



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
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www.agmkt.state.ny.us

David A. Paterson
Governor

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

March 23, 2009

To: Land Trusts associated with open Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) contract projects
Land Trust Alliance – Northeast Region Office
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Chairs

Re: Request for Proposals for Farmland Protection Implementation Projects

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit projects associated with State assistance payments to not-for-profit conservation organizations for farmland protection activities.

Eligible applicants will only be accepted from "not-for-profit conservation organizations" as defined in the New York Environmental Conservation Law. To be eligible for funding, a not-for-profit conservation organization must have at least one active farmer on its board of directors at the time of application; or have appointed an active farmer to such board of directors no later than the date an authorized representative of the not-for-profit conservation organization signs a proposed contract for an award under this grant program.

For purposes of this program, an "active farmer" is a person engaged in the activities of a "farm operation" as that term is defined in Section 301(11) of Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law ("AML"). Satisfactory documentation that a person meets the foregoing criteria for an "active farmer" shall be (1) a signed statement from that person certifying that he/she is engaged in the activities of a farm operation; and (2) evidence indicative of that person's commercial farming activity such as filing a Schedule F tax return, eligibility for the Farmer's School Tax Credit or eligibility for federal farm programs.

The proposals must be received (not postmarked) by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 11, 2009.

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The RFP and all associated application materials 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, please contact:

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

Sincerely,



Patrick Hooker
Commissioner