

The Preservation of Agriculture in the Hudson Valley



Mohonk Consultations, Inc.

**THE PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE
HUDSON VALLEY**

Report on

A DIALOGUE WITH FAMILY FARMERS

August 20, 1988

Lake Mohonk, New York

and

Follow-up Activities

Mohonk Consultations, Inc.

Lake Mohonk

New Paltz, N.Y. 12561

1989

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Hudson Valley Center for Agriculture, Local
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Peter Ferrante
Richard O'Connor

Cover drawing:

Kevin Cook

FOREWARD

The Mohonk Consultations on the Earth's Ecosystems is a not-for-profit group dedicated to bringing about a clearer understanding of the interrelationships of all forms of life on earth; to emphasizing the need for the sustainable use of all the earth's resources, and to developing practical means to do so. Mohonk Consultations activities are currently focusing on food security, both at home and abroad.

From its base overlooking the Hudson Valley, Mohonk Consultations has a particular concern for the ecosystem of the Valley. This has led to setting up a Working Group on the Family Farm (see list in Appendix D). This group has a strong representation of farmers and other segments of the community.

Family farming has been a major occupation in the Valley since the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This has given the area its particular charm as well as providing a livelihood for generations of family farmers. However, the farmers of the Hudson Valley today appear to be facing insurmountable problems.

In order to increase understanding of the community about the value of farming, Mohonk Consultations sponsored a one-day workshop at Mohonk Mountain House on August 20, 1988 on The Preservation of Agriculture in the Hudson Valley. The conference brought together planners, legislators, teachers, and other community members with local farmers. The discussion focused on the problems that farmers face in this fast-growing region and what the community can do about it.

This booklet has been prepared to serve as an agenda for action. Mohonk Consultations welcomes responses from the community to the booklet and the program and looks forward to supporting follow-up activities emerging out of the dialogue.

Helen L. Vukasin
Board of Managers
Mohonk Consultations

I. INTRODUCTION

It is especially difficult to make a living on the farm today. Farmers are finding it economically challenging to operate in an increasingly suburban environment. Farms provide the area with scenic beauty and charm. It is in the interest of town residents and businessmen alike to keep agriculture a vital Hudson Valley industry. Today the farmer is thrust into the role of gatekeeper. If working agriculture is forced out of the Valley, the rural character of the community will be lost.

Agriculture in the 1980's is an immensely complicated industry. Farming requires the intelligence of a scientist to cultivate and develop new crops. A farmer must be endowed with the legal understanding of a lawyer in order to function in the morass of government rules and regulations. Furthermore, uncertain meteorologic conditions make farming a higher risk profession than trading stocks on Wall Street.

The presentations and discussions at the workshop were designed to look at these complexities analytically and historically as well as from the perspective of both the farmers and the community. The following sections are summaries of the presentations and discussions.

II. THE WORKING RURAL LANDSCAPE

**Mark Lapping, Dean, College of Architecture and Design,
Kansas State University**

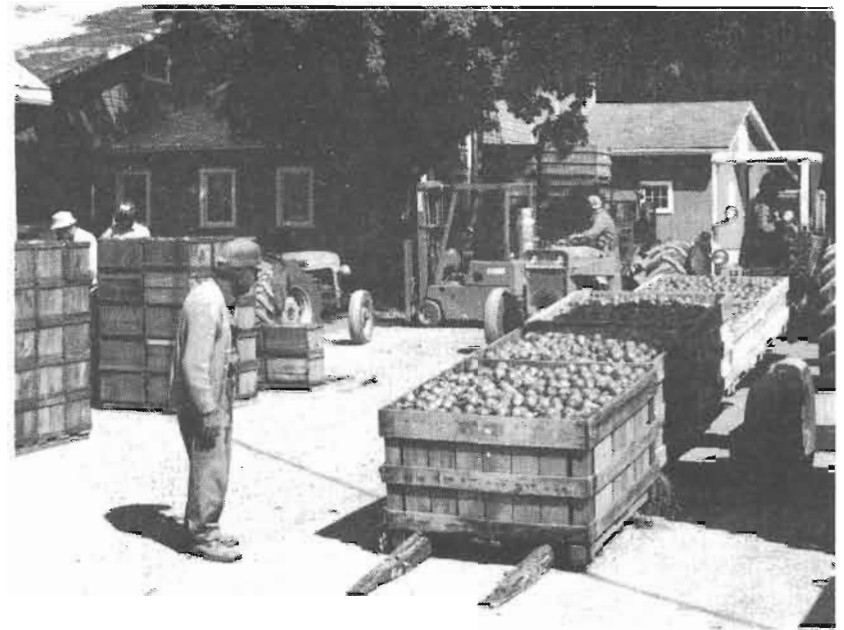
The goal of all rural planning and development must be to create a working rural landscape--one which provides for livelihood, family, and community. It is not enough for the landscape to look healthy; it must be intrinsically healthy. This means it must be productive both for individuals and communities. The concern then is to define agricultural land as a working asset for society. Thus, the focus of these comments will not be upon the aesthetic value of farmland, important as that might be, but rather on the critical need to preserve and enhance agriculture as part of the active economic, social, and community system.



*Farmerettes Picking Currants
Circa 1918, Milton, New York*



*Picking Apples, Early 1900s
Hudson Valley*



*Apple Harvesting 1980s
New Paltz, New York*

The New York State Context

Currently a little over a third of the land in the state of New York is devoted to agricultural use--9 million out of a total of 30.6 million acres. In 1910, nearly 74%, or 22.6 million acres, of New York's total acreage was in farmland. Where then has all the farmland gone? It is popular to blame this change on the rise of the suburbs and the continuing encroachment of the city. This is not the case, at least statewide. Rather, it must be recognized that significant and far reaching changes in agriculture itself have brought this about. Among these are: consolidation of smaller farms into larger ones, to take advantage of certain economies of scale; technological innovations which consistently raise productivity in an age of cheap fuel and capital; and dwindling returns on investment for those farmers unable or unwilling to expand and invest in their operations. These factors have largely contributed to reducing the number of farms and farmers. Indeed, the land in farming at the turn of the century came out of the immense reserve of forestland and the majority of land that has left agriculture in the last several decades has returned to forest use. This ecological juxtaposition, from forest to farm and back to forest, represents what has actually happened to agricultural land in New York and in much of the Northeast. It is, therefore, important to point out that the structural changes in agriculture have coincided with a period of

history when the economic foundations of the industry have also seen many changes, few of which have had a positive impact on the working family farmer.



*Apple Harvester, 1980s
New Paltz, New York*

The Hudson Valley Farm

If this is the case statewide, it is not necessarily the situation in any one region. The analysis of an industry such as agriculture is generally on an aggregate scale. Hence important, perhaps critical, local problems and issues are masked by statistical assessments. This is true for much of this region where not only the demise of the "hill farm", but urbanization have been catalysts for change. The importance of the Mohonk Consultations Conference lies in its emphasis on local problems, local realities and, ultimately, on the need to realize local solutions. Farming in the Hudson Valley region of New York appears to be typical of agriculture near cities. The problems here are only somewhat similar to those operative elsewhere in New York. Farming in any context operates within a complex web of fiscal policy and economic realities. These differences can and must be understood if local, regional, and state policy is to be sensitive and relevant.

Realities of Farming in the Urban Shadow

The characteristics of a piece of land that make it valuable for agriculture often make it desirable for development: relatively flat topography; well-drained soils; accessible water supplies; and proximity to markets. If land-use controls were enough to stem the tide of farmland conversion, the situation would not be viewed with such concern. The reality, however, is that such programs and laws are not enough to withstand the pressure of the declining economic viability of agriculture and the skewed land values which accompany urbanization and suburbanization of historically agricultural areas. In the face of declining farm incomes, instability in the agricultural trade sector, and the pressures created by growth and change, it is difficult for the farmer to resist conversion and sale to developers.

Farming in any region of the United States is no longer a self-reliant process. Farmers depend upon many off-farm inputs in making a living. Thus, seed, farm machinery and repair shops, veterinarians, and many other services and supplies are central to a successful farm enterprise. These businesses also depend upon the farmers. Every time a farm goes out of production, the prospect for survival of local agribusiness becomes more tenuous. And this, in turn, makes those remaining in production increasingly vulnerable. It must be understood how important "critical mass" is for successful agriculture. What is important is the preservation of enough farms to support local agribusinesses which will support those in production. Farmers who operate in urbanizing areas do so in an atmosphere of uncertainty. As with any industry, agriculture requires constant reinvestment. If modernization or expansion does not take place, then the viability of the farm enterprise is in jeopardy.

Closely related to the previous two points is the right to farm. The right-to-farm problem often occurs in an area undergoing a shift in land use from agriculture to a mixture of rural non-farm. When one or two farmers sell to developers, within a short time the remaining farmers are surrounded by new residences. The attractiveness of the area has been established by the farmers and potential residents are drawn to the place because of the open space, clean air, rural lifestyle, and beauty created by a working agriculture. Local non-farm residents soon discover that farmers operate their machinery at all times of the day and night. Noise and odors emanate from the farmland. These realities of farming become perceived as nuisances. The response has been the promulgation of local ordinances to enjoin farm operations, law suits to prevent farming, and other forms of legalistic harassment. It soon becomes obvious the new settlers want farmland without farmers.

Right-to-farm laws, which are now in existence in almost every state, attempt to protect agriculture from these sorts of attacks.

Few people genuinely understand the connection and linkage between aesthetics, clean air and water, soil conservation, wildlife, and farming. These and other amenities are products of a working rural landscape in which agriculture is the operative force and goods are generally underpriced. Farmers, forestland owners, and others create much that is of genuine value and importance to us. Yet, they receive no reward for this contribution. Along with a cheap food policy in the United States it becomes very difficult to keep farmers and farmland in production. We appear to be committed to policies that create dependency upon subsidies rather than on a fair return for labor and other inputs. Many of the things farmers create or enhance do not translate into marketplace values.

Farmland in different places has different characteristics. Farmland in the Hudson Valley, for example, has a greater degree of versatility than land in Kansas. Unique microclimates, soil characteristics, hydrological aspects, and farming techniques combine to create differences. The loss of viable agriculture in the Hudson Valley means that a nationally distinctive system of production has been lost. We can ill afford to lose such versatile land.

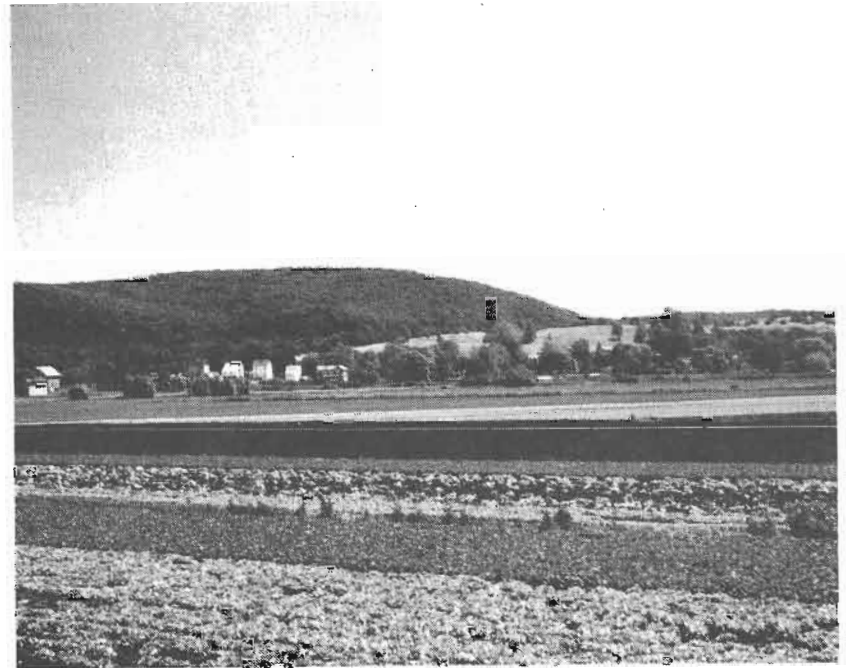
Lastly, agriculture in the urban shadow must confront tenure and intergenerational transfer issues. As much of the land in the region passes from farmers to absentee owners, decisions about the future disposition of the land tend to pass from local to non-local levels. Thus, a further element of uncertainty is introduced when the decision making is no longer vested in the local community. If agriculture is to remain a viable industry in the region, there must be concern for the next generation of Hudson Valley farmers. At least one member of the farm household will have an off-farm job to support the agricultural enterprise. Well over half of American farm families currently depend on off-farm occupations and the percentage is likely to grow in the future.

Some Concluding Thoughts

The problem of the loss of farmland is often distorted by local planning and zoning. Though local plans are filled with the rhetoric of farmland preservation and the need to enhance the economic viability of agriculture, zoning policies, infrastructure investments, and other elements of public policy have tended to constrain these important goals.

The value of farming for society is not clearly understood today. Where there is little understanding, appreciation is also lacking. The current state of affairs betrays a fundamental lack of interest in agricultural affairs among Americans. The current initiatives to bring agriculture into the classrooms of New York might help to broaden the base of those who have an understanding and appreciation of rural life.

If Americans think in terms of agriculture at all, it is rarely as a major economic sector. When economic development is discussed agriculture is seldom considered. Until such time as we think of farming as an industry, and one worthy of attention and investment, we will continue to fail to genuinely support Hudson Valley agriculture.



*Produce Farming
Wallkill Valley, New York*

III. FAMILY FARMERS SPEAK A Panel Discussion

Introduction - Charles Wille, Chair, New York State Farm Bureau

The New York State Farm Bureau is a general farm organization representing all the agricultural interests in the State. This 23,000 member agricultural advocacy group lobbies at the local, state, and national level.

Some of the problems facing farmers are suburbanization, cheap food policies, conversion of farmland to forestland, high cost of running farming enterprises, and the need for off-farm jobs to supplement farm income. Farmers are supported by the Agricultural District Law and some of its provisions. This law provides farmers with a lower agricultural tax assessment for land in active production. The Agricultural Review Act suggests that there should be the same type of recognition for agriculture as there is for environmental concerns. There is also some hope for the future in the advanced technologies that increase production and lower operating costs. The public prefers to pay less rather than more. In doing so, they give up some of the things that would make a better society.



*Direct Marketing - Then
Milton, New York*



*Direct Marketing - Now
New Paltz, New York*

Economic Opportunities and Challenges of Family Farming

Peter Ferrante, President, Ulster County Farm Bureau, Ulster County Farmer

Opportunities

Direct marketing - Direct marketing is a major opportunity for some farmers, though not for all. The Ferrante family has used direct marketing with great success. The Hudson Valley has customers and people that recognize quality products and enjoy purchasing them directly from the farm.

Land Values - The increase in land values in the Hudson Valley has benefited farmers. It gives the farmer added security, an increase in equity, borrowing power, and more peace of mind about the alternatives to farming.

Government - Another support for family farming is government. In New York, state and local government are aware of agriculture and

some of the problems of agriculture. They are promoting and trying to increase the general health of agriculture. Cooperative extension programs, the Agricultural District Law, marketing and promotional programs, and educational efforts such as Agriculture in the Classroom are some of the ways government has provided support.

Challenges

Marketing - Farmers of the Hudson Valley are competing in the world market not just with other states. Direct marketing is successful only as long as it is competitive with products from other states and other countries.

Land Values - Land is an asset that should provide a return on investment. Every decision regarding farming is made with opportunity costs in mind. Does farming provide a return competitive with that from other uses of the land? In strictly economic terms, the answer for the Hudson Valley is no. The element that keeps family farmers in business is often the pride and satisfaction the farm family derives from managing the land generation after generation. Besides the value of the land itself there are other capital costs: equipment; buildings; interest rates. These costs continue to rise.

Labor - Farmers are competing for labor in a region where local labor is practically non-existent. While average farm wages are above the minimum wage, they are still not competitive with many other jobs in the region. Even when they are competitive, the work is much harder. The result is that farmers depend on recruiting labor from other areas or other countries. This creates an additional set of problems in dealing with immigration regulations, housing and other issues related to migrant labor. If labor is unavailable the farmer cannot continue to produce.

Government - Government is often under-informed and over-involved. Regulations supporting light industry may not be practical or supportive of farming. The increasing number of regulations even when supportive are a burden to the working farmer. Complying with the law may force shifts in farming practices that impact negatively on the ability of the farmer to compete.

Taxation - Taxation is another challenge. While the Agricultural District Law provides for fair value of the land, it does not include tax rate guidelines. Taxes for the farmer rise as the population in the region grows, even though the farmland does not require or directly benefit from the increased services.

Conclusion

One possible approach to help the farmer meet these challenges is for county and local governments to form an advisory board that includes farmers, technical experts and lobbyists to inform legislators on the impact of proposed legislation before it is enacted.

Compatibility of Agriculture and Suburbia

Rod Dressel, Ulster County Farmer

The contradictions and pressures resulting from government regulations can be a strong inducement to farmers to sell off land and leave farming. Farmers are hard pressed to deal with the legal expense and time required to combat all the legal challenges. Often government officials are misinformed. The press sometimes exacerbates the problem. For example, the regulations regarding safe use of pesticides are sometimes unrealistic. For the public it is an expression of concern for farm workers; for farmers it may be harassment. The availability of farmland for recreation as the area becomes suburbanized is a problem for farmers. Trespassing on farmland creates potential dangers to the public because of farm machinery, pesticide residue, and possible injury while on the property. For the farmer it means increases in liability insurance and/or difficulties in purchasing insurance.

Another conflict between farming and suburbia is the proximity of residential land to farmland. City dwellers moving to the country soon begin to complain about farm practices even though the rural farm situation drew them out of the city. The noise, odors and dust are but a few of the many complaints. The farmers have neither time nor energy to deal with complaints that stem from the normal hazards of the use of their land for agricultural production.

Another complaint of residential land users concerns farmers selling off some of their less productive land. Farmers must make cost/benefit decisions about the use of land that is marginally productive. This sometimes means selling property adjacent to residential land. It is important that the community understand these kinds of decisions rather than harassing farmers who need to sell some of their land.

To support farmers in the Hudson Valley so that they can provide fresh, inexpensive food for the consumer and make a reasonable living requires less government control, restrictions on farming, and legal and paper work in general. Increased communication between government regulation agencies and farmers is critical to the preservation of agriculture in the Hudson Valley.

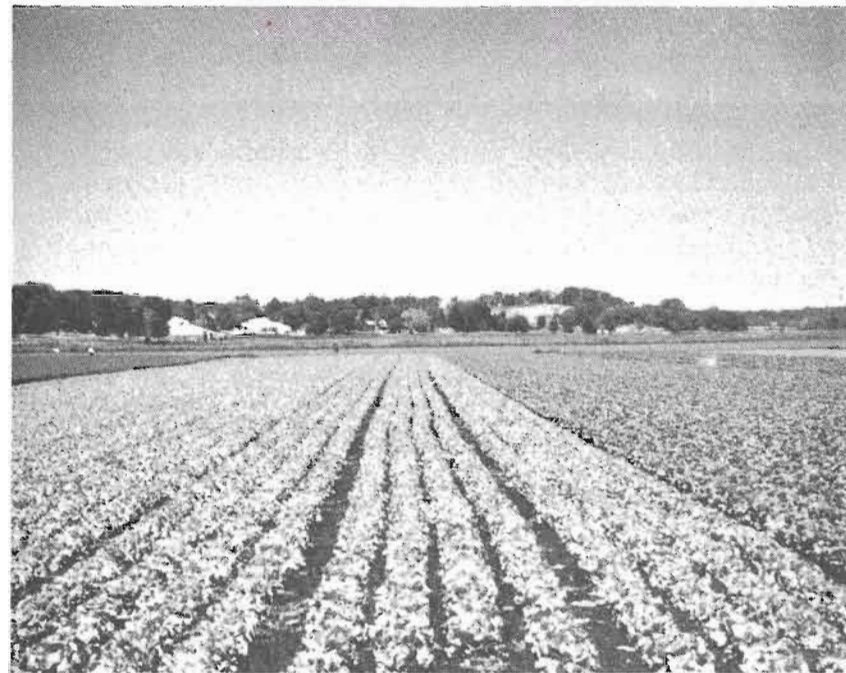
New Strategies for Marketing Farm Products

William Wetmore, Dutchess County Vintner

A form of direct marketing which includes retailing to individual consumers and wholesaling to institutions such as restaurants is one possible way to assure continuation of farming in the Hudson Valley.

Public awareness is a critical element in this strategy. People often do not know that local products are available or where to find them. Vintners in this region are joining with other kinds of producers to market cooperatively.

In Dutchess County, a Dutchess County Growers Association has been formed. With a grant from New York State, the group has coordinated sales and delivery of products with two rented trucks. The challenge then is to increase demand. The public needs to become aware that the following locally produced foods are available: cheese, duck livers, venison, buffalo, beef, lamb, veal, fresh vegetables, specialty vegetables, and wines. The quality and freshness of Hudson Valley products keep producers in the competitive market nationally and globally. Informing the public of the uniqueness, freshness and quality will help to make farming profitable and thereby preserve the farmland.



*Produce Farming
New Paltz, New York*

IV. PRIORITY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE Small Group Discussions

There were five major areas that were considered in the small groups:

1. Protection of farmland resources
2. Education
3. Communications
4. Local planning/government
5. Pesticides

The general consensus was that farming is a very important part of the community and that it must be protected. There are various facets of agriculture that contribute to the quality of life. The charm and beauty of the rural landscape, the economic contribution, and the community's very survival are just a few. General lack of awareness by both the public at large and public officials are in part responsible for some of the problems facing farmers. Thus education about agriculture directed to various sectors of the community can help promote better understand-

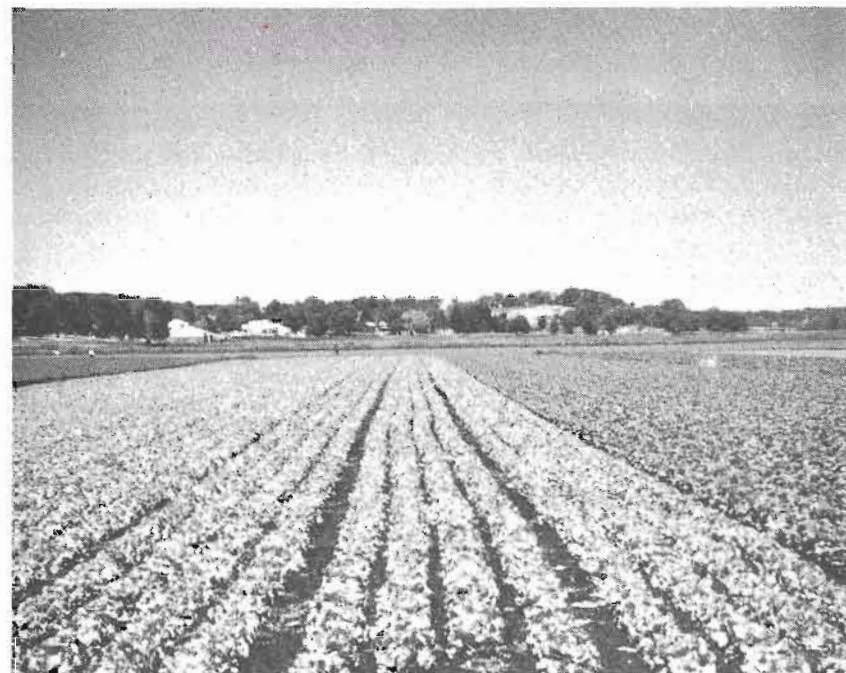
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ing. The education of school children is one way of fostering appreciation of agriculture, and improvement of existing agricultural curricula. Another means of increasing awareness is to focus attention on agriculture and increase the visibility of the benefits and problems in the media. The media can help to foster a better image of farmers and agriculture-related industries. This will also contribute to informing local planning boards, regulatory agencies, and legislature, that determine the policies affecting the operation of family farms.

There is a need for locally based incentives for agriculture in the form of taxes and zoning. Local planning boards should include members that are sensitive to and represent the interests of the farmer. The layers of bureaucracy, that impose an ever increasing load of regulations on farms, need to be trimmed. Relations between farmers and non-farmers with respect to the use of pesticides could be improved with more information about how they are used. Safety concerns can be presented in more realistic terms. The small group discussions of the community with the farmers were a start toward better relations and the results were noticeable to those present.

A summary of the issues presented by the farmers from their perspective and those from the prospective of the community elicited in the small group discussions can be found in Appendix A.



*Farming in the Shadow of Mohonk
Wallkill Valley, New York*

V. THE FUTURE OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE HUDSON VALLEY - An Agenda for Action

Robert Wagner, Facilitator

The focus of the final plenary session was on how the community could help and recommendations for action. Following are suggestions generated during the discussions.

Suggestions and Recommendations for Action

1. Farm/Non Farm Relations

- promote understanding and a response by the media
- inform prospective home owners about the constraints of living next to rural agricultural land
- promote a broader education on farm issues
- provide opportunities for farmers to exchange with the community

2. Education

- a. Promote activities for school children that will generate understanding. For example:
 - create community gardens
 - arrange field trips to farms
 - develop demonstration farms and promote tours
 - educate guidance counselors about opportunities in agriculture
 - create a school/farm work program
 - encourage farmers to be involved
 - produce a video on farming in the Hudson Valley
 - prepare a resource guide for teaching purposes
 - initiate a "pepsi challenge" for farm products
- b. Provide information about agriculture as it relates to the particular concerns of the community. Following are some suggestions to help inform the general public.
 - promote an understanding of the threats to the future of farming in the Hudson Valley through research-based information
 - create a positive image by providing information about the role of agriculture in economic development

- inform the community regarding the relation of the price of food and the economics of agriculture
 - involve non-farmers in the cause of better understanding
 - integrate agriculture into other community issues
 - relate the role of farms to environmental issues and the value of the rural character of land
 - require disclosure of adjacent agricultural land activities to potential buyers of property before closing on the sale of property
- c. Inform local officials who are directly involved in creating policies that directly impact farmers. Following are some suggestions:
- create opportunities for contact with farmers
 - provide nonconfrontational discussions of pending regulations, for example, a forum or an advisory committee

3. Marketing

- develop innovative marketing strategies
- create new opportunities for marketing
- encourage cooperation and coordination among growers in marketing products

4. Local Planning and Taxation

- a. Promote new ideas and build on experience in other localities for planning that is less disruptive and more supportive of agriculture. Some examples are:
- tighten zoning regulations adding compensation for loss of control of purchase of development rights; use Wisconsin Exclusive Agriculture Development as a model
 - use land banks to promote creative development
 - promote clustering of residential development in locations where there are adequate water and sewers
 - revive main streets to discourage shopping center sprawl
 - transfer development rights to encourage growth of community centers
 - employ leasing of development rights
 - inform legislators and local officials regarding: community costs of development; comparison of use of community serv-

ices by agriculture and by development; consideration of value to the community of open farmland when assigning assessment values

- b. Assist farmers by lessening or shifting tax burdens, some ideas are:
- utilize land trusts to gain tax advantage
 - fund farmland protection through real estate taxes or by transferring taxes to fund protection efforts
 - reduce burden of taxes for inheritance of farmland
 - promote tax incentives that encourage continued use of land for agriculture

5. Regulation and Use of Pesticides

- encourage use of biological pest management, as well as techniques used in the past, to reduce use of chemicals
- support research for safer products and technologies
- encourage local officials to seek full information before passing on regulations
- avoid sudden changes in regulations that do not allow farmers to plan ahead
- support ban on export of pesticides that are banned in the United States and regulate imports treated with banned substances
- encourage local environmentalists to work together with farmers

Conclusion

Family farmers in the Hudson Valley are faced with a great number of complexities and challenges in the rapidly changing region. The increasing suburbanization, government regulations, and labor shortages put the region's agriculture in jeopardy. There are no easy solutions to the myriad of problems presented. Clearly, there is a need to increase the public awareness of agriculture's precarious position in the Hudson Valley. Despite all the difficulties farmers are faced with today, many of them choose to stay in agriculture. To them, the family farm is a way of life. Ulster County farmer, Rod Dressel repeated a story he had heard at a farmers meeting. "A farmer was asked what he would do if he won the million dollar lottery. The farmer replied that he would keep farming until the million dollars are gone."

VI. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP FOLLOWING THE DIALOGUE ON THE FAMILY FARM

Following the meeting in August 1988, the Working Group continued to meet. The group has continued to foster a better understanding of agriculture in the Hudson Valley. In 1989 with an increase in active members, the working group prepared a mission statement and plan of activities. (See Appendix D for a complete list of members of the Working Group.)

Statement of Purpose and Mission of the Working Group on the Family Farm

Purposes

To work as a coalition of farmers, public officials, and the general community to:

1. Preserve and protect productive agricultural land as a natural resource.
2. Promote a climate which leads to a successful farming economy (land use planning, environmental and economic issues) and the retention of the Hudson Valley's agrarian and agricultural heritage.
3. Promote and support public policy, laws and action toward farmland preservation and the protection and improvement of agriculture.
4. Encourage and sustain an atmosphere of improved cooperation, mutual respect and support among citizens, organizations and governments toward recognition of the importance of agriculture as one of our most cherished resources.

Mission

1. To inform public officials at all levels of government, but particularly on the local, municipal level on:

- a. the value of agriculture as one of Ulster County's largest industries and agriculture's crucial role in Ulster County's tourism industry;
- b. the value of agriculture in terms of tax base, specifically the fact that agricultural and other open space land taxes subsidize other sectors within the municipality;
- c. the retention of agricultural lands as a means to encourage and facilitate efficient use of non-agricultural lands for housing and development;
- d. techniques for sustaining viable, profitable agricultural and agricultural-related business;
- e. proven techniques for farmland preservation, including both public and private preservation tools;
- f. the value of a local food source--fruit, vegetables, dairy, meats and processed food (cider, cheese, etc.).

To do this through presentations to municipal officials (including elected, planning, zoning, code, environmental and master plan officials) designed to address community specific issues and to facilitate local policy favoring agriculture.

2. To inform the public-at-large on the importance of preserving and encouraging agriculture not only for the economic base but for its cultural, historic, social and environmental value, through an annual or bi-annual agricultural event designed to involve a broad spectrum of community, civic, educational and political organizations.
3. To involve the Ulster County Development Corporation and the Ulster County Public Information Office on agricultural issues and to encourage their active participation in the development and protection of agriculture.

The Working Group is liaising with other groups in Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Green and Columbia Counties to coordinate activities toward these goals.

APENDIX A

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

From the Perspective of the Farmer

1. Labor costs
 - increasing costs
 - scarcity of labor
2. Land use and values
3. Government regulations
 - under-informed
 - over-involved
4. Competition
 - global vs. local
5. Tax rates
 - increasing
6. Increased capital costs
7. Marketing
8. Public image of farmer
9. Preservation of agriculture
10. Bureaucratic pressures
11. Pesticide use
 - benefits vs. risks
12. Public trespassing
13. Chemical supports (sprays)
 - alarm on part of community
14. Relations with non-farm neighbors
15. Community cooperation
16. Education
 - community awareness and understanding

From the Community Perspective

1. Protection of Farmland Resources
 - Quality of life (open spaces)
 - Economic contribution
 - Future resources
 - Protection of resource space
 - Survival
 - Preservation of prime farmland

2. Education

- Lack of awareness of:
 - General public
 - Public officials
- Improvement of agricultural curriculum
- Education of school children

3. Communications

- Farmers and community
- Media image

4. Local Planning/Government

- Need for new concepts in planning
- Need for local based incentives for agriculture
 - (taxes & zoning)
- Composition of local planning board
- Bureaucracy

5. Pesticides

- Relations between farmers and non-farmers

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

Welcome - A. Keith Smiley, Mohonk Consultations, Inc.

Introduction to the Program - Helen L. Vukasin, International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

Keynote Speech - The Working Rural Landscape - Mark Lapping, Dean, College of Architecture and design, Kansas State University

Introduction by Glenn Hoagland, Dutchess County Land Conservancy

Family Farmers Speak - Moderator, Charles Wille, New York State Farm Bureau

Economic Opportunities and Challenges for Family Farmers - Peter Ferrante, Ulster County

Compatibility of Agriculture and Suburbia - Rod Dressel, Ulster County

New Strategies in Marketing Farm Products - William Wetmore, Dutchess County

Small Group Dialogues with Farmers - Identifying priority challenges and opportunities from the community perspective

Imagine the Hudson Valley Without Farms - Children's presentation by Fantasy Flavor Players and Elizabeth Askue

Summary of Small Group Discussions - Helen L. Vukasin

The Future of Family Farming in the Hudson Valley
- Facilitator - Robert Wagner, American Farmland Trust
- What Can the Community Do to Help?
- Summary of Recommendations for Action.

APPENDIX C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

John Winthrop Aldrich	Dr. Mark B. Lapping
Marcella Appell	Daniel Leader
Elizabeth Askue	Jay LeFevre
David Barnett	Lisa Melville
Gerald Benjamin	Alison S. Meyer
Matthew Bialezki	William Minard
Anne C. Bienstock	Tom Miner
Edward C. Blaustein	Amy O'Connor
William J.D. Boyd	John Osborne
Eleanor Brown	William Otis
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Butler	Beatrice and Harry Parker
Douglas Carrier	John B. Patrick
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Clarke	Karen Larsson-Pone
Carla M. Cooke	Laura Rethier
Barbara C. Davenport	Susan R. Reynolds
Joan K. Davidson	Julian & Rochelle Ripple
Robert F. Dibble	Joel S. Russell
Rod Dressel	Whitty Sanford
Gerald F. DuBois	Judy L. Schneyer
Herbert Eschbach	Mrs. John L. Schoonmaker
Peter Fairweather	Virginia B. Schoonmaker
Peter Ferrante	Robert Schoonover
Kara Fishman	William Schwarz
Glenn Gidaly	Gerow Smiley
Lynne Gilson	Jane R. Smiley
Robert Greig	A. Keith Smiley
Dan Guenther	William H. Smiley
Janice and Keith Handy	Winifred H. Smiley
Dr. Kenneth Harris	Harriet Straus
Janet T. Hillestad	Catherine Swahn
Glenn Hoagland	Ralph E. Swenson
Carol Hoehe	Maria Urquidi
John & Frances Hofler	Helen L. Vukasin
Harold Hogan	Robert C. Wagner
Shirley Kobran	Laura F. Walls
Liana Hoodes	Dwight Wareham
Gareth A. Howard	Seward Weber
Leslie Hulcoop	William Wetmore
Jerome & Phillips Hurd	Charles E. Wille
Lucy T. Joyce	Betsy Wise
George Kaufmann	Arthur C. Woodcock
Norman Kellar	Charles H. Youngs

APPENDIX D

MEMBERS OF THE MOHONK CONSULTATIONS WORKING GROUP ON FAMILY FARMS

Ms. Elizabeth Askue League of Women Voters	Keith Smiley, Chair Mohonk Consultations
Gerald Benjamin, Ulster County Legislator, Majority Leader	Sam Smith, Farmer
Eleanor Brown, District Representative for Congressman Matt McHugh	Charles Stokes Professor Emeritus
Alice Cross, Teacher	Ralph Swenson, Farmer
Robert Dibble, USDA Soil Conservation Service	Helen Vukasin, Coordinator Working Group
Rod Dressel, Farmer	Robert Wagner, American Farmland Trust
Peter Ferrante, Farmer	Charles Wille, New York State Farm Bureau
Robert Greig, Farmer	Betsy Wise, N.Y. State Farm Bureau
Harold Hogan Cooperative Extension Office	
Glenn Hoagland Dutchess Land Conservancy	
Christopher Meier, Farmer	
Tom Miner, Catskill Center for Conservation	
Virginia Schoonmaker Mohonk Consultations	
Gerow Smiley Smiley Brothers, Inc.	

MEMBERS JOINING SINCE THE MEETING ON AUGUST 20, 1988

Peter Fairweather Institute for Development, Planning and Land Use Studies	Jeanette Provenzano N.Y. State Office of Senator Gray
Glenn Gidaly	Steve Ruelke Wallkill Valley Land Trust
Senator E. Arthur Gray New York State Senate	Elizabeth Ryan Breezy Hill Orchard
Elizabeth Gromeman	Judy L. Schneyer Dutchess County Coopera- tive Extension
Percy Gazlay Friends of Historic Rochester	Ira Stearn Rondout Valley Land Con- servancy
Lucy Joyce Cooperative Extension of Orange County	Joe Sullivan N.Y. State Office of Senator Gray
Cary McDonald Ulster County EMC	Kristen Vermilye
Don Martin New Paltz Village Board	Laura Walls, Co-Chair Working Group on Family Farms
Margaret Miller Friends of Historic Rochester	William Wetmore Cascade Valley Winery
Amos & Melody Newcombe	
Mary Lee Noden Cornell University	

