

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The Implementation Matrix is a table summarizing the recommended actions, organized by related goals, that Onondaga County has established to guide the implementation of the Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. It is a useful tool for decision-making and for monitoring progress, as it is expected that the implementation in Onondaga County will take place over the course of the next 10-20 years. The table is meant to provide additional information on the expected timeframes, sponsors, partners, and funding sources necessary to accomplish each action. This table should be updated as part of the regular review of the Plan.

Each of these priority actions is assigned the following in the implementation matrix:

- **Project Lead** – who is most likely to be responsible for seeing that the action is pursued
- **Potential Project Partners** – who is most likely to assist, oversee, or advise during implementation
- **Timeframe** – Short Term (0-3 years), Medium-Term (4-7 years), Long-Term (>7 years), Ongoing
- **Potential Funding Source** – potential sources of funding (either internal or external; see Glossary of Acronyms) Several projects may be funded through departmental budgets or other means. See also: list of *Potential Funding and Financing Resources (Appendix C)*
- **Preliminary Cost Estimate** – ranges from minor (\$) to major (\$\$) undertakings

Figure 34. Acronym Guide for Implementation Matrix

Acronym	Full Title	Acronym	Full Title
AFPB	Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board	OCIDA	Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency
AFT	American Farmland Trust	OCOED	Onondaga County Office of Economic Development
CCE	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County	OCPF	Onondaga County Planning Federation
CenterState CEO	CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity	SOCPA	Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency
CNYRMA	CNY Regional Market Authority	SOFSA	Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance
CNYRPDB	CNY Regional Planning and Development Board	SWCD	Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District
NOFA	Northeast Organic Farming Association	SYRAP/RISE	Syracuse Refugee Assistance Program/Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment
NYSDAM	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	USDA NRCS	US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
OCAC	Onondaga County Agriculture Council	USDOE	US Department of Energy

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

Figure 35. Implementation Matrix

ACTION	PROJECT LEAD	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)	PRELIM. COST ESTIMATE
Goal 1: Enhance agriculture-related economic development activities and collaboration to capitalize on emerging markets, technologies, and incentives.					
Action 1: Create full-time staff to Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator position to spearhead and coordinate agriculture related partnerships and initiatives (see related Venture Proposal).	SOCPA	OCOED, CNYRPDB CCE	Short-Term	USDA Regional Food Systems Partnerships, NYS ESD	\$\$
Action 2: Explore the feasibility for developing an agricultural business park and/or food hub (see related Venture Proposal).	OCOED	CNYRMA, Individual or cooperative of local produce distributors	Long-Term	ESD Feasibility Study grant program, USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program; USDA Value-Added Producer Grant	\$\$
Action 3: Develop a re-packing facility to provide cold storage, freezing, packaging, and distribution to institutions (see related Venture Proposal).	OCOED, private	Individual or cooperative of local produce distributors	Long-Term	ESD Feasibility Study grant program; USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities	\$\$
Action 4: Host periodic trainings to educate existing and prospective producers about resource management (e.g., implementation of BMPs), certifications, value-added production, and market development.	CCE	SWCD, BOCES, Higher Ed Institutions	Long-Term	American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture	\$
Action 5: Improve broadband in rural communities to support high-tech ag machinery and communication.	CNY RPDB	Broadband providers	Short-Term	USDA ReConnect Loan and Grant Program	\$
Action 6: Train and equip local support agencies to offer agricultural unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone services to their constituents.	Private Entities	Grow NY, Cazenovia Equipment, Tech Garden	Mid-Term	Grown NY; FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	\$\$

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

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Goal 1: Enhance agriculture-related economic development activities and collaboration to capitalize on emerging markets, technologies, and incentives.					
Action 7: Facilitate the development and operation a commercial kitchen to provide operations the ability to create value-added products.	CCE	SOFSA; CenterState; private	Mid-Term	USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program	\$\$
Action 8: Explore the feasibility of developing a USDA certified meat processing facility compared with utilizing regional meat processing facilities.	OCOED	private SOFSA; CenterState;	Mid-Term	USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program	\$\$

ACTION	PROJECT LEAD	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE	PRELIM. COST ESTIMATE
Goal 2: Strategically protect agricultural lands throughout Onondaga County to sustain and improve its vibrant agricultural operations					
Action 1: Improve capacity and increase funding within the local land trust community to partner on conservation easement project or develop new avenues to execute farmland protection easement programs.	SOCPA, NYS DAM	Municipalities, Onondaga County, NYALT, CNY Land Trust, Finger Lakes Land Trust	Short-Term	Private foundations, NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants	\$
Action 2: Work with municipal boards and staff to understand the land use tools available to incorporate best practices in siting, construction, and monitoring of larger scale commercial solar developments to minimize impacts on farmland resources and agricultural communities.	SOCPA, NYS DAM	CNY RPDB, OCIDA, Municipalities AFT, NYPA	Short-Term	Onondaga County	\$
Action 3: Follow and engage in statewide efforts to update utility-scale solar energy siting regulations, to ensure that local communities farmland protection goals and objectives are considered in site location and mitigation assessment.	SOCPA, CNY RPDB	OCIDA, Municipalities AFT	Ongoing	Onondaga County	\$

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

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Goal 2: Strategically protect agricultural lands throughout Onondaga County to sustain and improve its vibrant agricultural operations					
Action 4: Utilize the Onondaga County Ag Mapper tool developed herein for identification of priority lands for farmland protection, including conservation easement programs, corridor protection, and local planning and zoning.	SOCPA	CNY RPDB, OCIDA, Municipalities, AFT	Ongoing	Onondaga County	\$
Action 5: Enable and facilitate Smart Growth development practices which encourage growth in existing built communities and compact subdivision designs, which ultimately serves to preserve agricultural lands, open spaces, and rural road frontages.	SOCPA	CNY RPDB, OCIDA, Municipalities	Ongoing	Onondaga County	\$
Action 6: Conduct an agritourism corridor study along NYS Routes 20 and 80 (See related Venture Proposal).	SOCPA	OCIDA, Municipalities, SMTC, RPDB; Ag Council	Mid-Term	Onondaga County, SMTC, OCIDA, ESD Feasibility Study grant program; NYS Main Street Grant Program SMTC Unified Planning Work Program	\$
Action 7: Promote and maintain the Farm- Friendly Municipal Toolbox as a continuing resource for local support for agricultural communities.	SOCPA	CCE, SWCD, CNYRPDB, Municipalities	Ongoing	Onondaga County	\$
Action 8: Work with municipal boards and staff to update and revise their comprehensive plans and land use regulations to better support agricultural uses and accommodate new agritourism related activities.	SOCPA, NYSDAM	OCPF, Town Legislative Boards and/or Planning Boards	Ongoing	Onondaga County; NYS Department of State	\$
Action 9: Encourage towns to create their own agricultural protection plan that works in coordination with the Onondaga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.	SOCPA	Municipalities NYSDAM	Ongoing	NYSDAM	\$\$

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

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Goal 2: Strategically protect agricultural lands throughout Onondaga County to sustain and improve its vibrant agricultural operations					
Action 10: Explore the feasibility of establishing a local farmland protection fund for purchasing conservation easements.	Ag Council; SOCPA	Onondaga County, Ag Council; Municipalities	Short-Term	Development fees and mortgage tax	\$\$
Action 11: Provide training for municipal tax assessors to conduct more accurate assessment of lands and buildings in agricultural use.	NYS	Municipalities, Assoc of Assessors, NYS, AFT, Farm Bureau	Ongoing	Association of Assessors, NYS	\$

ACTION	PROJECT LEAD	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE	PRELIM. COST ESTIMATE
Goal 3: Promote the importance of local agriculture and food systems throughout Onondaga County.					
Action 1: Develop an agriculturally oriented year-round community greenhouse to host a variety of flexible programming, from agritourism events and educational programs to workforce development training space or community gardens (see related Venture Proposal).	NYSDAM, City of Syracuse	Brady Farm, CCE, NYS Fairgrounds, NYSDAM, City of Syracuse	Ongoing	USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production competitive grants, NYS Fairgrounds, Empire State Development	\$\$
Action 2: Increase support for agriculture-related promotional events and marketing, particularly for agritourism (e.g., startup assistance, social media help, siting, and logistics).	OCAC	USDA Agricultural Marketing Service	Ongoing	USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program	\$
Action 3: Continue to promote public awareness of local agriculture through the Onondaga Agricultural Council and its <i>Onondaga Grown</i> Buy Local Campaign.	OCAC	Farm Bureau, SWCD	Ongoing	American Farm Bureau	\$

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

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Goal 3: Promote the importance of local agriculture and food systems throughout Onondaga County.					
Action 4: Continue to grow OnFarm Fest programming to serve as a well-known opportunity to educate residents of Onondaga County's agriculture.	OCAC	CCE, SOCPA	Near-Term	Onondaga County	\$
Action 5: Continue to support the CNY Regional Market and local farmer's markets, CSA programs and other similar opportunities for direct sales of farm products to consumers throughout Onondaga County.	CNYRMA, NYSDAM, OCAC	Municipalities, CCE, SOCPA, SOFSA, SWCD	Near-Term	USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program	\$

ACTION	PROJECT LEAD	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE	PRELIM. COST ESTIMATE
Goal 4: Support the next generation of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in Onondaga County.					
Action 1: Develop and expand upon New Farmer Incubator Programs to provide land, landowner connections, management training and other resources to serve the next generation of farmers or newly arrived immigrants familiar with farming.	CCE, NY FarmNet	SYRAP/RISE, Salt City Harvest Farm, and Brady Farm, NOFA, FFA, 4H,	Ongoing	NYS New Farmers Grant Fund, Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship (CADE) Beginning Farmers resources	\$\$
Action 2: Develop a farm specialty labor pool by creating a program of trainings for high-tech agriculture (or link to existing programs).	CCE	AFT, grow NY, Higher Education Institutions	Ongoing	Private Institutions/ Foundations, FFA Foundation	\$\$
Action 3: Provide training for agri-service, land use planning professionals, and the farming community to support succession planning and direct farmers to	CCE	FarmNet, AFPB, SOCPA, SWCD, Municipalities	Ongoing	NY FarmNet	\$

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

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Goal 4: Support the next generation of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in Onondaga County.					
appropriate stress-related support services.					
Action 4: Increase programming and partnerships with agriculture-related higher education programs.	CCE	Cornell University, SUNY ESF, SUNY Morrisville SWCD	Ongoing	Private Foundations, FFA Foundation	\$

ACTION	PROJECT LEAD	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE	PRELIM. COST ESTIMATE
Goal 5: Continue to enhance the relationship between agriculture and the natural environment.					
Action 1: Develop an Agricultural Waste Stream Strategic Plan to manage overall waste in the agricultural sector, for example renewable natural gas projects for dairy waste and promoting agriculture-based paper/plastic recycling and reuse. See related Venture Proposal .	SWCD, OCCRA	USEPA	Long-Term	USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction grants, EPA AgSTAR	\$\$
Action 2: Increase funding, and flexibility thereof, available to evaluate causal pathways for water quality issues and assist farmers in implementing strategic water quality management practices.	SWCD	CCE, USDA NRCS, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County Water Authority, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection	Ongoing	USDA NYS, NRCS, City of Syracuse	\$

ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

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Goal 5: Continue to enhance the relationship between agriculture and the natural environment.					
Action 3: Increase technical assistance related to climate resiliency and natural hazard mitigation (e.g., flooding and drought), stormwater management, and other environmental management issues such as runoff nutrients, farmyard management, silage nutrient management, fertilizer application calibration, etc.	SWCD	CNYRPDB, FEMA, CCE, USDA NRCS, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County Water Authority, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection	Mid-Term	FEMA, CNYRPDB	\$
Action 4: Increase funding for marketing and technical assistance to increase farmer participation in programs that protect soil health.	NYS/DAM /NYSDEC	SWCD, CCE, USDA NRCS	Ongoing	USDA NRCS	\$
Action 5: Encourage, plan for, and fund stream corridor buffering, wetland and floodplain restoration/enhancement, and bank stabilization efforts.	NYS/DAM /NYSDEC	SWCD, CCE, USDA NRCS, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County Water Authority, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection	Ongoing	USDA NRCS	\$
Action 6: Conduct viewshed analyses to preserve the most scenic and valued agricultural and open space vistas in our rural communities.	SOCPA, Municipalities	Towns/Villages, OCAC, CNYRPDB	Short-Term	Onondaga County	\$