



# New York State Legislative Commission on Rural Resources

June 7, 2017



New York's **7 million acres** of farmland support over...

**\$39 billion** in total economic activity  
and **160,000** jobs



Source: Lopez,  
Plesha, Campbell,  
& Laughton.  
"Northeast  
Economic Engine."  
Farm Credit East,  
2012.

**Each acre** of New York's farmland provides...



New York State has lost **half a million acres** of farmland to development since the 1980s—that could have produced **500 million local meals** this year.

**Don't let concrete be the last crop.**

Source: Peters, Wilkins, & Fick. "Testing a complete-diet model for estimating the land resource requirements of food consumption and agricultural carrying capacity: The New York State example." Cornell, 2006.

# Clean Drinking Water





**FOR  
SALE**

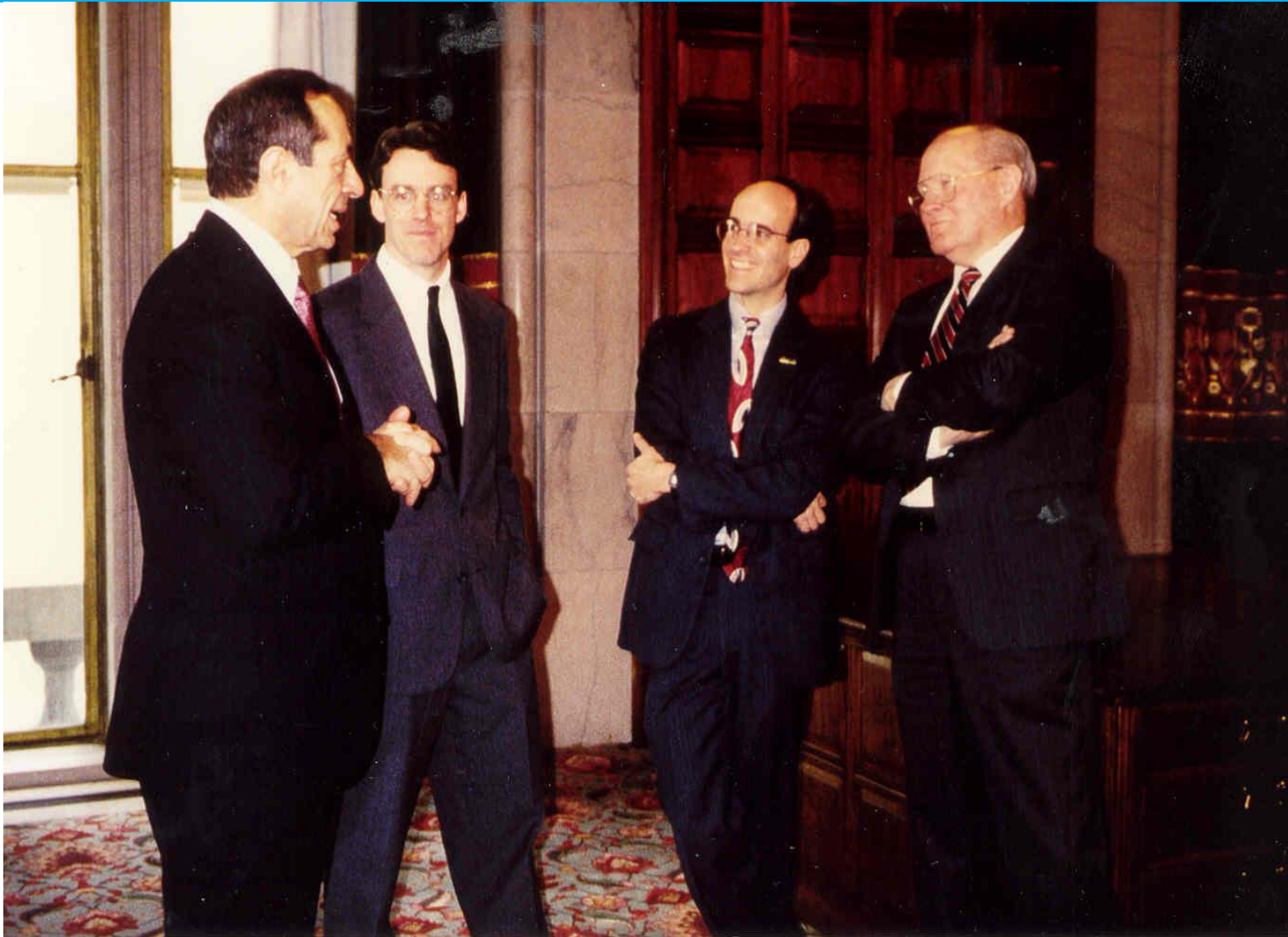
**120 ACRES**

**ZONED: AGRICULTURAL,  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL**

*Good Farmland - Great Investment*  
**CITY WATER SEWAR**

**SESSLER COMPANIES (315) 539-8222**

# Agricultural Protection Act





# New York's Farmland Protection Program

## *Cultivate* **NEW YORK**

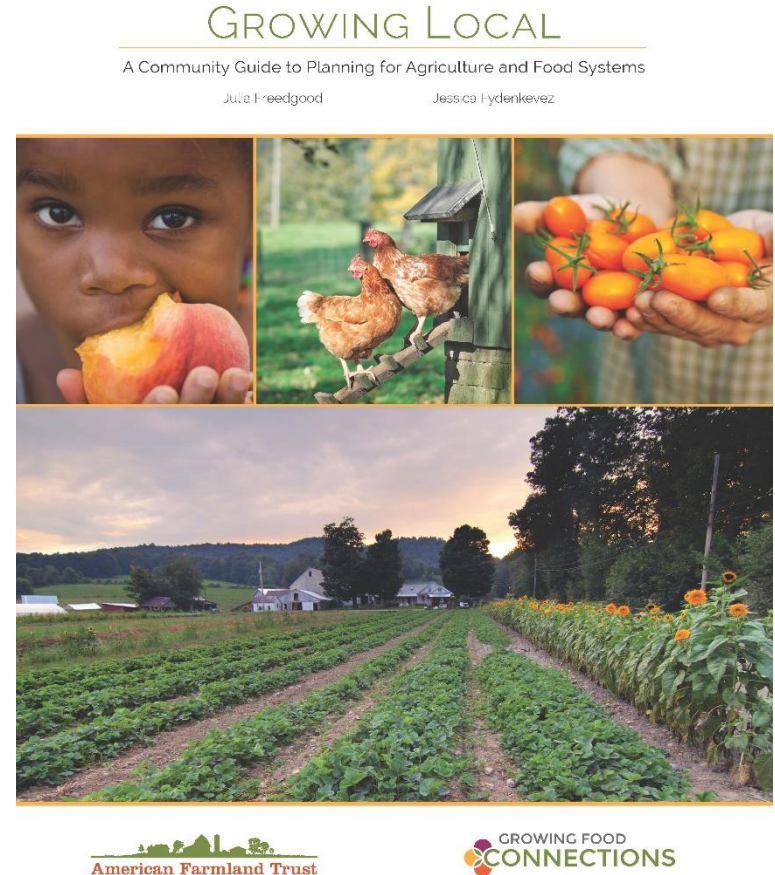
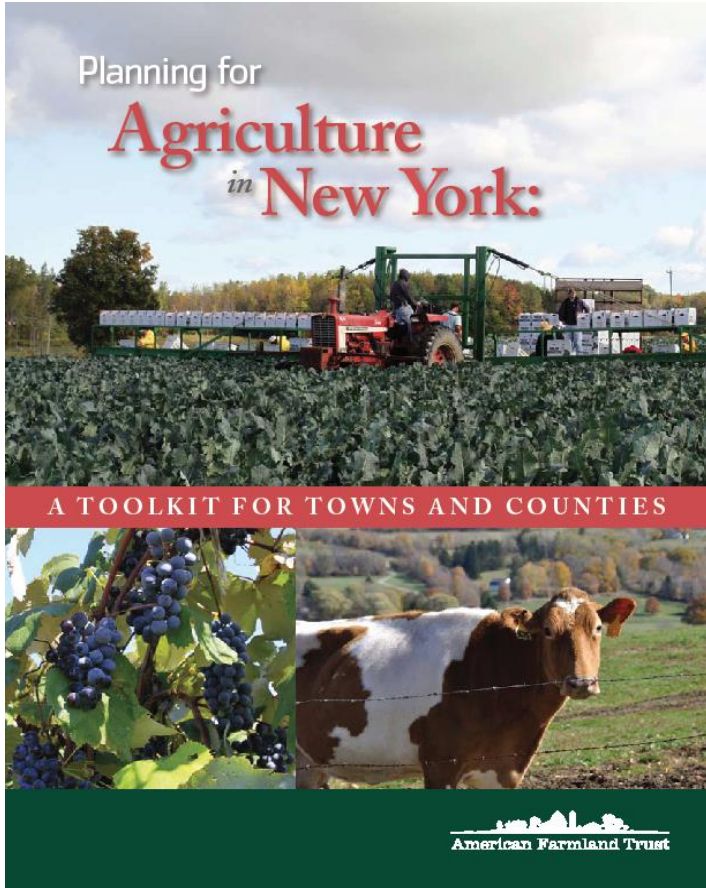
An Agenda to Protect Farmland  
for Growing Food and the Economy

  
American Farmland Trust

- Farmland Protection Planning Grants
  - Towns
  - Counties



# Planning for Agriculture and Local Food Economies



# New York's Farmland Protection Program

## *Cultivate* **NEW YORK**

An Agenda to Protect Farmland  
for Growing Food and the Economy

  
American Farmland Trust

- Farmland Protection Planning Grants
  - Towns
  - Counties
- Farmland Protection Implementation Grants





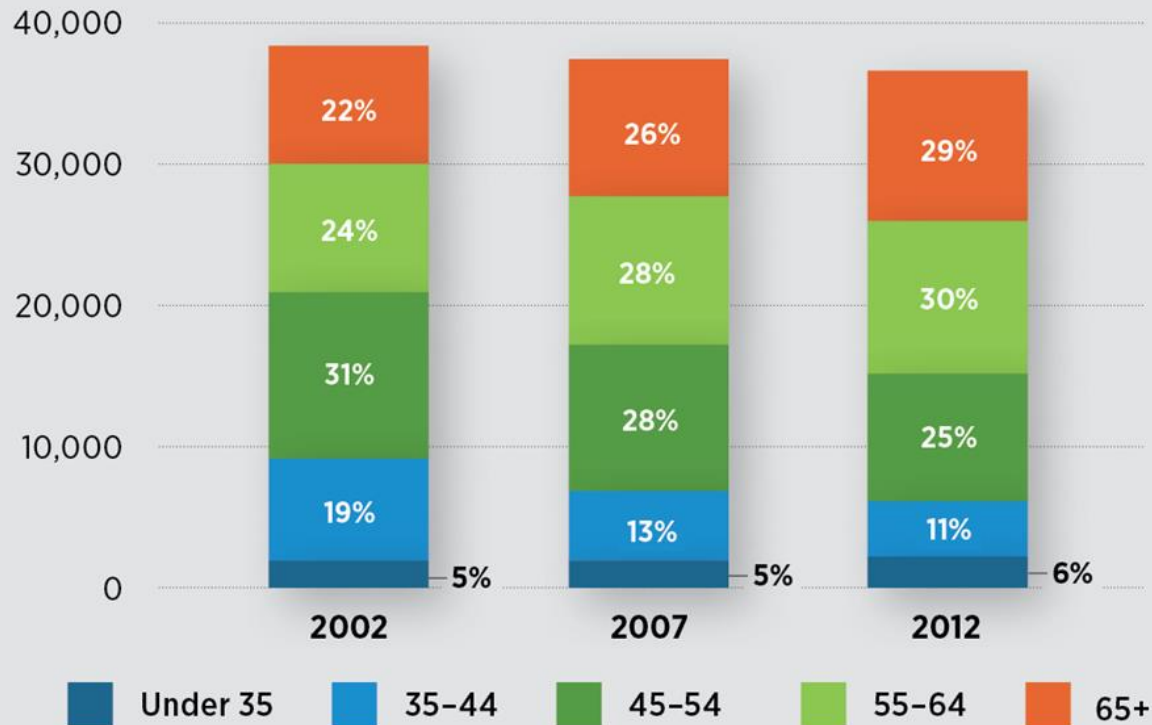


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# Issues on the Horizon

- Transition to a New Generation of Farmers

# Trends: Principal Farm Operator Ages 2002-2012 NEW YORK

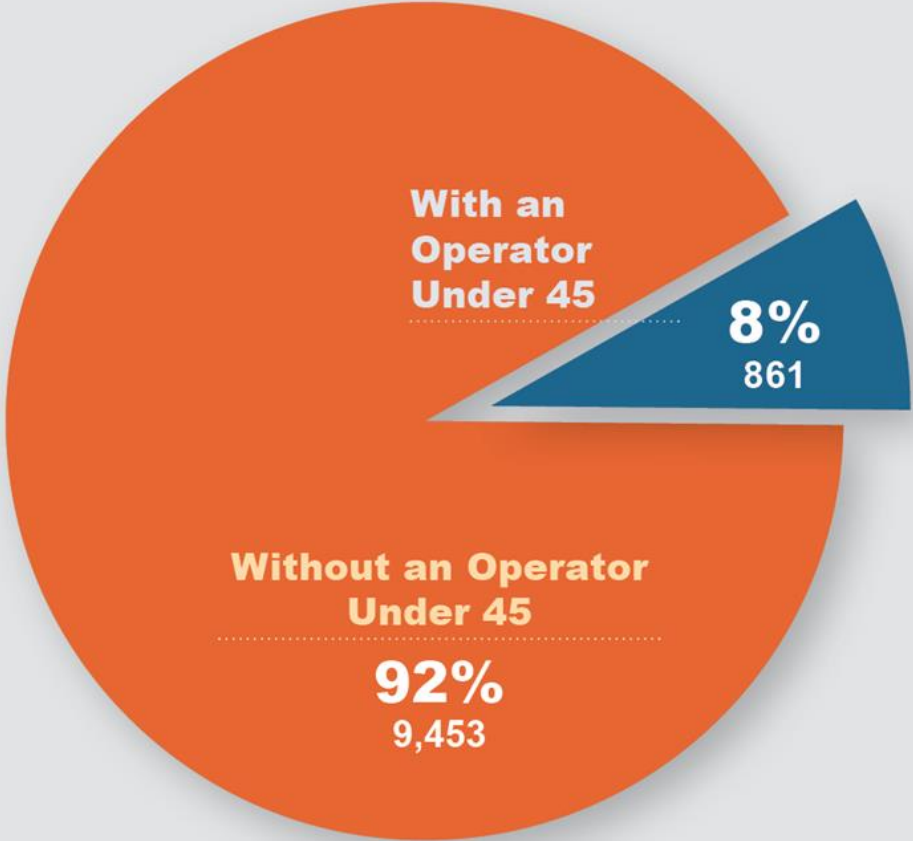


Source: 2002, 2007, 2012 Censuses of Agriculture

# Senior Farm Operators

MORE THAN 90% HAVE NO YOUNG FARM OPERATOR FARMING ALONGSIDE

## NEW YORK



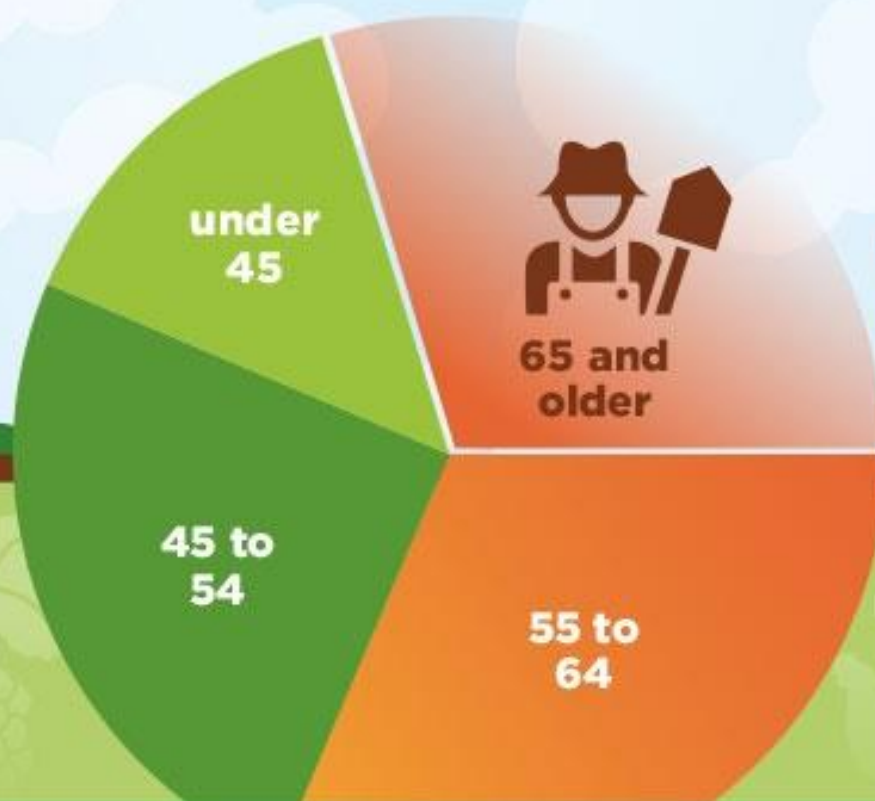
Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture



**2.1 million acres** of New York's farmland...

is owned and operated  
by farmers

**65 and  
older.**



This land must be transferred to the **next generation of farmers** or risk being **lost to development.**

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2012.

# Issues on the Horizon

- Transition to a New Generation of Farmers
- Greener Fields: Combatting Climate Change by Keep Land in Farming in New York

An acre of farmland produces



↓ **66x**

fewer  
greenhouse gases



than an acre of  
developed land

# If the annual loss of farmland to real estate development in New York

was reduced by  
**80 percent**  
by 2050...



...that could reduce  
greenhouse gas emissions  
equivalent to taking

**1 million**  
cars from the road.

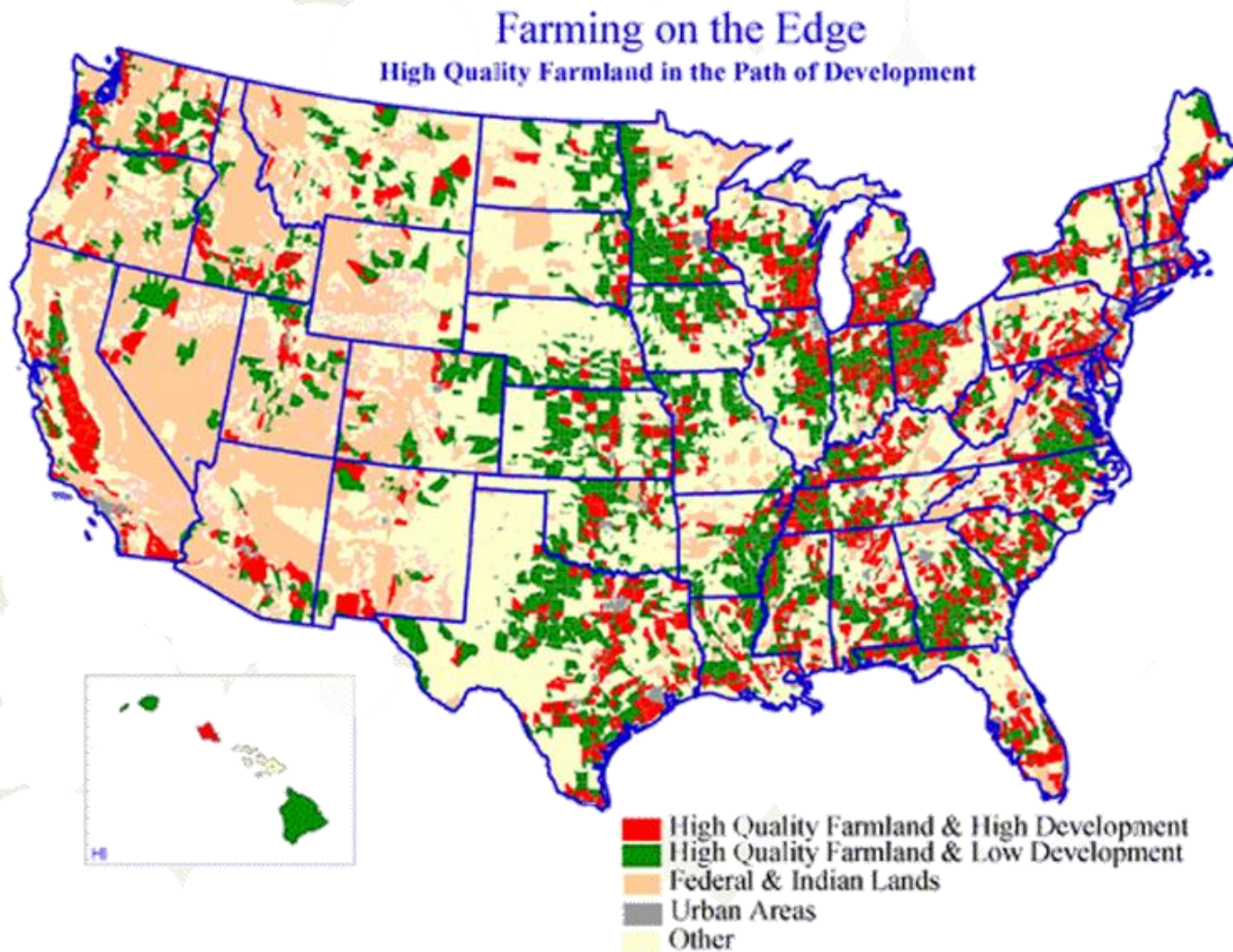
# Other Ways Farmers Can Help Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Adopting Climate Smart Farming Practices that Promote Healthy Soil
- Generate Renewable Energy in Ways Compatible with Agriculture and Keep Most Valuable Land in Farming

# Issues on the Horizon

- Transition to a New Generation of Farmers
- Greener Fields: Combatting Climate Change by Keep Land in Farming in New York
- State of America's Farmland

# State of America's Farmland:





**American Farmland Trust**  
[www.farmland.org/newyork](http://www.farmland.org/newyork)