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## **FROST VALLEY YMCA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 13, 2017

### **Frost Valley YMCA is Awarded a \$500 Grant for Pollinator Patch Program**

*Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program awards Frost Valley a grant to underwrite upcoming Pollinator Patch Program*

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CLARYVILLE — Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program has generously awarded Frost Valley YMCA with a \$500 grant to be used to underwrite the 2017 Farm Leaders Project at Frost Valley's Farm Camp, a program that is set on 515 acres, where children learn to care for animals, cultivate and harvest vegetables, and they learn what it means to live a healthy life and how important it is to take good care of the earth. The Farm Leaders enrolled at Frost Valley's summer farm camp training program will create a Pollinator Patch to increase the vegetation at Frost Valley's Farm that supports pollinators such as bees, butterflies, birds, and more. Pollinators are vital to farming because they help plants reproduce by moving pollen to fertilize them.

"Our 2017 Farm Leader's Pollinator Patch project for next summer will now move forward as we are committed to improving the yield in every way at our Farm Camp. This project is important to the educational program for Farm campers and Leaders," said Jerry Huncosky, CEO of Frost Valley.

This Farm Camp project will teach 10 Farm Leaders, our 220 resident campers at the Farm ages 7 to 15, as well as 65 Farm Day Camp participants, about the importance of pollinators to agriculture. To be completed during the first session of summer camp, July 2-14, 2017, the project will ultimately introduce pollinator plants to 700 people coming to Frost Valley from throughout the Northeast, predominately New York and New Jersey. The 16-year old teen leaders at Frost Valley's Farm Camp will properly prepare the pollinator patch soil and plant specific, native vegetation to create a habitat for native pollinators.

"This will be a beneficial addition to the garden space making it more inviting for bees, birds, and butterflies. It will also be educational, hands-on learning and a space that future Farm Leaders will own and help maintain," said Nicki Macy, Director of Farm Camp.

Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement supports programs, projects, and events that are intended to strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing, and the forest products sector in the Northeast. This program is a combined effort of Farm Credit East, Yankee Farm Credit, and CoBank.

**Photos and interviews are available upon request.** Please contact Director of Marketing and Communications Amanda Hinski at [AHinski@FrostValley.org](mailto:AHinski@FrostValley.org)

**About Frost Valley YMCA**

Frost Valley YMCA is a values-driven organization that fosters youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through outdoor educational and recreational programs for all. Located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, Frost Valley provides year-round access to nature and fun through programs such as summer camp, adventure trips, farm camp, equestrian programs, group and family retreats, school trips, teambuilding and more. Frost Valley is guided in this pursuit by its core values which serve as pathways for guests as they bond with nature and each other: Caring, Community, Diversity, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Respect, Responsibility, and Stewardship.

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