

Appendix B

Agricultural Survey & Survey Report

**ULSTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION
SHORT SURVEY FOR 1996**

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR FARM

1. Town(s) where you own land or farm: _____
2. Total acres in Ulster County :

OWNED: Total acres _____ Total farmed acres _____	RENTED: Total crop acres rented _____
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3. Type of farm enterprise(s)

CROP (TOTAL ACRES IN 1996) <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Corn # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Grain Corn # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Silage Corn # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Field Crops (other grains) # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture/Hay # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture (cash rent) # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Orchard # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Small Fruit # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Vineyard # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Trees # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery/Greenhouse # acres _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooms _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Maple/Honey Products _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	ANIMAL (TOTAL ANIMALS IN 1996) <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy cow # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy replacement heifer # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Beef cattle # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Hogs # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Horses/Ponies # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Goat # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Llama # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Emu # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
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4. Do you operate a roadside stand? Yes No
5. Annual Gross Income for 1996 from farming enterprise:

<input type="checkbox"/> Below \$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$249,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$39,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250,000-\$499,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$99,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$500,000
6. What percentage of your family's income comes from your farm operations? _____ %
7. Age(s) of principal operators
 Under 30 31-40 41-50 51-60 above 60
8. Number of full time farm employees _____
9. Number of part-time farm employees _____
10. Are you currently receiving an agricultural exemption for your land (Agricultural Assessment Program)? Yes No
11. Does the land you rent for farming receive an agricultural exemption?
 Yes No Don't Know
12. Total number of acres in an agricultural district _____

PLEASE TELL US THE STATUS OF YOUR NEIGHBOR RELATIONS

13. Have you had problems with neighbors concerning your farming practices?
 Yes No If YES, what was the nature of the problem; how was it resolved?

Over →

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR FARMS FUTURE

14. Do you (principal operator) expect to be farming in the next: 5 yrs 10 yrs 20 yrs

15. If you retire, what are the likely uses of your farm/land?

- sell to other farmers
- sell to non-farmers
- transfer to family members who plan to farm
- transfer to non-farm family members
- other _____

16. Are you interested in keeping your land in agriculture? Yes No

17. Please rate the importance of the items listed below to the successful future of farming in Ulster County *then* please number the five bold headings by importance, # 1 being most important and #5 being least important

	Very	Somewhat	Not	Unsure
<input type="checkbox"/> TAXATION AND REGULATION				
School tax reform.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Property tax reform	_____	_____	_____	_____
Environmental regulations.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Labor regulations.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital gains tax	_____	_____	_____	_____
Right to farm laws	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> MARKETS				
Increased share of direct markets.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Increased share of wholesale markets..	_____	_____	_____	_____
Increased share of international markets	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION				
Consumer "buy local" education	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth agricultural education	_____	_____	_____	_____
Farm neighbor education	_____	_____	_____	_____
Farmer education	_____	_____	_____	_____
Environmental concerns (pesticides)....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> LAND USE OPTIONS				
Agriculture district development	_____	_____	_____	_____
Conservation easement purchases.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Purchase of development rights	_____	_____	_____	_____
Agricultural land availability.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Estate planning/generational transfers..	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> COST OF DOING BUSINESS				
Utility costs.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Insurance cost.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Financing availability.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Agricultural land cost.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Access to support businesses.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Availability of skilled labor.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Optional

Name _____
Farm Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
Phone _____

THANK YOU!

SURVEY REPORT

Of 231 possible contacts, 81 individuals responded. Seventy-two of these records were legible. The following is a tallying of the 72 legible reports. **Because of the low response level (31%), these statistics should be considered as extremely underreported and/or not necessarily representative of the general population.**

1. Town(s) where you own land or farm:

Survey respondents reported owning land in the following towns:

Accord	Marlborough	Plattekill
Catskill	Middle Hope	Rochester
Esopus	Milton	Saugerties
Gardiner	Modena	Saxton
Hurley	Montgomery	Shandaken
Kingston	New Paltz	Shawangunk
Lloyd	New Windsor	Stone Ridge
Marbletown	Newburgh	Ulster
Marlboro	Olive	Warwarsing

2. Total acres in Ulster County :

OWNED:		RENTED:	
Total Acres:	12768.73	Total Crop Acres:	4560.70
Total Farmed Acres:	10426.08		

3. Type of farm enterprise(s):

Note: Some respondents did not provide acreages or numbers of animals.

CROP	(TOTAL ACRES)	ANIMAL	(TOTAL #)
Sweet Corn	2362.25	Dairy Cow	422
Grain Corn	920	Dairy Replacemt Heifer	363
Silage Corn	316	Beef Cattle	490
Field Crops (Other Grains)	180	Sheep	189
Pasture/Hay	3029.5	Hogs	222
Pasture (Cash Rent)	536	Poultry	738
Vegetables	541.5	Horses/Ponies	90
Orchard	3109	Goat	19
Small Fruit	29.7	Rabbit	2
Vineyard	36.35	Llama	2.5
Christmas Trees	43.5		
Nursery/Greenhouse	4.75		

Note: These numbers are for 1996. Categories of crops or animals not listed have no entries at this time. There were also 4 Maple/Honey Products operations reported.

4. Do you operate a roadside stand?

Yes	21%
No	72%
Did Not Respond	7%

5. Annual Gross Income for 1996 from farming enterprise:

Below \$10,000	19%	\$10,000-39,000	18%
\$40,000-99,000	11%	\$100,000-249,000	11%
\$250,000-499,000	11%	\$500,000 & Over	18%
Did Not Respond	11%		

6. What percentage of your family's income comes from your farm operations?

The average response was **61%** (14 people did not respond).

18 respondents said farming provides 100% of their income.

7. Age(s) of principal operators:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Operators</u>
Under 30	2
31-40	23
41-50	21
51-60	13
Above 60	23
Did Not Respond	3

8. Number of full-time farm employees:

The average number given was 3.7 full-time employees. (8 people did not respond)

9. Number of part-time farm employees

The average number given was 11.9 part-time employees. (10 people did not respond)

10. Are you currently receiving an agricultural exemption for your land (Agricultural Assessment Program)?

Yes	68%
No	26%
Did Not Respond	6%

11. Does the land you rent for farming receive an agricultural exemption?

Yes	38%
No	15%
Don't Know	5%
Don't Rent	17%
Did Not Respond	25%

12. Total Number of Acres in an agricultural district: 10596.8

13. Have you had problems with neighbors concerning your farming practices?

Yes	32%
No	65%
Did Not Respond	3%

The top five problems with neighbors were Spraydrift, Noise, Odors, Trespassing, and Dogs. The most frequent resolution given was education of the nonfarm neighbor.

14. Do you (principal operator) expect to be farming in the next:

5 Years	28%
10 Years	18%
15 Years	40%
"Less than 5 Years"	7%
Did Not Respond	7%

15. If you retire, what are the likely uses of your farm/land?

Sell to other farmers	14%	Transfer to family who plan to farm	44%
Sell to nonfarmers	13%	Transfer to nonfarm family members	8%
Other	26%	Did not respond	8%

The most frequently given answer for "Other" was "I don't know at this time." Note: The total percentage adds up to more than 100 because some respondents gave more than one answer.

16. Are you interested in keeping your land in agriculture?

Yes	93%
No	1%
Did not respond	6%

17. Please rate the importance of the items listed below to the successful future of farming in Ulster County *then* please number the five bold headings by importance, # 1 being most important and #5 being least important:

TOPIC/Subtopic	Level of Importance to Farming				
	Very	Somewhat	Not	Unsure	No Response
TAXATION AND REGULATION					
School Tax Reform	82%	6%	3%	0%	10%
Property Tax Reform	76%	13%	1%	0%	10%
Environmental Regulations	49%	32%	4%	1%	15%
Labor Regulations	43%	28%	10%	3%	17%
Capital Gains Tax	39%	32%	4%	4%	21%
Right to farm laws	78%	8%	0%	1%	13%

Other: The following were written in as important: Wildlife, Right to sell shale, and Inheritance tax.

MARKETS	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>No Response</u>
Increased share of direct	49%	25%	7%	1%	18%
Increased share of wholesale	37%	35%	7%	4%	17%
Increased share of international	25%	36%	15%	4%	19%

Other: The following were written in as important: New markets, Viable prices, Better markets, and Less government involvement

EDUCATION					
Consumer "buy local" education	37%	28%	4%	3%	14%
Youth agricultural education	46%	32%	4%	3%	15%
Farm neighbor education	47%	33%	3%	2%	15%
Farmer education	46%	32%	3%	3%	17%
Environmental concerns	52%	33%	0%	0%	15%

Other: The following concerns were written in as important: Misinformation

LAND USE OPTIONS					
Agriculture district development	56%	25%	1%	1%	17%
Conservation easement purchases	29%	39%	10%	5%	17%
Purchase of development rights	32%	31%	15%	5%	17%
Agricultural land viability	32%	37%	6%	6%	19%
Estate plan./generational transfr	54%	27%	1%	1%	17%

Other: There were no responses in this category.

COST OF DOING BUSINESS					
Utility Costs	40%	36%	6%	1%	17%
Insurance Cost	55%	24%	3%	1%	17%
Financing availability	29%	36%	14%	1%	20%
Agricultural land cost	35%	35%	10%	1%	19%
Access to support businesses	26%	42%	8%	3%	21%
Availability of skilled labor	37%	35%	6%	1%	21%

Other: The following concerns were written in as important: Compensation, Electric demand charge

OVERALL RANKING

The average ranking of the bold headings and their importance to farming, based on the 62% of respondents who gave a ranking, is:

1. Taxation and Regulation
2. Cost of Doing Business
3. Markets
4. Education
5. Land Use Options