



*ULSTER
COUNTY*

**AGRICULTURAL
AND
FARMLAND
PROTECTION PLAN**

APPROVED OCTOBER 1997



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS

George E. Pataki
Governor

Donald R. Davidsen, D.V.M.
Commissioner

October 6, 1997

Daniel L. Alfonso
Chairman, Ulster County Legislative
County of Ulster
P.O. Box 1800
Kingston, New York 12402-1800

Dear Mr. Alfonso:

I have concluded my review of the Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan which was adopted by the County Legislative Body on September 11, 1997 and submitted to the Department on September 22, 1997. Pursuant to Section 324 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, and consistent with the legislative intent of Article 25-AAA of the Law to promote local initiatives for farmland protection, I approve the plan.

I wish to commend the County Legislative Body and the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board for their initiatives and efforts in developing the plan. We look forward to working cooperatively with you in furthering the protection and development of farm operations and resources in Ulster County.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Davidsen, DVM
Commissioner

DRD/rcs

cc: Lydia M. Reidy, Chair, Ulster County AFB

COUNTY OF ULSTER

P.O. BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402-1800



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DANIEL L. ALFONSO, *Chairman*
PHILIP J. SINAGRA, *Majority Leader*
JEANETTE M. PROVENZANO, *Minority Leader*
RANDALL V. ROTH, *Clerk*

TEL.: 914-340-3900
FAX 914-340-3651

September 22, 1997

Donald R. Davidson, DVM
Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets
1 Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12235

Dear Commissioner:

On September 11, 1997, the Ulster County Legislature adopted the Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan by unanimous vote. The plan contains many goals and strategies to promote agriculture in the County. Agriculture has been a mainstay of Ulster County life throughout its long history and with this plan, we hope to keep it that way.

I respectfully submit the Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan to and request its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel L. Alfonso", is written over the typed name.

Daniel L. Alfonso
Chairman
Ulster County Legislature

DLA:mb
Encl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

Bill Calabrese, Ulster County Legislator
Robert Davenport, Farmer, R. O. Davenport & Sons
Jack Gill, Farmer, Gill Farms
Herb Hekler, Director, Ulster County Planning
Chris Kelder, Dairy Farmer, Jaway Farms
Dorothy Martin, Director, Real Property Tax Service Agency
Michael Moriello, Land Use Attorney & Farmer
Lydia Reidy, Chair, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Executive Director
Dave Roehrs, Agribusiness, Roehrs Construction and Apple Greens Golf Course
Len Tantillo, Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation District
John Weed, Farmer, Weed Orchards

Project Coordinators: Ellen Strother (Former), Kelly Ann Radzik

Land Use Committee Members

Bill Calabrese, Legislator
Gary Capella, Soil and Water Conserv.
Kathy Capella, Natural Resources
Bob Davenport, Davenport & Sons
Doug Davenport, Davenport & Sons
Allan Dumas, Ulster County Health Dept.
John Gill, Gill Farms
Doug Glorie, Stoneside Farms
Jennifer Harvill, Real Property Tax
Herb Hekler, Ulster County Planning
Michael Moriello, Attorney
Dean Palen, Ulster County Health Dept.
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Warren Smith, CCE - Hudson Valley Lab

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Peter Carofano, Ulster County Tourism
Gerry Davidson, Ulster Co. Development Corp.
Peter Davis, Arrowhead Farm
Peter Gallagher, Ulster Co. Development Corp.
John Gill, Gill Farms
Jennifer Harvill, Real Property Tax
Lydia Reidy, CCE - Ulster County
Dave Roehrs, Roehrs Construction
Len Tantillo, Tantillo's Farm Market

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Dean Palen, Ulster County Health Dept.
Lydia Reidy, CCE - Ulster County
David Schoonmaker, Saunderskill Farms
Roger Sysak, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Youth Education Advisors

Susan Boice, Klyne Esopus Museum
Susan Hurd, Hurd Orchards
Jackie Kelder, Jaway Farms

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Linda Hasbrouck, Farm Service Agency
Dick Henry, NYS Dept. of Environ. Conserv.
Les Hulcoop, CCE - Dutchess County
John Lamb, Monroe County Planning
Jennifer Girtain-McPherson, CCE -UC
Joe Munster, Ulster County Tourism (retired)
Teri Ptacek, American Farmland Trust
Barbara Schildhorn, CCE - Ulster County
Bob Schooley, Agriculture Statistics Service
Bob Somers, NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets
Dave Squires, Farm Service Agency (retired)
Susan Tillson, Real Property Tax Service
Rick Umble, Ulster County Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agriculture has been a mainstay of Ulster County life throughout its proud history. Agriculture and its enterprises figure prominently on the Flag of Ulster County for good reason. A major rationale for burning Kingston and surrounding areas in 1776 was that the British did not want quality and quantity of foodstuff available to aid the revolutionaries. The climate, soils, topography, location, and hardworking and knowledgeable workforce made Ulster County a good place to produce exceptional foods and fiber at that time.

The same climate; soils; topography; location; and hardworking, knowledgeable workforce still exists today in Ulster County. Agriculture is indeed a viable industry and economic force as it provides for the most basic of human needs. Some of the differences detailed in the plan that exist today in relation to our past, however, have created an impression that agriculture is a forgotten or underappreciated economic and human resource to the county. The high cost of farming, marginal returns on investment, lack of understanding of consumers and residents of farm practices and production, and pressure on good farmland for other uses have made farming in Ulster County an endangered endeavor.

Agriculture in Ulster County is currently a \$55 million dollar industry without factoring in the multiplier effects. Direct farm employment provides jobs and careers for over 2,000 people. Farms and agribusiness purchase supplies and services from local businesses and support other industries as well. Farmers and their families usually reside in the community where their farm is located and spend their income and donate volunteer time within the same community.

Agriculture in Ulster County is worthy of planned support. The Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Committee has worked diligently to prepare this document soliciting input at public meetings, through surveys and interviews. Three major issues and goals were determined and are discussed along with strategies for implementation. This plan provides a road map for how the County can maintain its farmland base and strengthen the agricultural community.

We need to keep agricultural a vital and integral part of Ulster County's economy and rural lifestyle. This will require leadership and the coordination of public investment policy with agriculture and farmland protection goals. A coordinated and comprehensive approach that incorporates and mirrors community values will benefit the entire County.

Lydia M. Reidy, Chair
Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
July 1, 1997

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