

Meet the People Making Local Conservation Happen:

Talks, Tastes, and a Tour!

Part Two: Conserving Farmland

June 13th, 6:00-8:30PM @ Indian Ladder Farms

Event Co-Sponsored by: Town of Bethlehem, Town of New Scotland, Albany County, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, Delmar Farmers Market, and Indian Ladder Farms.

Welcome!

6:00 – 6:30	Relax, enjoy the barn, learn from displays, taste craft beverages and farm-to-table foods
6:30 – 8:00	Short talks by local and regional farmers and farm support organizations
8:00 – 8:30	Questions, answers, and discussion with our speakers

Thank you to our speakers for sharing their farmland conservation stories:

Peter G. Ten Eyck, II: Indian Ladder Farms, Owner. Welcome to Indian Ladder Farms! In 1916, Peter's father, Peter Gansevoort Ten Eyck I, opened Indian Ladder Farms (ILF) as an apple orchard supplying Albany Public Markets and a dairy with approximately 100 head of award-winning Guernsey cattle. Today, the centennial farm, protected forever with a conservation easement, is a well-loved local landmark complete with scenic views of the Helderberg Escarpment; you-pick apples, berries and pumpkins; educational programs and guided hikes; a farm store and café; and a bustling series of events held at the newly opened ILF Cidery and Brewery. The farm is currently operated by the fourth generation of the Ten Eyck family. Now enjoying a well-deserved retirement, as his daughter and son co-manage the farm and business, Peter says, "Having a place where people can observe and participate in the process of growing food is worth doing." **Contact Peter: 518-765-2956, www.indianladderfarms.com**



New York State Commissioner of Agriculture, Richard A. Ball: Commissioner Ball has served as Commissioner of Agriculture since 2014. Richard began his career in agriculture at the age of 18, working on a vegetable farm in Rhode Island. For the last 25 years, he has been the proud owner and operator of Schoharie Valley Farms, consisting of 200 acres and producing vegetables, small fruits, and greenhouse crops. The farm serves both retail and wholesale consumers through an onsite farm market. Richard has held a number of positions within agriculture and community organizations at the local, state and national level, including the NYS Vegetable Growers Association, the New York Farm Bureau, the American Farm Bureau, and the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer on the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Board of Directors and as the NASDA Food Regulation Committee Chair. He is also the President of Food Export Northeast. Richard's family is proudly engaged in the farm operation in Schoharie. Find out about the **NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Implementation Grants** program (Purchase of Development Rights): **contact David Behm, 518-485-7729, david.behm@agriculture.ny.gov. Contact the Commissioner's office: Jola Szubielski at: 518-457-0752, jola.szubielski@agriculture.ny.gov, www.agriculture.ny.gov.**

Albany County Executive, Daniel P. McCoy: Daniel P. McCoy is currently serving his second term as the fourth Albany County Executive. As County Executive, Dan has prioritized open space protection and fostering economic development opportunities from Albany to the Hilltowns and focused on the importance of partnerships and innovative ideas to improve county programs. One of these partnerships is the county's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, which was updated in 2018. The plan update involved participation from many agencies and municipalities and the goals and initiatives in the plan include working with partners toward goals to protect farmland and enhance the agricultural industry in Albany County. **Contact the County: Laura DeGaetano, Senior Natural Resource Planner, 518-447-5670, laura.DeGaetano@albanycountyny.gov, www.albanycounty.com (Department of Economic Development, Conservation, and Planning)**



Town of Bethlehem Supervisor, David VanLuven : David joined the Bethlehem Town Board in 2016 and was elected as Town Supervisor in 2017. He previously served on the Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Assessment Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation. Professionally, David has worked in land conservation for over 30 years. He has directed the NY Natural Heritage Program in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and launched The Nature Conservancy's Hudson River Estuary Program. David is a strong supporter of the conservation of forests, fields, and farms. **Contact David: 518-439-4955 x 1164, dvanluven@townofbethlehem.org, www.townofbethlehem.org**

Town of New Scotland Supervisor, Douglas LaGrange: Doug was elected to the New Scotland Town Board in 2005 after serving for 4 years on the Planning Board. His first sponsored bill was a Right-To-Farm law to help protect farms and their inherent ability to provide open space. Doug was elected as Town Supervisor in 2015 and until August of 2017 was active in his family's dairy farm. Doug continues to focus, through his town positions, on land conservation and farmland preservation. **Contact Doug: 518-439-4889, dlagrange@townofnewscotland.com, www.townofnewscotland.com**



American Farmland Trust: Erica Goodman, New York State Deputy Director. Since its founding in 1980, American Farmland Trust (AFT) has helped permanently protect more than 6.5 million acres of agricultural lands, advanced environmentally-sound farming practices on millions of additional acres, and supported thousands of farm families to stay on the land. AFT helped launch the conservation agriculture movement and continues to raise public awareness through its "No Farms No Food" message. As New York State Deputy Director, Erica helps lead AFT's programs in New York that focus on supporting farmers in accessing and transferring farmland. This

includes coordination of the **Hudson Valley Farmlink Network**, a partnership of 17 organizations offering the Hudson Valley Farmland Finder website (an online farmer and farmland owner matching system), training and networking events, and one-on-one assistance for farmers and landowners. In 2018, AFT launched **Farmland for a New Generation New York** in partnership with the State of New York, to provide similar services across New York through an AFT-staffed resource center and network of Regional Navigator organizations. **Hudson Valley Farmlink Network and Hudson Valley Farmland Finder contact: 518-581-0078, hvff@farmland.org, www.hudsonvalleyfarmlandfinder.org. Farmland for a New Generation New York contact: 1-844-737-6506, fngny@farmland.org, www.nyfarmlandfinder.org. Contact Erica: 518-581-0078, egoodman@farmland.org, www.farmland.org**

New York Farm Bureau: Renée St. Jacques, Assistant Director of Public Policy. The mission of New York Farm Bureau, a non-governmental volunteer organization, is to “serve and strengthen agriculture”. The Farm Bureau is financed and controlled by member families for the purpose of solving economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural industry. Farm Bureau’s “grassroots” policy development process begins at the county level with problem identification and culminates at the annual meeting with resolutions addressing the issues. Programs include farm promotion and education, advocacy and legal resources, and a young farmers and ranchers program. **Contact Renée: 518-436-8495, rstjacques@nyfb.org, www.nyfb.org**

Indian Ladder Farms (New Scotland, Albany Co.): Laurie Ten Eyck, Co-Manager and Farmer. Indian Ladder Farms, an iconic centennial farm at the base of the Helderberg Escarpment, contains 325 acres of apple orchards, berry and pumpkin fields (pick-your-own); a retail store, café and bakery; a thriving cidery and brewery, event spaces, and educational areas offering summer “Barn School” and other opportunities for children and families. Weddings and other celebratory events on the farm are frequent. Agritourism is thriving at this destination farm. Laurie Ten Eyck, a fourth generation family member, led the successful effort to extinguish the development rights on the majority of the farmland to protect her family’s farm forever. In 2003, ILF was the first farm in Albany County to receive the state’s grant for purchase of development rights (PDR). Partnerships with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, the Open Space Institute, the Town of New Scotland, and friends of the farm were critical in contributing funds and expertise to complete this large conservation project. A permanent agricultural conservation easement on the farm will travel with the deed and protect the farmland from development in perpetuity. In 2015, Laurie, in partnership with her husband, Dietrich Gehring, has also published a book *The Hop Grower’s Handbook*, which focuses on farming hops sustainably. **Contact Laurie at: 518-765-2956, www.indianladderfarms.com**



Photo: Indian Ladder Farms



Photo: Bridget Kelly, Laughing Earth Farm

Laughing Earth Farm (Brunswick, Rensselaer Co.): Annie and Zack Metzger, Owners and Farmers. Laughing Earth Farm has been an active farm for over 200 years and is now protected forever by a conservation easement held by the Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA) and farmed by new owners, Annie and Zack Metzger. This farm conservation and farmer transition project is truly an example of collaboration and support made possible by multiple partners, including the retiring former farm owners, ASA, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Equity Trust, and Scenic Hudson. Additional support was provided by American Farmland Trust and Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation. The farm is also on the NYS register of historic places. Under the stewardship of the Metzgers, the farm grows vegetables, flowers, pastured poultry and pork for a thriving Community Supported Agriculture business. “We are

farmers because we care about providing healthy food for ourselves and our community, and about feeding the soil on which we depend. We are eager to forge a connection with the ecosystem that supports us...”. **Contact Zack or Annie at: 518-821-8449, farmers@laughingearth.farm, www.laughingearth.farm**

Chaseholm Farm and Creamery (Pine Plains, Columbia and Dutchess Counties): Barry Chase, Owner and Farmer, along with Marissa Codey, Columbia Land Conservancy. Chaseholm Farm has been protected forever by two purchase of development rights projects supported by NYS grants, Columbia Land Conservancy, Scenic Hudson, and Dutchess County. The Chaseholm story is also a family farm transition story, as the dairy and creamery are now operated by the next generation - Barry's daughter and son, Sarah and Rory – who have enthusiastically taken the farm into new directions and markets. The farm supports a grass-fed dairy, raw milk production, specialty cheese and yogurt, a winter CSA in partnership with nearby Sparrowbush Farm, a buying club, and vibrant summer farm events (burger night, Huichica East music festival), as well as an on-site farm store. **Contact Barry at: 518-339-2071, chaseholmfarm@gmail.com, www.chaseholmfarm.com**



Photo: Sarah Lyons Chase, Chaseholm Farm

Marissa Codey is the Director of Agricultural Programs at The Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC). The CLC works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat, and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land. Since its founding in 1986, the CLC has conserved more than 30,000 acres of farmland, forests, and wildlife habitat. CLC supports agriculture by ensuring prime farmland continues to be available to the next generation of farmers. **Contact Marissa at: 518-392-5252 ext. 211, marissacodey@clctrust.org, www.clctrust.org**

Stanton's Legacy Farms (Coeymans, Albany Co.): Mike Stanton, Owner and Farmer. Stanton's is a sixth generation family century dairy farm on 2,600 acres, supporting 17 employees. Stanton's 1,200 milking cows produce an average of 30 million pounds of milk a year. The farm leases 2,300 acres of farmland for feed crops. Stanton's is looking to expand the dairy, but there are challenges with access to affordable farmland close to main farm in its suburbanizing area. Stanton's worked with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy in 2018 on applying for a state PDR grant, but the appraised value of the development rights was not enough to make financial sense for the farm business. The Stanton's remain committed to partnering with towns and non-profits for creative solutions to land access and affordability challenges. **Contact Mike at: 518-756-9822, stantonfarms@aol.com**



Photo: Lovin' Mama Farm

Lovin' Mama Farm (Amsterdam, Montgomery Co.): Corinne Hansch and Matthew Leon, Owners and Farmers. Lovin' Mama Farm is a certified organic and no-till farm contained on 3 acres of land and greenhouses. The farmland is nestled within the 118 acre Strawberry Fields Nature Preserve, which has a conservation easement held by the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. Lovin' Mama uses regenerative agriculture that mitigates climate impacts and results in high production yields on small spaces, allowing just a few acres to grow over 250 varieties of vegetables, herbs, flowers, and microgreens. Corinne and Matthew are committed to feeding their community nutrient dense, delicious, and beautiful food and flowers, while tending the land in an ecologically responsible way. They sell at the Troy and Schenectady Farmers Markets and through their Community Supported Agriculture business, as well as to specialty grocers and restaurants. **Contact Corinne and Matthew at: 518-928-6880, lovinmamafarm@gmail.com, www.lovinmamafarm.com**

Riverview Orchards (Rexford, Saratoga Co.): Isabel Prescott, Owner and Farmer. Riverview Orchards is a family farm that contains almost 90 acres of fields that support a thriving pick-your-own operation, a country store, bakery, and many popular agritourism events, such as the annual Farm Fest, Winter Fest, and Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway Duathlon. With administrative and funding support from both the Town of Clifton Park and Saratoga County, Riverview Orchards received a NYS purchase of development rights grant to protect the orchard forever. **Contact Isabel at: 518-371-2174, farmer.isabel@me.com, www.rivervieworchards.com**

Tilldale Farm (Hoosick, Rensselaer Co.): Joanne and Dan Tilley, Owners and Farmers. Tilldale Farm contains 270 acres of protected farmland; about half of this land is tilled for crops and about half of this land is left to nature, supporting habitat for pollinators and keeping ecological balance on the farm. In partnership with Agricultural Stewardship Association, who holds the conservation easement on the farm, and with a grant from the state to purchase the development rights, the Tilley's farm is conserved forever with a goal that the farmland will be affordable to another farmer when the Tilley's are ready to retire and sell the farm. Tilldale Farm raises Red Devon heritage cattle with rotational grazing, and produces certified organic, grass-fed beef, pasture-raised pork, chicken, and eggs. Tilldale Farm sells at their own farm store, the Delmar Farmers Market, and to 800 families near Boston. **Contact Joanne or Dan at: 518-222-6336, tilldalefarm@gmail.com, www.tilldalefarm.com**



Photo: Lansing Farm Market and Greenhouses

Lansing Farm Market and Greenhouses (Colonie, Albany Co.): Al Lansing, Owner and Farmer; introduced by Mark King, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC). Lansing Farm is a highly productive 20 acre family farm surrounded by suburban development, which fosters a strong connection between the farm and the community. With support from the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, Friends of Lansing Farm, and Equity Trust (Hudson Valley Farm Affordability Program), this eighth generation farm was recently awarded a state purchase of development rights grant. In order to save the farm, \$100,000 of funding is still needed. Lansing Farm contains a farm market, a Community Supported Agriculture program, berries, flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Al's wife Donna and four grown children

all operate the farm alongside Al. The family is committed to local food and farmland preservation, protecting habitat, and community education. "This farm is part of the fabric that makes us who we are; it gives us purpose". **Contact Al at: 518-275-2570, lansingfarmmarket@yahoo.com, www.lansingfarmmarket.com**

Mark King is the Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, a non-profit organization and land trust founded in 1992 to protect the natural, scenic, agricultural and cultural landscapes of the Mohawk and Hudson River valleys. MHLC has protected more than 5,000 acres of land in Albany, Montgomery, and Schenectady Counties and owns 18 public preserves for hiking, and other recreational opportunities. **Contact Mark: 518-436-6346, mark@mohawkhudson.org, www.mohawkhudson.org**

National Young Farmers Coalition: Holly Rippon-Butler, Land Access Program Director. The National Young Farmers Coalition (the Coalition) represents, mobilizes, and engages young farmers and ranchers across the country to ensure their success. We tackle the most critical structural and economic barriers that prevent motivated young people from starting and continuing to farm by helping young farmers become leaders in their communities, advocating for structural change through policy, and offering business services to our members. Since our founding in 2010, the Coalition has grown to 43 farmer-led chapters in 29 states and a grassroots base of more than 150,000 young farmers and their supporters across the country. As the land access program director, Holly partners with policy makers, land trusts,

service providers, and farmers to increase land access opportunities for the next generation of farmers. Holly has published a guidebook for farmers on working with land trusts; organized a series of trainings for land conservation professionals across the country; and helped lead land access policy advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels, including in New York this past year. In addition to her role with the Coalition, Holly lives and works on her family's third-generation dairy and beef farm outside of Saratoga Springs, New York. Contact Young Farmers' land access team at: land@youngfarmers.org, 518-643-3564, www.youngfarmers.org.

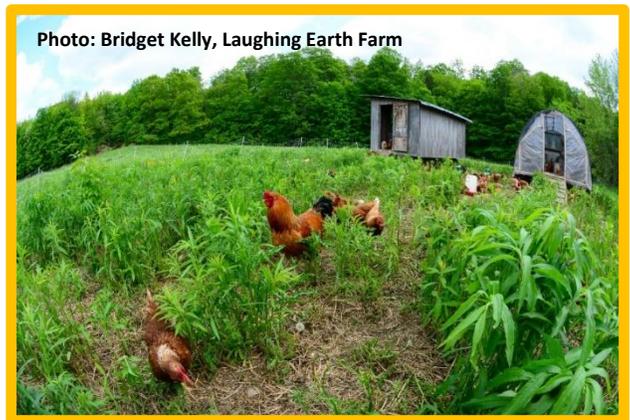


Photo: Bridget Kelly, Laughing Earth Farm

Additional farm support resources:

- ❖ **NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Implementation Grants** program (Purchase of Development Rights): contact David Behm, 518-485-7729, david.behm@agriculture.ny.gov.
- ❖ **Equity Trust – Farms for Farmers:** Rebecca Fletcher, Project Manager, Farms for Farmers Program, 413-256-6161, administration@equitytrust.org, www.equitytrust.org
- ❖ **Agricultural Stewardship Association:** Chris Krahlung, Senior Project Manager, 518-692-7285, chris@agstewardship.org, www.agstewardship.org
- ❖ **Albany County Farm Bureau:** Ed Kleinke, President, 518-439-7790, info@kleinkeassociates.com, www.nyfb.org
- ❖ **Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District:** Susan Lewis, 518-765-7923, susan.lewis@ny.nacdnet.net, www.albanycounty.com/government/departments/soilandwaterconservationdistrict.aspx/
- ❖ **Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County:** Tom Gallagher, 518-765-3511, tjg3@cornell.edu, www.facebook.com/ccealbany
- ❖ **Hudson Valley Farmland Finder** (land/farmer matching program): 518-581-0078, hvff@farmland.org, www.hudsonvalleyfarmlandfinder.org
- ❖ **Delmar Farmers Market:** Mark Warford, President, Board of Directors, markwarford28@gmail.com, www.delmarmarket.org
- ❖ **Scenic Hudson - Foodshed Conservation Plan and Farming Resource Center:** Cari Watkins-Bates, 845-473-4440 x 268, cwatkins@scenichudson.org, www.scenichudson.org
- ❖ **Open Space Institute:** Katie Petronis, Northern Program Director, 518-427-1564, kpetronis@osiny.org, www.openspaceinstitute.org
- ❖ **Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation:** 518-432-5360, www.hvadc.org
- ❖ **Farm Credit East:** Timothy Slavin, 518-851-3313, www.farmcrediteast.com
- ❖ **New York Farm Viability Institute:** 315-453-3832, info@nyfvi.org, www.nyfvi.org



Photo:
Lansing Farm
Market and
Greenhouses