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## **Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Protects 846 acres of Farmland in Montgomery County**

**Town of Florida, NY**— In late January 2023, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) completed three conservation easements that permanently protect the 846-acre Creek Acres Farm in the Town of Florida in Montgomery County. The conservation easements, purchased with funds awarded to MHLC in 2019 from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Dairy Transition Program, will ensure that the farmland is forever available for agricultural use. The project marks a significant achievement for MHLC as their largest farmland conservation easement to date.

Creek Acres Farm is a third-generation dairy farm owned and operated by the Bunker Family. Pete Bunker has been working to transition the family dairy to his son Matt Bunker, the next generation. In the last few years, the Bunkers have worked to diversify their farm operation to maintain viability during a transitioning dairy market. The family farm produces milk from more than 450 cows and hosts the [Plaid Farm Store](#), a roadside stop and shop open to the public for milk, beef, pork, and other locally produced farm products. The Creek Acres Farm is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) focused on cow comfort and waste management, working through National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District to implement best practices for a responsibly functioning operation. The Bunker Family also participated under a research license to produce hemp on Creek Acres Farm for the CBD market.

"We are glad we got to work with Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to complete this project. It was a long process, but we are happy with the results. We are glad to be able to preserve our farmland," **said Matt Bunker.**

MHLC would like to thank the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Montgomery County Industrial Development Agency for their partnership on this project.

**Ken Rose, Director of Montgomery County Economic Development and Planning Department said,** "Our farmland is in jeopardy of being lost due to changes in land use. We are pleased to see this third-generation farm be protected to ensure the future of farming on these 846 acres in Montgomery County. Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy is a great partner for our County, ensuring our rural landscapes remain for future generations."

**District Manager Corey Nellis, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District said,** "Agriculture is the foundation of Montgomery County. The Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to be a part of the first successful PDR in the county. The partnership with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy has made this process possible. Protection, preservation, and conservation of our open space is the highest priority of our office. We look

forward to future projects that will enhance our mission of preservation and conservation of the agriculture land in Montgomery County.”

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 14,000 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](http://www.mohawkhudson.org).

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In addition to this press release, please find the attached image:

*MHLC Associate Director Sarah Walsh discusses the conservation easement  
with Pete Bunker at Bunker Farm, one of the three properties that make up Creek Acres Farm  
Creek Acres Farm in Montgomery County, New York*





