



The Onondaga County Agriculture Council's **ON Farm Fest** is an annual "day on the farm event" that is intended to help build a relationship between the food producers and consumers. The event encourages the community to visit, tour, and support local farms, discover the latest advances in agriculture, explore what life is like on a farm, meet the farmers who grow their food, and have fun on the farm.

The Agriculture Council greatly appreciates your interest in serving as a host farm for ON Farm Fest. When we first conceived of this event as a way to educate the public about agriculture, we thought it would be difficult to find enough farms to participate. Fortunately, due to the generosity and dedication of our local farmers and the support of the community, the event has grown each year and interest in participating continues to rise.

While we would like to include every farm interested in participating, due to staffing and logistical constraints we can only accommodate approximately 10 farms each year. Unfortunately this means we may have to choose which farms to include on the tour. To help make the selection process fair and to best meet the objectives of ON Farm Fest, the ON Farm Fest Organizing Committee uses the following criteria as a basis for choosing farms.

**Agricultural Diversity** – we will strive to include a variety of farms so that the public can experience a broad range of agriculture.

**Location** – we will strive to include farms distributed throughout the County to maximize the convenience for the public. We will also strive to create clusters of farms so attendees can experience multiple farms while minimizing travel.

**Education** – a key component of ON Farm Fest is education. As a result, we will strive to include farms that will actively participate in educating the public during the event. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County (CCE) will work with farms to develop a tour and education plan.

**Prior Participation** – we believe there is value to including a farm on the tour for more than one year, if interested, as they may discover ways to improve the event in future years. We also believe that regularly including new farms keeps the event fresh and encourages attendees to return year after year.

**Safety** – attendee safety is of utmost importance to the Organizing Committee. As a result, we will strive to include farms that have adequate parking for at least 100 vehicles with safe access to the road, safe facilities suitable for touring by the public, and sufficient staffing the day of the event to help keep people safe. All participating farms will be required to provide an insurance certificate naming both Onondaga County and CCE as additional insureds on their policy. If the Organizing Committee deems it necessary, traffic control officers will be provided at no cost to the farm, however, due to the expense we need to limit the number of farms that require traffic control. CCE will arrange for a site marshal and volunteers to be at each farm during the event to augment the staffing supplied by the farms.

**Fun** – ON Farm Fest is intended to be a family-friendly, fun event and we believe that if people have fun they will be more likely to participate year after year. As a result, we will strive to include farms that have fun activities planned for attendees, especially children, and that seek to create a festive atmosphere at their farm. The Organizing Committee will work with farms to arrange for music and food trucks during the event if the farms would like those amenities.

**Communication** – it takes a great deal of coordination to make ON Farm Fest a success. As a result, we will strive to include farms that are responsive and can actively participate in planning for the event. Farms will be expected to have a point of contact that will work with the Organizing Committee.

**If you would like your farm to be considered for ON Farm Fest, please fill out the form indicating your interest at <http://onondagagrown.com/about/host-farm>**

If you have questions please contact the Onondaga County Agriculture Council at 315-435-2611 or Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County at 315-424-9485.