

Shop Project Commencing July 2020



Farm Hub 2020 Construction Project

Farm Machine Shop and Offices

This July the Farm Hub begins construction of an important new agricultural building at our main farmstead in Hurley, NY; a combined machine shop and farm office designed to support mission-aligned grains and vegetable production, associated research, and land management across the 1500-acre non-profit farm. Set back from Hurley Mountain Road, this critical on-farm infrastructure is needed to support the farm's capacity to produce food for donation and to help meet the call for a resilient local food system.

The architect-designed building has two components:

- A shop facility to accommodate multiple pieces of farm equipment simultaneously for maintenance and repair. With a large open floor plan and multiple bays for large vehicles (18,300 sq. ft plus additional 3,300 sq. ft for storage)
- Attached to the shop is an office for farm operations staff with meeting space and a large storage area for tractor supplies and parts (5,600 square feet)

The building will be LEED certified and includes the following features:

- Geothermal heating and cooling
- Solar energy production via panels along the east roof surface area
- Low water usage fixtures
- Upcycled materials
- Special glazing on windows to minimize bird injuries

NYS Governor Cuomo's lifting of the construction stop work order now allows the project to move forward with COVID-19 safety protocols in place and in time for winterization in 2020/21. Construction is expected to take place over a 9-month period beginning in July, 2020 under the management of Consigli Construction and with the employment of a range of local subcontractors. Architectural services will be provided by MASS Design Group.

Background

The farm infrastructure and equipment that accompanied the 2013 purchase of land from the Gill Farm included a packing line and structure to house it, a cooling facility, pole barns and shed buildings, greenhouses, and a repair shop – all suited to the needs of what was then a conventional wholesale sweet corn operation. From the Farm Hub's inception, we understood that in order to transition to a very new and different kind of farm – one using regenerative practices to research and grow grains, vegetables, and cover crops – new spaces and equipment geared to sustainably growing a variety of crops would be required.

In 2017 our farm managers and mechanics began outlining the components for a facility to accommodate our larger equipment indoors and to store the requisite parts and safety apparatuses in inventory. The result is a shop that will equip us to handle multiple pieces of machinery under one roof while also positioning tractors nearer to the farm fields for safer ingress and egress. The space will include offices, storage for safety and repair manuals, and a dedicated welding area.

Building Design

In order to ensure that the building would be handsome as well as functional, the Farm Hub engaged MASS Design, a non-profit architectural firm with a reputation for attention to environmental sustainability, excellence in design, and sensitivity to landscape. The MASS Design team worked with the Farm Hub to create a structure that would look good on the site and meet local assessment criteria.

The building is a hybrid of a prefabricated metal building and a custom design, with the two structures joined on one side. The relatively high peak of the shop allows for an interior crane for safe and efficient moving of parts. Other than two vehicle lifts, the functional interior space is left open for flexible movement of vehicles and equipment and ease of cleaning.

All of the siding on the office side of the building is reclaimed wood, while the shop itself will be metal siding in charcoal grey. These materials define a distinct identity for the two structures within a cohesive palette that has been chosen to blend in to the tree line when viewed from a distance. Exterior lighting will be discreet with all downlit and wall-mounted fixtures.

Landscaping

A 700' hedgerow has been installed along the north end in between the future building and our new greenhouses to act as a windbreak. This planting includes white pines, cedars, and other indigenous plants selected for stability as well as attractiveness to pollinators and birds. Additional trees around the perimeter of the building site will be added over time.

Approvals

The building and engineering plans were approved by the Town of Hurley after review for visual assessment as an agricultural facility. The project is subject to all state and local building codes, floodplain regulations, permits, work ordinances, inspections and municipal fees.

Construction Time-line and Schedule

After a rigorous RFP process, the Farm Hub selected Consigli Construction to manage the project. A number of local and regional subcontractors will be engaged on various aspects of construction including but not limited to concrete, electrical, HVAC, carpentry, and painting.

Construction will take place from 7:30am to 3:30pm on weekdays, with extensions allowed to 5:00pm. Saturday work will be limited to interior only and allowable during the hours of 8:00am to noon. Project completion is anticipated for spring of 2021. We understand that construction can be disruptive and will make every effort to minimize noise and traffic impacts on our neighbors as well as on our on-farm residents.

About the Farm Hub

The Hudson Valley Farm Hub is a non-profit farm located in Hurley, NY founded in 2013 with a vision to promote a more resilient local food system. The farm's 1500-acre rotation of vegetables, grains, and cover crops focuses on building soil health and balancing food production with conservation goals. Programs include agricultural research and education, on-farm ecology, food access, and language justice. Each year, the Farm Hub donates thousands of pounds of produce to the local emergency feeding system. 2020 crops plans and greenhouse production have been adjusted to make even greater quantities of food available in support of community efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

About Consigli Construction

Founded in 1905, Consigli Construction is a fourth-generation family led company, offering comprehensive construction management, general contracting, and design-build services for clients in a wide-range of markets. They provide clients with an innovative, collaborative, and hands-on approach that includes full transparency from the start of pre-construction all the way through the project's completion. Recognized by Engineering News-Record as one of the 100-largest construction management firms in the country, they have offices throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. Consigli has received numerous awards and recognition as a top place to work and for its quality craftsmanship.

About Mass Design

MASS Design Group is a 501(c)3 non-profit design firm with the mission to research, build, and advocate for architecture that promotes justice and human dignity. An organization of architects, landscape architects, urban designers, engineers, and researchers, MASS has had an office in Poughkeepsie, New York, since 2017. They were awarded the 2017 National Design Award in Architecture by the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum and have received national acclaim for their recent project, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. Mass Design's work at the Farm Hub has been led by co-founder (and Poughkeepsie native) Michael Murphy and managed by principals Chris Kroner and Justin Brown, both residents of the Hudson Valley.

