
This thesis assesses the current barriers and opportunities for regional farmers in New York City’s food system. Through interviews with farmers, food purveyors, representatives of farmer associations, Cornell Cooperative Extension Agents, policymakers, planners and experts, it is found that farmers are struggling, but that there are numerous opportunities for policies and infrastructure to assist them in scaling up the supply of regional food. Despite the many efforts, this study finds that many policy and infrastructure needs of regional farmers and other food producers are being overlooked and that this is attributable to the piecemeal approach to the food policies in recent years, in addition to the difficulties in creating policies that have a significant impact on jurisdictions outside of New York City. This study finds that while the city can do a great amount to assist farmers in scaling up their supply of regionally produced food in New York City, regional coordination is needed for this to increase and effectively build supports that are necessary for farming to remain viable in the region.