

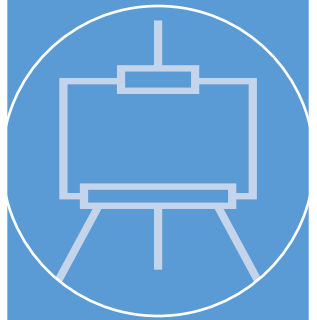
ONONDAGA COUNTY AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

Public Meeting | April 7, 2022



agriculture.ongov.net

What is an agriculture and farmland protection plan?



Intro

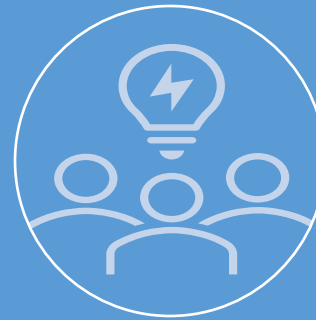


Planning
Process and
Community
Engagement



Community
Context

1. Data Profiles
2. Farmland Analysis
3. Farm Friendly Land Use Tools
4. Summary



Vision and
Goals



Action
Plan



Venture
Proposals

-  = Project milestone
-  = Public engagement event
-  = Oversight committee meeting(Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board)

Project Kick Off



Winter 2020/21: Development of the updated plan begins, and its progress is guided by the Oversight Committee.

Spring – Fall 2021:

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Vision & Goal Development



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Spring 2022:
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Fall 2021
Stakeholder
Focus Groups



Strategize

Winter 2021/22: Develop actionable strategies to implement farmland protection and agricultural viability, including materials for venture proposals.



Final Adoption

Spring/Summer 2022 : The final plan, with support of the Oversight Committee, will be submitted to the Onondaga County Legislature for adoption and then submitted to NYS DAM.

Assets + Analysis Changes + Challenges Ideas + Initiatives



Agriculture + the natural environment



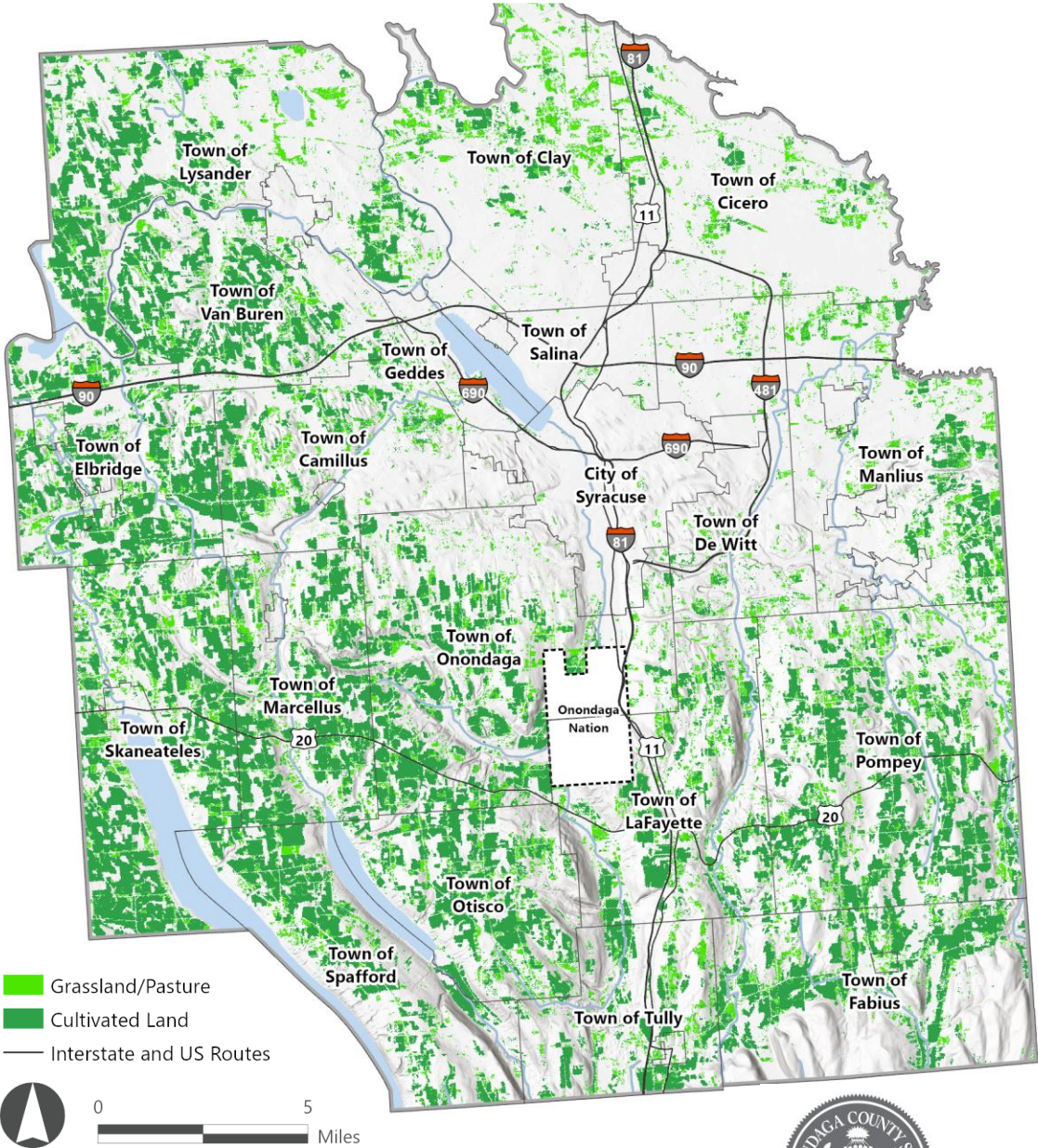
ONONDAGA COUNTY AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN



EDR



Cultivated Land



Working landscape

Contributions of farming to our landscape and economy

- 623 Farms
- \$178M direct sales
- \$178M indirect sales
- 1,399 seasonal or year-round jobs

ONONDAGA COUNTY

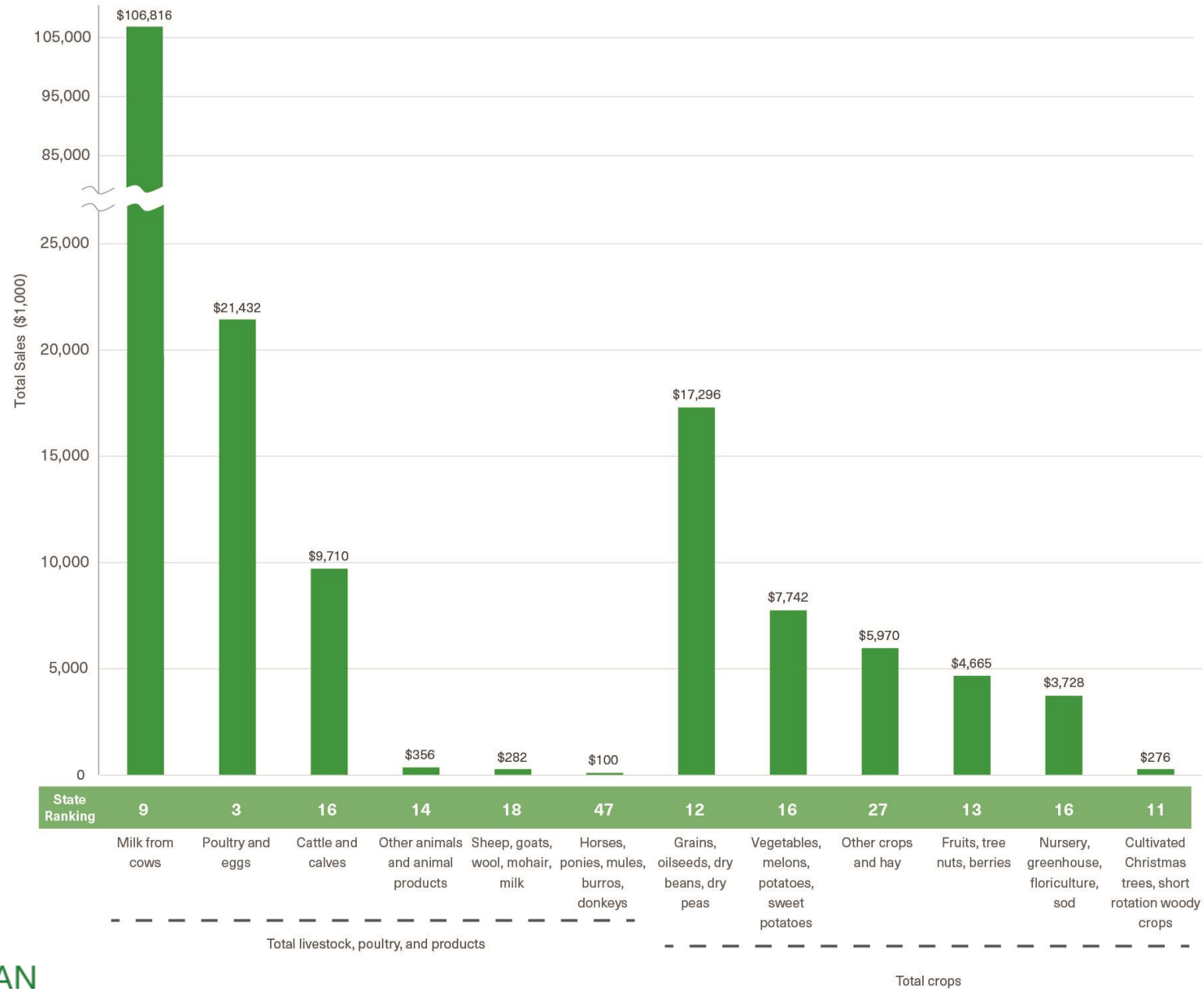
AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

EDR





FARM SALES BY CATEGORY AND STATE RANK FOR ONONDAGA COUNTY



Source: USDA NASS 2017

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

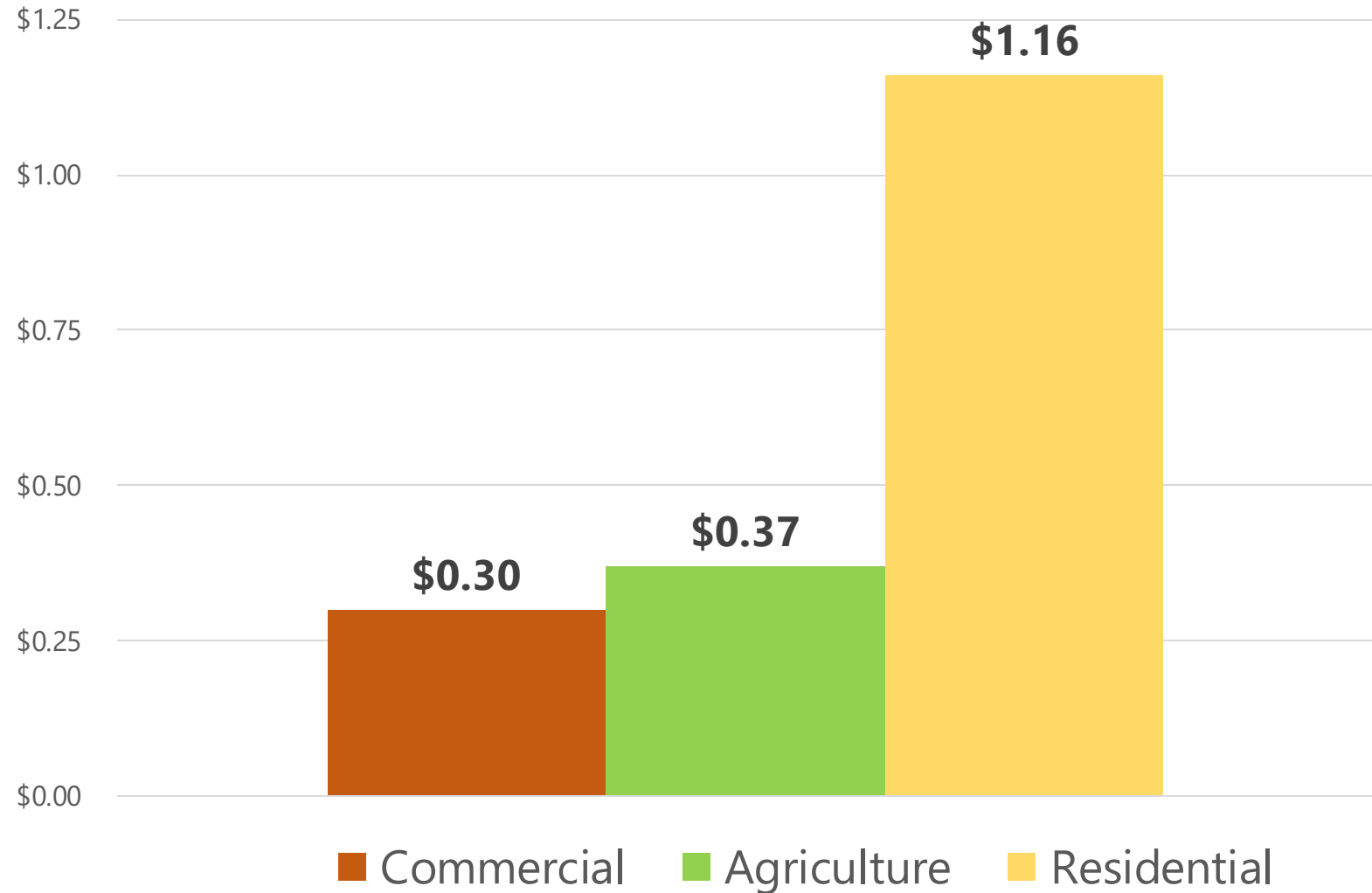
Agritourism has multiple benefits



Farmland is a good municipal investment



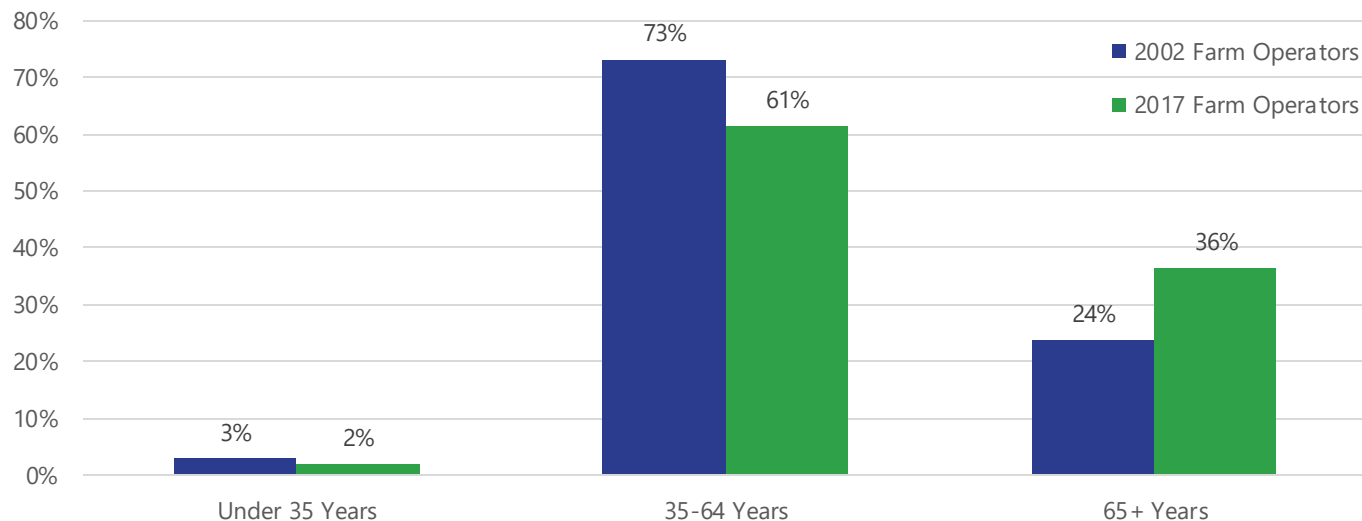
Cost for public services per dollar revenue raised



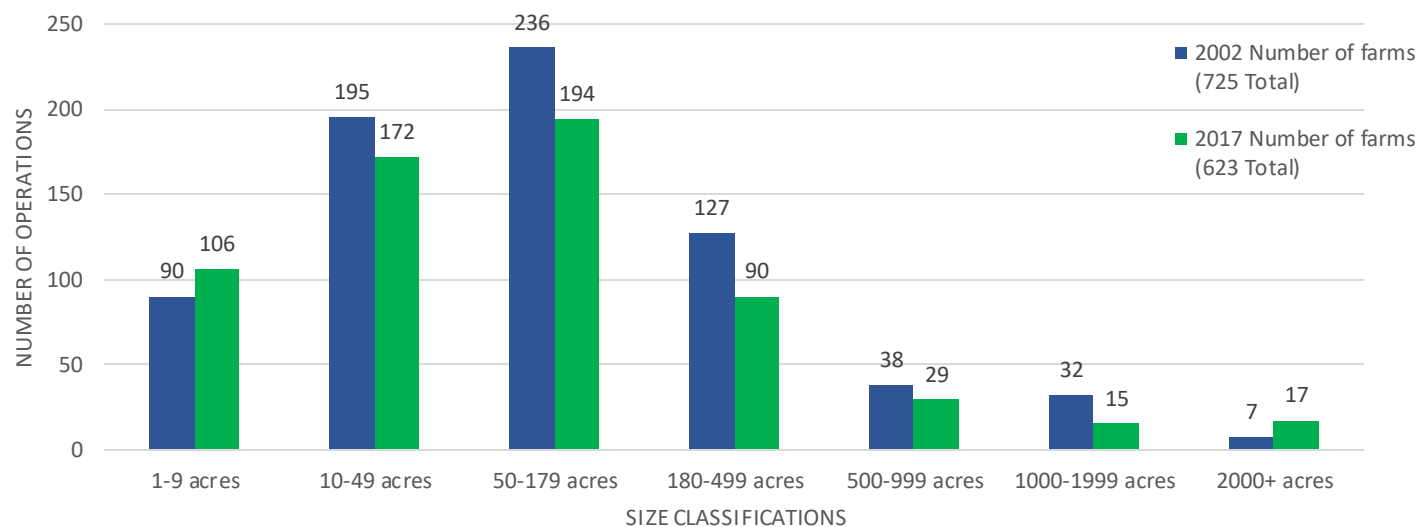
Agriculture is changing



Fewer farmers

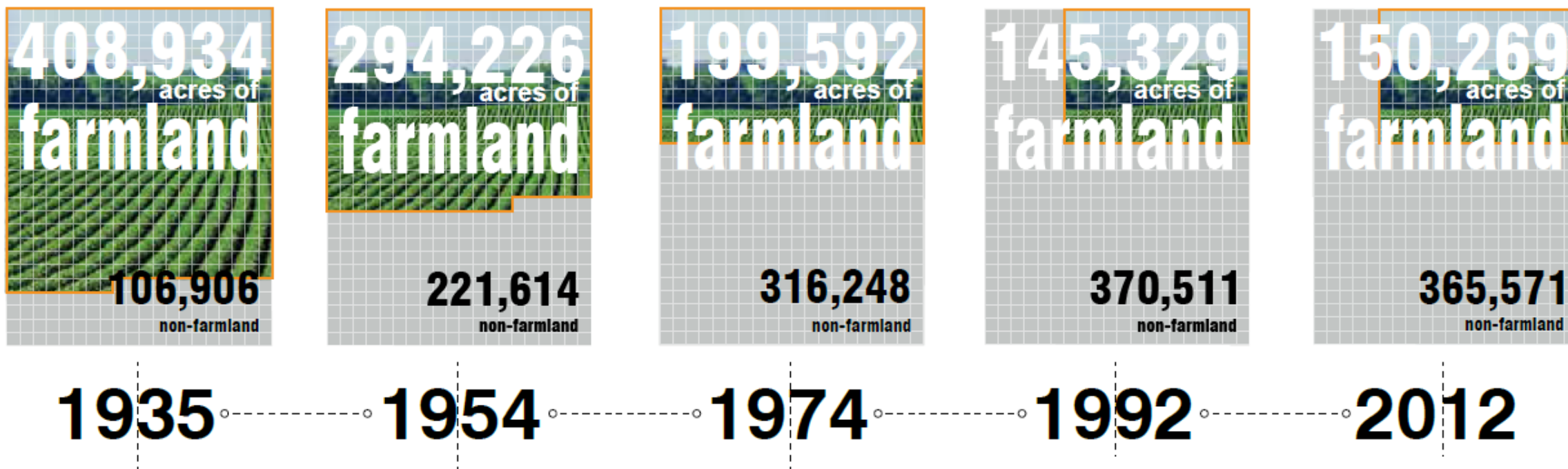


Fewer mid-sized farms



The rural landscape is changing

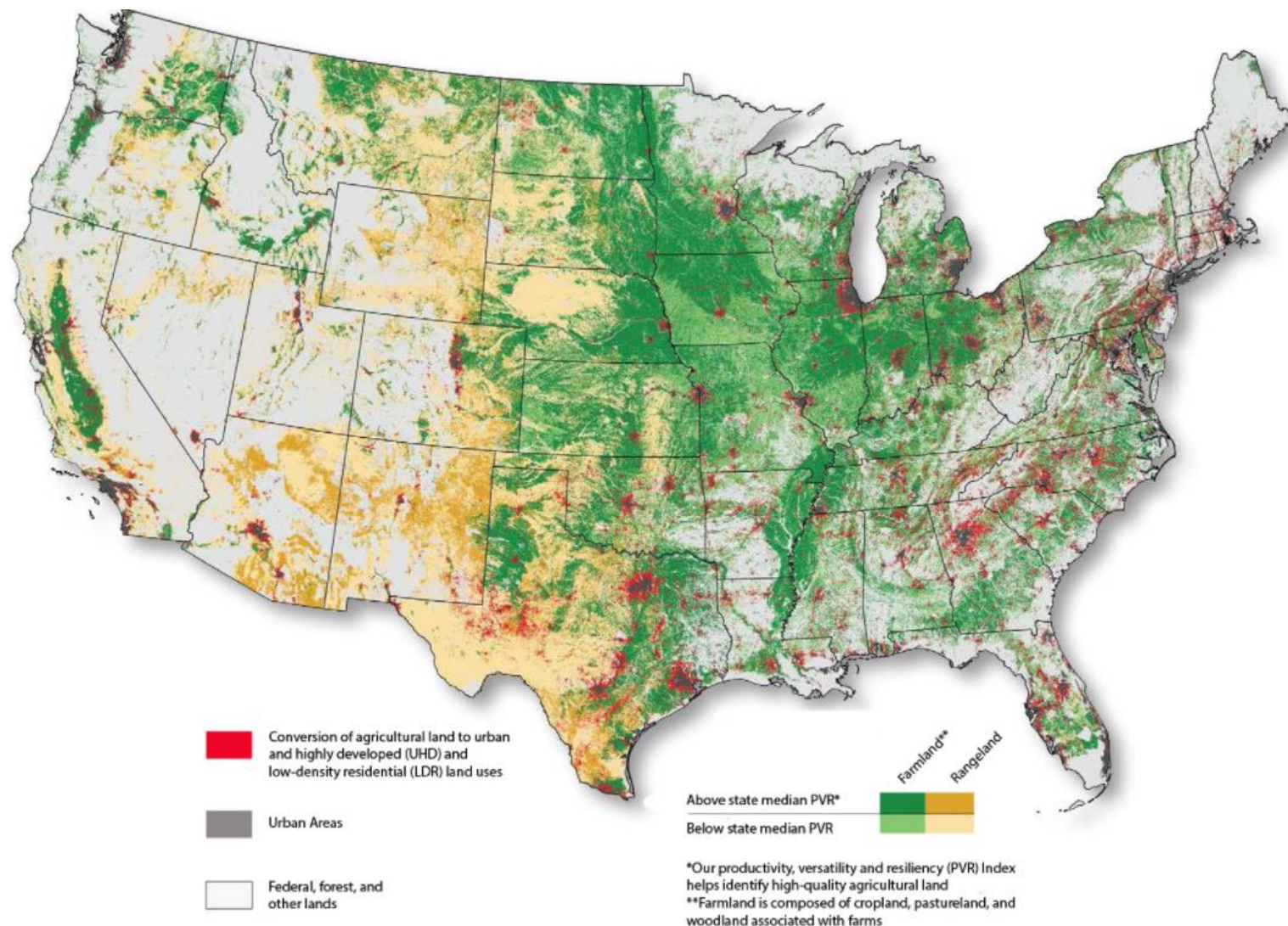
■ = 1000 ACRES
(OUT OF 500,000 ACRES)



Infographic used with permission from Food Plan CNY

Agricultural land is a national commodity

Some of our best farmland in all 50 states is threatened.



Map used with permission from American Farmland Trust

Land competition
continues to grow.

Despite the benefits,
continuing agricultural
operations on land with
solar is a new challenge
for farmers and rural
communities.



Current Initiatives



Buy Local! It's Onondaga Grown!

Encourages local spending

Recognize local food

Access to local products

Relationships with our ag neighbors

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EDR



Planning Resources

Farm-Friendly Toolbox
agriculture.ongov.net/toolbox

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ABOUTPROJECT TEAMTHE PLANSTAY INFORMEDFARM FRIENDLY MUNICIPAL TOOLBOX

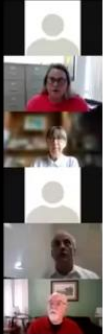
Farm Friendly Municipal Toolbox

Download the full Farm Friendly Municipal Toolbox PDF [here](#).

ONONDAGA COUNTY AGRICULTURE &
FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

Farm-Friendly Toolbox Webinar | October 25, 2021





Introduction

Farm Friendly Planning Tools

Farm Friendly Regulatory Tools

Farm Friendly Preservation Tools

Appendix A: Selected Definitions

Appendix B: Resources

EDR

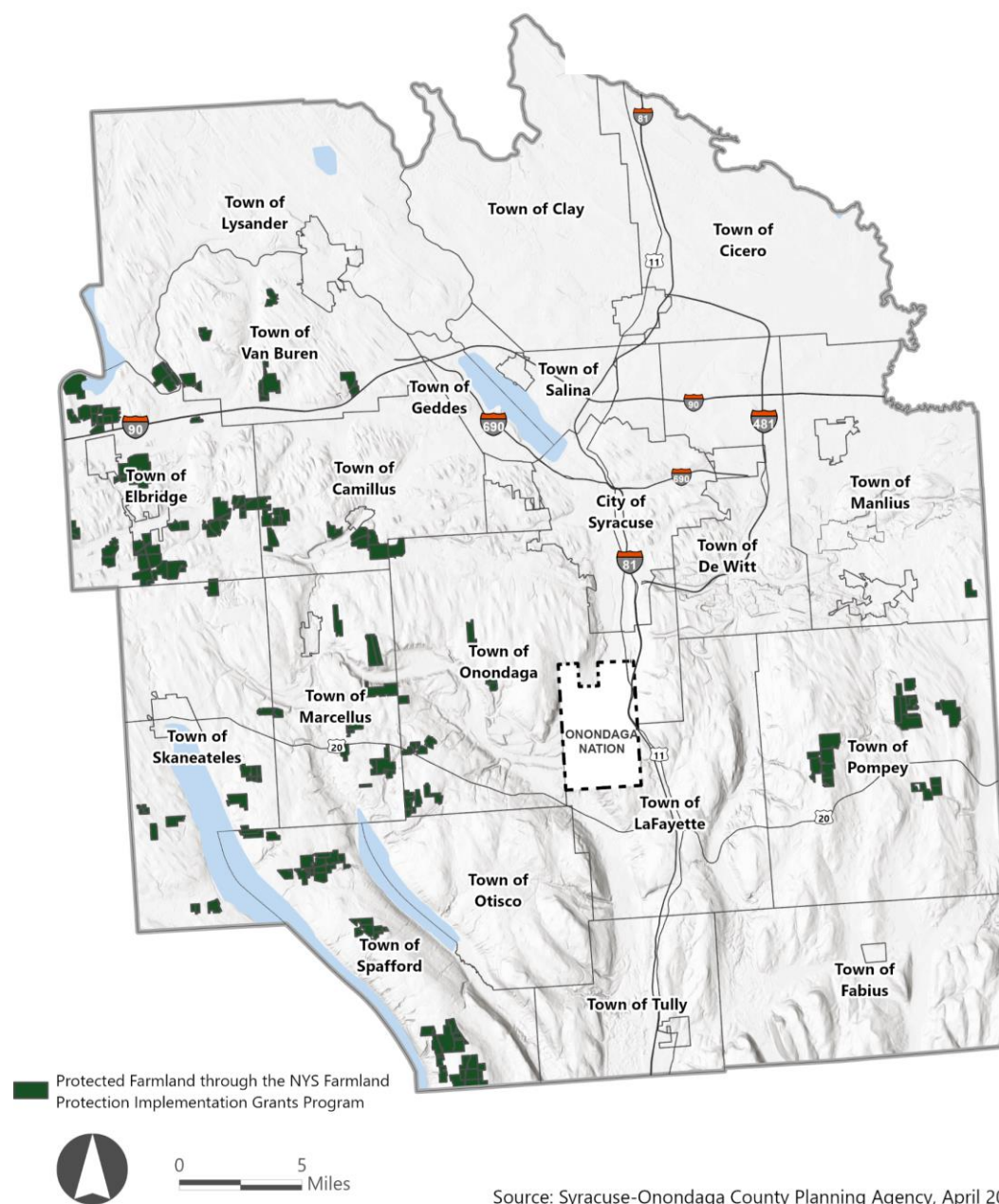


Farmland Protection

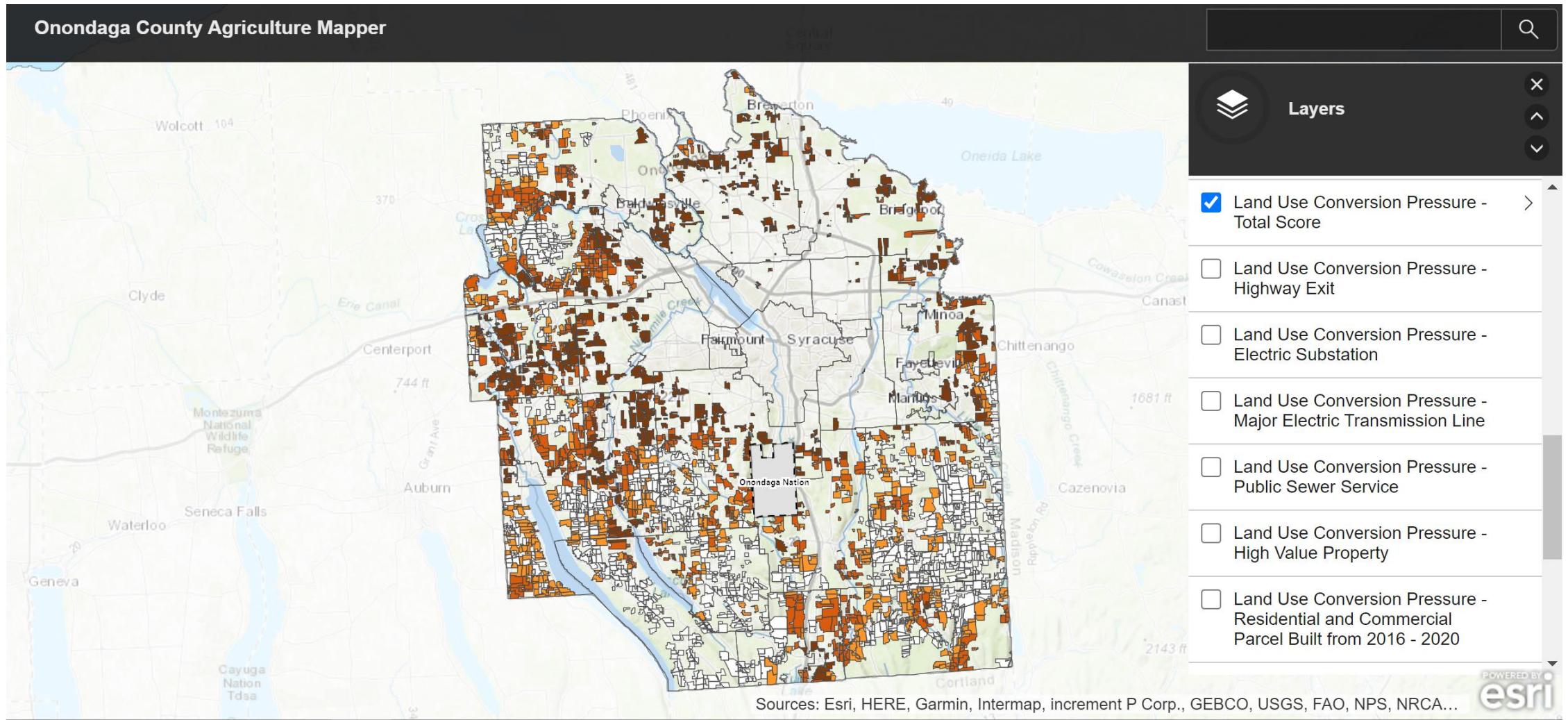
12,000+ acres

30 projects

\$20+ million value



Mapping Important Farmland





Vision

The state of agriculture in Onondaga County has seen significant changes over the years. Through it all, local agriculture remains a critical part of its economy, food system, and landscape. The county is gifted with highly productive agricultural soils, a legacy of farming operations and know-how, and an environment that supports a highly diverse array of agriculture and opportunities to engage with the local food system. This plan honors the strengths of Onondaga County's agriculture and reflects these strengths in a vision for the future of agriculture throughout the county:

Onondaga County is a dynamic agricultural community of vibrant, resilient, and experienced farm operators and farm-related entrepreneurs who are the stewards of local viable farmland and the food system.

GOALS



Enhance agriculture-related economic development activities and collaboration to capitalize on emerging markets, technologies, and incentives.



Strategically protect agricultural lands throughout Onondaga County to sustain and improve its vibrant agricultural operations.



Promote the importance of local agriculture and food systems throughout Onondaga County.



Support the next generation of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in Onondaga County.



Continue to enhance the relationship between agriculture and the natural environment.

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Enhance agriculture-related economic development activities and collaboration to capitalize on emerging markets, technologies, and incentives.

- **Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator**
- **Food hub (e.g., agricultural business park)**
- Trainings offering certifications in value-added production and business development
- Broadband improvement
- Offer agricultural technological services (e.g., drones) to local producers
- Commercial kitchen for startup operations to develop value-added products

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Strategically protect agricultural lands throughout Onondaga County to sustain and improve its vibrant agricultural operations.

- Increase funding/capacity to protect farmland
- “Strike the right balance” for solar development on farmland
- Provide adequate technical assistance for local land trusts
- Update comprehensive plans + local regulations to support agriculture
- Encourage towns to create their own agricultural protection plans

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Promote the importance of local agriculture and food systems throughout Onondaga County.

- Increase public awareness of the Onondaga Grown Campaign
- Grow OnFarm Fest programming

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Support the next generation of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in Onondaga County.

- Develop “New Farmer Program”
 - Incubator programs that provide land and other resources
 - Manager-in-training programs through mentorship
 - Technical assistance to link aspiring farmers with potential land or loan programs
- Trainings for high-tech agriculture
- Training for agri-service professionals to support succession planning and direct farmers to appropriate stress-related support services

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

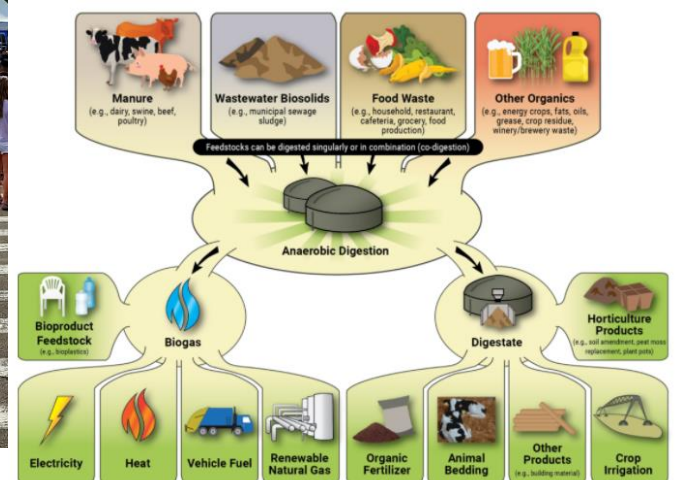
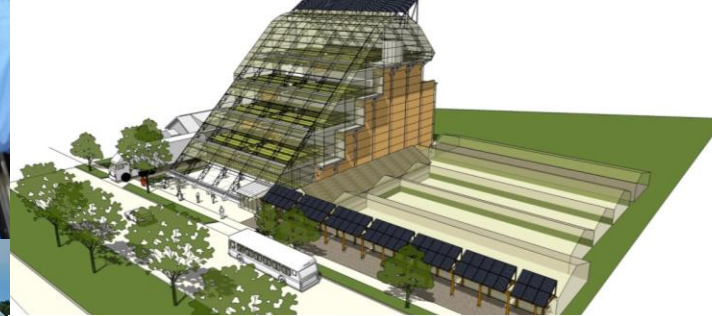


Continue to enhance the relationship between agriculture and the natural environment.

- Agricultural waste stream analysis
- Water quality evaluation and assistance for farmers
- Assistance for climate resiliency, nutrient management, precision technology
- Increase funding for programs that protect soil health

Recap of Venture Proposals

- Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator
- Value-added processing
- Agritourism support
- Community greenhouse
- Agricultural waste stream analysis



DISCUSSION

How does this relate to your community?

What are your ideas?

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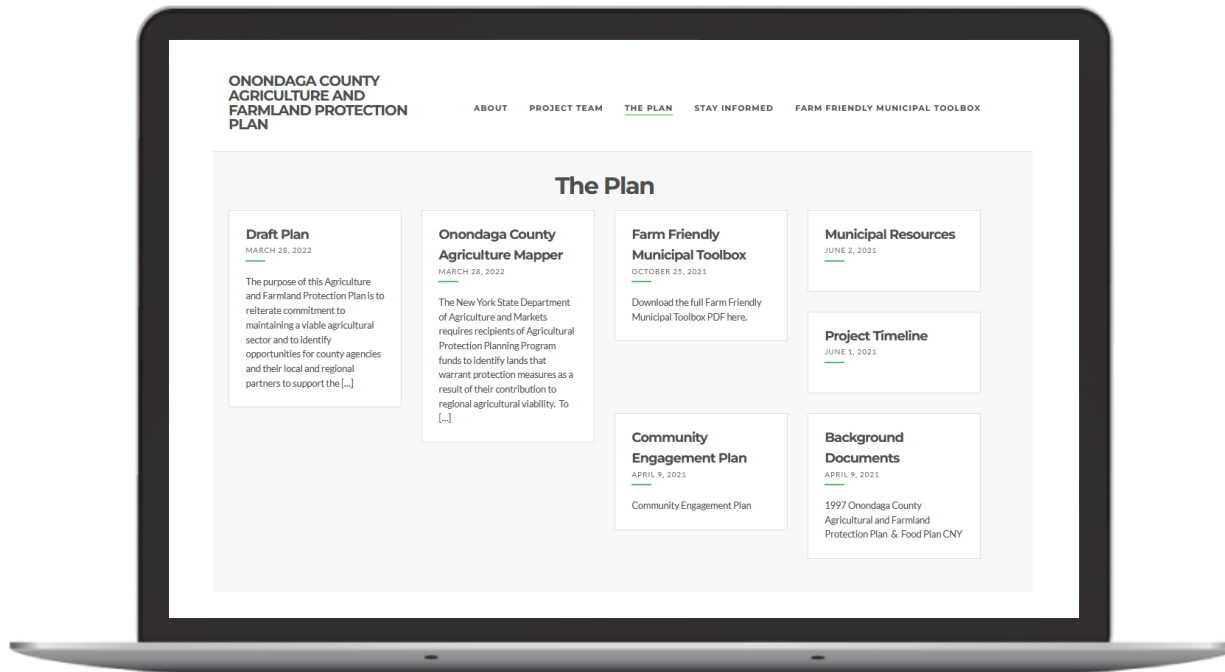


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NEXT STEPS

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