



Madison County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

July 2005

Madison County Farmland Protection Board

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rocco J. DiVeronica, *Chairman*
Madison County Board of Supervisors

Russell Lura, *Assistant to the Chairman*
Madison County Board of Supervisors

Madison County Farmland Protection Board

Karen Baase, *Ex Officio*

Richard Bargabos

Rudy Braun

Carol Brophy, *Ex Officio*

Steven Durfee, *Chair*

Fay Lyon

Jack Miller, *Ex Officio*

Terry Mosher

Paul Orth, *Chair*

MCSWCD

Bee Tolman

Calvin Wood

Madison County Planning, Economic Development, Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

James V. Rafte, *Chair*

Walt Jaquay, *Vice Chair*

Timothy L. Hunt

Alexander R. Stepanski

Timothy S. Winters

Funding for this Plan was provided by a grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets with a local match provided by Madison County and including funds from a separate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant.

Table of Contents

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
INTRODUCTION	4
DESCRIPTION OF MADISON COUNTY	5
AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES	6
HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE	9
MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURE	14
MADISON COUNTY SOILS	23
DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS	24
DESCRIPTION OF THE GOALS	26
MAPS	
New York State	31
Topography of Madison County	32
Soil Capability Classes of Madison County	33
Major Agricultural Uses by Tax Assessment Classification	34
Unspecified Farmland – in Production and Abandoned	35
Agricultural Districts	36
APPENDICES	37
Cover Letter & Farmland Owner Survey	38
Agricultural Preservation Techniques	44
Agribusiness Survey Report	52
Number of Farms in Madison County	58
Farmland Use in Madison County	59
Number of Madison Farms Distributed by Farm Classification	60
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	61
Madison County Farms Harvesting Cropland Distributed by Crop	62
Acreage of Harvested Cropland Distributed by Crop	63
Madison County Livestock Inventories	64
Muckland Issues	65
Beef Production in Madison County	76
Alpacas in Madison County	80
Hops as a Specialty Crop	83
Fenner & Madison Wind Farms	90