



## **Preserving Farmland, Strengthening Communities: Sullivan County's Farmland Protection Initiative**

### **Why Is Sullivan County Investing in the Future of Its Farmland?**

Sullivan County, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County and the Orange County Land Trust, is launching a new initiative to protect local farmland, support farmers, and strengthen the rural economy. This project will help ensure future generations benefit from fresh, local food, open spaces, and thriving agricultural businesses.

Farms are the backbone of Sullivan County's economy and a vital part of its heritage. Preserving farmland protects our food supply, scenic landscapes, family farms, and local jobs. By leveraging state and federal resources, this initiative will help shield farmland from development pressures and keep it productive for years to come.

### **How Can Farmers and Communities Benefit from This Farmland Protection Initiative?**

This initiative provides direct benefits to farmers, local governments, and the wider community. Farmers will receive guidance on how to potentially secure agricultural conservation easements, while permanently preserving their land for agriculture. Workshops and one-on-one support will help farmers and municipalities learn how to potentially access grant funding from programs, like the NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

**[www.sullivancce.org/farmlandpreservation](http://www.sullivancce.org/farmlandpreservation)**

## What Steps Are We Taking to Secure the Future of Farming in Sullivan County?

This program will use technical assistance and workshops to equip farm families, municipal leaders, and communities with tools to support farmland preservation and agricultural viability. Estate planning resources will help farm families transfer land to the next generation and plan for long-term success. Town officials will receive training on farm-friendly policies, zoning, and conservation strategies. Municipalities will also have access to expert guidance for creating tailored farmland protection plans. As part of its preservation strategy, the county is exploring participation in the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act (CPA), which could offer long-term funding for conservation. Public outreach will engage residents and stakeholders in supporting these efforts.

We invite farmers, community members, and local leaders to join us in this important effort. Together, we can preserve our farmland and build a sustainable future for Sullivan County!

### For More Information on the Farmland Preservation Program contact the OCLT:

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### For More Information on Farm Friendly Zoning contact CCESC:

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If you're a farmer interested in protecting your land, visit our website here:



**Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Sullivan County**