

Wood Turtles at Farm Hub

Beginning in 2018, Hudsonia Ltd and Jason Tesauro Consulting LLC, in collaboration with Hudson Valley Farm Hub and Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program, began analyzing the hazards posed by farm operations to wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*).

This species, designated **Special Concern** in New York, lives in and near streams and rivers, and forages in riparian thickets and fields. While farms create non-forested habitats, ponds, and nesting areas, and help keep land out of more intensive uses such as residential development, wood turtles are frequently killed or injured by farm equipment and vehicles where fields are cultivated or hayed near the river. Data have been collected primarily by means of mark-release-recapture and radio-tracking wood turtles at the Farm Hub, as well as at two other farms in the Hudson Valley.

Telemetry is ongoing at Farm Hub in 2022. We are learning that non-farmed buffers with a certain vegetational structure allow wood turtles to bask and feed with fewer forays into farm fields. We are translating this knowledge into recommendations for protection and management of stream buffers.



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