



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
518-457-8876 Fax 518-457-3087
www.agmkt.state.ny.us

David A. Paterson
Governor

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

June 6, 2008

To: Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Chairs
County Legislative Clerks
County Planners
Cornell Cooperative Extension Agents
Town Supervisors
Other Interested Parties

Re: Request for Proposals for Farmland Protection Implementation Projects

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit State assistance payments for Farmland Protection Implementation Projects.

Eligible applicants include counties with State approved agricultural and farmland protection plans and other municipalities that have adopted a local farmland protection plan. Municipalities must include a current letter from their county agricultural and farmland protection board endorsing the proposed project for which State cost-share funding is requested. The cost-share ratio has been established at a maximum of 75 percent State and 25 percent local.

NOTE: Due to recent changes in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Department may allow Federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP) funds as a local match. The Department will not make a final decision regarding the use of FPP funds as a local match until the program details are finalized through the Federal administrative rulemaking process. In the event the new FPP rules are not compatible with this program, successful applicants who planned on using FPP funds as a local match will be obligated to provide the requisite local match from an alternate funding source. Applicants who intend to apply for and use FPP funds as a local match should they be available, must list a local funding source other than FPP funds on their budget forms and supply the required commitments in the application. Applicants should indicate their intent to use FPP funds as a local match, should this option become available, on the budget form(s) submitted with their proposal.

June 6, 2008

Page 2

The proposals must be received (not postmarked) by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, September 15, 2008. It is the Department's intention to conduct a visual survey of each project site prior to ranking all proposals. Consequently, proposals should contain enough information to allow Department staff to identify the exact location and approximate boundaries of each property.

The RFP (including all associated application forms) and the Department's Standard Agricultural Conservation Easement are available for printing from the Department's website at www.agmkt.state.ny.us under "Funding Opportunities." In addition, our staff can provide these documents to you via e-mail. To receive any or all of these documents in digital form, or if you require a printed paper copy of the RFP or Standard Agricultural Conservation Easement, please contact:

David Behm, Farmland Protection Program Manager
Division of Agricultural Protection and Development Services
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235

Telephone: 518-457-2713
Fax: 518-457-2716
E-mail: david.behm@agmkt.state.ny.us

Thank you for your interest in farmland protection in New York State. I look forward to receiving your proposals.

Sincerely,


Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WORKSHOPS
for Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Program
administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM)

Please RSVP to david.behm@agmkt.state.ny.us by June 11
with your name and the location you will attend.

You are cordially invited to attend any one of the five upcoming FPIG workshops.

Please refer to the attached agenda for more information. **All workshops will be 9:15am-3pm.**

The workshops will be conducted on the following dates at these locations:

Long Island Region:

Tuesday, June 17

Riverhead Town Hall
200 Howell Avenue

Riverhead

(refer to attached map/directions)

West Region:

Tuesday, June 24

Genesee County Office Building
3837 W. Main Street Road

Batavia

(refer to attached map/directions)

Hudson Valley Region:

Wednesday, June 18

Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension Center
2715 Route 44, Suite 1

Millbrook

(refer to attached map/directions)

Central Region:

Wednesday, June 25

Cortland County Office Building
60 Central Avenue

Cortland

(refer to attached map/directions)

Eastern Region:

Tuesday, July 1

Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension Bldg.
50 West High Street

Ballston Spa

(refer to attached map/directions)

Thank you!

David H. Behm
Farmland Protection Program Manager
Division of Agricultural Protection & Development Services
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

**Round 12 Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Program
Applicant Workshops**

Long Island Region* = Riverhead; Tuesday, June 17
Hudson Valley Region* = Millbrook; Wednesday, June 18
West Region* = Batavia; Tuesday, June 24
Central Region* = Cortland; Wednesday, June 25
Eastern Region* = Ballston Spa; Tuesday, July 1

**NOTE: Local governments, and the land trusts or consultants advising them, may attend any session.*

AGENDA

9:15 – 9:30AM Coffee, sign-in & receive materials

9:30 – 9:35AM WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

9:35 – 11:45AM Overview of FPIG Application Materials & Proposal Content

11:45AM – 1:00PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN (please bring a sack lunch with you)

1:00 – 1:30PM Site Planning Considerations for Farmland Protection
Implementation Projects

1:30 – 3:00PM Characteristics of a Good FPIG Proposal & Fundable Farms

ADJOURN