CONSERVING NYC’S REGIONAL FOODSHED:
Presentation to Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture
Conserving the Farms that Supply the Our Farm Markets, Groceries, Schools and Restaurants

- New York City could access 30% of its food from within 100 miles
  — Zumkehr and Campbell, U.C. Merced, 2015
…and Creating a More Resilient Region

- water resources
- wildlife habitat
- prime soils
- reduced NYC “foodprint”
- complements NYC’s watershed protection program

“I want a Hunt’s Point Market that’s reoriented over time to produce from our broader tri-state area as part of an overall effort to wean us off a culture that gets its food from 3,000 miles away.”

—Mayor Bill de Blasio
THE TIME IS RIGHT:
New Yorkers Are Demanding More Fresh, Local Food

- $866 million+/year unmet demand
- public schools need healthier food
- under-resourced communities deserve access
- drives culinary culture/economy
- diversification builds resiliency
CONSERVED FARMLAND: Cornerstone of a Sustainable Food System

- support local production through procurement
- invest in food distribution infrastructure
- CONSERVE REGIONAL FOODSHED
SCENIC HUDSON’S ROLE: 17 Year Track Record

‣ 14,000 acres on 100 farms in 5 counties
‣ $40M+ delivered to farmers
‣ $16M+ leveraged
‣ $2M+ annual SH investment
‣ partners with 6 land trusts
‣ “critical mass” builds resilient regional farm economy
PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS: Potent Tool to Strengthen Economic Viability

- more affordable land access
- increased supply & productivity
- facilitates family transition
- builds economic stability
- enables farm expansion
TOOLS & TECHNIQUES: GIS Modeling for Farmland Protection

1. Define Parcels of Interest
2. Prioritize Individual Farms
3. Identify Regional Priorities
DEFINING PARCELS OF INTEREST

1. establish focus area
2. identify possible farms
   - agricultural districts + agricultural use + agricultural exemptions
3. verify total farms
   - 5,837 farms, 730,289 acres
4. subtract protected farmland to define farms of interest
   - 4,969 farms, 648,959 acres
PRIORITIZING INDIVIDUAL FARMS

1. assign “soil value” for each farm based on mean capacity
2. assign “size value” for each farm based on arable acreage
   - 45-100 acres
   - 101-200 acres
   - 200+ acres
3. establish “combined priority” value for each farm (67% soil; 33% size)
IDENTIFYING REGIONAL PRIORITIES

1. soil capacity per town
2. farm size per town
3. farmland density per town
4. “farmland intensity index” per town
5. average farmland intensity (plus orchards)
6. priority “farmland conservation clusters”
STRATEGIC PLAN TO CONSERVE THE FOODSHED

- foodshed plan offers strategic framework
- land trusts deliver turn-key deals
- cost reasonable
- farmers motivated

Conservation Clusters
- 1,143 medium priority farms totaling 87,645 acres
- 1,252 high priority farms totaling 159,949 acres
- 605 highest priority farms totaling 162,402 acres
- $250M to conserve 33%
- $100M to conserve 14%

ALBANY
NEW YORK
150 miles
100 miles
50 miles

SCENIC HUDSON
land □ parks □ advocacy
CONCEPTUAL PRO FORMA: $250 million conserves 1/3 of highest priority farms over 10 years

CONTRIBUTION GOAL:
NY State $20M, plus $5M/yr
USDA $2.5M/yr
County/Local $2M/yr
Scenic Hudson $2M/yr
Philanthropy/Landowners $6.5M/yr
New York City $5M/yr

(* NYS pays 75%, USDA pays 50%)
SECURING FRESH, LOCAL FOOD FOR NEW YORK CITY AND THE HUDSON VALLEY
A Foodshed Conservation Plan for the Region