



August 2019

# Agriculture



## Snapshot of Dutchess County Agriculture

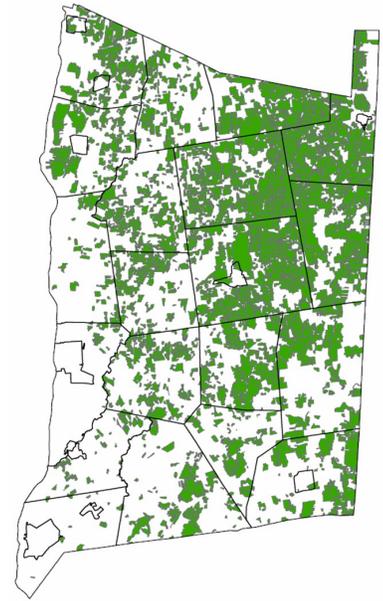
### 2017 Agricultural District Parcels

The number of acres in Agricultural Districts continues to grow in Dutchess County, up from 196,164 acres in 2016 to 197,482 acres in 2017.

Earlier this year, the USDA released its 2017 Census of Agriculture results; and though not all farmers respond to the census, there is valuable trend information.

While we have seen a reduction of farms from 2012-2019, down 9%, we have also seen the total number of farmers in Dutchess County nearly double from 678 in 2012 to 1,135 in 2017.

The number of female farmers also grew, from 33% in 2012 to 43% in 2017, and 340 farmers identified themselves as “New and Beginning Farmers,” which bodes well for the state of agriculture here in Dutchess County.



## 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture: Dutchess County Profile Highlights

### The County's top crop commodities by acre:

- ◆ Hay
- ◆ Corn
- ◆ Vegetables
- ◆ Soybeans

### Our top livestock inventories are:

- ◆ Chickens
- ◆ Cattle
- ◆ Horses
- ◆ Goats and sheep

### Percent of Dutchess County farms that:

- ◆ Are family farms 93%
- ◆ Have internet access 89%
- ◆ Are female farmers 43%
- ◆ Hire farm labor 40%
- ◆ Sell directly to consumers 22%
- ◆ Are organically farmed 2%

DUTCHESS COUNTY

2019 Agricultural  
State of the County

# Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in New York State and Dutchess County. Our farms:

- Provide fresh food (and food security);
- Provide jobs for members of the community – on the farm, through value-added processing, sales, and directly and indirectly related infrastructures;
- Enhance our agri-tourism industry;
- Support other local businesses through purchases of goods and services;
- Sell to restaurants, supermarkets, small markets, distribution centers, and other farms; and
- Contribute to our quality of life here in Dutchess County.

Our farmers generally have produced more on fewer acres amid pressure to utilize fewer natural resources at lower costs. Risk management and price remain critical issues for farmers. Throughout Dutchess County, farms of every size make investments that benefit our local communities in various ways.



## DUTCHESS COUNTY AG NAVIGATOR

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*Dutchess County Agriculture...  
It's A Growing Thing! <sup>SM</sup>*

Graphics: Sean Carroll, CCEDC  
Photos: Jennifer Fimbel, CCEDC

## Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator

The mission of the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory is to foster better understanding of the importance of local agriculture by local officials and economic specialists. The Agricultural Navigator acts as a conduit for farmers, municipal officials, and economic development specialists to provide impartial information and advice when implementation of local regulations are proposed that may have an impact on agriculture, farmland, and agricultural businesses.

The role of the Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator is to coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with County and municipal officials, the farming community, agricultural organizations, and other agencies on:

- Agricultural issues and solutions;
- Economic viability and sustainability of farming; and
- Opportunities and feasibility of new infrastructures related to agriculture.

The Agricultural Navigator, under the guidance of the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee, also assists in the implementation of the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

### Source References:

2017 Census of Agriculture County Profile—Dutchess County, NY  
[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/New\\_York/cp36027.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/New_York/cp36027.pdf)

Dutchess County Agricultural Districts  
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Agricultural-Districts.htm#con1>

*The County of Dutchess awarded funding for the Agricultural Navigator initiative to Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County.*



**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
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ALLIANCE FOR BUSINESS