

DATE

Mr. David Behm
Farmland Protection Program Manager
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235

Dear Mr. Behm:

On behalf of the Town of New Lebanon, I would like to express our strong support for the grant application being submitted by the Columbia Land Conservancy to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the purchase of development rights on lands that are owned by West Family, LLC and leased to EZ Farm.

EZ Farm is a 360-acre operation based in New Lebanon since 2021. They produce pastured forest products, cattle and small livestock, and organic vegetables. EZ Farm is committed to organic and regenerative land management and farming practices.

The land considered in this application is primarily forested and well-suited for agroforestry production of timber and other wood products. The updated Town of New Lebanon Comprehensive Plan (2021), states we should, “Encourage the preservation of existing farms, open farmlands and the creation of new sustainable and economically viable farms.”

We strongly urge you to consider funding the protection of this property to help further our town’s vision for agricultural protection. We fully support the Columbia Land Conservancy’s application and are hopeful that it will be awarded funding. If you have any questions, or if I can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tistrya Houghtling
Supervisor
Town of New Lebanon