

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ROUND 19 FARMLAND PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT (FPIG)

1. Access to Farmland Category

- Farmland in Transition = facilitate the transfer of ownership to a farmer who may be from amongst a diversity of owner-operators, or
- Buy-Protect-Sell Viable Agricultural Land = engage conservation buyers to acquire imperiled farmland who will then sell the farmland to a farmer who may be from amongst a diversity of owner operators after conveying a perpetual agricultural conservation easement.

Southern Tier: Minimum of 10 acres, 60% active agriculture, 40% productive soils

2. Agroforestry Category

More than 50% of the Farm Operation acreage must be associated with one or more of the following:

- Production of maple sap, actively managed log-grown woodland mushrooms, or farm woodland products (e.g. logs, lumber, posts, firewood, special forest product for food or medicinal uses);
- Livestock operation that incorporates silvopasturing;
- Managed Christmas tree operation.

Southern Tier: Minimum of 48 acres, 60% active agriculture, 10% productive soils

3. Climate Resiliency Category

Lands to be protected must not be directly affected by flooding associated with a river/stream/reservoir/lake. Lands to be protected must also meet the criteria of “a” or “b”: (if “a,” all region-specific requirements shown in the table below are waived)

- a. any portion of the property is the subject of a Climate Resilient Farming project or a Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities project, OR
- b. otherwise exhibiting agricultural climate resiliency via one or both of the following: i. documentation of agricultural practices and management that increase resiliency of the Farm Operation to changing climate impacts (e.g., intense storms, drought, increased pests, heat stress, etc.), or ii. lands to be protected comprised of at least 40% permanent vegetative cover (e.g., grassland, pasture or silvopasture, hayland, woodland or forest, riparian buffer, or wetland).

Southern Tier: Minimum of 48 acres, 60% active agriculture, 60% productive soils

4. Equine Category

More than 50% of the Farm Operation acreage must be associated with a commercial horse boarding operation and/or a commercial equine operation as defined in AML 25-AA.

Southern Tier: Minimum 48 acres, 50% active agriculture, 10% productive soils

5. Field Crops Category

More than 50% of the Farm Operation acreage must be devoted to the production of one or more of the following field crops (including, but not limited to): barley, corn, dry beans, hay, oats, potatoes, rye, or wheat.

Southern Tier: Minimum 48 acres, 50% active agriculture, 50% productive soils

6. Food Security Category

More than 50% of the Farm Operation acreage must be located within any of the following recognized “foodshed” areas: • As designated on the “Foodshed Map” contained in Appendix B of this RFA (not applicable in Tompkins County); • As designated in any locally-adopted Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan (not currently in Tompkins County AFPP); OR • As designated in any published document (i.e. available to the general public) that has been adopted by the governing body of a municipality, county or any not-for-profit organization (recognized by the NYS Charities Bureau Registry)

Southern Tier: Minimum 24 acres, 60% active agriculture, 60% productive soils

7. Livestock or Livestock Products Category

More than 50% of the acreage of the Farm Operation (as defined by AML-25-AA) must be devoted to the production of livestock or livestock products as referenced in Crops, Livestock and Livestock Products (as defined in AML-25-AA).

Southern Tier: Minimum 48 acres, 50% active agriculture, 10% productive soils

8. Source Water Protection Category

Any portion of the lands to be protected by the proposed Conservation Easement must: • Abut or be embedded within other land of the Farm Operation that is the subject of a Source Water Buffer Project awarded by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee; • Directly adjoin surface waters (including wetland areas directly adjoining the surface water) that is designated by the NYS Department of Health as an active or potential source of public drinking water or as designated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as Class A, Class A-Special, Class AA, or Class AA-Special; • Lie atop an aquifer designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Sole Source Aquifer; • Lie atop an aquifer designated by the NYS Department of Health as a Primary Aquifer; OR • Lie atop an aquifer designated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as a Principal Aquifer.

Southern Tier: minimum 48 acres, 60% active agriculture, 50% productive soils

9. Specialty Crops Category

More than 50% of the Farm Operation acreage must be devoted to the production of: (a) floriculture and bedding crops, (b) fruits, (c) melons (including, but not limited, to, cantaloupes, muskmelons, or watermelons), (d) nursery crops (e) nuts, (f) propagation materials (g) sod (h) vegetables

Southern Tier: Minimum 24 acres, 60% active agriculture, 10% productive soils.

10. Viable Agricultural Land - Other Category

Other category lands to be protected must meet the criteria below. The lands to be protected do not satisfy all of the eligibility criteria for any other project category.

Southern Tier: Minimum 95 acres, 52% active agriculture, 12% productive soils

11. Vineyard Category

More than 50% of the Farm Operation acreage must be located within an American Viticultural Areas of New York, including the Finger Lakes Region.

Southern Tier: Minimum 24 acres, 60% active agriculture, 25% productive soils