

## Lewis County Agricultural Enhancement Plan, 2004

In March 2003, with the assistance of Behan Planning Associates, a volunteer steering committee began the process of evaluating and planning for the future of Lewis County agriculture. Lewis County is located in the Tug Hill region, west of the Adirondack Park. The group, a sub-committee of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, established a series of goals to guide planning and recommendations:

- Improve the community's understanding of agriculture and its importance to the county's economy and quality of life.
- Increase the profitability of agriculture in Lewis County.
- Increase the competitiveness of the county and region in future farming initiatives.



Based on these goals, the committee identified fifteen preliminary actions to enhance Lewis County agriculture, including applying for grant funding, outreach to youth, regional marketing, promoting value-added operations, conducting a value-added feasibility study, increasing agri-tourism, and continuing to investigate and gauge local interest in a PDR program among other items.

The plan was unanimously passed by the Lewis County Legislature in the summer of 2004.

