Farmers are facing more challenges than ever, but CLC is uniquely positioned to help the farmers in our community secure their land base, explore their options, and plan for the future of their farms.

- Marissa Codey, Director of Agricultural Programs

After two years of analysis, refinement, and rebranding, all of us at CLC are excited to share a newly expanded assistance program for farmers and landowners!

Our Farmland Access, Resources, and Matching (FARM) Program has been updated and improved to offer a more comprehensive package of services including farm lease advice, enhanced farmland protection tools, as well as general support and resources for farmers and landowners.

Farmer-Landowner Match Program
A keystone piece of our expanded FARM Program includes the launch of a new, more user-friendly website for the Farmer-Landowner Match Program, which CLC operates in conjunction with the Dutchess Land Conservancy and in partnership with the American Farmland Trust’s Hudson Valley Farmland Access Program.

The best analogy for how the program works might be a free, online dating service! Farmers and landowners visit our new website, clctrust.org/farm-program/matching/ and create a profile. They can then search the database for potential matches and contact participants. CLC staff speak with all participants about their goals, and are now able to offer expanded support through resources such as maps, lease guidance and templates, and referrals. We have also re-launched an improved FARM Advisor Program, connecting program participants to farmer volunteers who offer farmland site evaluations and other advice.

Farmland Protection
In addition to facilitating matches, CLC supports farmers through its farmland protection program. Working in collaboration with project partners and with the support of state and federal grants, we have been able to secure more than $24,000,000 which has gone directly to local farm families. The funds are provided to the families as payment for the permanent protection of some of County’s best and most critical farmland properties.

Keep CLC growing all year long - make your gift early!

CLC relies on your regular donations to ensure that we are able to protect this land we call home, all year long. We hope you’ll consider making your gift early this year, or signing up for monthly giving, which provides a dependable source of funds year-round, and is easier on your pocketbook!

Want to make your gift over the phone instead, or sign up for monthly giving? Contact Craig Westcott, Director of Philanthropy, at 518.392.5252, ext. 222, or craig.westcott@clctrust.org.
In recent years, we have also begun to incorporate a new tool into our farmland protection work. A **pre-emptive purchase right** ensures that the protected farms will be conserved from development and also requires that farms are sold to farmers, at an affordable price. Farmers who opt to use this tool can receive additional compensation.

With the help of the community, CLC recently raised $1,500,000 to purchase Thompson-Finch Farm. The farm is subject to a conservation easement held by Dutchess Land Conservancy and a 99-year ground lease held by CLC that provides farmers with both long term security and a way to build equity over time. Equity Trust and Scenic Hudson were project partners and supporters.

CLC staff are available to listen and creatively problem-solve with farmers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels. Our staff is skilled at helping farmers better understand the options available to them, and our newly expanded FARM program offers a myriad of resources and support systems.

Find out more about the new FARM program by visiting our website at clctrust.org/farm-program/ or contacting Terence Duvall at terence.duvall@clctrust.org or 518.392.52542, ext. 225.

The FARM program is supported by grants from the American Farmland Trust, Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, as well as donations from generous supporters like you!
Upcoming Events

Woodland Pool Exploration
April 13, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Harris Conservation Area, Austerlitz

Volunteer for Earth Day
April 20, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Schor Conservation Area, Red Rock

Riverkeeper Sweep
May 4, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Greenport Conservation Area, Greenport

Global Big Day with Alan Devoe Bird Club
May 4, 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area, Ancram

National Trails Day
June 1, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Overmountain Conservation Area, Ancram

Om at Ooms
Every Thursday, June 6 - August 29
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ooms Conservation Area, Chatham

Schedule subject to change - register at clctrust.org!