



## The Progressive Farmer Helps You Find Your Place in Rural America

"New Ruralism" is the trend ... where do you fit in?

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 21 /PRNewswire/ -- The Progressive Farmer recently named the top 200 best places to live in rural America. After considering cost of living, crime rates, air quality, access to health care, education, and leisure activities, the editors named Ontario County, N.Y., number one on the list.

Now, the magazine helps you find your place in the New Ruralism trend -- the increased migration toward these areas -- with a five-step plan of action:

### Step 1: Getting started

Tell your realtor exactly what you want. Make sure the properties you like are what you had in mind. Be sure that you can build on them, and be prepared to pay the price, as the value of marginal farmland is rising sharply.

### Step 2: Searching by Surfing

Use the Internet as a convenient way to find information about even the most rural area's population, weather, and surrounding schools.

### Step 3: Discovering the Value of the Land

Have the property appraised, especially if you're looking at raw land. Land with a home on it has some level of established value, but it's more difficult to judge a property's value if it is currently cropland.

### Step 4: Creating a Checklist for Buying Land

Consider mind-set, life stage, activity, and your future. For example, think carefully if you are buying property with visions of a retirement windfall, as zoning laws change. If you have children, schools should be your top priority.

### Step 5: Financing the Purchase

Remember that new demographics of people relocating to rural areas have brought banks new opportunities. Today's lenders are open-minded to mortgages not only for country homes, but also land that doesn't produce an income.

For additional information about the best way to find your place in the growing New Ruralism trend, go to [www.progressivefarmer.com/farmer/findyourplace](http://www.progressivefarmer.com/farmer/findyourplace).

Also on the Web site, find more information about the Best Places to Live in Rural America list, which names the following counties as the best places: 1) Ontario County, N.Y., 2) Union County, S.D., 3) Oconee County, Ga., 4) Grafton County, N.H., 5) Kendall County, Texas, 6) Grundy County, Ill., 7) Lancaster County, Va., 8) Boone County, Ind., 9) Blaine County, Idaho, and 10) Hood River County, Ore.

The Progressive Farmer is published for Americans who live on the land, have access to land, or own land. The magazine is available by subscription only, which can be ordered via the Web site.

The Progressive Farmer ([www.progressivefarmer.com](http://www.progressivefarmer.com)) has been a trusted voice throughout rural America since 1886 and offers information and advice for rural life to almost 3.2 million readers each month. It is published by Birmingham-based Southern Progress Corporation, a Time-Inc. subsidiary.

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[Back to top](#)

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