



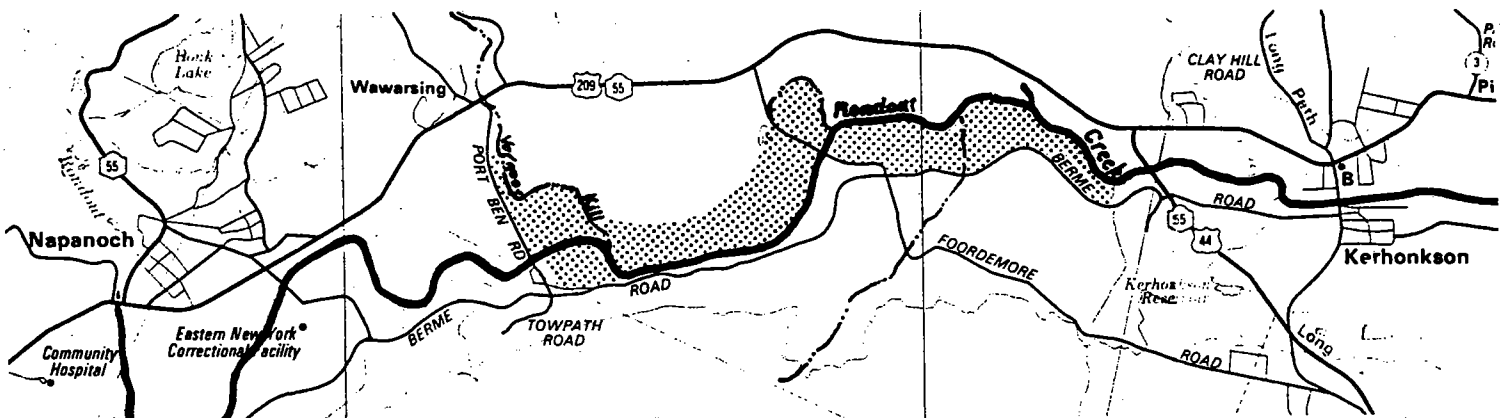
# RONDOUT-ESOPUS LAND CONSERVANCY NEWS

November 1990

## Conservancy Options A Davenport Farm

The Conservancy has entered into a two year option agreement with Gordon and Barth Davenport for their 300 acre vegetable farm in Kerhonkson. The property includes a farmhouse and large barn with two miles of frontage on the Rondout Creek and a mile and a half on the Vernoooy Kill, a pristine stream originating in the Catskill Park. RELC has designed an agricultural subdivision plan and is marketing the property for agricultural use and one residential property.

In order to secure the option agreement, RELC has obtained a loan from the American Farmland Trust, a national farmland preservation organization based in Washington, DC. The Trust makes its Revolving Loan Fund available to local land trusts across the country to assist groups with limited funds to act to protect the nation's finest farmland. The up-front costs of the transaction (legal, survey, subdivision) were paid by RELC's Land Acquisition Fund which was



The soils on this farm are classified by New York State as being the highest quality for agricultural use (mostly Unadilla and Tioga soils) and yield a tremendous amount of produce. This farm represents 6% of the total of the Unadilla and Tioga soil in the Rondout-Esopus Valley. The Valley has 72% of the Unadilla and Tioga soil in all of Ulster County. The bottomland, as it is called, along two miles of the Rondout Creek is a prime example of the silt loam soil that makes the Rondout-Esopus Valley an important agricultural area state-wide.

created last year by a grant from the J.M. Kaplan Fund. Unfortunately, since our Land Acquisition Fund is new and small, this project has the Fund committed until sales of the parcels materialize.

The plan for the property is for agricultural lots ranging in size from 20 acres to 175 acres. The farmhouse and barn is on a 14 acre parcel which includes a beautiful stretch of the Rondout Creek and a mountain stream surrounded by two of the agricultural lots. All the properties will be sold with conservation easements to protect

