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### **New York State Grant Will Aid in Revitalizing Ulster County Farm Housing**

Ulster County Legislator Chairman, David Donaldson is pleased to announce that Ulster County has received \$600,000 from the New York State Office of Small Cities for its Farm Worker Housing Rehabilitation Program in 2007. The monies will be used to provide new modular housing on 16 farms located in Ulster County. Each farm will contribute a cash match bringing the Program total to over \$768,000.

This housing will greatly improve the living conditions of nearly 130 individuals while at the same time allowing farmers to meet their regulatory requirements. The Program helps preserve the economic viability of agriculture and reflects Ulster County's efforts to ensure that all members of the community have access to decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County will administer the Program. Cornell has unique experience in farm worker housing. It was instrumental in the preparation of this application and administered a similar project in 2001. That project resulted in improvements to 25 Ulster County farms that included rehabilitation of 14 existing housing units and the installation of 11 new modular homes for farm workers.

Executive Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, Lydia Reidy noted the importance of agriculture in Ulster County's overall economy and quality of life issues, and encourages supporting all Ulster County Farms.

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