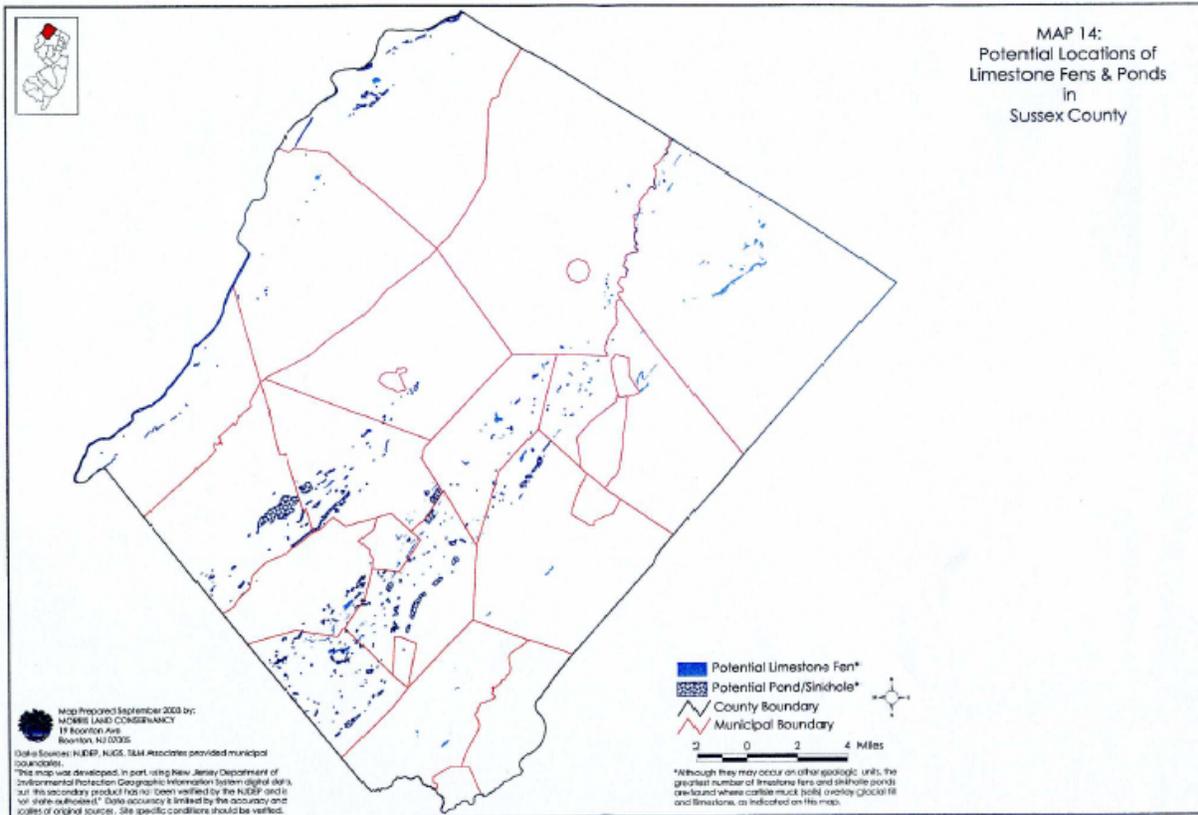


Data for Map 14: Potential Locations of Limestone Fens & Ponds in Sussex County, is sourced from NJGS's geologic data and NJDEP's soils data. It represents areas where Carlisle muck soils overlay limestone bedrock and thin glacial till (as fen sites are muck based). This map indicates the *possible occurrence* of limestone fens and sinkholes; the data has not been field verified and fens may exist on other geologic units.

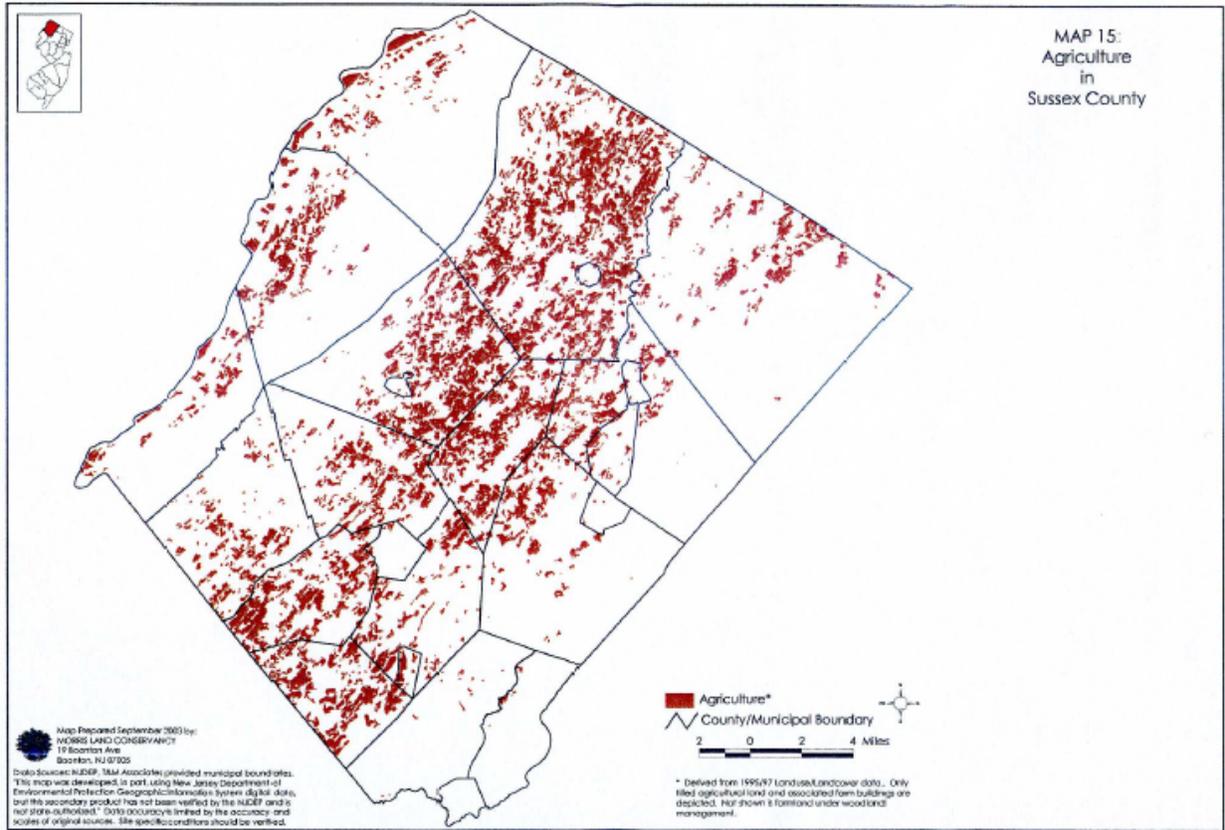


As **Map 14** illustrates, potential locations for limestone fen and sinkhole ponds are scattered across the county, although there are three general groupings. The first grouping is scattered along the Kittatinny Ridge from Walpack to Montague. The second area is located from southeastern Stillwater through the central region of Hampton and into Frankford. The last grouping is scattered in a wider northeast trending band from Fredon to Vernon.

Agriculture

Tilled Agriculture Land

Land in agricultural use occupies almost as much acreage in the county as wetlands. In 1995/97, 44,075 acres, or 13%, of Sussex County consisted of agricultural lands. According to **Map 15: Agriculture in Sussex County**, this land occurs in two general regions. The most prominent region is located in the Kittatinny Valley, in municipalities such as Wantage, Frankford, Lafayette, Hampton, Fredon and Green Townships. The

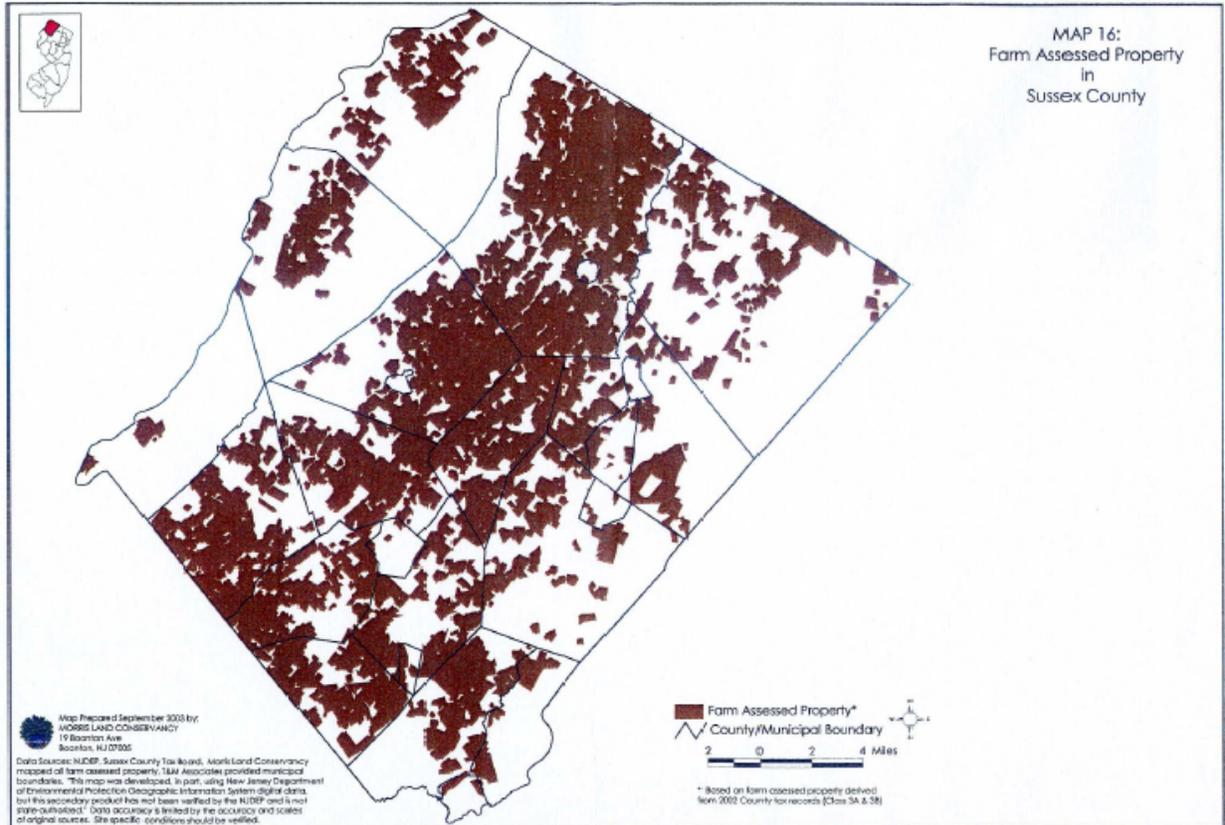


second region is on the west slope of the Kittatinny Ridge, in Walpack, Sandyston and Montague Townships.

The data that NJDEP derived from the interpretation of color infrared imagery can only account for pasture, cropland and buildings associated with agriculture such as barns or greenhouses. It does *not* take into account areas that are under woodland management (these areas are considered forested on infrared images) and which are considered to be ‘farmland’ or ‘agriculture’ from a legal standpoint (e.g. tax assessment). Therefore, although the 1995/97 Landuse/Landcover data provides an account of ‘tilled’ agriculture, it does not illustrate all ‘farmland’ or farm assessed property in the county.

Farm Assessed Property & Woodland Management

A more inclusive source for the total acreage of farmland is county tax records. Tax data for 2002 indicate that a total of 115,127 acres of land is assessed as Class 3A and 3B farm assessed property. This total includes ‘tilled’ lands as well as woodland managed lands, which, as previously mentioned, are forested. **Map 16: Farm Assessed Property in Sussex County** shows similar trends as **Map 15** but includes more land throughout the Kittatinny Valley and in Highlands municipalities such as Byram, Hardyston and Sparta Townships.



Land that is under woodland management receives the favorable farmland tax assessment rate in exchange for the planned harvest of the property’s timber resources. According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s New Jersey Farmland Data Report for the tax year 2002, a total of 56,272 acres in Sussex county are classified as woodland/wetlands and 35,129 of these acres are non-appurtenant woodlands, i.e. those not attached to other lands that are farmed.

Urban Land / Barren Land / Water

Urban land accounts for 42,445 acres, or 12% of Sussex County’s land area. Included in the ‘Urban’ category are any anthropogenic features or structures. This includes roads, parking lots, homes, offices, schools, stores and utility facilities.

The remaining 4% of the county is comprised of ‘Water’ and ‘Barren Land’. ‘Water’, which includes lakes, rivers, ponds and reservoirs, accounts for 12,827 acres. ‘Barren Land’ accounts for 2,169 acres and includes any land devoid of vegetative cover. This includes mines and quarries, such as those located on the Sparta/Hopatcong border and in Hardyston as illustrated by **Map 17: Urban Land, Barren Land & Water in Sussex County**.