



**Agriculture  
and Markets**

**NEW YORK STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON AGRICULTURE**

**and**

**FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM**

*2017-2018 BIENNIAL REPORT*

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS  
RICHARD A. BALL, COMMISSIONER**

## NEW YORK ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE

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### **Introduction**

The Advisory Council on Agriculture (ACA) was established under Agriculture and Markets Law by Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1980 to advise and make recommendations to state agencies on state government plans, policies, and programs affecting farming and the agricultural industry of the state.

The Advisory Council on Agriculture worked to maintain the viability of New York's agricultural industry in 2017 and 2018. The Council continued to perform its statutorily defined roles of assisting in the management of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' Agricultural Districts Program and responsibilities related to farmland protection grant applications, sound agricultural practice opinions, agricultural assessment values, right to farm and notice of intent cases, agricultural protection, and occasional grant programs for food and fiber production.

### **Organization**

ACA members are selected for their expertise and experience related to the areas of Council responsibility.

At least five members of the Council must be operators of commercial farm enterprise and at least two must be representatives of local governments.

The duties and responsibilities of the Council are articulated in the Sections 297, 303, 303-a, 304, 304-a, 305(4), 308, 309, 325, and 329 of the Agriculture and Markets Law (AML). They are as follows:

- provide advice, comments and recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the establishment and review of agricultural districts;
- provide advice, comments and recommendations to the State Board of Real Property Services regarding the establishment of agricultural assessment values and any revisions to the land classification system;
- provide advice to the Commissioner and other State agency heads on State plans, policies and programs affecting farming and the agricultural industry;

- assist the Commissioner in determining whether actions, which are subject to the Notice on Intent requirements of AML, will have an unreasonably adverse effect on the viability of a farm enterprise or enterprises located within an agricultural district;
- consult with the Commissioner on the issuance of sound agricultural practices opinions;
- advise the Commissioner regarding whether particular land uses are agricultural in nature;
- provide recommendations and advice the Commissioner on the operation of the Food and Agriculture Industry Development Program; and
- consult with the Commissioner on the identification and coordination of the resources available for the Farmland Protection Program.

## **Activities**

During 2018, the ACA met in formal session with Commissioner Richard A. Ball, Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline Czub and Department staff. The discussion centered around several current topics in NYS agriculture including public water lateral hookups in agricultural districts, siting solar arrays on prime farmland, protections provided by the Department to startup operations, expanding agri-tourism on farms, invasive species, and the challenges faced by the dairy industry. Meeting minutes are on the Department's website.

## **Agricultural and Farmland Protection**

The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Unit of the Division of Land and Water (Division) administers several provisions of the Agriculture and Markets Law: Article 25-AA (Agricultural Districts) to maintain viable agricultural lands, farm operations and the production of crops, livestock and livestock products; Article 25-AAA (Agricultural Protection and Development) to maintain working landscapes and the irreplaceable land base associated with it; and as a statutory party under Article VII and Article X of the Public Service Law, for the mitigation of agricultural impacts resulting from the construction of large scale solar arrays, major gas pipeline(s), industrial wind turbines, and electric power line facilities.

This annual report is prepared and submitted consistent with the requirements of Section 309(7) and Section 304-b of Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law.

## **Amendments to Agricultural Districts Law**

Amendments enacted in 2017 added §309(9) to Agricultural Districts Law, providing that the ACA shall advise the Commissioner in establishing procedures for making annual awards recognizing New York farms, agricultural and food businesses and institutions. Also, §309-a was added to provide for the establishment of a young farmer advisory board on agriculture to identify issues relating to young and beginning farmers and to provide advice to the Commissioner, Governor, and to relevant state agencies.

## **Agricultural District Reviews**

Since 1971, the Agricultural Districts Law has been the centerpiece of state and county level efforts to preserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land to produce food and other agricultural products. As of January 2019, more than nine million acres comprising 25,673 farms are within an agricultural district.

The New York State Constitution directs the Legislature to provide for the protection of agricultural lands. The Agricultural Districts Law meets, in part, that constitutional mandate by providing a locally initiated mechanism for the protection and enhancement of farm lands as a major economic and environmental resource.

Several benefits accrue to farm operations within agricultural districts, including:

- the mandate that state agencies, as a matter of policy, encourage the maintenance of viable farming in agricultural districts,
- the limitation on the exercise of eminent domain and other public acquisitions and the advance of public funds for certain construction activities,
- the limitation on the siting of a solid waste management facility on land in agricultural production,
- the limitation on the power to impose benefit assessments, special ad valorem levies or other rates or fees in certain improvement districts or benefit areas,
- the requirement that local governments, when exercising their powers to enact and administer comprehensive plans and local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations do so in a manner that realizes the intent of the Agricultural Districts Law and does not unreasonably restrict or regulate farm operations, and
- the requirement that applications for certain planning and zoning actions impacting a farm operation within an agricultural district or on lands within five hundred feet of a farm operation within an agricultural district, include an agricultural data statement designed to allow the review agency to evaluate the possible impacts of the proposed action on the farm operation.

Additionally, the Agricultural Districts Law establishes a land classification system which assigns agricultural assessment values to qualified properties both in and outside of an agricultural district, creates a process for the review of agricultural practices, discourages private nuisance lawsuits due to an agricultural practice that is determined to be sound, provides for advisory opinions as to whether particular land uses are agricultural in nature, and requires disclosure to prospective grantees of real property that the property is in an agricultural district. The Agricultural Districts Law also defines the procedure for district creation.

Today, there are 182 state-certified agricultural districts in 53 counties in New York. These districts contain 9,085,918 million acres, about 25% of the total land mass of the state; 25,673 farms are protected through their inclusion in agricultural districts.

For a complete listing of the state's agricultural districts profile and corresponding statistical data, visit the Division of Land and Water on the Department's website.

In addition, the Department is an active participant in the NYS Citizens Connect Program, a comprehensive data transparency website at [Data.NY.Gov](https://data.ny.gov). This site hosts hundreds

of datasets, maps and charts from state agencies and authorities. Information about agricultural districts was added to the Department's available datasets.

The [Cornell Institute for Resource Information Systems](#) (IRIS) facilitates the [Agricultural District Mapping Program](#) (ADMP) on behalf of the Department. Responsibilities of IRIS in support of ADMP efforts include providing consulting services and reviewing, distributing, and archiving maps of the participating units of local government and responsible state agencies.

[Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository](#) (CUGIR) is an active online repository in the [National Spatial Data Clearinghouse](#) program. CUGIR provides geospatial data and metadata for New York State, with special emphasis on those natural features relevant to agriculture, ecology, natural resources, and human-environment interactions.

During this reporting period, the ACA reviewed and made recommendations to the Commissioner on the statutory eight-year review of 29 agricultural districts. In addition, 36 counties provided annual inclusions to the Department from 78 agricultural districts in 2017, and from 40 counties and 79 districts in 2018. By law, agricultural districts are reviewed every eight years after creation. In addition, counties must pick a 30-day period during the calendar year to solicit applications from landowners for the addition of land to an existing agricultural district.

## **Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations**

The Agricultural Districts Law protects farmers against local laws which unreasonably restrict farm operations located within an agricultural district. Division staff, together with Department legal staff, review both existing and proposed laws to determine if they are compatible with farm operations. In cases where a local law is determined to be unreasonable, staff work with the involved local government to develop mutually accepted modifications. If a local government is unwilling to modify a restrictive law, the Department is authorized to compel compliance with the Agricultural Districts Law. In a landmark decision, the State Court of Appeals ruled that the opinion of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets should be given deference in the interpretation and administration of this important right-to-farm protection.

During the past two years, the Division issued numerous formal and informal responses to requests for review of local laws and ordinances. Hundreds of phone calls and written requests were received and answered throughout the year. Requests from farmers (60%) involved compliance with local zoning laws, receipt of Notices of Violation, building permit fees, compliance with the State's Building Code, agricultural assessment issues, nuisance complaints, and neighbor relations. Municipal requests (40%) involved reviews of amendments to municipal zoning codes and local laws, comprehensive plans, and complaints against farm operations. Department staff worked with staff from the Department of State, Department of Health, Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Taxation and Finance to provide the appropriate technical assistance to both farmers and municipal staff. Staff from the Division generally spend

two evenings each month traveling around the state to speak with municipal boards about the Agriculture and Markets Law, farm operations, and protections afforded to farms under the agricultural districts law.

Formal requests for review must be provided to the Department in writing using the [Section 305-a Review Form](#).

### **Notice of Intent Reviews**

Section 305(4) of the Agricultural Districts Law requires any state, public benefit corporation or government that intends to acquire certain land or an interest in certain land within an agricultural district, or that intends to advance public funds to assist the construction of residential, commercial or industrial facilities, or water or sewer facilities to serve non-farm structures in an agricultural district, to use all practical means to minimize their impacts on agriculture. Local and state governmental entities and public benefit corporations must submit a Final Notice of Intent to the Commissioner and to the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board describing the project and offering mitigation measures to minimize impacts to farm operations located within an agricultural district.

### **Agricultural in Nature Opinions**

Section 308(4) of the Agricultural Districts Law states that the Commissioner, in consultation with the ACA, shall issue an opinion within 30 days upon request from any person as to whether particular land uses are agricultural in nature. During this reporting period the Commissioner issued one such opinion.

### **Right to Farm/Sound Agricultural Practices**

Section 308(1) of the Agricultural Districts Law directs the Commissioner, in consultation with the ACA, to issue opinions, upon request, as to whether certain agricultural practices are sound. Sound agricultural practices refer to those practices necessary for the on-farm production, preparation, and marketing of agricultural commodities. Examples of activities the commissioner may consider include but are not limited to: operation of farm equipment; proper use of agricultural chemicals and other crop protection methods; direct sale to consumers of agricultural commodities or foods containing agricultural commodities produced on-farm; agricultural tourism; timber operation as defined in subdivision fourteen of section three hundred one of this article; and construction and use of farm structures.

During this reporting period there were six requests for right-to-farm opinions and numerous reviews of local laws for both local officials and the public.

### **Agriculture and Farmland Protection Program**

New York State's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program, authorized by Article 25-AAA of the Agriculture and Markets Law, was enacted in 1992. The program

encourages counties and local governments to work with the agricultural community to preserve, conserve, manage and improve the State's farm economy and its land base.

### **Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Awards**

The year 2018 marked the 22nd anniversary of the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants program. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the state has reinvigorated the initiative and committed unprecedented funding for farmland preservation. The grant program is part of New York States Environmental Protection Fund, which was allocated a record-level \$300 million in the FY 2017 State Budget. Funding for the program increased by \$5 million. Since 2011, the State has invested more than \$78.2 million to permanently protect over 34,200 acres of viable agricultural lands.

### **Farmland Protection Planning Program**

The Department provides state assistance payments to counties and municipalities to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans. Agricultural and farmland protection plans should identify land or areas proposed to be protected, and describe activities, programs and strategies intended to promote continued agricultural use.

Counties are eligible for grants of up to \$50,000 or 50% of the cost (whichever is less) and municipalities are eligible for grants of up to \$25,000 or 75% of the cost (whichever is less) for developing a local farmland protection plan. The local share of funding must be provided in at least 20% cash (no more than 80% in kind services).

### **Municipal Applications for Farmland Protection Planning Grants**

The Department received five municipal applications in 2018. All five were reviewed by Department staff and deemed complete. Each application identifies work tasks that address the basic requirements set by the state in Circular 1500 section 324-a.

<u>Requested</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
\$ 25,000	Town of Amherst (Erie County)
\$ 25,000	Town of Grand Island (Erie County)
\$ 25,000	Town of North Collins (Erie County)
\$ 22,000	Town of Java (Wyoming County)
\$ 25,000	Town of Victory (Cayuga County)

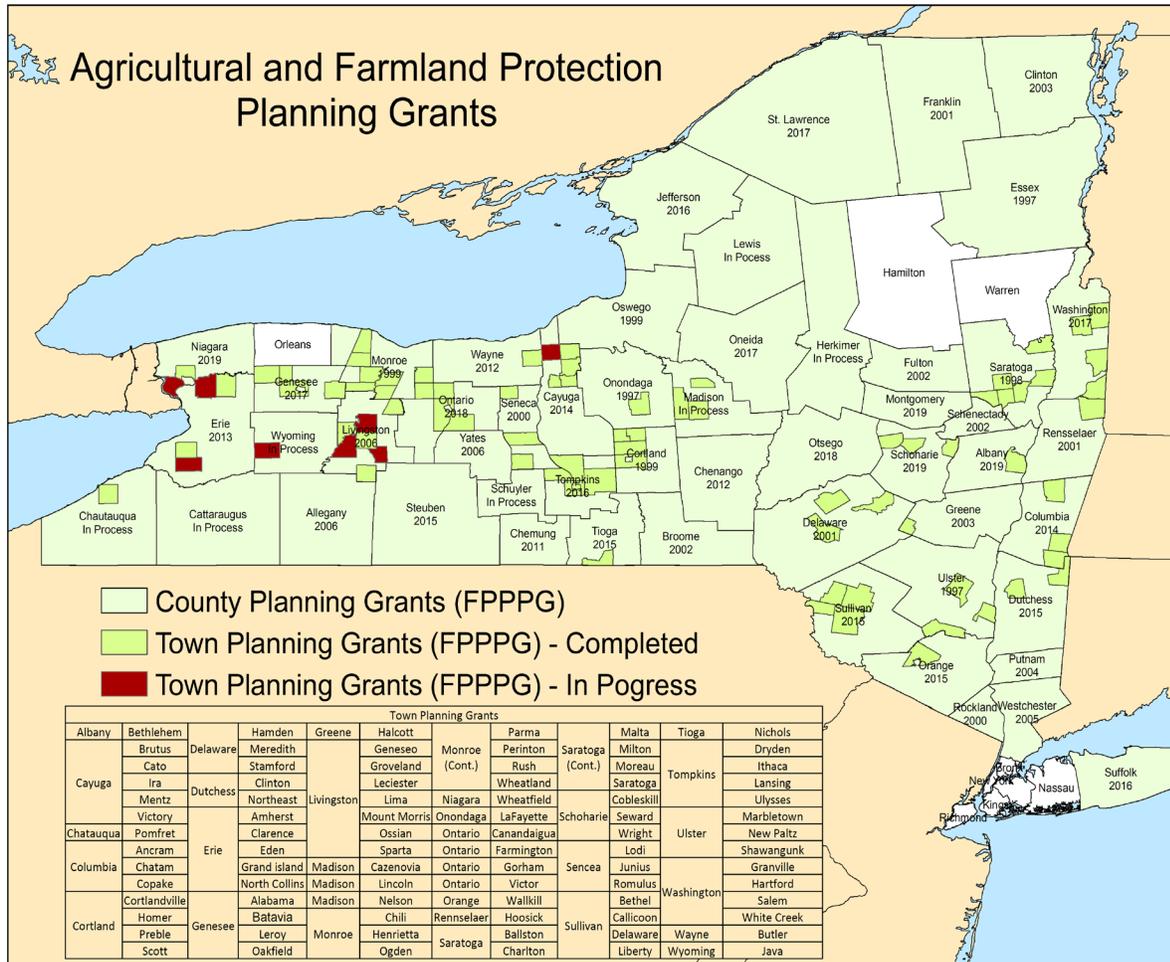
Total state funding requested was \$122,000.

### **County Applications for Farmland Protection Planning Grants**

The Department received two county applications in 2018. Both applications were reviewed by Department staff and deemed complete. Each application identifies work tasks that address the basic requirements set by the state in Circular 1500 section 324.

<u>Requested</u>	<u>County</u>
\$ 40,000	Cattaraugus County

\$ 28,500                      Herkimer County  
 Total state funding requested was \$ 68,500.



### Construction Projects Affecting Farmland

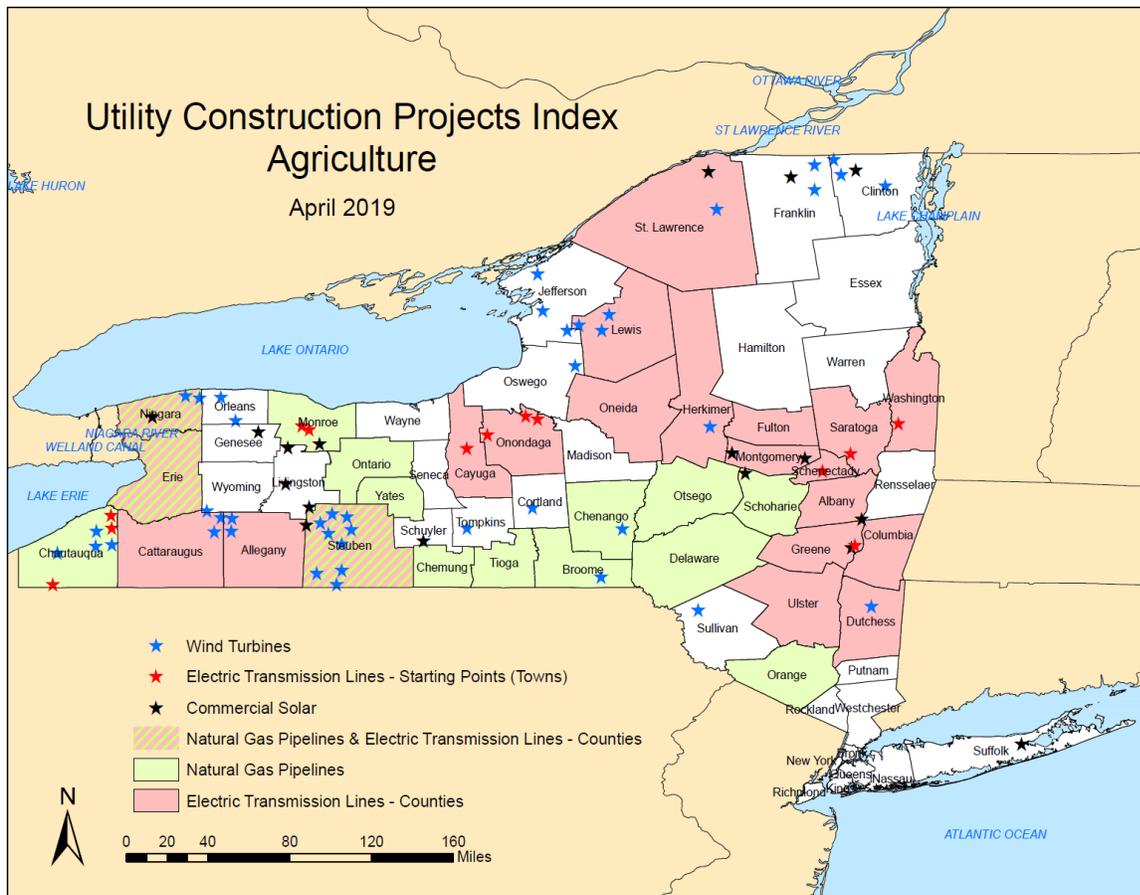
The Department is involved in the review of major utility-scale construction projects affecting farmland. Department staff assist project applicants from the early review stages of a proposed project through final stages of restoration to ensure that impacts to agricultural resources are minimized and/or properly mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. In the past, the Department has been involved in a wide range of construction projects such as high-pressure natural gas gathering and transmission pipelines, high-voltage electric transmission lines, natural gas well drilling, highway projects, public waterline and sewer line projects, commercial wind energy generating facilities, and solar energy generating facilities. In addition to providing technical pre-application consultation to project applicants on the mitigation and elimination of potential impacts to agricultural resources, Division staff also conduct extensive on-site reviews during construction and restoration. Staff assess the level of compliance with stipulations and certify conditions for construction involving agricultural resource concerns.

The Department is a statutory party to all proceedings related to proposed high-pressure natural gas gathering and transmission pipelines, high-voltage electric transmission lines, commercial wind energy generating facilities, and solar energy generating facilities reviewed and certified pursuant to Article 7 and Article 10 of the NYS Public Service Law. Division staff responsibilities include reviewing proposed projects to determine potential siting and construction impacts to agricultural resources on farms and recommending alternatives and measures that minimize or eliminate potential negative impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

The Department also participates as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings involving interstate high-pressure natural gas transmission pipelines that potentially impact agricultural lands in New York.

Similarly, the Department reviews other projects such as natural gas well drilling, highway construction, water and sewer line installations, and wind farm construction for potential impacts to agricultural resources. Staff provide pre-application information to project sponsors on specific agricultural resources. Staff also conduct on-site reviews during construction and restoration to assess level of compliance with stipulations and permit conditions for construction involving agricultural land concerns in the project area.

Currently the Division is involved with projects that involve 340 miles of gas pipeline, 366 miles of electrical transmission lines and 952 wind turbines (see below for the map). More information and standards are available on the Division's website.



## Summary

The Agricultural Districts Law continues to demonstrate its critical role in maintaining a viable agricultural industry in New York State. This law underpins farmers' ability to conduct business within an environment actively supportive of production agriculture.

The State Constitution holds that agricultural lands are a necessary and irreplaceable resource that must be protected to assure economic stability and growth within the agricultural industry. The Department of Agriculture and Markets and the ACA, through its various programs, offer opportunities and incentives to keep farmland in production. Details concerning these actions can be found in the attached Appendix A. Since 1996, the Farmland Protection Program has disbursed more than \$158 million throughout the state, partnering with federal and local governments and private funds, to permanently protect over 73,000 acres of viable, irreplaceable farmland.

New York's fertile lands, ample water, and supportive economic climate create an overall environment that is favorable for agricultural growth and vitality. The ACA looks forward to assisting the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, the State Legislature, and the farm community in bringing focus to programs, policies and issues that impact the economic viability and growth of the agricultural industry.

## APPENDIX A

### Summary of 2017-2018 activities by county

County	Agriculture and Farmland Protection Activities for Reporting Period
Albany	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$389,710 to permanently protect 20 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 988 acres to Agricultural District No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified net increase of 680 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for land acquisition.</li> </ul>
Allegany	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 4 adding 2,032 acres of farmland.</li> </ul>
Broome	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified a net increase of 1,568 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5.</li> </ul>
Cattaraugus	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 5 adding 3,836 acres of farmland.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for land acquisition and water improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$40,000 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan.</li> </ul>
Cayuga	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$1,597,067 to permanently protect 698 acres of viable agricultural land on 2 farms, one of which is partially in Onondaga County through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul>
Cayuga	<p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$25,000 to the Town of Victory to develop an Ag. and farmland Protection Plan</li> <li>Town of Mentz finalized Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning \$25,000 grant provided by the Department. AML §325-a.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$20,600 to accelerate land access outreach to farmers and landowners in Cayuga and Seneca Counties.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified net increase of 157 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 5.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Agricultural District for water and land acquisition.</li> </ul>
Chautauqua	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water improvements.</li> </ul>
Chemung	<p>AML §303-c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified a consolidation of Agricultural Districts during an 8-year review adding a net 2,591 acres.</li> </ul>
Chenango	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified net increases of 194 acres of farmland- to Agricultural Districts No. 1A and 3A.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Agricultural District for land acquisition.</li> </ul>
Clinton	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified net increases of 538 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for strip taking for road improvements.</li> </ul>
Columbia	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$985,772 to permanently protect 2 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §325-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$50,000 to the Columbia Land Conservancy to accelerate the farmer to farmland matching program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified net increase of 491 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 3, No. 4, No. 7, No. 9 and No. 10.</li> </ul>
Cortland	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$2,000,000 for the conservation of the dairy farm, Preble Hill Farms, in the Town of Preble through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> <li>Awarded \$1,647,764 to permanently protect 811 acres of farmland on 2 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program, 1 of which spans Onondaga and Cortland Counties.</li> </ul>
Cortland	
Delaware	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 12 adding 2,179 acres of farmland. Certified an 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 14 adding 1,178 acres of farmland.</li> </ul>

	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified net increase of 37 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 17.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 22 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for acquisition of land, conservation easements and waivers related to NYC Watershed activities.</li> </ul>
Dutchess	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$1,257,966 for the conservation of the dairy farm, Destined Wind Farm, located in the Town of Amenia through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> <li>• Awarded \$4,394,622 to protect 919 acres of farmland on 4 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §325-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$32,759 to the Dutchess Land Conservancy to promote new collaborative initiatives and accelerate land access outreach in Dutchess County.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review of Agricultural Districts No. 12 and No. 14 adding 32,407 acres of farmland since the last review.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified net increase of 233 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 20, No. 20, No. 21, No. 22 and No. 23.</li> </ul>
Erie	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$900,397 to permanently protect 446 acres of viable farmland on 2 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towns of Amherst, Grand Island and North Collins awarded \$25,000 each to develop individual Ag. and Farmland Protection Plans.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 25 acres to Agricultural District SW 15.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified net increase of 734 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 8, No. 13, No. 15 and No.17.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water improvements.</li> </ul>
Essex	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 3,570 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system</li> </ul>

	<p>improvements.</p> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified a net increase of 66 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water improvements.</li> </ul>
Fulton	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 1394 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified a net increase of 9 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul>
Genesee	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net decrease of 946 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 62 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests processed for water system improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul>
Greene	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 115 acres to Agricultural District No. 124.</li> </ul>
Herkimer	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified net increase of 1,455 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 2 and No. 6.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$28,500 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan.</li> </ul>
Jefferson	<p>AML §303-a</p> <p>Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 2,541 acres to Agricultural District No. 3 in 2018.</p> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified net increase of 845 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2 and No.3. AML §305(4) Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within Agricultural District No. 2 processed for acquisition of farmland in the town of Lyme.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Jefferson	
Lewis	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 324 acres to Agricultural District No. 6 in 2017.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an increase of 118 acres to Agricultural District No. 6 in 2018.</li> <li>• (NOI) request processed for water system improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Livingston	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$ 1,414,504 for the conservation of the dairy farm, Blatzing Farms, in the Town of York through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> <li>• Awarded \$4,920,727 to permanently protect 2,366 acres of viable agricultural land on 3 farms, one of which is partially in Wyoming County through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Ossian finalized Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$25,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 1,277 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for land acquisition and water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Madison	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$1,999,812 to permanently protect 906 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 1,874 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1C, 2C, 3C and 4C.</li> </ul>
Monroe	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$2,582,981 to permanently protect 735 acres of viable agricultural land on 2 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Henrietta finalized Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$25,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 300 acres to Agricultural District No. 5.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 9 acres to Agricultural District No. 6.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Monroe	
Montgomery	AML §303-a

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net decrease of 213 acres to Agricultural District No. 2 in 2017.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 145 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 2 and No. 3 in 2018.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for acquisition of farmland.</li> </ul>
Niagara	<p>AML §303-a</p> <p>Certified an 8-year review with a net decrease of 1,631 acres to Agricultural District No. 6 in 2018.</p> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for sewer and water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Oneida	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1 adding 3,300 acres of farmland.</li> <li>• Certified an 8-year review adding 4,523 acres to Agricultural District No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for sewer and water system improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul>
Onondaga	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$2,494,848 to permanently protect 928 acres of viable agricultural land on 2 farms, one of which also spans Madison and Onondaga Counties, through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 306 acres to Agricultural District No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 311 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for land acquisition.</li> </ul>
Ontario	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$1,955,659 to permanently protect 788 acres of viable agricultural land on 2 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Canandaigua finalized Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$25,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 111 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 4 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for sewer and water system improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul>
Orange	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$2,989,700 to permanently protect 297 acres of viable agricultural land on 2 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 266 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 6 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for conservation easements.</li> </ul>
Orleans	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 808 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Oswego	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 1,785 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 6 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Otsego	<p>AML §325-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$24,560 to the Otsego Land Trust to initiate farmland protection efforts and accelerate land access outreach in Otsego County.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net decrease of 42 acres to Agricultural District No. 3 and 8.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 63 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 2 and No.4.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul>
Otsego	
Putnam	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 12 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1.</li> </ul>
Rensselaer	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$2,578,259 permanently protect 1,527 acres of viable agricultural land on 4 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with no net increase to acres to Agricultural District No. 5.</li> </ul>
Saratoga	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$1,504,999 permanently protect 339 acres of viable agricultural land on 4 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §325-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$50,000 to Saratoga P.L.A.N. to improve awareness and collaboration of farmland conservation efforts.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 542 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1 and No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 4 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements and a conservation easement.</li> </ul>
Schenectady	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 647 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul>
Schoharie	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for land acquisition.</li> </ul>
Schuyler	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 993 acres to Agricultural District No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 671 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1.</li> </ul>
Seneca	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 4 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for sewer, water system improvements and land acquisition.</li> </ul>
St. Lawrence	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 418 acres to Agricultural District No. 1 and No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul>
Steuben	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 4,600 acres to Agricultural District No. 2 in 2017.</li> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 9,802 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 10 and No. 3.in 2018.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 3,133 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No.5 and No. 6.</li> </ul>

Suffolk	<p>AML §325-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$50,000 to the Peconic Land Trust to initiate strategic outreach in the Towns of Riverhead and Southampton.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified additional 25,823 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 3, No. 5 and No. 7.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 4 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for Conservation easements.</li> </ul>
Sullivan	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$491,250 to permanently protect 233 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul>
Tioga	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 556 acres to Agricultural District No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified additional 617 acres to Agricultural Districts No.1 and No. 2.</li> </ul>
Tompkins	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Ulster	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$803,700 to permanently protect 152 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 1,725 acres to Agricultural District No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified additional 485 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 3 and No. 4.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for land acquisition.</li> </ul>
Washington	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$1,889,670 permanently protect 1,284 acres of viable agricultural land on 4 farms through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §325-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$,010 to update and tailor outreach materials for ongoing farmland access activities.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified an 8-year review with a net decrease of 13 acres to Agricultural District No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 216 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 4, No. 7 and No. 8.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for land acquisition.</li> </ul> <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed an update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan earning a \$50,000 grant provided by the Department.</li> </ul>
Wayne	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$687,511 to permanently protect 200 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 7 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements and sewer.</li> </ul>
Westchester	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 1,149 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 127 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul>
Wyoming	<p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded the Town of Java \$22,000 to develop an Ag. and Farmland protection Plan</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$1,993,665 for the conservation of the dairy farm, True Farm, in the Town of Perry through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> <li>• Awarded \$1,817,063 for the conservation of the dairy farm, Silver Meadows Farm, in the Towns Castile and Perry through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 3,932 acres to Agricultural District No. 3.</li> <li>• Certified an 8-year review with a net increase of 2,232 acres to Agricultural District No.4.</li> </ul>
Yates	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified additional 1,343 acres to Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water system improvements.</li> </ul>
Yates	