

American Farmland Trust invites you to join us for

Growing New York Farms in the 21st Century

FEBRUARY 28, 2008 • 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM • SARATOGA SPRINGS

A conference to highlight ways that public and private partners at the local level can bolster New York's agricultural economy and protect the land upon which farmers depend.

Who should attend

Farmers and landowners, town and county officials, planning and zoning boards, economic development agencies, planners, extension educators, state and federal agencies, land trusts, and others interested in New York agriculture.

February 28, 2008 • Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn

Registration:

By February 1, 2008 • \$40 regular rate/\$30 for students

After February 1, 2008 • \$45 regular rate/\$35 for students



American Farmland Trust

Growing New York Farms is sponsored in part by: New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Educational Foundation of America and the members of American Farmland Trust.

Driving Directions to the Holiday Inn

232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, New York

From I-87, take Exit 14 onto Route 9P towards Saratoga Springs. Follow Route 9P to a T-intersection and turn left on Circular St. At the stop sign, veer right. Holiday Inn is on the immediate right at the corner of Circular St. and Route 9. (Turn right at the light to access the main entrance of the hotel.)

Other transportation opportunities:

By Plane: Albany International Airport (ALB)
25 miles south of hotel, one-way taxi \$50.00

By Train: Saratoga Springs Amtrak Station
3 miles to hotel, complimentary train station shuttle offered, one-way taxi \$5.00

Reserve a Room:

A block of rooms is being held at the Holiday Inn for Wednesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 28 for the low rate of \$99 per night.

Reserve yours now!

Call: 1-518-584-4550 and ask for "Growing New York Farms" Conference block or

Online: www.spa-hi.com and enter code FLT

Rates will go up after January 27, 2008. Visit the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce for other area information at: www.saratoga.org.



Growing New York Farms in the 21st Century

Sessions & Tracks

The following workshop sessions will be offered at the *Growing New York Farms* conference. Workshops will be held in three concurrent tracks and participants will have the opportunity to attend a total of four different sessions. Pre-registration for the sessions is not necessary.

Permanently Protecting Farmland

Learning from Long Island

Suffolk County developed the nation's first Purchase of Development Rights program 30 years ago. Come learn about what has been accomplished over the last 30 years, issues facing farmland protection efforts today and lessons from Long Island for other parts of New York.

An Introduction to PDR Programs

This introductory session will help attendees understand Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Programs and agricultural conservation easements. Speakers will discuss funding opportunities for PDR, the steps required to develop and complete PDR projects, what makes a good PDR project, and the pros and cons of PDR projects from a farmer's perspective.

From Projects to Programs

More local governments across New York are becoming involved in permanent farmland protection projects. Come learn about steps that local governments are taking to go beyond support for individual projects to the development of robust local farmland protection programs. Speakers will discuss the components of successful local PDR programs and strategies being used to develop them in communities across the state.

Roundtable Discussion of Emerging Issues in Farmland Protection

Join a lively discussion about emerging issues in agricultural conservation easements and farmland protection policy including: Affordability of protected farmland; agricultural viability; rural enterprises; windmills and renewable energy; the 2007 Farm Bill; farm practices on protected farms; and the evolution of New York's Farmland Protection Program.

Local Planning for Agriculture

How to Plan for Agriculture

Local planning for agriculture is a proactive approach that integrates land use and economic development tools to support the viability of farm businesses and protect farmland. Attendees will learn about the broad "toolbox" available to towns in planning for agriculture and state grant funds available to municipalities to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans. Speakers will also highlight examples of community planning that supports local farms.

County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Roundtable Discussion

County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Boards (AFPBs) can play important roles in sustaining a supportive business environment for agriculture and advancing county policies and programs that support local farms. This session will include a review of the statutory authority of AFPBs and funding for updating county agricultural and farmland protection plans. Join in a discussion about what AFPBs are doing to implement plans and support local farms.

Using the Real Estate Market to Pay for Farmland Conservation

Transfer of development rights, incentive zoning and the Community Preservation Act have strong potential to create alternative funding sources for farmland protection and encourage smart growth development patterns. Come and learn about these tools, the barriers that must be overcome for these tools to be used successfully and the communities that have benefited from them.

Farm-Friendly Zoning

Participants in this "hands on" workshop will discuss ways to make town zoning codes friendly to farmers. Participants will review sample zoning code language and identify ways to make codes more supportive of agriculture.

Developing Economic Opportunities for Agriculture

Growing it Locally, Selling it Locally

Farm markets, food processing ventures, agritourism and other avenues for selling farm products directly to consumers offer great opportunities for both farmers and the public. Attendees will learn about how communities can develop local codes that support direct farm retail, strategies for encouraging farm to consumer connections and how farmers are using these opportunities to improve their businesses.

Partnerships in Farm Business Planning

Following a well-designed farm business plan can increase farm profitability, thereby encouraging the local economy and keeping land in active agricultural use. Learn how communities are providing technical support to farmers in developing and implementing business plans.

Agricultural Economic Development: What Can You Do? – A Roundtable Discussion

Many factors impacting the profitability of local farms require action at the state or federal level. However, there is much you can do to promote business opportunities for agriculture at the local level. The panelists at this roundtable will lead a discussion of how successful local agricultural economic development programs are being advanced in New York.

Developing Infrastructure for Agriculture

Agriculture is about more than just growing crops; it requires processing facilities, distribution networks and markets to retail products. This session will give attendees the opportunity to learn about strategies being used to create off-farm infrastructure that expands business opportunities for farmers.

Conference Schedule:

- 8:15 am *Registration*
- 9:00 am Plenary session:
Welcome – *David Haight, New York State Director, American Farmland Trust*
Speaker – *Patrick Hooker, Commissioner, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*
- 9:30 am **Concurrent Breakout Session 1**
- 10:45 am *Break*
- 11:00 am **Concurrent Breakout Session 2**
- 12:15 pm *Lunch and opportunity to network*
- 1:15 pm **Concurrent Breakout Session 3**
- 2:30 pm *Break*
- 2:45 pm **Concurrent Breakout Session 4**
- 4:00 pm *Adjourn*

Join us!
Join us for a welcome reception
Wednesday evening for those guests
arriving early. More information to
follow upon registration.

**Note: Attendance at this conference may qualify for Land Use Training credits for local officials. A Certificate of Attendance will be available at the conference.*

Check our website for updates: www.farmland.org/programs/states/ny/GrowingNewYorkConference.asp

Registration Form

Please submit the information below for each person registering.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE (WITH AREA CODE) COUNTY

EMAIL

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION

TITLE

Space is limited so please register early. Registration at the door cannot be guaranteed. Reduced student registration fees are available for college or high school students.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Register by February 1 | \$40 X _____ # of registrations = | \$ _____ |
| Student Registration by February 1 | \$30 X _____ # of registrations = | \$ _____ |
| Register after February 1 | \$45 X _____ # of registrations = | \$ _____ |
| Student Registration after February 1 | \$35 X _____ # of registrations = | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | | \$ _____ |

Luncheon

Registration includes a buffet lunch featuring local products. Vegetarian options will be available.

Guarantee your spot!

Please mail this completed registration form with a check payable to "American Farmland Trust" to:

American Farmland Trust
112 Spring Street, Suite 207
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Information

For further information about the *Growing New York Farms* conference, contact Diane Held at dheld@farmland.org, (716) 652-0100 or Lynn Wilson at lwilson@farmland.org, (518) 581-0078 or visit the conference website at: www.farmland.org/programs/states/ny/GrowingNewYorkConference.asp

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