LOCAL AGRICULTURE, LAND USE, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Rod Howe
rlh13@cornell.edu
CCE and CaRDI

David Haigh
American Farmland Trust
dhaight@FARMLAND.ORG
Session’s Goals

• An understanding of the importance of agriculture to communities
• Connecting the dots
  Leadership
  Land Use
  Farmland protection
  Ag economic development
• Identifying the key players
• Knowledge of Local Agriculture, Land Use, and Leadership Development institute
Are farms important in your community?
A strong agricultural sector is essential to the well-being of Upstate NY communities – levels of agreement and disagreement.
Agriculture Definition: A Suburban Town

Based largely on definitions in NYS Agriculture & Markets Law, for the purposes of this plan the Town of XXX defines a “farm operation” as involving the production, preparation and marketing of fruit, vegetables, field crops, nursery stock and flowers, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise, including horse boarding and breeding operations, Christmas trees, timber processing, compost, mulch, or other biomass crops, and the management and harvesting of farm woodlands.
Your Municipality: Goals and Roles

• What are you trying to save & protect?
• What are you hoping to “grow”?
• What are you trying to enhance or encourage?
• What are you trying to avoid?

What roles are your municipality playing?
What is Planning for Agriculture? (P4A)

- Proactive
- Agriculture is Economic Development and Land Use Priority
- Not Just Planning for Open Space!
P4A Fundamental Principles

• Demonstrate an understanding of agriculture
• Create a supportive business environment for farm businesses
• Support appropriate property tax policies for farm land and buildings
• Develop strategies to protect your best farmland
• Reduce the impact of new development on farms
Local Tools for Planning for Agriculture

• Agricultural Districts and Right-to-Farm Laws
• Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans
• Comprehensive Plans
• Zoning
• Subdivision Ordinances
• Local Property Tax Reduction Programs
Local Tools for Planning for Agriculture

- Purchase of Development Rights
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Agricultural Economic Development
- Infrastructure Planning
- Food and Health Policies
- Educating the Public about Agriculture
Who are the key players?
Exercise – mapping your network
Getting Started: Understanding Farms in Your Community

- The number of farms
- The economic contribution of the farms
- The average age of farmers
- How much land in agriculture
- What are the primary products
What does the vision for ag in your town and/or county include?

• Farmers Markets
• Local Foods, Organic Foods
• Youth involvement
• Entrepreneurial development
Tools, Resources and Funding

• American Farmland Trust
• Cornell Cooperative Extension
• eXtension Community of Practice on Community, Local & Regional Food Systems
• Cornell Small Farms Program
• LEAD-NY
• Cornell Farmworker Program
• NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
Planning for Agriculture in New York:
A TOOLKIT FOR TOWNS AND COUNTIES

American Farmland Trust

www.farmland.org/newyork
Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plans

- Town and County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans
- Support local agricultural industry
- Protect farmland
- Grants of up to $25,000 (Towns) or $50,000 (Counties)
- Administered by Dept of Agriculture and Markets
- 76 Towns and 51 Counties Awarded Funds
Municipal Farmland Protection Planning Grant Program

Grant Status

- Grant Awarded
Connecting the Dots

• Agriculture Development
• Food Systems Development
• Farmland Protection
• Land Use
• Leadership Development
Local Agriculture, Land Use & Leadership Development Institute: for your community?
Thank You! If you want to follow-up ....

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