

Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan

Survey for General Public

Introduction

Ulster County is working to revise and update its County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, which was adopted by the Ulster County Legislature in 1997. As part of this effort, we are reaching out to farmers, farmland owners, and the general public to understand diverse interests and perspectives on agriculture and identify key issues, challenges, and opportunities to the agricultural industry in Ulster County.



We hope you will share your thoughts with us by participating in the following survey, which will take about 10 minutes to complete. All responses will remain anonymous. We welcome your input and thank you in advance for contributing to this very important effort.

Please return completed surveys to:

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Ulster County Agriculture Survey

Questions for the General Public

This set of questions is for members of the public to answer.

1. In what city, town, or village in Ulster County do you live?

2. How important are local farms and agriculture to you?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important
- Not Sure

3. If agriculture in Ulster County is important to you, why? Check all that apply.

- Agriculture provides job opportunities and supports the local economy
- Agriculture retains our community character
- Agriculture provides healthy, local food
- Agricultural lands provide many environmental benefits
- Agricultural lands require less public infrastructure and fewer community services than residential or commercial property
- Not Sure
- Other reasons why agriculture is important to you (please specify)

4. When making decisions about the food you buy, which of the following attributes are most important? Check all that apply.

- Brand name
- Convenience of where the product can be purchased (e.g. close to home or work)
- Environmental impact
- Freshness and/or quality
- Locally grown or produced
- Nutritional value
- Organic
- Price
- Taste
- Other (please specify)

5. During the growing season, how often do you buy agricultural products grown or raised in Ulster County?

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

6. If you buy agricultural products grown or raised in Ulster County, where do you usually buy them? Check all that apply.

- Chain grocery store
- Independent/specialty grocery store
- Farmers' market
- Community supported agriculture (CSA)
- Personal or community garden
- Directly from a farm (at a farmstand or on-farm market)
- Other (please specify)

7. How easy is it for you to find and buy locally grown or raised agricultural products in Ulster County?

- Very easy
- Easy
- Not easy
- Not sure

8. Do you think there has been a significant loss of farmland in Ulster County over the last 25 years?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

9. Do you think farmland in Ulster County should be better protected from being developed or converted to non-agricultural uses?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

10. Would you support or oppose the use of public funding in Ulster County for land conservation to protect agriculture?

- Support
- Oppose
- Not sure

11. Do you think agriculture is a topic of general importance to other residents in your community?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

12. Do you think agriculture is a topic of general importance to the municipal leaders in your community?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

13. In your opinion, what are the major issues facing agriculture in Ulster County?

14. Please use the space below to offer any additional comments you have about agriculture in Ulster County.