

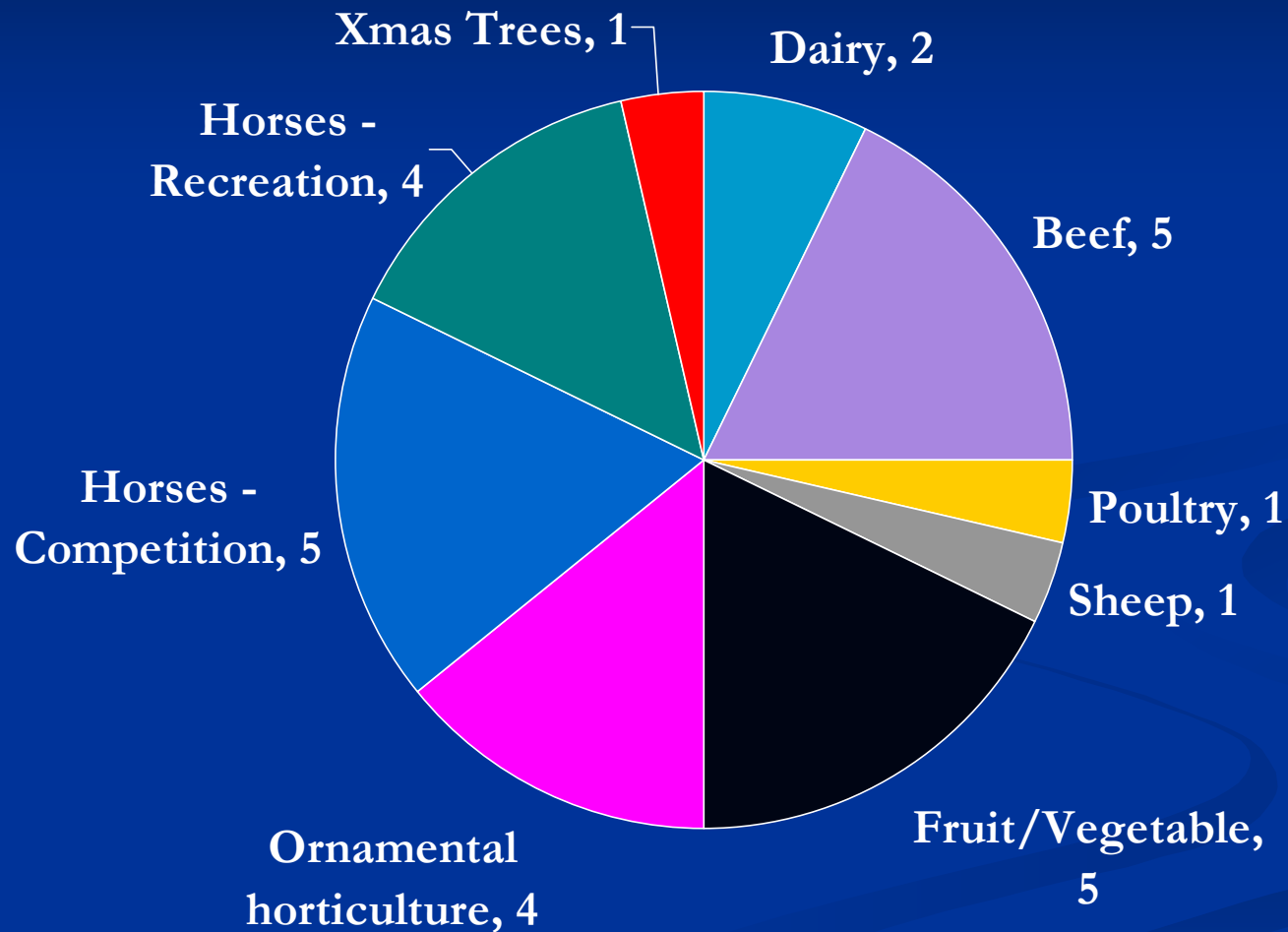
The Town of Clinton's Agricultural Economy

Agricultural Enterprise in a Dutchess
County, New York Town

Survey of Clinton's Agricultural firms

- Still supports a diverse mix of farms & agricultural activity
- 28 owners/operators were surveyed about their business and farming operations
- All surveyed responded to some questions, but some did not respond to several questions

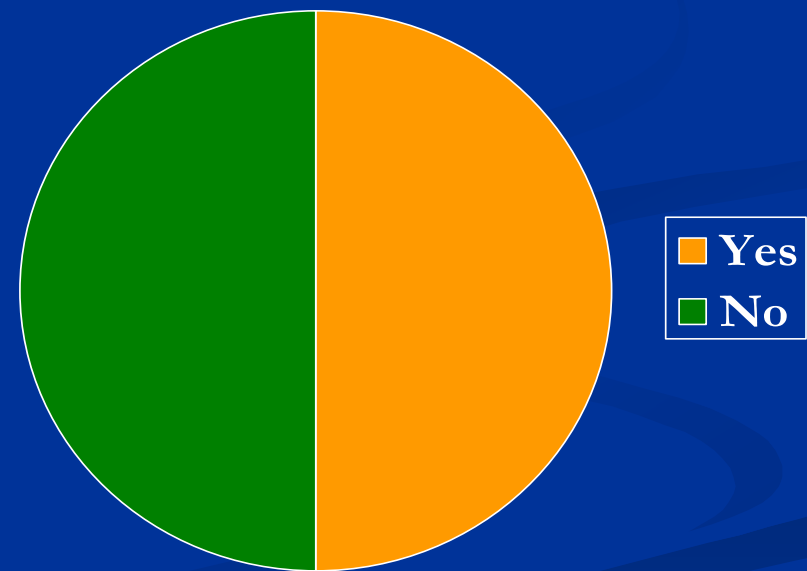
Primary Production



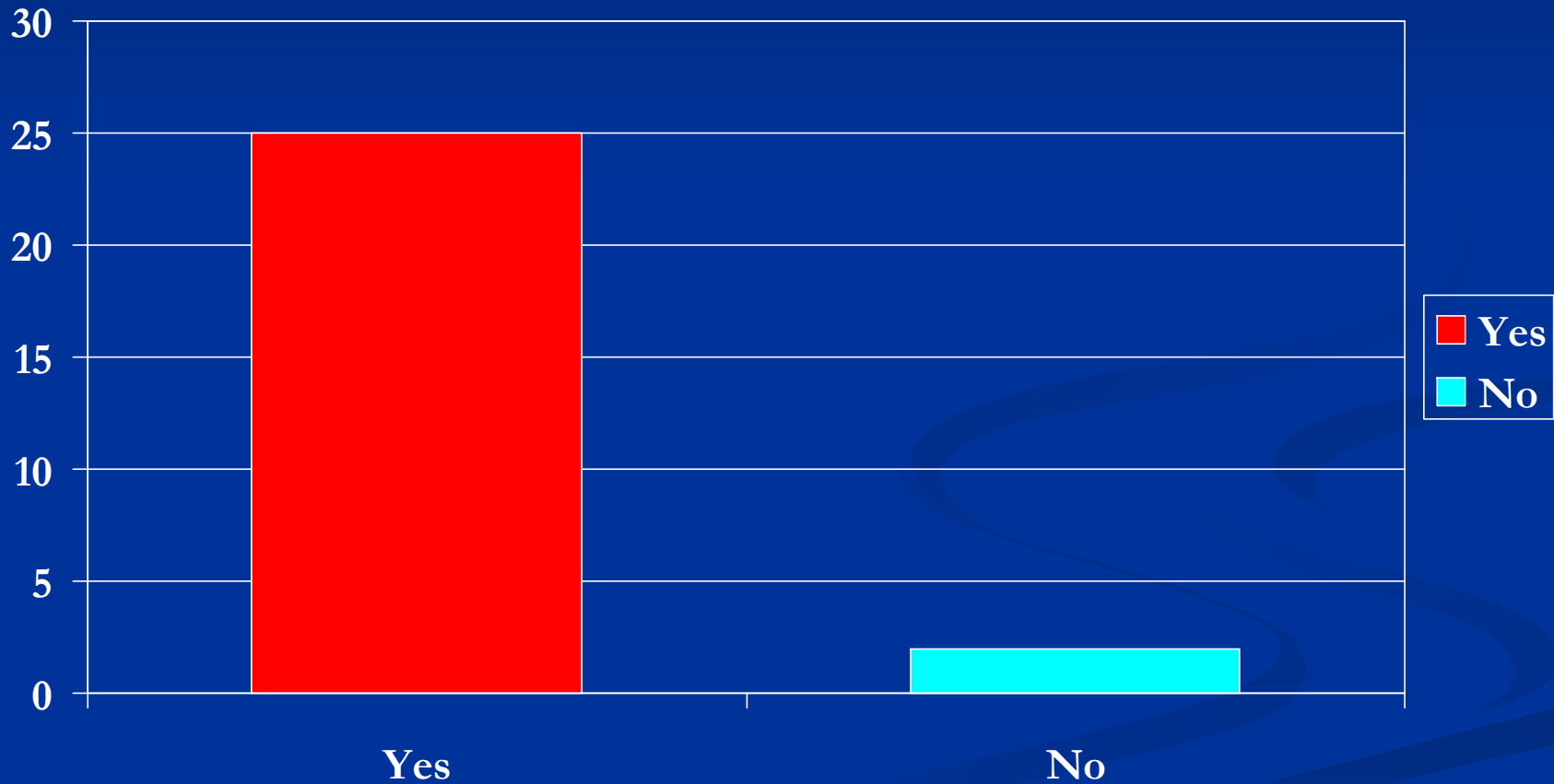
Owner/management tenure

- Ranges from 1 to 60 years; one for 8 generations.
- Median current tenure about 20 years.

Principal source
of income



Farming in 5 years?



Economic activity generated by Clinton's agricultural enterprise

- Annual gross product sold > \$3.5 million. $\frac{1}{4}$ sold exclusively within Clinton; $\frac{1}{4}$ sold only to markets outside the Town; and about $\frac{1}{2}$ to both.
- This is about 8% of the value of agricultural products sold by all agricultural producers in Dutchess County.

Spending for supplies and equipment

- Clinton's farm owners spent \$1 million for supplies, small equipment and services in 2008, 40% of which was spent on purchases from Town vendors.
- 23 owners spent more than \$3 million for major equipment and on-farm improvements within the past 5 years.

Farm employment in Clinton

- 19 farms provided on-farm jobs to 22 family members full time and 18 family members part time.
- 16 farms employ 21 salaried workers full time and 26 part time.
- 7 farms rely wholly on salaried workers for work force.

Non-Agricultural expenditures by farm owners

- Farm owners spent substantially for purchases unrelated to their farming during the last five years.
- 1 reported spending between \$50k and \$200k.
3 reported spending more than \$200k.
- These expenditures were for on-farm homes & improvements.

Property taxes paid

- Responses were poor. Fewer than 50% surveyed reported property taxes paid the current tax year.
- Those reporting paid a total of \$138,625 in Town, County, Special district, and School Taxes in 2008-2009.

Land used in agriculture

- 25 Clinton farms used 3,206 acres of owned land and 1,030 acres of leased land. All but 636 acres of owned land are located in agricultural districts.
- Farm lands comprise about 17% of the Town area, most located in the southwest quadrant.

Farm size and land use

- 12 firms farm > 100 acres each of owned land, from sizes of 108 acres to 536 acres.
- 8 firms farm > 50 owned acres but < 100 acres.
- 4 farms < 50 acres. One at 2 acres.
- 8 firms farm both owned and leased land, the largest is 200 acres owned/ 340 acres leased. Smallest is 60 owned/60 acres leased.

Farm size and land use continued

- Proportionately, Clinton has fewer small farms than does Dutchess County.
- Clinton's larger farm holdings are devoted to field crops and hay used for livestock feed and for pasturage.

Farm size and land use

- Substantial acreage in several farms is committed to perennial crops: orchards, vineyards, berries, Xmas trees.
- Acreage in smaller farms is tilled annually for vegetable production.
- 7 surveyed said they are considering shift to producing food items: vegetables, fruit, poultry, etc. due to demand for locally produced food.

Survey responses: Ag Benefits to Town Culture & Landscape

- Preserve open space.
- Support wildlife habitat.
- Reduce impact of development on local service costs.
- Maintain local view-sheds.
- Provide a local source of food supply.
- Keep Clinton rural.

Survey responses: Policies to sustain Clinton's agriculture

- Keep farming economically viable.
- Keep property taxes low and reduce them.
- Lower assessments on farm structures.
- Support buy local, farm retailing, farm markets, CSA, truck farming, etc.
- Improve government/agriculture working relationships.
- Improve road maintenance.

Sale/lease farmland development rights

- 17 respondents said they are familiar with this program; 8 said they are not.
- Respondents are divided on whether they would participate.
 - 12 said they would consider it.
 - 14 said they would not.

Agriculture in Dutchess County

- Strong County-wide ag sector is essential to the continuing viability of the Town's ag sector.
 - Support of product markets.
 - Support of farm supply , equipment and services infrastructure
- County-wide, farms have increased from 593 in 1978 to 660 in 2008, while acreage farmed declined from 140,000 acres to 101,000 acres.

Dutchess County

- County-wide, average farm acreage has declined from 237 acres to 153 acres in the same period.
- Market value of all farm products sold was approximately \$44.9 million in 2007, increased from \$37.5 million in 1987.
- Of total sales in 2007, \$23.4 million was crops; \$21.5 million was animal, including dairy.

Conclusions

- Clinton's farms are an important part of the local economy and quality of life.
- Most farm owners desire to continue farming and are business viable.
- A strong County ag sector and "smart" regional and local policies can sustain the Town's farm sector.