

# Smart Giving Spurs Collaboration



*Judy Wright and David Haight from the American Farmland Trust sit with Barbara Henderson (center) of the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association at the farm of Pete Homes in New Woodstock.*

"This collaborative effort is educating local residents on our agriculture's economic, environmental and personal impact. We hope this will ignite a grassroots movement to protect one of our most valuable resources – local farms."

- David Haight, New York State Director, American Farmland Trust

Farm acreage in Onondaga and Madison Counties has decreased by over 50 percent since 1950, so the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association joined together with the American Farmland Trust to address the issues leading local farmers to abandon their enterprises. A conference and series of workshops educated farmers and public officials about the economic impact of agriculture and its future possibilities. The group produced a 50-page book to increase public understanding of what makes farming important to our area. If their efforts are successful, local residents will be inspired to join the fight to preserve our farming culture and heritage.

Impressed with the strength of their partnership, the Community Foundation supported this initiative with a Community Grant. Donors help fund innovative programs like this by giving to our Community Fund, which is composed of unrestricted gifts given to the Community Foundation over the past 82 years. That is why we are **Where the Smart Money Gives Back.**



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