

Did you know?

Despite its high urban influence, over 8,600 acres of farmland are located within the Westchester Agricultural District, and Westchester remains an important player in New York State agriculture. Westchester County farms have consistently outperformed the national average growth in sales revenues in recent years, led by the greenhouse, nursery, and equine sectors.

In fact, Westchester is one of the state's largest producers of tomatoes, has one of the fastest growing greenhouse sectors, and is home to the highest valued equine sector in the state. Farming is also important to the general economy through its linkages to other



industries and its employment effects. Every dollar in total farm output leads to an additional 42 cents in local economic activity. The location of Westchester County within the the New York metropolitan market means outstanding opportunities for high value agricultural niche products.

*Agriculture in Westchester County
has something for everyone:
Business Opportunity, Quality of Life,
Community Character, Environmental
Protection, and Fresh Food!*

Farmland requires little in terms of public services from local governments but rewards its citizens with restful open spaces and links to cultural heritage, provides tourism opportunities, and offers relief from congestion and sprawl. Many of Westchester's most scenic vistas contain the working landscapes of agriculture.

As America's food supply moves farther away from its cities, local sources of fresh fruits and vegetables will continue to increase in desirability and value.



I didn't think of that!

Westchester County residents, and everyone who drinks from the New York City water supply, enjoy the immediate environmental benefits of agriculture. A well-managed farm surpasses it's typical alternative, residential and commercial development, in watershed protection. Given that much of Westchester's agriculture is in long-term crops and permaculture, such as hay, pasture, and nursery stock or under conservation practices, the many environmental advantages afforded the County include large areas of permeable (unpaved) surfaces for rain water to move through and be filtered of pollutants on its way to reservoir systems and groundwater supplies that provide drinking water to the citizens of Westchester County and the New York metropolitan area. Instead of automobile emissions, crops use carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Agriculture supports wildlife habitat as well, found in the meadows, streams, ponds, and woodlands on agricultural lands.



Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

Agriculture provides benefits to all Westchester residents. Maintaining a healthy agricultural industry in Westchester County is critical to protecting our environment, preserving our culture, enhancing our scenic vistas, and providing fresh food and economic opportunities. The Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) is charged with protecting this critical industry so that future generations can benefit as well. The AFPB is made up of farmers, agribusiness people, citizens, and public officials. **To learn more about local agriculture and the AFPB, go to the link at:**

www.westchestergov.com/agriculture



Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
c/o Westchester County Department of Planning
Room 432, 148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Westchester
gov.com

Agriculture!

Westchester County's Best Kept Secret



Agriculture & Farmland
Protection Board
of Westchester County