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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2025

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Community Roundtables to Explore Agrivoltaics in Upstate New York

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK – The American Farmland Trust (AFT) and Tug Hill Commission (THC) are partnering to host a series of community roundtables across Oneida, Oswego, Lewis, and Jefferson Counties to discuss agrivoltaics—an innovative approach that integrates solar energy generation with farming to maximize land use efficiency and minimize farmland loss. These events provide a platform for farmers, local officials, agricultural professionals, and community members to share their perspectives on how agrivoltaics can support both food production and renewable energy goals.

The roundtables will foster robust discussions about the opportunities, challenges, and policy needs for advancing agrivoltaics projects in New York. Participants will contribute valuable insights on balancing clean energy development with farmland protection, addressing technical assistance needs for farmers adopting agrivoltaics, informing solar and agrivoltaics research priorities, and shaping local zoning recommendations to support agrivoltaics growth.

AFT and THC will compile reflections from these discussions and share high-level findings with participants, as well as state and federal agency partners, to help shape future agrivoltaics policies and initiatives.

Event Schedule:

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County, Oriskany, NY
- Thursday, February 27, 2025 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Location: CiTi BOCES, Mexico, NY

- Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Location: Howard G. Sackett Technical Center, Glenfield, NY
- Thursday, March 27, 2025 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, Watertown, NY

Registration is required. Sign up today at <https://farmland.org/NYAgPVRoundtables>.

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The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.