



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](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

Eliot Spitzer  
Governor

Patrick Hooker  
Commissioner

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

Re: Availability of Grant Program for Municipalities to Develop Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans

I am pleased to announce that a copy of the guidelines and application forms for municipalities to apply for State assistance payments to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans will be made available on the Department's website [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us) under 'Funding Opportunities' on Wednesday September 26, 2007.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide an economic incentive to municipalities to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans that will maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Municipalities, including cities, towns and villages that are located within a county which has established an agricultural and farmland protection board will be eligible to submit an application. Interested municipalities will be eligible for grants up to \$25,000 or 75 percent of the cost of developing a local protection plan, whichever is less.

Eligible plans should identify the location of farmland proposed to be protected, the value of that land to the local economy, the value of that land as open space, consequence of possible conversion and develop strategies and programs to promote and maintain the economic viability of the local agricultural industry and its agricultural land base.

Proposed planning projects should be completed within twenty-four (24) months.

The Department will conduct four (4) applicant workshops at the following locations and times:

1. Hudson Valley Region:  
Tuesday, October 16  
Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
Mill Brook  
Time: 6:30 PM
  
2. Central Regions:  
Thursday, October 18  
Cayuga County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
Auburn  
Time: 6:30 PM
  
3. Northern Region:  
Tuesday, October 23  
Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
Ballston Spa  
Time: 6:30 PM
  
4. Western Region: (Simultaneous Interactive Teleconference from Saratoga County)  
Tuesday, October 23  
Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
East Aurora  
Time: 6:30 PM

Specific meeting location information for each workshop is attached and also available from the Department's website [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us) under "Funding Opportunities."

To receive a printed paper copy of the guidelines and application forms please contact:

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Division of Agricultural Protection and Development Services  
NYS Department of Agriculture  
10 B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

Telephone: 518-457-5606

E-Mail: [John.Brennan@agmkt.state.ny.us](mailto:John.Brennan@agmkt.state.ny.us)

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

Sincerely,



PATRICK HOOKER  
Commissioner