in New York communities. The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.*

### **Agriculture Economic Development Program of Oneida County**

[www.cceoneida.com/agricultural-economic-development/](http://www.cceoneida.com/agricultural-economic-development/)

*The mission of AED is to help foster an economic climate that supports and promotes the expansion of agricultural business within Oneida County.*

### **Oneida County Public Market**

[www.oneidacountymarket.com](http://www.oneidacountymarket.com)

*Located at Union Station in Utica's historic Bagg's Square, the Oneida County Public Market was established in 2011 by County Executive Anthony Picente, Jr. as a hub for the sale of fresh and unique products and celebration of community, agriculture and commerce. The market is open every Saturday morning from 9am-1pm, May through October, and continue bi-weekly and monthly December through April, moving indoors to the beautiful station lobby for the holiday and winter seasons.*

### **Oneida County Tourism**

[www.oneidacountytourism.com](http://www.oneidacountytourism.com)

Oneida County Tourism hosts Central New York's agritourism hub at [CNYfresh.com](http://CNYfresh.com) and plays a leading role in the development of the emerging craft beverage industry with [BrewCentralNY.com](http://BrewCentralNY.com)

### **Mohawk Valley Food Action Network/Food Policy Advisory Council**

[www.mvfoodaction.com](http://www.mvfoodaction.com)

*The Mohawk Valley Food Action Network (MVFAN) and the Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) engage the residents of Oneida County and the surrounding region in a series of meetings and actions, all to ensure that the community and the region create a healthy, secure future based on a resilient local food system where affordable and nutritious food is accessible to all?*

### **Mohawk Valley EDGE**

[www.mvedge.com](http://www.mvedge.com)

*Mohawk Valley EDGE (Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation) is aligned with the six-county Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council region. In 2016, the MV REDC identified agriculture as one of three areas of strategic focus in its MV500 Upstate Revitalization Investment Prospectus.*



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Oneida County Agricultural Data Statement

New York State Agriculture and Markets Law 25-aa, Section 305-b requires an **Agricultural Data Statement** which identifies farm operations within an agricultural district or located within five hundred feet of the boundary of property where a project is proposed needing municipal review and approval by the planning board, zoning board of appeals, town board, or village board of trustees pursuant to article sixteen of the town law. "The planning board, zoning board of appeals, town board, or village board of trustees shall evaluate and consider the agricultural data statement in its review of the possible impacts of the proposed project upon the functioning of farm operations within such agricultural district." **See below for the Oneida County Agricultural Data Statement.**

### ***Oneida County Agricultural Data Statement***

☐ Town ☐ Village ☐ City of \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Ag District Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** This form must be completed for any application for a special use permit, site plan approval, use variance or a subdivision approval requiring municipal review that would occur on property within 500 feet of a farm operation located in a NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets certified Agricultural District.

Applicant	Owner if Different from Applicant
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____

1. Type of Application: ☐ Special Use Permit; ☐ Site Plan Approval ; ☐ Use Variance;  
☐ Subdivision Approval
2. Description of proposed project:

3. Location of project: Tax Parcel ID# \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is this parcel actively farmed? ☐ NO ☐ YES

5. List all farm operations within a NYS Department of Ag & Markets Certified Agricultural District that are within 500 feet of your parcel. Attach additional sheets if necessary.\*

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Tax Parcel ID # _____	Tax Parcel ID # _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Tax Parcel ID # _____	Tax Parcel ID # _____

\* Attach a tax map showing the site of the proposed project relative to the location of farm operations identified above. Ag District maps can be obtained from your municipal assessor, municipal clerk or the County Planning Department.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner (if other than applicant)

**NOTE TO MUNICIPALITY:** All applications requiring an Agricultural Data Statement **must** be referred to the Oneida County Planning Department in accordance with amended Sections 239-m and 239-n of New York State General Municipal Law.

### Oneida County Agricultural Disclosure Form and Notice

New York State Agriculture and Markets Law 25-aa, Section 305-b requires a **‘disclosure notice’** to be prepared when any purchase and sale contract is presented for the sale, purchase, or exchange of real property located partially or wholly within a NYS agricultural district.

Prospective grantors of land shall present to the prospective grantee a disclosure notice which states the following as per 25-aa: “It is the policy of this state and this community to conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, and other products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notice is to inform prospective residents that the property they are about to acquire lies partially or wholly within an agricultural district and that farming activities occur within the district. Such farming activities may include, but not be limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Prospective residents are also informed that the location of property within an agricultural district may impact the ability to access water and/or sewer services for such property under certain circumstances.” 25-aa requires that a receipt of such disclosure notice be recorded on a property transfer report form. Usually real estate agents take care of this, but to promote the importance an agricultural district holds in a municipality, many communities also require the disclosure statement to be included on all site plan and subdivision plans to inform current and future owners. **See below for the Agricultural Disclosure Form and Notice.**

## Agricultural District Disclosure Form and Notice

Subject property address: \_\_\_\_\_

When any purchase and contract is presented for the sale, purchase, or exchange of real property located partially or wholly within an agricultural district established pursuant to the provisions of Article 25-AA of the Agricultural and Markets Law, the prospective grantor shall present to the prospective grantee a disclosure notice which states the following:

It is the policy of this state and this community to conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notice is to inform prospective residents that the property they are about to acquire lies partially or wholly within an agricultural district and that farming activities occur within the district. Such farming activities may include, but not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Prospective residents are also informed that the location of property within an agricultural district may impact the ability to access water and/or sewer services for such property under certain circumstances. Prospective purchasers are urged to contact the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to obtain additional information or clarification regarding their rights and obligations under Article 25-AA of the Agricultural and Markets Law.

Such disclosure notice shall be signed by the prospective grantor and grantee prior to the sale, purchase or exchange of such real property.

Receipt of such disclosure notice shall be recorded on a property transfer report form prescribed by the state board of real property services as provided for in section three hundred thirty-three of the real property law.

Initial the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ The afore mentioned property **IS** located in an agricultural district.

\_\_\_\_\_ The afore mentioned property **IS NOT** located in an agricultural district.

I have received and read this disclosure notice.

**Purchaser:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purchaser:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seller:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seller:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

01/07

## Model Right-to-Farm Law for Towns

*This model right-to-farm law has been adapted from the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan of Dutchess County, NY (March 2015). Consistent with the goals of this Plan, towns in Oneida County are encouraged to consider adopting local right-to-farm laws and may wish to use this model as a starting point. Municipalities are also encouraged to review the guidance on right-to-farm laws available from the American Farmland Trust's Farmland Information Center at [www.farmlandinfo.org/right-farm-laws](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/right-farm-laws).*

### RIGHT TO FARM LAW

**Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ as follows:**

#### Section 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose

The Town Board recognizes farming is an essential enterprise and an important industry which enhances the economic base, natural environment and quality of life in the Town of \_\_\_\_\_. The Town Board further declares that it shall be the policy of this Town to encourage agriculture and foster understanding by all residents of the necessary day to day operations involved in farming so as to encourage cooperation with those practices.

It is the general purpose and intent of this law to maintain and preserve the rural traditions and character of the Town, to permit the continuation of agricultural practices, to protect the existence and operation of farms, to encourage the initiation and expansion of farms and agribusinesses, and to promote new ways to resolve disputes concerning agricultural practices and farm operations. In order to maintain a viable farming economy in the Town of \_\_\_\_\_, it is necessary to limit the circumstances under which farming may be deemed to be nuisance and to allow agricultural practices inherent to and necessary for the business of farming to proceed and be undertaken free of unreasonable and unwarranted interference or restriction.

#### Section 2. Definitions

1. "Farmland" shall mean land used in agricultural production, as defined in subdivision four of section 301 of Article 25AA of the State Agriculture and Markets Law.
2. "Farmer" shall mean any person, organization, entity, association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation engaged in the business of agriculture, whether for profit or otherwise, including the cultivation of land, the raising of crops, or the raising of livestock.
3. "Agricultural products" shall mean those products as defined in section 301(2) of Article 25AA of the State Agriculture and Markets Law, including but not limited to:
  - a. Field crops, including corn, wheat, rye, barley, hay, potatoes and dry beans.
  - b. Fruits, including apples, peaches, grapes, cherries and berries.
  - c. Vegetables, including tomatoes, snap beans, cabbage, carrots, beets and onions.
  - d. Horticultural specialties, including nursery stock, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees and flowers.

e. Livestock and livestock products, including cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, poultry, llamas, ratites, such as ostriches, emus, rheas and kiwis, farmed deer, farmed buffalo, fur bearing animals, milk and milk products, eggs, furs, and poultry products.

f. Maple sap and sugar products.

g. Christmas trees derived from a managed Christmas tree operation whether dug for transplanting or cut from the stump.

h. Aquaculture products, including fish, fish products, water plants and shellfish.

i. Short rotation woody crops raised for bioenergy.

j. Production and sale of woodland products, including but not limited to logs, lumber, posts and firewood.

4. "Agricultural practices" shall mean those practices necessary for the on-farm production, preparation and marketing of agricultural commodities. Examples of such practices include, but are not limited to, operation of farm equipment, proper use of agricultural chemicals and other crop production methods, and construction and use of farm structures.

5. "Farm operation" shall be defined in section 301 (11) in the State Agriculture and Markets Law.

### Section 3. Right-to-Farm Declaration

Farmers, as well as those employed, retained, or otherwise authorized to act on behalf of farmers, may lawfully engage in agricultural practices within this Town at all times and all such locations as are reasonably necessary to conduct the business of agriculture. For any agricultural practice, in determining the reasonableness of the time, place, and methodology of such practice, due weight and consideration shall be given to both traditional customs and procedures in the farming industry as well as to advances resulting from increased knowledge, research and improved technologies.

Agricultural practices conducted on farmland shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance if such agricultural practices are:

1. Reasonable and necessary to the particular farm or farm operation,
2. Conducted in a manner which is not negligent or reckless,
3. Conducted in conformity with generally accepted and sound agricultural practices,
4. Conducted in conformity with all local state, and federal laws and regulations,
5. Conducted in a manner which does not constitute a threat to public health and safety or cause injury to health or safety of any person, and
6. Conducted in a manner which does not reasonably obstruct the free passage or use of navigable waters or public roadways.

Nothing in this local law shall be construed to prohibit an aggrieved party from recovering from damages for bodily injury or wrongful death due to a failure to follow sound agricultural practice, as outlined in this section.

#### Section 4. Notification of Real Estate Buyers

In order to promote harmony between farmers and their neighbors, the Town requires land holders and/or their agents and assigns to comply with Section 310 of Article 25-AA of the State Agriculture and Markets Law and provide notice to prospective purchasers and occupants as follows: "It is the policy of this state and this community to conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, and other products and also for its natural and ecological value. This notice is to inform prospective residents that the property they are about to acquire lies partially or wholly within an agricultural district and that farming activities occur within the district. Such farming activities may include, but not be limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors." This notice shall be provided to prospective purchase of property within an agricultural district or on property with boundaries within 500 feet of a farm operation located in an agricultural district. A copy of this notice shall be included by the seller or seller's agent as an addendum to the purchase and sale contract at the time an offer to purchase is made.

#### Section 5. Resolution of Disputes

1. Should any controversy arise regarding any inconveniences or discomfort occasioned by agricultural operations which cannot be settled by direct negotiation between the parties involved, either party may submit the controversy to a dispute resolution committee as set forth below in an attempt to resolve the matter prior to the filing of any court action and prior to a request for a determination by the Commission or Agriculture and Markets about whether the practice in question is sound pursuant to Section 308 of Article 25AA of the State Agriculture and Markets Law.
2. Any controversy between the parties shall be submitted to the committee within thirty (30) days of the last date of occurrence of the particular activity giving rise to the controversy or the date the party became aware of the occurrence.
3. The committee shall be composed of three (3) members from the Town selected by the Town Board, as the need arises, including one representative from the farm community, one person from Town government and one person mutually agreed upon by both parties involved in the dispute.
4. The effectiveness of the committee as a forum for the resolution of disputes is dependent upon full discussion and complete presentation of all pertinent facts concerning the dispute in order to eliminate any misunderstandings. The parties are encouraged to cooperate in the exchange of pertinent information concerning the controversy.
5. The controversy shall be presented to the committee by written request of one of the parties within the time limits specified. Therefore after, the committee may investigate the facts of the controversy but must, within twenty-five (25) days, hold a meeting at a mutually agreed place and time to consider the merits of the matter and within five (5) days of the meeting render a

written decision to the parties. At the time of the meeting, both parties shall have an opportunity to present what each consider to be pertinent facts. No party bringing a complaint to the committee for settlement or resolution may be represented by counsel unless the opposing party is also represented by counsel. The time limits provided in this subsection for action by the committee may be extended upon the written stipulation of all parties in the dispute.

6. Any reasonable costs associated with the function of the committee process shall be borne by the participants.

#### Section 6. Severability Clause

If any part of this local law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this Local Law. The Town hereby declares that it would have passed this local law and each section and subsection thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of these sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

#### Section 7. Precedence

This Local Law and its provisions are in addition to all other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

#### Section 8. Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

This Local Law shall be effective immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

## Planning Concepts for Municipalities Planning for Agriculture

**Conservation Subdivision:** Local zoning and subdivision laws can include an option or requirement that new subdivisions be designed with this technique. While similar to a clustered subdivision, a conservation subdivision is designed with a process that prioritizes the identification of key resources such as active farmland first. Contrary to conventional subdivisions which site new houses and roads first, a conservation subdivision results in a layout that preserves the most important features of the parcel and permanent open space. A conservation subdivision results in strategically located houses which may or may not be clustered together.

**Clustered Subdivision:** A subdivision layout technique that results in a ‘clustering’ of new houses on one location within a parcel to allow a large portion of land to remain open and available for preservation of natural resources or farmland.

**Buffers:** Buffers reduce conflicts between new residents and nearby farm operations. Buffers can be as small as 30 feet or as large as 600 feet and are kept undeveloped to screen out the sights, sound and smells from a nearby farm operation. In areas where vegetation does not exist, buffers could require tree or shrub plantings to further reduce the movement of dust or sounds. Buffers are required as part of new residential subdivisions and never from the existing farm. Buffers are part of but not a complete solution to minimizing conflicts between farms and non-farms.

**Agricultural Overlay District or Agricultural Zones:** A zoning district or overlay district designed intended to support farms and farm businesses. These districts may have a very low minimum lot size or density, limit the number of residential or non-farm uses, require prime farmlands to be preserved, or allow non-farm uses only with a special use permit. The emphasis in these districts is to preserve farmland and encourage farm operations.

**Use of Dwelling Per Acre and Average Lot Size instead of Minimum Lot Size:** Many communities establish a minimum lot size to regulate density. In Oneida County, most zoning laws set a 1-acre or 2-acre lot size. Although easy to use, a minimum lot size does not usually stabilize the agricultural land base and a 1 or 2-acre lot size often means the landscape is split up into many small parcels leaving little viable farmland behind. The minimum lot size has also been criticized for being exclusive and limiting the availability of affordable lots. Minimum lot size approach has had little success in limiting development of farmland. Ideally, the minimum acreage requirement should approximate the size of a farm field that is economically viable for continued agricultural use. This may range from 20 to 40 acres in New York. It is recognized that such low density may be difficult to establish in many municipalities. An alternative would be for a municipality to use a true density measurement (dwellings per acre) and allow that to be averaged over the entire parcel. This method sets a fixed density for residences in a zoning district. For example, if the residential density was set at one dwelling per 10 acres, a 100-acre parcel could have ten residences – each of which could be as small as possible and still meet water and septic requirements. This allows for much of the land to be left as open space. Some communities combine density with a maximum lot size to ensure residential development



results in viable farmland. Density averaging allows for use of an average lot size. So for example, if a 100-acre lot with a 10 acre density yields 10 new residential lots, they could all be different sizes, some small and some large, provided that they average 10 acres. Combination of density and averaging can be a very flexible and powerful tool that still yields development potential for landowners.

**Incentive Zoning:** Municipalities may offer an incentive to a land developer in return for some desired amenity. In the case of farmland, a community could offer a residential density bonus in return for a percentage of the parcel being permanently protected and available for farm use. Density bonuses and other incentives are regulated in New York through Town Law 261-b.

*(This text is adapted from Planning for Agriculture in New York: A Toolkit for Towns. Written by David Haight and Diane Held. 2011. American Farmland Trust, Saratoga Springs, NY. 80 pages plus CD.)*

## Funding Opportunities

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County maintains a directory of resources for new farm ventures, including funding opportunities, at:

[www.cceoneida.com/agriculture/farm-business-management/new-business-ventures/](http://www.cceoneida.com/agriculture/farm-business-management/new-business-ventures/)

In addition, the following funding opportunities support a variety of activities related to the goals of this plan:

*New York State's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program helps counties and municipalities plan for the future of agriculture in their communities; it then funds programs to implement those plans to keep agriculture strong and farmland in production. Under Article 25-AAA of the Agriculture and Markets Law, the Commissioner is authorized to administer three grant programs focused on farmland protection.*

**The Farmland Protection Planning Grant program, or FPPG,** assists county and municipal (i.e., town, village, city) governments in developing agricultural and farmland protection plans which recommend policies and projects aimed at maintaining the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base.

**The Farmland Implementation Grant Program, or FPIG,** assists local governments, land trust organizations, and soil and water conservation districts in implementing farmland protection plans, including those created through FPPG.

**The Land Trust Grant Program** is directed at land trusts to encourage activities that will assist counties and municipalities with their agricultural and farmland protection efforts. For more information on each of these three programs:

[www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agsservices/farmprotect.html](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agsservices/farmprotect.html)

US Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program provides funding to communities and organizations to strengthen the farm industry and increase access to local foods, including:

**Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP):** *The purpose of the Farmers Market Promotion Program is to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. For more information:* [www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp)

**Local Foods Promotion Program (LFPP):** *The purpose of the Local Foods Promotion Program is to support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local*

*markets. For more information:* [www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp)

Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MV REDC)

The Regional Economic Development Council supports the development of Consolidated Funding Applications for priority project to be submitted to New York State for annual economic development funding consistent with the Mohawk Valley Region's economic development strategy. For more information: [regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley](http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley)

## Definitions of Key Terms

New York State Agriculture and Markets Law 25-AA, Section 301 defines a *farm operation* as “the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise, including a ‘commercial horse boarding operation’ as defined in subdivision thirteen of this section, a ‘timber operation’ as defined in subdivision fourteen of this section and ‘compost, mulch or other biomass crops’ as defined in subdivision sixteen of this section and ‘commercial equine operation’ as defined in subdivision seventeen of this section. Such farm operation may consist of one or more parcels of owned or rented land, which parcels may be contiguous or noncontiguous to each other.”

In addition to ‘farm operation’, this Plan also uses the following terms:

**Agriculture** refers broadly to any land use activity that produces or supports food, crops, fiber, greenhouse products, animal husbandry and products, timber, and other goods and products from the land as a commercial enterprise. An agricultural operation includes the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation, processing, and marketing of food, crops, livestock and livestock products, timber operations, commercial horse boarding and equine operations, composting, and biomass crops.

**Farms** are locations where these agricultural activities take place and may consist of one or more parcels of owned or rented land.

**Agribusiness** is a business engaged in the producing operations of a farm, the manufacture and distribution of farm equipment and supplies, and the processing, storage, and distribution of farm commodities.

**Farmland** is land used primarily for the commercial production of agricultural products.

## Other Resources

Planning for Agriculture in New York: A Toolkit for Towns and Counties

[www.farmlandinfo.org/planning-agriculture-new-york-toolkit-towns-and-counties](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/planning-agriculture-new-york-toolkit-towns-and-counties)

New York Direct Marketing Association: Model Zoning for Roadside Stands and Farm Markets

[www.farmlandinfo.org/sites/default/files/New-York-Direct-Marketing-Association-Model-Zoning-for-Roads\\_1.pdf](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/sites/default/files/New-York-Direct-Marketing-Association-Model-Zoning-for-Roads_1.pdf)

Farmland Information Center: Cost of Community Services Factsheet

[www.farmlandinfo.org/sites/default/files/COCS\\_08-2010\\_1.pdf](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/sites/default/files/COCS_08-2010_1.pdf)