

## **Easement Conservation Easement Acquisition Policy**

It is the mission of the Watershed Agricultural Council to conserve agricultural land and support the economic viability of agriculture and forestry through the protection of water quality and the promotion of land conservation in the New York City Watershed region. It is the purpose of WAC's Conservation Easement "to protect the water quality of the New York City watersheds, and to protect agricultural and forestry lands by limiting the form, location, and density of development and promoting good stewardship by the implementation of Whole Farm Plans." Therefore, it is the policy of WAC that in order to be eligible for the easement program, any property applying to WAC for an agricultural conservation easement, shall have a Whole Farm Plan approved by WAC.

### **Council Guidelines**

- The Easement Committee shall develop guidelines for the acquisition of easements which shall include: applicant selection, land planning, appraisals, offers, and purchase and sales contracts.
- Conservation easements acquired by WAC with NYC funds shall reflect the terms of acquisition as defined in the 1997 NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement, the Contract and Scope of Work with the NYCDEP, and Easement Committee Guidelines pertaining to land acquisition.
- Acquisition of conservation easements shall be conducted in a manner that complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws
- Conservation easements shall not be acquired in a manner which would jeopardize WAC's standing as a Not For Profit Organization and shall adhere to all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to charitable organizations.