



Customer Focus

The Sweetman Farm, owned by Tunis and Sharon Sweetman, is situated in New York's Scenic Hudson River Valley. Sweetman's father, a dairy farmer relocated here after the family farm in New Jersey was sold to developers.

"It really hurt to see that farmland destroyed and the pasture I used to play in become roads and houses," says Tunis.

Located in Orange County, the Sweetman Farm, totaling 108-acres was purchased using FPP, the New York Department of Agriculture and Market's farmland protection program funds. By placing an easement on the farmland, the Sweetman's were able to purchase the farmland they had been renting. The removal of development rights reduced the land's value for development--- allowing the Sweetman's to buy the land at it's lower agricultural value--they otherwise could not afford.

Sweetman did not stop at his own farm. With the help of Sweetman, in November 2000, voters of the Town of Warwick established its own farmland protection program with the approval of a \$9.5 million ballot initiative.

"The goal is to preserve 3,000 acres to give our town enough of an agricultural base to remain viable...At a young age, I became aware of what happened when there are no more farms I felt it was worth fighting for---and it has been a fight," says Sweetman.

Source: "Saving Working Landscapes: A Campaign for Hudson Valley Farms."

Farmland Protection Program New York Summary

Overview

The USDA Farmland Protection Program (FPP) helps farmers keep their productive land in agriculture. The program assists States, Tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations by purchasing conservation easements for the purpose of limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses. NRCS provides up to 50% of the easement cost to the cooperating entity, which acquires, manages, and enforces the easement. Landowners participate voluntarily, and protected farms remain in private ownership. Every protected farm operates under a conservation plan approved by the local Conservation District. Nationally, over \$52 million have been obligated to state and local entities since establishment of the program in 1996. Proposals were accepted in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2001.

Accomplishments

In New York, over \$2.3 million of FPP funds have been awarded to protect over 6,500 acres of valuable farmland on 21 working farms. Since 1996, NRCS has partnered with the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, Suffolk City, the Towns of Warwick, Pittsford, Southhold, Montgomery, and the Genesee Land Trust. As a result, FPP has succeeded in leveraging approximately \$7.8 million.

Outlook

With interest in effective land-use planning on the rise, purchase of development rights is increasingly renewed as an effective tool to balance the demand for new development with the desire to preserve our best farmland. Because of the increasing development pressures, requests for FPP have far exceeded available funds. In fiscal year 2001, New York requested \$9.3 million, over half

State Contact:

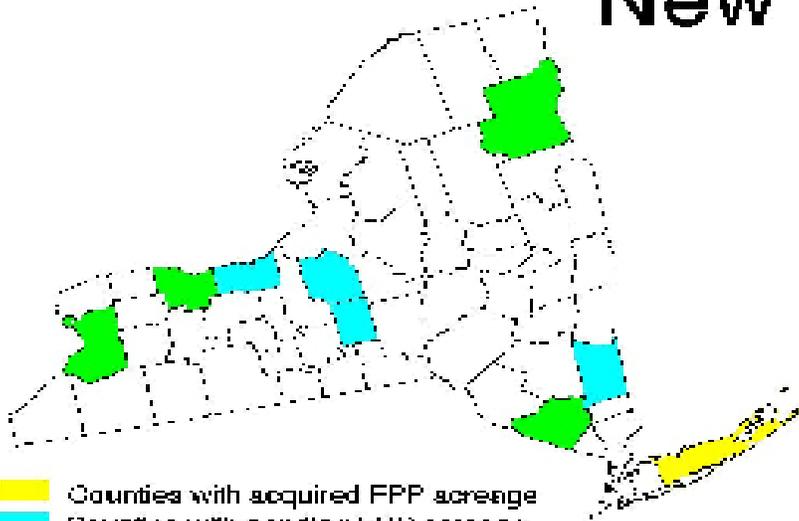
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New York Countryside

**Farmland Protection Program
New York Easements
(As of December 2001)**

New York



- Counties with acquired FPP acreage
- Counties with pending FPP acreage
- Counties with both pending and acquired FPP acreage



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

County: Cortland / Acres: 359
Total Easement Cost: \$1,438,355
Average per acre: \$4,007
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$350,000 / 7 %

County: Dutchess / Acres: 401
Total Easement Cost: \$2,000,000
Average per acre: \$4,988
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$272,710 / 7 %

County: Erie / Acres: 100
Total Easement Cost: \$302,500
Average per acre: \$3,025
Federal Payment Amount: \$88,500
 / 29 %

County: Essex / Acres: 875
Total Easement Cost: \$577,985
Average per acre: \$661
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$142,390 / 25%

County: Monroe / Acres: 327
Total Easement Cost: \$1,922,317
Average per acre: \$5,889
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$355,750 / 18 %

County: Onondaga / Acres: 663
Total Easement Cost: \$678,875
Average per acre: \$1,024
Federal Payment Amount: \$57,291
 / 8%

County: Orange / Acres: 877
Total Easement Cost: \$2,506,400
Average per acre: \$2,858
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$390,650 / 16%

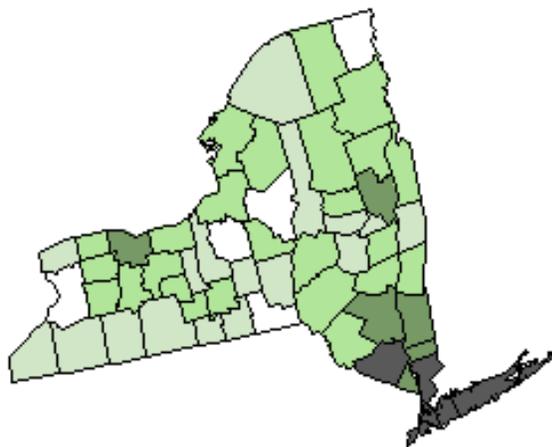
County: Suffolk / Acres: 168
Total Easement Cost: \$1,943,408
Average per acre: \$11,568
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$300,000 / 19%

County: Wayne / Acres: 862
Total Easement Cost: \$1,116,921
Average per acre: \$1,383
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$365,309 / 27%

New York Totals:
Acres: 4,632
Total Easement Cost: \$12,486,761
Average per acre: \$2,696
Federal Payment Amount:
 \$2,322,600 / 19%

Difference in Population between 1990 and 2000

New York



Change in Population

- < -6,000
- 6,000 to 0
- 0 to 10,000
- 10,000 to 25,000
- > 25,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population 2000

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