



**Agriculture
and Markets**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

**NEW YORK STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE
and
AGRICULTURE and FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAMS**

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS**

RICHARD A. BALL, COMMISSIONER

Introduction

The Advisory Council on Agriculture was established 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 works to maintain the viability of New York's agricultural industry. In 2015-2016, the Council continued to perform its statutorily defined role of assisting in the management of the Agricultural Districts Program and oversight 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

NEW YORK ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE

Neal Rea, Chair	Frank Beyrodt Jr., Vice Chair
Jim Bittner	Brian Reeves
Samuel Casella	David Haight
Amy Machamer	Daniel W. Sievert
Lesa Sobolewski	Kimberly Ann Wagner

The Advisory Council on Agriculture members are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Members are selected for their expertise related to the areas of Council responsibility as outlined below.

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

The duties and responsibilities of the Council are articulated in 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 to 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 the program year, the Advisory Council met in formal session with Commissioner Richard A. Ball, Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline Czub and Department staff once. This meeting dealt with amendments to the Agriculture and Markets Law regarding Agricultural Districts, the siting of solar arrays on agricultural lands, New York State Grown & Certified Program, New York Agricultural Products Trails and their administration, the Agricultural Planning and Implementation Programs, and Farmland Protection activities. Draft minutes for the meeting can be obtained [online](#).

Agricultural and Farmland Protection

Under the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Unit, the Department's Division of Land and Water Resources administers the provisions of the Agriculture and Markets Law, which includes: 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 major gas pipeline(s), industrial wind turbines and electric power line facilities.

This 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.

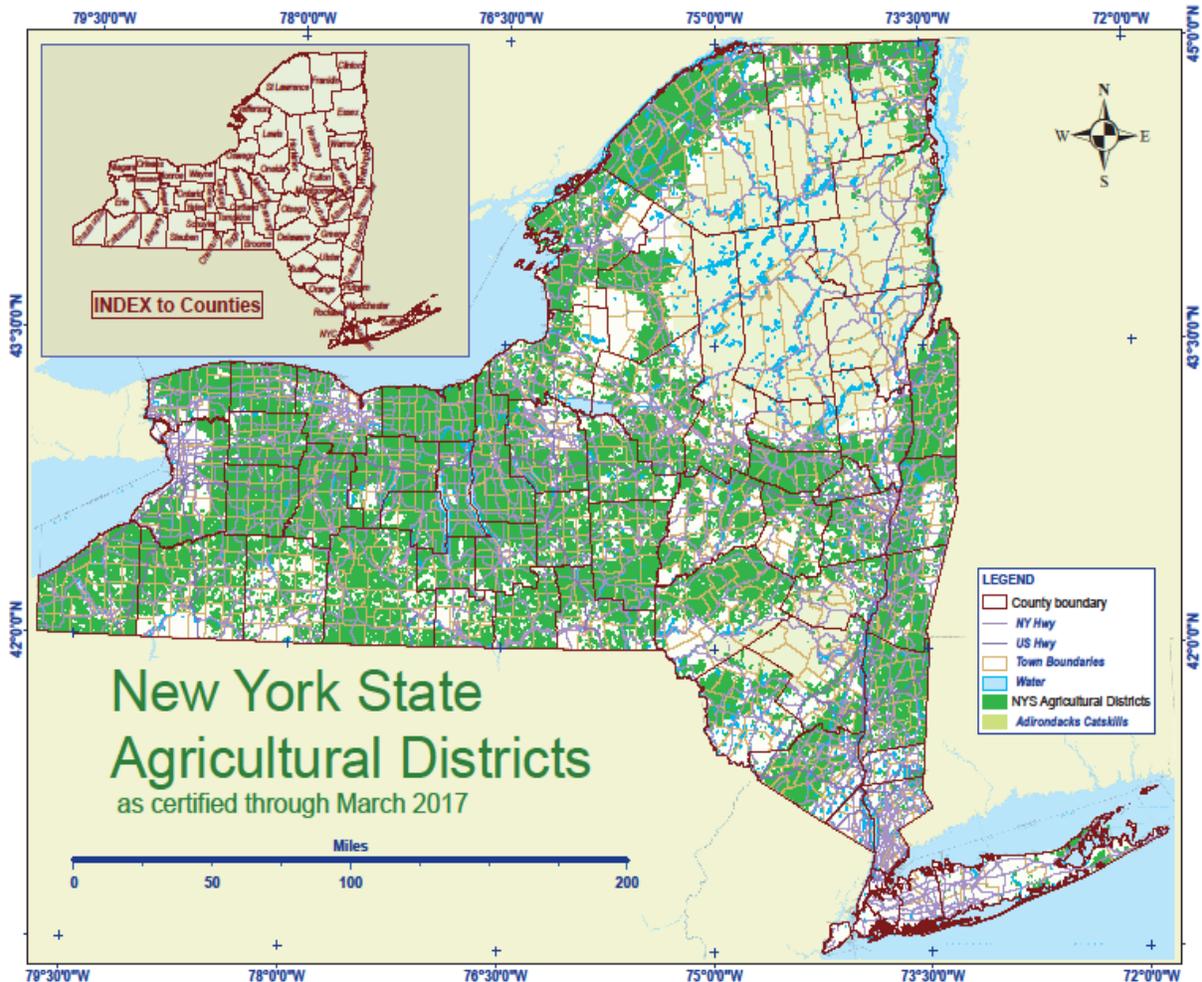
Amendments to Agricultural Districts Law

Amendments enacted in 2016 streamline and remove additional approval processes and review periods. Highlights include:

- District reviews shall only occur on an eight-year cycle
- Public notices must be posted on county's webpage and mailed first class
- Notice to DEC Commissioner removed
- Timeline for review process streamlined
- One time extension of District review for 6 months may be approved by Commissioner
- District consolidation process spelled out

Agricultural District Reviews

Since 1971, the Agricultural Districts Law, Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law, has been the centerpiece of State and county level efforts to preserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products.



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 viable segment of the local and State economies and as an economic and environmental resource of major importance.

Several benefits accrue to farm operations conducted within certified agricultural districts. Primary benefits include:

- 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 functioning of the farm operation.

Additionally, the Agricultural Districts Law establishes a land classification system used to assign agricultural assessment values to qualified properties both in and outside of a district. It creates a process for the review of agricultural practices and discourages private nuisance lawsuits due to an agricultural practice that is determined to be sound. The law 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.

In 2016, there were 210 State-certified agricultural districts in 53 of New York's 63 counties. These districts include 25,316 farms and contain 8.999 million acres, about 25% of the total land mass of the State. 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 Resources on the [Department's](#) website.

The Department is an active participant in the State's Citizen Connect Program, a comprehensive data transparency website located at [Data.NY.Gov](#), which 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 [New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets](#). One of the responsibilities of IRIS is to support ADMP efforts by providing consulting services, and to review, distribute and archive maps to all 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 the program year, the Advisory Council on Agriculture reviewed and made recommendations to the Commissioner on the statutory eight-year review of 33 agricultural districts. In addition, 35 counties provided annual inclusions (new tax parcel additions) to the Department from 73 agricultural districts. By law, agricultural districts are reviewed every eight years after creation. All 210 districts have an eight year review cycle. In addition, counties must select a 30-day period during the calendar year to solicit applications from landowners for the addition of land to an existing agricultural district during the annual inclusion process.

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

Section 305-a of the Agricultural Districts Law protects farmers against local laws which unreasonably restrict farm operations located within an agricultural district. Department 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 take action 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 Agriculture and Markets should be given deference in the interpretation and administration of this important right to farm protection.

During the past year, the Division made numerous formal and informal responses to requests for review of local laws and ordinances. As a major work component for Division staff, 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 a 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 Tax and Finance to provide the appropriate technical assistance to both farmers and municipal staff. Department staff generally spent two evenings each month traveling around the State to speak with municipal boards from larger geographic regions about the Agriculture and Markets Law, farm operations and protection afforded to farms under the agricultural districts law.

Formal requests for review must be provided to the Department in writing and include a completed [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 which intends to acquire certain land or an interest in certain

land within an agricultural district, or which 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 Preliminary and 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 state advisory council on agriculture, 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 four such opinions. Two of the opinions were related to the clearing of land for agricultural production, one for the raising of crops and livestock for personal consumption and one for the installation of vegetative screening to protect horses and riders from potential audible and visual threats. In each of these cases, the Commissioner determined that the practices were agricultural in nature.

Right to Farm/Sound Agricultural Practices

Section 308(1) of the Agricultural Districts Law directs the Commissioner, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Agriculture, to issue opinions, upon request, as to whether particular 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 two official requests for right to farm opinions. One opinion was issued on the soundness of the use of a livestock guardian dog to protect sheep from predation. The Commissioner found the practice, conducted on a farm in Ancramdale, New York, to be sound. The other request for an opinion was from a farmer in Cairo, New York. The opinion concerns water quality and odor as it pertains to the keeping of hogs. The opinion is expected to be issued in 2017. There were numerous more general reviews of local laws performed by Division staff for both local officials and the public during the reporting period.

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. The program is funded in part by New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, which was allocated a record-level \$300 million in the 2016-17 New York State Budget. For example, funding for the program was increased from \$15 to \$20 million during this reporting period.

Farmland Protection Implementation Grants

The year 2016 marked the 20th anniversary of the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants program, and under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the state has reinvigorated the initiative.

For example, as a result of the first-ever Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement Program, a total of \$18,393,147 was awarded to 28 at-risk farms in the Hudson Valley.

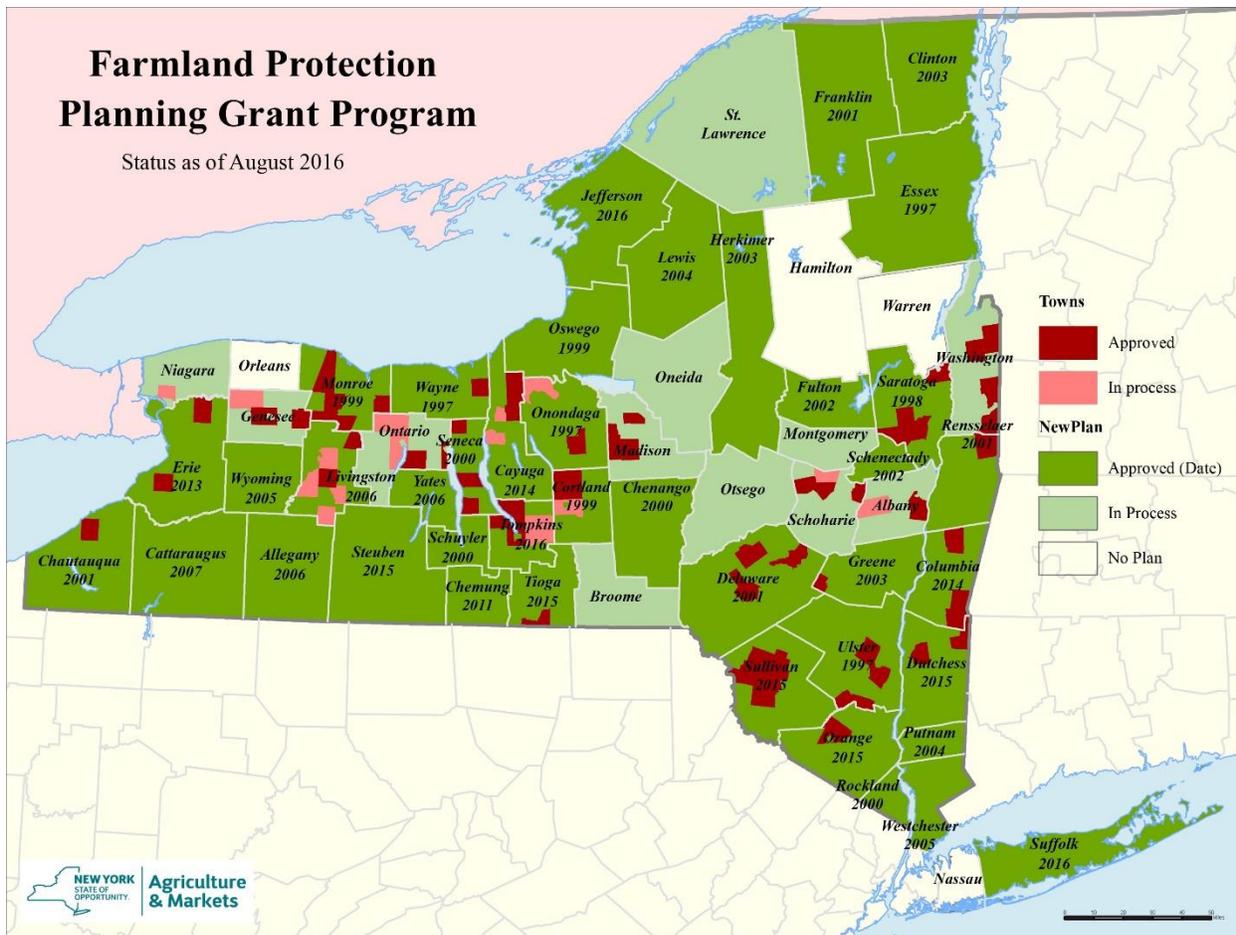
In addition, in Round 14 of the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant program, an additional 29 farms received awards of \$23,901,490 from the statewide pool of applicants.

Since 2011, the State has disbursed more than \$62 million for 82 projects statewide.

Farmland Protection Planning Grants

On a recurring basis, 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 be used to promote continued agricultural use.

Counties are eligible for grants up to \$50,000 or 50% of the cost (whichever is less) and municipalities are eligible for grants 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

A total of six municipal applications were received by the Department in 2016. All six 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-a.

<u>Requested</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
\$ 25,000	Town of Henrietta (Monroe County)
\$ 25,000	Town of Mentz (Cayuga County)
\$ 25,000	Town of Ossian (Livingston County)
\$ 25,000	Town of Saratoga (Saratoga County)
\$100,000	Total Requests

County Applications for Farmland Protection Planning Grants

A total of three county applications were received by the Department. All county applications were reviewed by the 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>
\$ 50,000	Albany County
\$ 33,600	Madison County
\$ 30,000	Niagara County
\$113,600	Total

Total State funding requested was \$213,600.

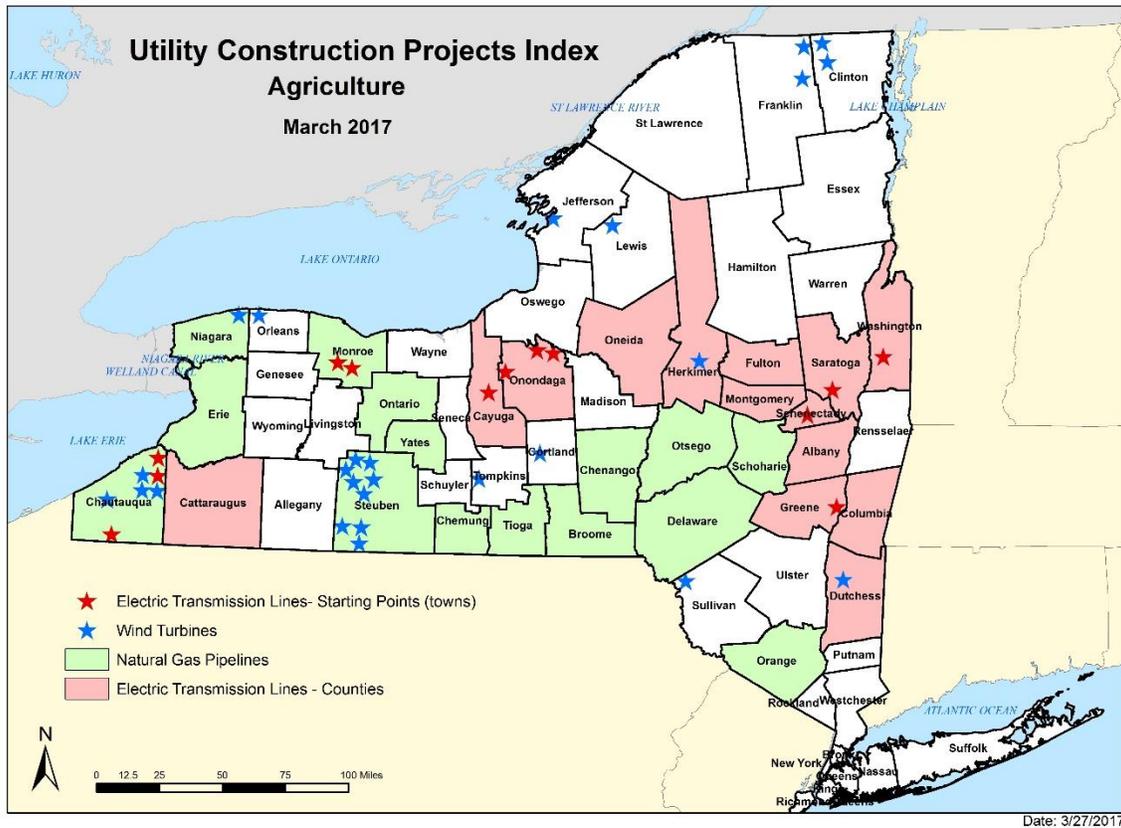
Construction Projects Affecting Farmland

The Department is involved in reviewing various types of construction projects affecting farmland. Department staff work with project sponsors from the early planning stages of a construction project through final restoration to ensure that impacts to agricultural resources are minimized and/or properly mitigated. The Department has been involved in a wide range of construction projects including natural gas pipelines, electric transmission lines, natural gas well drilling, highway projects, and industrial wind farms.

The Department is a statutory party to all proceedings related to natural gas pipelines, electric transmission lines and wind turbines certified pursuant to Article VII and Article X of the Public Service Law. Division staff responsibilities include reviewing project proposals to determine potential siting and construction impacts to agricultural resources on farms and recommending alternatives that would mitigate or minimize the potential for serious adverse agricultural effects.

The Department also participates as a “Cooperating Agency” in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceedings involving gas pipelines in New York that impact agricultural land.

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 conducts on-site reviews during construction and restoration to assess the 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 above for the map).

More information and standards are available on the [Division's website](#).

Summary Comments

The Agricultural Districts Law continues to demonstrate its critical role with regard to maintaining a viable agricultural industry in New York State. This law serves as a foundational underpinning for farmers' ability to conduct their business within an environment that is actively supportive of production agriculture.

The State Constitution acknowledges 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 Advisory Council on Agriculture, through programs they administer, offers opportunities and incentives to keep farmland in production. Since 1996, the Farmland Protection Program has awarded over \$145 million throughout the State partnering with federal and local governments and private funds, to permanently protect 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 Advisory Council on Agriculture, in concert with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, 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 which impact the economic viability and growth of the agricultural industry.

Summary of 2015-2016 Activities by County

County	Agriculture and Farmland Protection Activities for Reporting Period
Albany	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded \$50,000 in 2016 to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified net increase of 546 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 2 and No. 3.
Allegany	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 1 adding 2,492 acres of farmland.
Broome	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded \$50,000 in 2016 to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified net increase of 1,713 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 4 and No. 5.
Cattaraugus	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 5 adding 3,836 acres of farmland.
Cayuga	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded \$484,050 to permanently protect 190 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm in the town of Aurelius. <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded the town of Mentz \$25,000 to develop its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §308(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision rendered that the raising of crops and livestock for personal use was agricultural in nature. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified net increase of 81 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 5. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Agricultural District for water and sanitary sewer improvements in the towns of Owasco and Sterling.
Chautauqua	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 2 adding 1,469 acres of farmland. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed 4 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water and sanitary sewers.
Chemung	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified net increases of 233 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1 and No. 5.

Chenango	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 3A, a consolidation of 4 prior Districts. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increases of 26 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1A and 2A. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Agricultural District for water system improvement for the Village of Oxford.
Clinton	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 7C which consolidated 12 Districts into 1 adding 25,436 acres since the last review. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for strip taking for road improvements.
Columbia	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$4,158,063 to permanently protect 1393 acres of viable agricultural land on 5 farms in the towns of Austerlitz, Claverack, Livingston, New Lebanon and Ghent. • Awarded \$ 2,372,828 to permanently protect 726 of viable farmland on 3 farms in the towns of Copake, Ghent, Stockport and Ancram. <p>AML §308(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision rendered that use of a livestock guard dog was agricultural in nature. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 211 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 3, No. 4, No. 7, No. 8 and No. 10.
Cortland	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,190,261 to permanently protect 620 acres of viable farmland on 1 farm which spans Onondaga and Cortland Counties in the towns of Spafford and Scott.
Delaware	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 6 adding 1,966 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 2. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 81 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 2. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 23 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for acquisition of land, conservation easements and waivers related to NYC Watershed activities.
Dutchess	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$3,012,400 to permanently protect 528 acres of viable farmland on 4 farms in the towns of Pine Plains, North East and Pleasant Valley. • Awarded \$1,574,345 to permanently protect 360 acres of viable farmland on 3 farms in the towns of Stanford, Red Hook and Pine Plains. . <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural Districts No. 20, No. 21, No. 22 and No. 23 adding 32,407 acres of farmland since the last review.

Erie	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$700,022 to permanently protect 461 acres of viable agricultural land on 2 farms in the town of Eden. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review with a net increase of 54 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 16, No. 17 and SW. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 1,203 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 2, No. 11, No. 12, No. 15 and No.17.
Essex	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag. District field review conducted by division staff. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements in the town of Ticonderoga.
Franklin	<p>AML §308(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision rendered that land clearing activities for the production of seed potatoes was agricultural in nature.
Fulton	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 69 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.
Genesee	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review with a net increase of 1092 acres to Agricultural District No. 1. <p>AML §303-a(3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified termination of Agricultural District No. 6 due to consolidation. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 83 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 3. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 12 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements in the towns of LeRoy, Stafford, Oakfield, Alabama, Bethany, Batavia, Byron, Darien, Elba, Alexander and the village of Elba.
Greene	<p>AML §308(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to farm request concerning the raising of hogs and issues of odor and water quality received, opinion forthcoming. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 62 acres to Agricultural District No. 124. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water and sanitary sewer improvements.
Herkimer	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 4 adding 6,134 acres since the prior review. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 718 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1 and No.3.

Jefferson	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,300,000 to permanently protect 2,083 acres of viable farmland on 3 farms (1 partially located in St. Lawrence County) in the towns of Antwerp, Champion, LeRay, Pamela and Rutland, all of which are associated with the Army Compatible Use Buffer program. <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,807,010 to permanently protect 1,309 acres of viable agricultural land in the towns of Hounsfield and Watertown. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 2 adding 44,190 acres since the prior review. • Certified net increase of 1,200 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1 and No. 3. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within Agricultural District No. 2 for acquisition of farmland in the town of Lyme.
Lewis	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 449 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 6. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural District field review conducted by division staff. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water system improvements in the town of Watson.
Livingston	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$4,287,455 to permanently protect 2,368 acres of viable agricultural land on 3 farms in the towns of Avon, Groveland and Leicester. • Awarded \$1,988,110 to permanently protect 1,294 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm which spans Livingston and Wyoming Counties. This farm resides in the towns of Leicester and Perry respectively. <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$25,000 to the town of Ossian to develop its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 562 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 4 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water and sanitary sewer improvements in the towns of York, Springwater, Livona, Conesus and Groveland.

Madison	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$33,600 to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department staff presented to local officials a program entitled “Is Your Town Planning for Agriculture?” <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified C 8 year reviews of Agricultural Districts No.3C and No. 4C with the addition of 10,932 acres since the prior reviews. • Agricultural District field review conducted by division staff. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 143 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts 2C & 4C.
Monroe	<p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded the town of Chili \$15,000 to remove unreasonable restrictions on agriculture from local laws. • Awarded \$25,000 to the town of Henrietta to develop an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,374,510 to permanently protect 538 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm which spans Wayne and Monroe County towns of Walworth and Webster. • Awarded \$365,343 to permanently protect 153 acres of agricultural land on 2 farms in the towns of Parma and Rush. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review (of Agricultural District No. 6 with a net decrease of 94 acres since the prior review. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 803 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 2, No. 5 and No. 6. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements and road improvements for the towns of Ogden, Sweden and Webster.
Montgomery	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$35,000 in 2015 to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 8.4 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 2.
Niagara	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$30,000 to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner approved the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan completed by the town of Wheatfield. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural Districts No. 2, No. 4 and No. 8 with a net increase of 1,353 acres. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 142 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 4, No. 6 and No.8. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests processed for water system improvements.

Oneida	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$15,000 to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 7 with a net increase of 4,841 acres since the prior review. Ag. District field review conducted by division staff - fall of 2016. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 7,746 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6.
Onondaga	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$762,038 to permanently protect 263 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm in the town of Marcellus. Awarded \$1,190,261 to permanently protect 620 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm which spans Onondaga and Cortland Counties in the towns of Spafford and Scott respectively. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 4 adding 1,818 acres since the prior review. • AML §303-b Certified a net increase of 850 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4.
Ontario	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,549,645 to permanently protect 726 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm in the town of Perry. Awarded \$540,558 to permanently protect 424 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 which spans Ontario and Wayne Counties in the towns of Manchester and Palmyra respectively. <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner approved in 2016 the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan completed by the town of Farmington. • Awarded \$25,000 to the town of Canandaigua to develop an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 8 which added 555 acres since the last review. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 17 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements in the towns of Hopewell, Geneva and East Bloomfield.

Orange	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$2,832,576 to permanently protect 540 acres of viable agricultural land on 4 farms in the towns of Walkill and Warwick. Awarded \$300,298 to permanently protect 197 acres of viable agricultural land in the town of Mount Hope. . <p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner approved the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan completed by the county. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 14 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements and PDR waivers in the towns Warwick and Crawford.
Orleans	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review and consolidation of 3 Agricultural Districts into Agricultural District No. C1.The action resulted in a net increase of 17,302 acres since the last review. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements in the towns of Shelby, Kendall and Ridgeway.
Oswego	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 11 resulting in a net increase of 8,535 acres since the last review. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 643 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 11. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 9 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water and sanitary sewer improvements in the towns of New Haven, Granby, Volney, Mexico, Contantia and Hannibal.
Otsego	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for land acquisition for a town garage in the town of Butternuts.
Putnam	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 433 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.
Rensselaer	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$ 2,552,764 to permanently protect 1,406 acres of viable agricultural land on 4 farms in the towns of Berlin, Schodack and Hoosick. • Awarded \$1,986,227 to permanently protect 1,026 acres of viable agricultural land in the towns of Brunswick and Pittstown. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 2 which added 1632 acres since the prior review. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request water system improvements in the village of Schaghticoke.

Saratoga	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$3,137,506 to permanently protect 961 acres of viable agricultural land on 7 farms in the towns of Charlton, Saratoga and Malta. • Awarded \$1,519,065 to permanently protect 495 acres of viable agricultural land in the towns of Ballston and Northumberland. <p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$25,000 to the town of Saratoga to develop an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 2 resulting in a decrease of 110 acres. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 495 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4.
Schenectady	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 264 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.
Schoharie	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for acquisition of land for NYC DEP.
Schuyler	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified net increase of 133 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1 and No. 2. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for acquisition of land in the town of Catharine for NYS DEC.
Seneca	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 7 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for housing construction and water system improvements in the towns of Waterloo, Romulus, Junius and Tyre.
St. Lawrence	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$100,000 to permanently protect 345 acres of viable agricultural land (also partially located in Jefferson County) in the town of Rossie, which is associated with the Army Compatible Use Buffer program. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 1 with a net increase of 29,460 acres. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for sewer system improvements in the town of Waddington.
Steuben	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural Districts No. 5 and No. 7 resulting in a net increase of 6,187 acres. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of farmland 3,818to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No.4, No. 5, No. 6 and No. 7. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water system improvements in the village of Arkport.

Suffolk	<p>AML §308(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision rendered that land clearing and grading for the planting of Sudex and subsequent planting of grapevines as part of a vineyard is agricultural in nature. Decision rendered that the planting of a vegetative screen to protect horses and riders from audible and visual threats was agricultural in nature. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified the net increase of 286 acres of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 3, No. 5 and No. 7. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for acquisition of conservation easements and a PDR waiver in the town of Southold.
Sullivan	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded \$652,000 to permanently protect 196 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm in the town of Bethel. . <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 4 with a net decrease of 1,185 acres since the prior review. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified a net increase of 256 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 4.
Tioga	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hired a staff person to help implement their Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.
Tompkins	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 2 with a net increase of 42 acres.
Ulster	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural Districts No. 2 and No. 4 with a net increase of 2,580 acres. Certified a net increase of 993 of farmland to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4.
Washington	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded \$ 856,588 to permanently protect 476 acres of viable agricultural land on 3 farms in the towns of Greenwich, Easton and Fort Ann. Awarded \$447,225 to permanently protect 517 acres of viable farmland in the town of Hartford. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 3 thru 8, and No. 24 which added 3,963 acres of farmland. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified a net increase of 47 acres to Agricultural Districts No. 1, No. 3, No. 5 and No. 7.

Wayne	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,374,510 to permanently protect 538 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm which spans Wayne and Monroe Counties. • Awarded \$540,558 to permanently protect 424 acres of viable farmland on 1 farm which spans Ontario and Wayne Counties. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 1 adding 2,498 acres. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements and acquisition of land in the towns of Sodus and Macedon.
Westchester	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,843,250 to permanently protect 172 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm in the town of Somers. <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified the net increase of 108 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.
Wyoming	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded \$1,988,110 to permanently protect 1,488 acres of viable agricultural land on 1 farm which spans Livingston and Wyoming counties. <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified an 8 year review of Agricultural District No. 2 and No. 3 adding 36,397 acres since the prior review. <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements and acquisition of land in the towns of Castile, Arcade, Covington and the village of Wyoming.
Yates	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified a net increase of 1,959 acres of farmland to Agricultural District No. 1.