

PECONIC LAND TRUST



****Media Advisory****

Peconic Land Trust Announces Initiative in Support of Suffolk County's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan to Solicit Feedback from the Local Farming Community

Online Survey Now Available on the Trust's Website

February 7, 2013. Southampton, NY. The Peconic Land Trust announces today that an online survey has been made available to assist Suffolk County in updating its Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

Suffolk County is the #1 producer of agricultural products in gross receipts within New York State and agriculture continues to operate as a driver of economic activity. Suffolk County is conducting this planning effort in order to update its 1996 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, in furtherance of its goals to protect viable farmlands and natural resources, to preserve its pastoral character, and to promote the agricultural industry on Long Island.

The survey is available on the Peconic Land Trust's website at www.PeconicLandTrust.org/fpp_survey or can be sent to interested farm operations by contacting Kim Quarty, Project Manager, at the Trust at 631.283.3195 or by email to KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org. All responses will be confidential.

In September, the County announced that it had received \$50,000 grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture that would in part fund the update to its

--next--

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. The update is also funded by in-kind services from the County and a \$10,000 grant from the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF). The funding from LICF was made directly to the Peconic Land Trust to support the County's effort through outreach to the farming community, of which this survey is an important piece of the plan.

In its announcement in September, the County outlined the following three topics and outcomes that would be addressed in the update:

- Sustainable local agricultural economic development,
- Agricultural land stewardship, and
- Access to affordable farmland.

"The participation in this survey by local Suffolk County farmers and growers is a necessary ingredient in creating an effective, economically and environmentally conscious farmland protection plan. Updating the plan will help ensure that existing farmlands remain in production and that rich, productive soils remain available for future generations of Suffolk County farmers," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

The Peconic Land Trust is honored to be working with Suffolk County on this important initiative.

About the Peconic Land Trust

2013 is the 30th Anniversary year for the Peconic Land Trust, which was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with landowners, donors, local government,

partner organizations, and communities to conserve over 10,000 acres of land on Long Island. The Trust's professional staff carries out the necessary research and planning to identify and implement alternatives to outright development. While working to conserve the productive farms, watersheds, woodlands, and beachfront of Long Island, the Trust is also protecting the unique rural heritage and natural resources of the region.

The Trust has Stewardship Centers in Cutchogue, Southold, Bridgehampton and Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. *A common misperception, however, is that the Peconic Land Trust is the recipient of the monies raised through the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund (also referred to as the 2% land transfer tax or the Peconic Land Tax). This is NOT the case. The CPF tax is collected by Suffolk County and then redistributed to the five East End towns, the distribution of which is based on the location of the property from which the tax is acquired.* For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

Press contact:
Yvette DeBow-Salsedo, Peconic Land Trust
631.283.3195
YDeBow@PeconicLandTrust.org

###