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Farmland protection grants announced

ALBANY – The state Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program will provide funding for preservation of two active farms in the Mid-Hudson.

The Town of Warwick will protect Bollenbach Farms, a 224 acre farm that produces hay as a specialty horse feed and has 84 percent statewide important soils. It will receive \$1.7 million for that purpose.

The farm adjoins another farm that is in the process of being protected and has frontage along an unnamed tributary into Quaker Creek.

Dutchess County will partner with the Dutchess Land Conservancy to protect Fishkill Farms, a 272 acre u-pick orchard with berries, irrigated vegetables, free range chickens and a retail farm market and greenhouse.

Over \$1.9 million has been targeted for that project.

“We all recognize the necessity of protecting valuable open space and productive farmland throughout New York State,” said Assemblyman Marc Molinaro. “The broad commitment in the Town of East Fishkill to make smart land use decisions is commendable and should serve as a model to other communities in the Hudson Valley.”

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