

# 10

## things

you might not know  
about



# farming

1.

About 12% of the world's land area is used for agriculture.

2.

The smallest U.S. farms, those of 27 acres or less, have more than ten times greater dollar output per acre than larger farms.

3.

As of 2012, there were more than 700 community gardens growing food in New York City.

4.

Around 15% of the world's food is grown in urban areas and up to 30% of agricultural production in the United States originates from within metropolitan areas.

5.

38% of bee colonies have been lost due to Colony Collapse Disorder, inspiring urban bee keeping. With more than 300,000 bees on its rooftop deck, New York City's Waldorf Astoria is one of more than 300 hives within New York City limits.

6.

The average U.S. household generates 650 lbs. of compostable materials each year. Applying compost improves soil, adds important nutrients for plants, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

7.

In 2011, New York State experienced the second biggest rise in local farmers markets in the USA.

8.

As of January 2012, the United States had between 6,000 and 6,500 Community Supported Agriculture organizations which allow members to purchase locally grown, high quality, and fresh produce directly from regional farmers.

9.

Proper farmland management is critical to more than food quality and land health. Many species of wildlife, especially grassland birds, rely on proper stewardship of hayfields and pastures to provide their necessary habitat.

10.

Audubon NY has been working with farmers for more than a decade to help them help grassland birds. They worked with DEC to create its Landowner Incentive Program, in which about 3,000 acres are currently enrolled and are working with state Audubon chapters to create a complementary program that recognizes farmers for producing bird-friendly hay.