

# Protecting Agricultural Lands in the Finger Lakes

*Tools and options  
for landowners and communities*



**December 10, 2007**

**1:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

Jordan Hall  
NYS Ag Experiment Station  
630 West North Street  
Geneva, NY

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Sponsored by:  
Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center,  
Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Ontario,  
Seneca and Yates County



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County**

Yates County Office Building  
417 Liberty Street  
Penn Yan, New York 14527

## Protecting Agricultural Lands in the Finger Lakes

*Tools and options for landowners and communities*

*Monday, December 10, 2007, 1:00 pm – 3:30 p.m.*

*NYS Ag Experiment Station, Cornell University, Jordan Hall, Geneva*

## AGENDA

**Overview of Agricultural Land Protection in New York** -Individual and Community Level Actions-  
*Bobby Jo Harrison*, Ag Development Educator, CCE Onondaga County

**County Approaches to Agricultural Land Protection and Enhancement**  
-*Peter Landre*-Cornell Cooperative Extension Yates County  
-*Maria Rudzinski*-Ontario County Planning  
-*Judy Wright*-Consultant, American Farmland Trust

**ABCs of Conservations Easements-**  
*Andy Zepp*, Director, Finger Lakes Land Trust

**Nuts and Bolts Discussion about Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG)-***Jason Engel*-FPIG Consultant, Cardinal Design

### Why you might be interested in attending this workshop...

- what options are available to help keep a farm in the family and protect agricultural lands?
- what are conservation easements and how do they work?
- what programs are available at the State and local levels?

## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

There are few places on earth as attractive **and** agriculturally productive and diverse as the glacially carved Finger Lakes region. The combination of productive soils and moderating climate along the lakes creates outstanding growing conditions.

Increasing demand for land by developers and individuals has led to high agricultural land values and pressure to sell, edging the Finger Lakes region closer to "suburbanization". For example, much of the land along the lakes is prime lake-view property and highly desirable for home building. Yet, land on the slopes surrounding the Finger Lakes is uniquely and ideally suited for grape production. Competition for the limited amount of land suitable for grape production and lake-view development represents a challenge to the long-term viability of the wine industry in the Finger Lakes.

This workshop will explore several options to protect and enhance agricultural lands on an individual and community scale. How can a farmer interested in keeping his land in agriculture but also needing a retirement income, find a solution that works for his family and perhaps the larger community? While there are no easy answers, this workshop will explore this and many more issues related to agricultural land protection in the Finger Lakes.

### Who Should Attend?

- Farmers
- Municipal officials (planning, zoning, and town boards)
- Ag and Farmland Boards

**Pre-Registration is Required.** Cost is \$10 per person payable to CCE Yates. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. **Registration Deadline is Tuesday, December 4, 2007.** Please mail this registration form with payment to: CCE – Yates County, 517 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527. Call 315-536-5123 for more information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How Many Attending? \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_