



MOHAWK HUDSON LAND CONSERVANCY

Conserving and Connecting Communities

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Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy protects largest farmland parcel to date: 886-acre Glenvue Farm, Montgomery County

Montgomery County, NY—Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) recently completed its largest farmland protection project, the 886-acre Glenvue Farm in the Towns of Glen and Root. The protection of Glenvue Farm is the third conservation project to be completed by MHLC since the start of the year, resulting in 1,823 acres protected in Montgomery County in 2023.

Glenvue Farm owners, Russ and Judy Kelly, worked with MHLC to secure a New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets grant (NYS AGM) that funds the purchase of development rights, protecting three properties with conservation easements. Funding provided by NYS AGM was through their Farmland Protection Implementation Program Dairy Transition Funding stream, a grant program designed to support dairy farmers specifically to aid in transitions to the next generation and diversification of their farm operation. The purchase of the development rights will not only protect the land from future development, ensuring the protection of productive soils for agriculture, but it will also provide farmers with resources to transition to farm products beyond dairy for long-term sustainability. In 1972, the Kelly's purchased the original 290-acre farm and, as surrounding farms went under without the next generations interested in farming, Russ and his family added these acres to Glenvue Farm. Today, Glenvue Farm stretches nearly 900 acres and continues to grow, with recent additions purchased by the next generation. The Kelly's sons, Justin and Ryan, are now poised to take over operations at the dairy farm.

Russ Kelly said, "The farm will have to continue to grow. It has changed dramatically since my father bought it to where it is now. We also hope that the funds will allow our sons to acquire more land if they want, improve the facilities, or have options for different forms of agriculture." If Russ's sons leave farming or his only granddaughter does not choose to farm, the conservation easement protects the farm from land use change. "We didn't have a lot of development pressure, but now there is tremendous pressure from solar," said Russ. The Farm Service Agency notes Montgomery County as one of the highest in New York State threatened with land use changes away from agriculture.

MHLC has been working to protect vital farmlands to balance development and open space for more than 30 years. The Glenvue Farm's conservation easements were preceded by two other Montgomery County conservation successes, the 846-acre Creek Acres Farm in the Town of Florida and the 91-acre Vosburgh Farm in the Town of Palatine, announced earlier this year. To view the Vosburgh Farm and Creek Acres Farm press releases, please visit www.mohawkhudson.org/news.

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) is a nonprofit conservation organization conserving and stewarding the lands and waters of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys for people and the environment in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties. Since its founding in 1992, the Conservancy has protected more than 15,000

acres of land, including over 2,500 acres open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, and other educational and recreational opportunities. To learn more, visit www.mohawkhudson.org.

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Glenvue Farm in Montgomery County, New York



Russ and Judy Kelly with their sons at Glenvue Farm