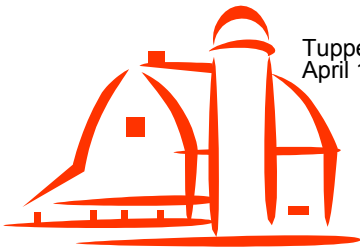


Land-Use and Agricultural Economic Development: the Policy Connection

Nelson Bills
 Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell

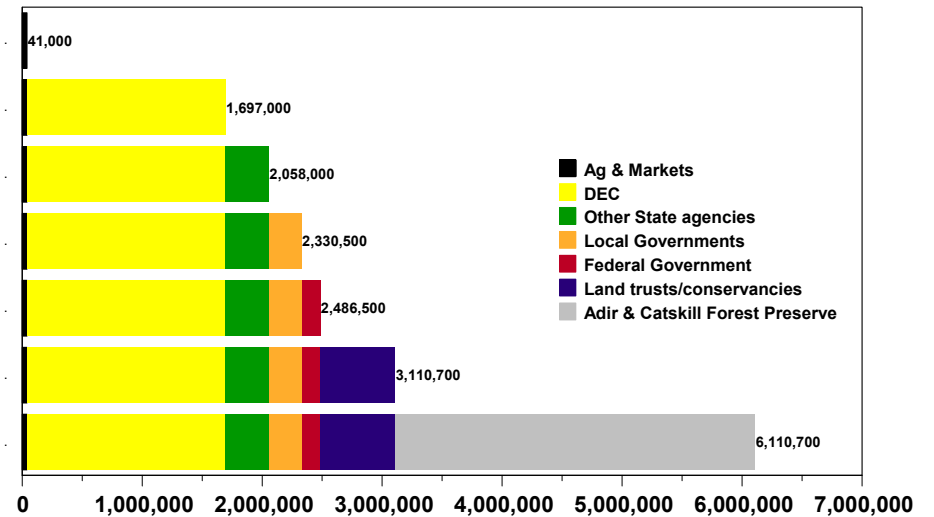
Local Foods III: The Role of Adirondack North Country Foods in Community & Economic Development

Tupper Lake, NY
 April 18, 2008



1

“Protected” open space lands in New York State, 2006



Source: 2006 NYS Open Space and Conservation Plan; Land Trust Alliance

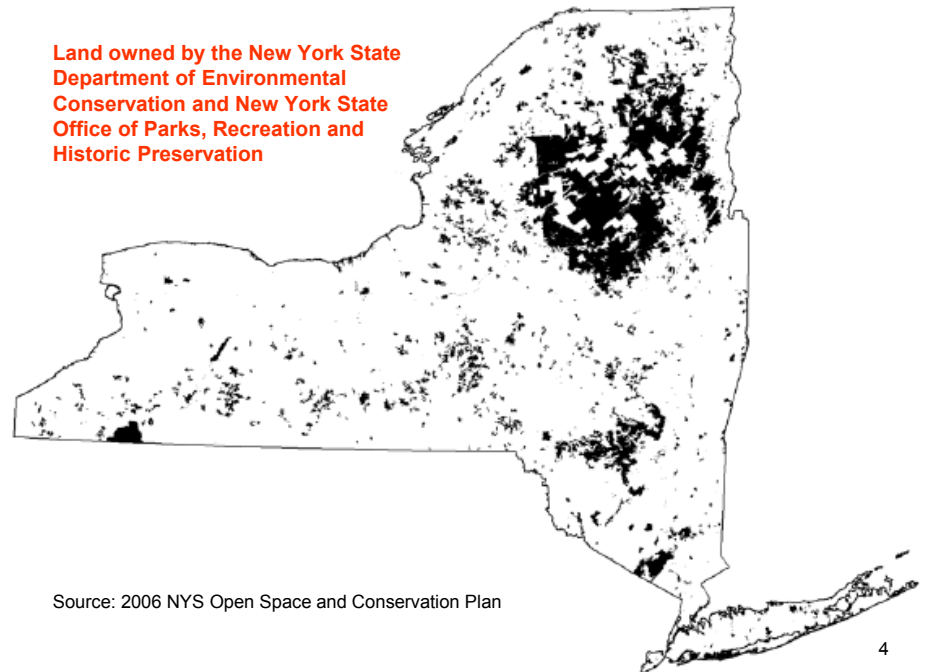
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Today

- Briefly highlight the nexus between agricultural economic development and land protection
 - A vibrant agriculture is a necessary condition for effective management of open space lands
 - The wide view of land protection and open space management
- Land use in the North Country region
 - Issues and opportunities don't follow county lines
 - A regional context can sharpen perspectives and open new programmatic options

2

Land owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



Source: 2006 NYS Open Space and Conservation Plan

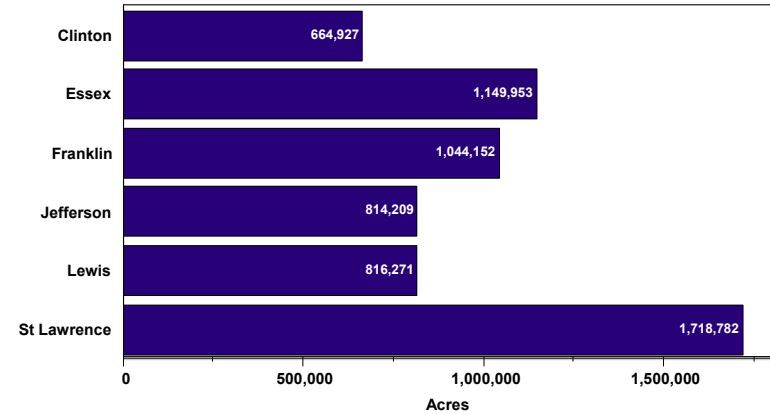
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Key Farmland Protection Policy Milestones

- **1969: Farm Building Property Tax Exemptions**
- **1971: Agricultural District Law and Agricultural Assessment (Art. 25-AA, Ag and Markets Law)**
- **1992: Major amendments to Art. 25-AA**
 - Opinions on sound ag practices
 - Written notices to real estate buyers in Ag districts
 - Notice of intent filings
 - Formation of Agriculture and Farmland Protection Boards (AFPB)
- **1992: Article 25-AAA, Ag and Markets Law**
 - County Farmland Protection Planning Grants
 - Purchase of Development Rights Grants
- **1996: Farmers School Tax Credit**
- **1998: Article 25-AAAA, Ag and Markets Law**
 - Initial Farmland Viability Program Grants
 - Agricultural and Farmland Protection Programs
- **2007: Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Planning Grants**

5

Land area in the North Country: 6.2 million acres (9,700 sq. miles) and about 20% of the New York State total



Source: 2002 Census of Agriculture

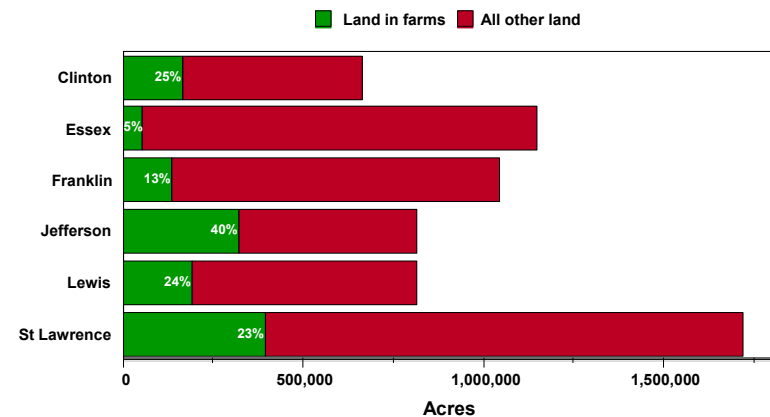
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Empire State Development's 6-county North Country Region



6

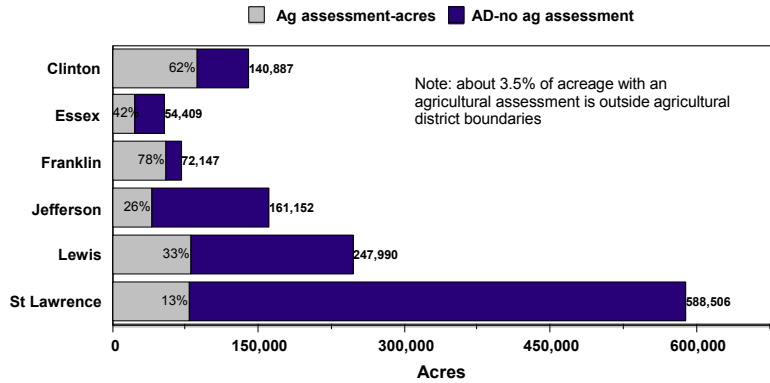
Land area in farms, N. Country, 2006: nearly 1.3 million acres or 17% of NYS total



Source: USDA-NASS

8

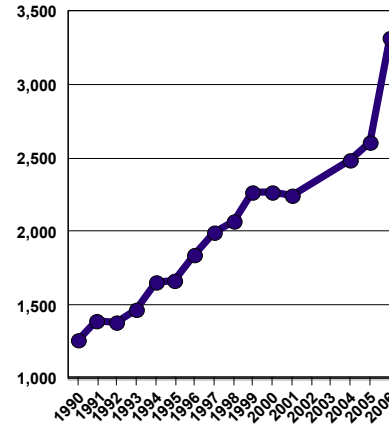
Acres with landowners receiving an agricultural assessment, N. Country, 2007: nearly 370,000 acres or 29% of total farmland



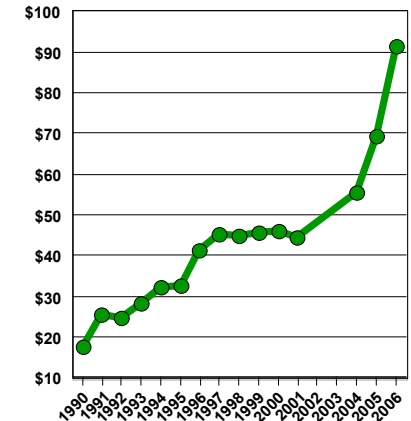
Source: Unpublished data-New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; New York State Office of Real Property Services

Agricultural assessments on farmland, North Country, 1990-2006

Parcels with ag assessment



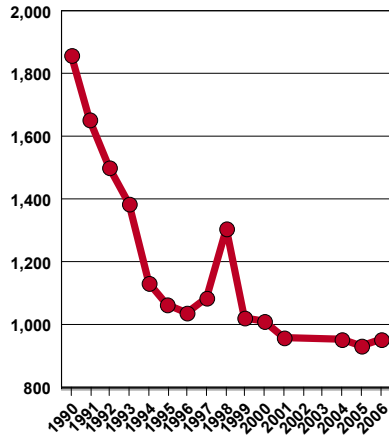
Equalized value of exemptions (\$ Mil.)



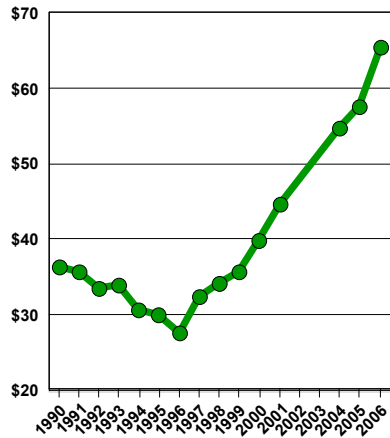
Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services

Exemptions for new or newlyreconstructed farm buildings, North Country, 1990-2006

Parcels with farm buildings exemption

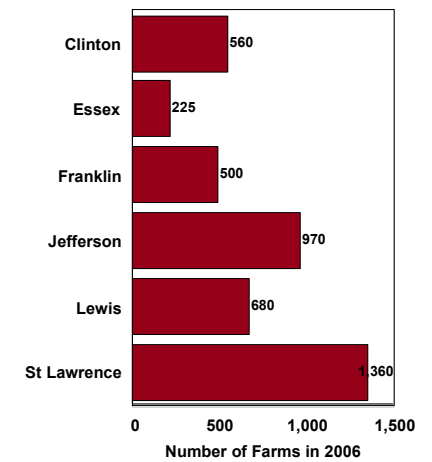
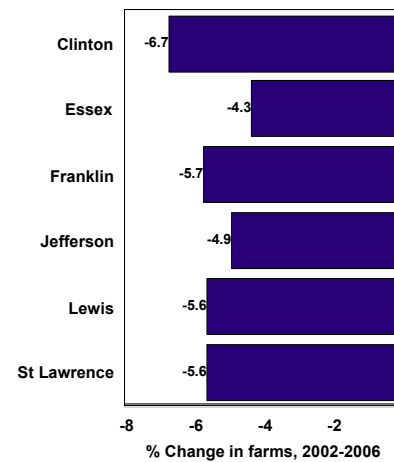


Equalized value of exemptions (\$ Mil.)



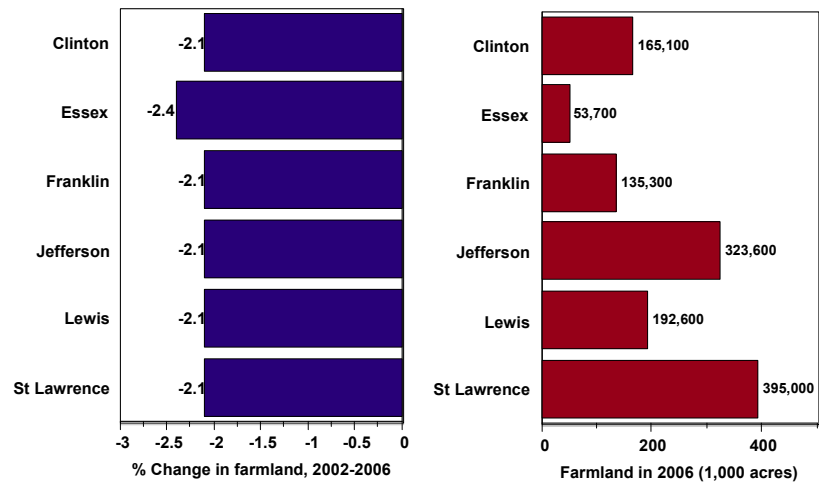
Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services

Number of farms, North Country, 2002 and 2006



Source: USDA-NASS

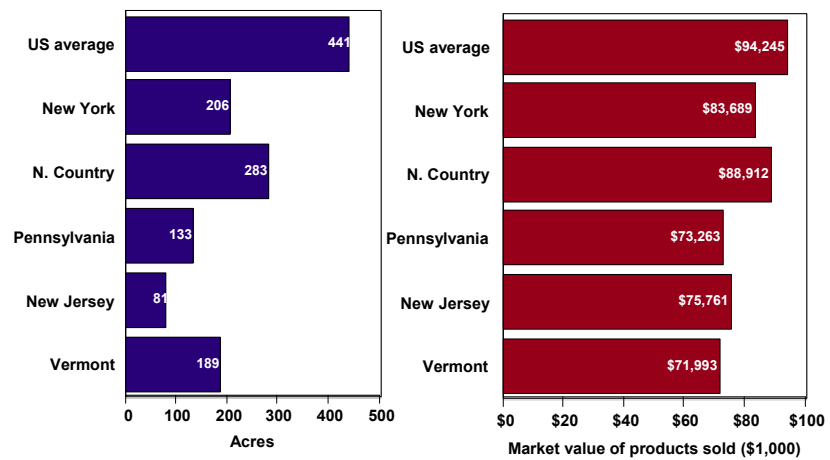
Land in farms, North Country, 2002 and 2006



Source: USDA-NASS

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Average farm size, 2002



Source: 2002 Census of Agriculture

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