

AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2016 - 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



**CONSERVING GOOD FARMLAND.
FOR GOOD.
FOREVER.**

2016 - 2017

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Dear Members and Friends,

It was another great year for local farmland conservation. The Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA) received a record number of farmland protection grants from New York State, totaling more than \$5.6 million. Thanks to those grants we were able to start work on 20 projects to protect more than 5,000 acres of productive soils from Fort Ann to Schodack growing everything from beans to buffalo. According to a study by The Trust for Public Land, most of these funds will be reinvested in our communities and will have an economic impact of over \$30 million.

During this period we also conserved four farms: Philpott Farm in Hoosick, Laughing Earth in Brunswick, Proudfit in Salem and Happy Kids Farm in Jackson. That means that over the past 26 years you've helped us conserve a total of 111 farms on 17,177 acres. In addition, we played a significant role in conserving the last farm in the City of Saratoga Springs, the 166-acre Pitney Farm.

While that all sounds fantastic, for many of us those are just numbers. It's hard to comprehend what the real impact is from conserving that land. So what do those numbers really mean? Well, according to Cornell University, every acre of New York farmland provides an average of 1,000 meals per year. If you add up all of the 17,177 acres and the number of years they've been protected, these acres have produced nearly 185 million meals to date. Your support has had an incredible impact!

And we're not done yet. Why? Because we need to protect a minimum of 50,000 acres to ensure that this region remains a vibrant agricultural hub not just for the next 10 years but for your lifetimes, your children's lifetimes and your grandchildren's lifetimes. So you see, your gift to ASA is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

With our gratitude,

Katherine Roome
Katherine Roome
Chair

Teri Ptacek
Teri Ptacek
Executive Director





111
Farms Protected

17,177
Acres Conserved

5,400
Acres in the process of
being protected

26 Years of Farmland Conservation

1,000
the average # of meals
each acre of farmland in
NY State provides yearly

184,972,233
of meals
produced cumulatively
on land protected by
ASA to date

150+
Miles walked
stewarding the land
this past year



LAND CONSERVATION

Philpott Farm, Hoosick *Connecting Blocks of Farmland*

This past year, Carleton and Corrine Philpott conserved their farm that has been in the family for over 80 years. There were many people who wanted to build on those flat, fertile fields over the years. But Carleton and his wife Corrine never considered selling. With the protection of this farm, there is now a block of nearly 1,500 agricultural acres conserved along the Hoosic River in New York and Vermont.

“When you get up in the back, you’re looking at some of the finest farmland in the Hoosick Valley,” said Carleton Philpott. “It’s important to us and the Hoosick community that future generations are able to farm this land. That has always been our goal”.

Funding for this project was provided by New York State Environmental Protection Fund administered by the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Proudfit, Salem *Honoring a Spouse’s Legacy*

When John Proudfit, Sally’s husband of 40 years, passed away, she spent time thinking about how to carry on his love of the land. It was there he spent his weekends mowing the hayfields, weeding around the ponds and updating the old farmhouse. When Sally finally decided to sell the farm, she realized that protecting the land from development forever was the perfect way to honor John’s legacy.

“I feel very, very pleased that we’ve done this. John would be delighted. Since 1971 he had an interest in conserving this land, and now it will be conserved forever.” In July of 2016, she donated a conservation easement on the farm. This kind of legacy is a remarkable way to honor a loved one.

Carleton Philpott
Philpott Farm



Sally & John Proudfit
Proudfit Property



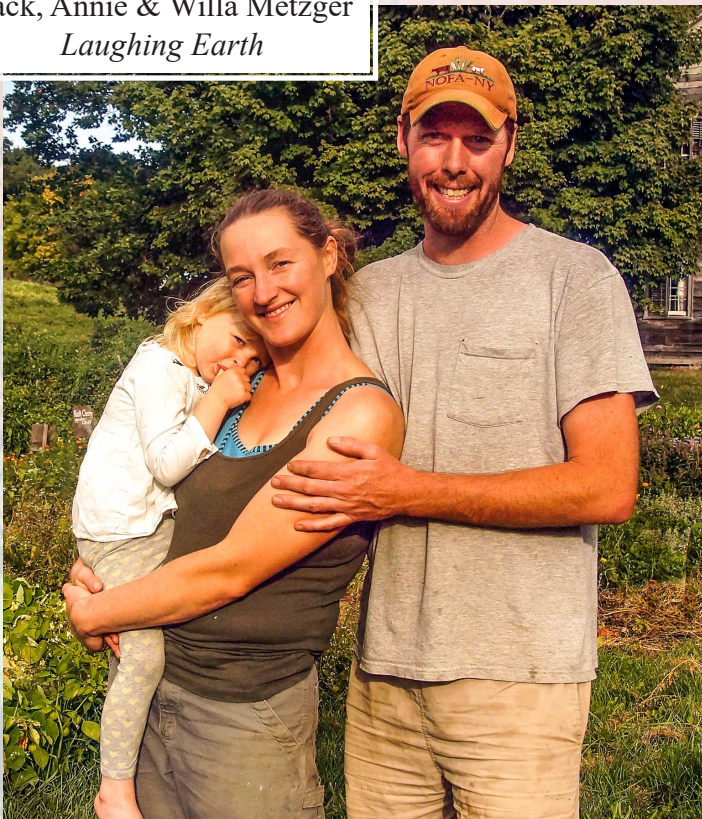
an enduring legacy

Laughing Earth, Brunswick *Helping Young Farmers*

One of the highlights of this past year has been working with Zack and Annie Metzger of Laughing Earth farm. Annie, who grew up in Schaghticoke, was farming in Illinois with her husband Zack. They wanted to move closer to Annie's family and so after a long search, they became the farm operators for the 175-acre Homestead Farm in Brunswick. ASA was able to partner with New York State, Scenic Hudson Land Trust and Equity Trust, to assist the Metzgers in purchasing and protecting the farm at an affordable price while also keeping it affordable for future farmers. Thanks to Equity Trust, ASA was able to increase the level of protection on this farm by requiring that any future transfer of the property be to another farmer.

"So many people put themselves out there for us and we are truly grateful for that. We feel we are creating a community where people value food and farm experiences," Annie Metzger said. She's right. By supporting ASA, the Metzgers have shown how much they value local farmland. Thank you Zack and Annie!

Zack, Annie & Willa Metzger
Laughing Earth

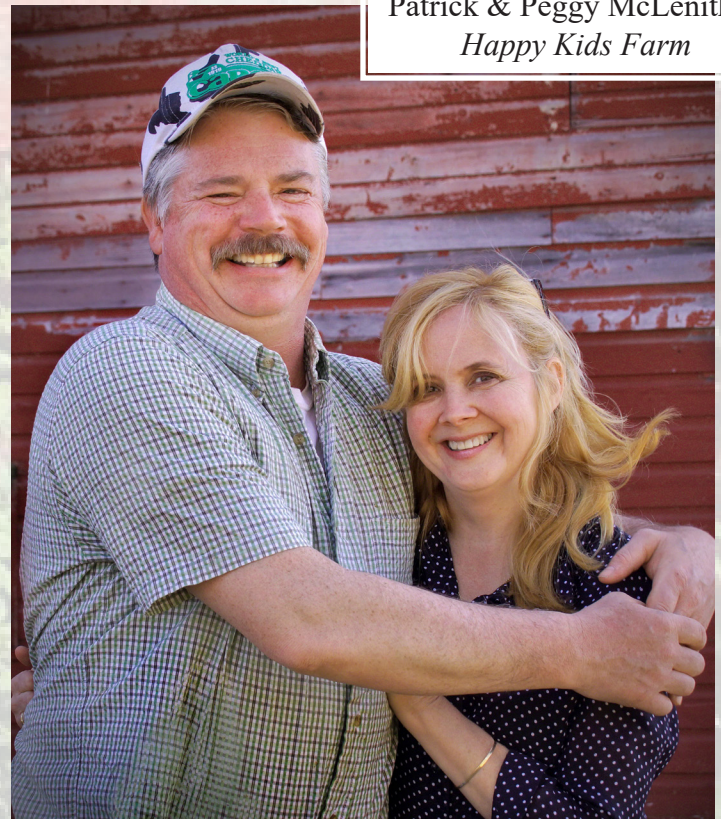


Happy Kids Farm, Jackson *Deep Rooted Farming History*

The name Happy Kids Farm really says it all. You may have even passed the "Kids for Sale" sign traveling on State Route 313 in Jackson (outside of Cambridge). In fact, that sign has become a popular spot for tourists to take photos of their children standing in front of the sign. Patrick and Peggy McLenithan donated an easement to ASA. While it's a small property, these 17 acres help to connect a larger block of protected land and that makes it a great project. Patrick McLenithan is the 4th generation to farm on that land, but the first to raise goats.

The 17-acre farm is truly the source of Patrick and Peggy's happiness. "We just love it. It keeps us happy. Everyone had ideas about what we should do with the land. But I couldn't see it destroyed. It would have eaten my soul. This land is meant to be farmed," said Patrick McLenithan. Patrick is so right. Keeping that land Forever Farmland is something we can all be happy about.

Patrick & Peggy McLenithan
Happy Kids Farm




STEWARDSHIP

As the number of protected properties grows, so does ASA's responsibility to steward them. In 2016-2017 our stewardship team worked with landowners to conduct site visits to all 111 conserved properties to make sure that we are keeping our promise to conserve these working lands forever. We work on developing good relationships with owners of protected land to ensure the terms of the easement are upheld.

Janet Britt, our Easement Steward, did almost all of that walking and talking. In fact, we figure she alone walked 132 miles over a whole lot of hills and dales. This is the equivalent of climbing the Empire State building 167 times. Or in local terms, it would be like walking around the Saratoga Battlefield loop 11.5 times!

Pitney Meadows Community Farm *Saratoga Springs*



ASA played a critical role in the protection of Pitney Meadows Community Farm when it was conserved by the City of Saratoga Springs and the owners. ASA will serve as a third party steward to help ensure that the terms of the easement are met and the land is conserved for agriculture in perpetuity. "We are honored to uphold the Pitney's conservation vision for the property. While this farm is integral to the health of Saratoga Springs, it has a positive footprint that is regional and larger than the city," explained Teri Ptacek, ASA's Executive Director.

OUTREACH

ASA also continues to expand its outreach and education efforts to offer a wide variety of programs for children, families and landowners. From our very popular Farm Photography for Kids program, to early morning bird walks, to learning how to safely use chainsaws through our Game of Logging program, ASA offers a little something for everyone! Here are some highlights from our outreach activities this past year:

Gleaning

ASA helped Comfort Food Community, Capital Roots and our “Glean Team” of volunteers bring more than 15,000 pounds of produce from local farms to people in need in the region! Our friends at Capital Roots estimated that 12,000 to 15,000 residents benefitted from the food gleaned and distributed to local food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless/emergency shelters. Harvesting excess produce from local farms is a great way for us all to work together to have even more impact in our communities!



Hudson Valley Farmlink Network

ASA continued to partner with the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network to connect farmers looking for land with landowners. Last fall ASA invited a group of 26 farm seekers on a bus tour called “Come Farm with Us”. The day long tour gave them the chance to visit six farms in Rensselaer and Washington counties that were available for sale or lease. It was an exciting and successful tour, creating opportunities for new farmers to come and help build our farm economy.



Forever Farmland Supper & Landscapes for Landsake

2016’s Forever Farmland Supper at Hand Melon Farm was a great success, selling out in less than a week! Reality TV stars, the Beekman Boys, were our special guests. However, the real star of the show was the delicious dinner of locally sourced food prepared by the Chef’s Consortium.

ASA also celebrated our 15th annual Landscapes for Landsake Art Sale & Exhibition. This has become the premier art show in the region. It was our most successful exhibit ever, featuring 55 artists, 530 pieces of art and art sales totaling \$94,000! We are grateful to everyone who makes this event possible, from the artists and volunteers, to everyone who supports ASA by buying art.



Lecture Series

ASA partnered with SUNY Adirondack and Cornell Cooperative Extension to offer a four part lecture series titled “Global Issues, Local Solutions.” The well attended series included a range of topics about GMOs, how climate change is affecting agriculture, how local grain growers are redefining our daily bread, and the renaissance of the local craft beer market.

FINANCIAL POSITION

When you invest in ASA, your support is directly put to work protecting farmland and promoting farming in our region. Only 11 percent of our expenses go towards management and fundraising.

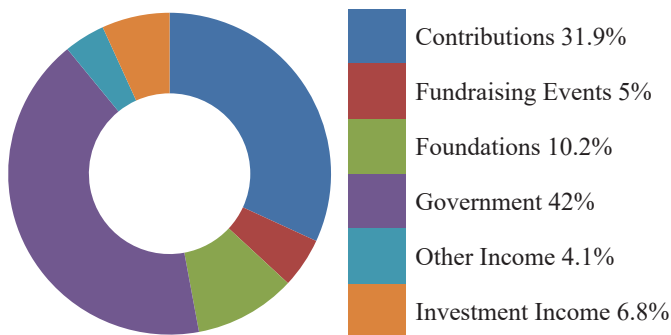
Thanks to you, productive farm soils have been conserved along with woodlands, wildlife habitat, scenic views and the many other benefits farms provide. Through our outreach programs, people of all ages are able to visit local farms and make a connection to the farmers and land that feeds them. We couldn't do this work without your generous support!

With deep appreciation,

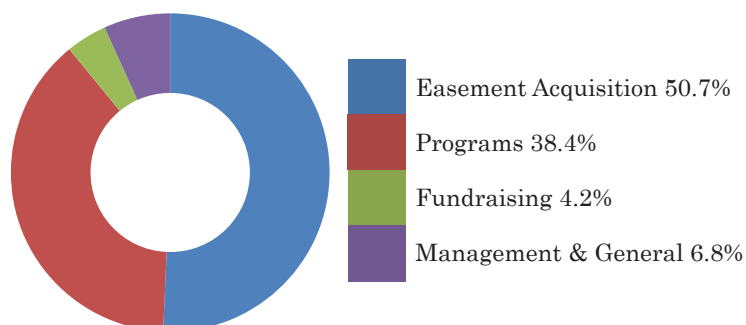


Mary Ellen Williams, Treasurer

REVENUE & SUPPORT \$1,405,759



EXPENSES \$1,149,934



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position for the year ended March 31, 2017

ASSETS	
Current Assets	\$ 907,674
Investments	608,546
Land	65,000
Other assets	289,216
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,870,436
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 9,452
Accrued expenses	40,908
Deferred revenue	115,115
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 165,475
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$ 136,203
Board restricted	710,825
Temporarily restricted	857,933
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 1,704,961
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,870,436

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the year ended March 31, 2017

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Contributions	\$ 447,833
Fundraising Events	70,767
Foundations	143,204
Government	590,390
Other Income	57,825
Investment Income	95,740
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 1,405,759
EXPENSES	
Easement Acquisition	\$ 583,107
Programs	441,415
Fundraising	47,743
Management and General	77,669
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,149,934
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 255,825

ASA's financial records have been audited by Pattison, Koskey, Howe and Bucci, Certified Public Accountants, P.C. A complete copy of the FY 2016-17 audited financial statements may be obtained by contacting ASA or the New York Department of State, Office of the Attorney General's Charities Bureau, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12231.

THANK YOU FOR 26 YEARS, 111 FARMS, 17,177 ACRES!

The impact and progress highlighted in this report is all because of you! We are grateful to each of the following supporters for your generous contributions from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. Thank you for investing in the future of food and farming in our region.

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 Barbara Sutherland
 Margaret Sweet
 Jonathan Tenney and
 Bethene Trexel
 Lisa Towne
 Gyula and Hannie Varosy
 Sandra Watson
 Susan and John West
 Earl and
 Mary Alice Westerlund
 Cynthia and Kent Wian
 Barbara Zimmer
 Elizabeth R. Collins

MONTHLY

Randall Adams
 Linda and Douglas Bischoff
 Amy Davis and
 William Ambrose
 Carole and James Dilley
 Dorothy Halligan
 KC Consulting, Erich Kranz
 and Martha Culliton
 Diane Kennedy
 Long Days Farm, Deborah
 Jaffe and Edwin Schiele
 Ronald McLean
 Jill Nadolski
 Dari and Richard Norman
 Cynthia and Jack Parillo
 Anne Savage and
 Michael Myers
 Edith Schiele
 Louise and J.B. Sobing
 Erin Tobin and Roger Bearden

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 Tena Bunnell
 Ashley Bridge, Luke and
 Iver Goldreyer
 Caroline Serotta
 The Denisons
 Marilyn Cavallari
 Mr. Eggman Gifford
 Sandra Watson
 Connie Kheel
 Ruth Leys and
 Michael Fried
 Sarah Kingsbury
 Sandra Kingsbury
 Ruth and Sandy Lamb
 Bonnie Lamb
 Zack, Annie, and Willa Metzger
 Pam Crane and
 Charles Poltenson
 Teri Ptacek
 Deb Balliet
 Hugh and Kathy Roome
 Elliott Rebhun
 Kathy Roome
 Deb Balliet
 Elliott Rebhun
 Ashlin Ryan
 Ryann and Doug Sellar

Larry Sconzo
 Dorothy Halligan
 Stephen Webb
 Uncle Bob
 Sandra Watson

IN MEMORY OF

Betty Balfour
 Beth and Jim Clark
 Marilyn Barber
 Mary Ellen Williams
 Jack Beadle
 Donna and George
 Harrington
 Lynn Bittner
 Teri Ptacek and
 Andrew Kelly
 Mary Ellen Williams
 Leslie and Ron Bouplon
 Renee Bouplon and
 Todd Rollend
 Alice K. Bradford
 Alice Mairs
 Florence Carney
 Quimby and Mark Mahoney
 June and Lester DeKrey
 Susan and Allan DeKrey
 Ron DeWitt
 Judy DeWitt
 George and Florence
 Franchomme
 Paula Franchomme
 Jene Highstein
 Katharine Highstein
 Brian M. Jennings
 Christine and James Byrne
 Ben and Beverly Jones
 Beth and Jim Clark
 Pat and Jack Lamb
 Pat and Jack Isgro
 Robert Lohnes
 Susan Lohnes
 Carol and Joe MacDonald
 Donald M. McGrath, Jr.
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 Lester C. Migdal
 Joanna Migdal
 Earl and Mary Alice
 Westerlund
 Mary Ellen Williams
 Donald and Janis Moody
 Steve Chuhta and
 Suzanne Fariello
 David Nestle
 Patricia Nestle
 Van Pawley
 Jane Johnston
 Miriam Peters
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 Robert Vessels
 Howard Ritchie,
 FCS Branch Manager
 Kevin and Gale McCarthy
 Joseph Roberson
 Marjorie Robertson and
 Judy Casciare
 Dr. Howard Romack
 Dolores Romack
 Vincent M. Simko, Sr.
 Evan Lawrence
 John and Alice Skellie
 Paula Sawyer
 Richard Skellie
 Sherry Skellie
 John Stark
 Janet L. Stark
 Roberta Stewart
 Mary Ellen Williams
 Evelyn and Nick Tarricon
 Ronnie Benware

Walter and Eleanor Taylor
 Robert Taylor
 Bill Telford
 Laurie George Hopper
 Carol and Douglas Leith
 Pam Wirkki
 Tauno Wirkki

IN KIND GOODS & SERVICES

3 Corner Field Farm
 Abbott Farm
 The Alleged Farm
 American Farmland Trust
 Argyle Cheese Farmer
 Beekman 1802 Boys
 John and Gigi Begin
 Birch Hollow Farm
 Brown's Brewing Company
 Sean Clancy
 Consider Bardwell Farm
 Cornell Cooperative
 Extension - Rensselaer
 and Washington counties
 Dancing Ewe Farm
 Denison Farm
 Dirt Capital Partners
 Easton Dairy
 Echo Creek Farm
 Ensign Brook Farm
 Farm Credit East
 Gardenworks Farm
 Good Fence Farm,
 Katie De Groot
 Greenwich Farmers' Market
 Lane Green
 Hand Melon Farm
 Amy Halloran
 Dr. Michael Hoffman
 Hubbard Hall
 In The Night Kitchen Farm
 Kelly + Sellar Ryan,
 PLLC, Attorneys at Law
 Laing Hill Farm
 Laughing Earth
 Lawrence White Photography
 Mark Lawton
 Rich Lederer-Barners,
 Upstate GIS
 Lewis Waite Farm
 Kyle McPhail
 Madison Theater
 Milestone Golf Club
 Lisa Miller
 Moses Farm
 National Young Farmers
 Coalition
 Glenn Nesbitt
 Nolan CPA Services
 Northern Spy Farm
 Peckham Industries
 Pleasant Valley Farm
 R'Eisen Shine Farm
 Christoff Robert
 Katherine Roome
 Roundhouse Café
 Salem Community Courthouse
 Steve Sanford
 Saratoga Apple
 Chuck Schultz
 Jim Shanz
 Slack Hollow Farm
 Slyboro Cider
 Dr. Margaret Smith
 St. Croix Farm
 Bob Somers
 Dan and Hideko Stone
 Stone Meadow Farm
 Sunset View Kernal Acres
 SUNY Adirondack

T-D-J Farm
 Laura Ten Eyck
 Thomas Organic Dairy
 Tiashoke Farms
 Tilledale Farm
 Twilight Song Farm
 Victory View Vineyard
 Washington County Fair
 Wild Things Nursery
 William H Buckley Farm

VOLUNTEERS

Dan Albano
 Debbie Anderson
 John, Gigi, and Olivia Begin
 Leslie Bender
 Beatrice Berle
 Danielle Bovie
 Ashley Bridge
 Jay and Judy Bridge
 Nancy Brown
 Ed Bruske
 Holly Butler
 Abby Campbell
 Linda Caughy
 Bob Cheney
 Matt and Emma Chinian
 Noah Clifford
 Mary Collins
 Anna Courtney
 Ian Creitz
 Clem and Mary Dee Crowe
 John and Minette Cummings
 David deVries
 Monica Dore
 Meegan and Aidan Finnegan
 Cathy Firman
 Lindsey Fisk and Mark Bascom
 Joanne Fuller
 Ruck Goldreyer
 Luke and Iver Goldreyer
 Sully Gordon
 Lane Green
 Terry Griffin
 Marlene Hayes
 Meghan Hayne
 Maxwell Hoffer
 Dave and Margaret Horn
 Stella Hu Min
 Diane Jilek
 Kane Jilek
 Kurt Jilek
 Thom Jones
 Connie Kheel
 Tom Lapham
 Dave Lawlor
 Nina Lockwood
 Carly Lynn
 Elana Mark
 Mary Ellen and
 Louisa Matthews
 Eve McNeil
 Zack and Annie Metzger
 Naomi Meyer and Ron Renoni
 Corey Mitchell

Eva Moore
 Alex Morency
 Glenn Nesbitt
 Lila and Bridey Nolan
 John Oakley
 Randy Odell
 Cliff Oliver
 Joe Palange
 Cam Pembroke
 Sue Quillio
 Elizabeth Quinn
 Lisa Randles
 Jack Rath
 Julia Rhode
 Todd Rollend
 Genevieve Rossi
 Matt Ryan
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 Lederer-Barnes
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 Erica Walsh
 Deanna Wardwell
 Jared Woodcock

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 Supporting: \$50 - 99
 Friends: \$1 - 49





ALBANY COUPLE LEAVES A LEGACY WITH A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE

Some of the greatest gifts to ASA are gifts of real property donated outright or bequeathed to ASA. Gifts of real estate can be located anywhere, including outside of ASA's service area or in other states.

In fact, this past year we were able to sell a vacant 24 acre property with spectacular views in Schoharie County that was gifted to ASA by a couple in Albany. ASA conserved the property before selling it and will use the proceeds to further ASA's mission. We are extremely grateful for this generous gift.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANNED GIVING

Are you wondering how you can make even more of a lasting impact on local farmland conservation? Making a legacy gift is a great and meaningful way to support farmland conservation right here in your community for generations to come.

Your gift can be in the form of a bequest, life insurance, or as you've read, real property. These types of gifts allow ASA to protect and steward the valuable agricultural resources of our region. Years from now, when people are still enjoying the bounty of our local farmland, they will have you to thank.

If you'd like to learn more about planned giving, contact Renee Bouplon at (518) 692-7285 or via email at Renee@agstewardship.org