



## **Progress Report**

### **Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan**

**Town of Wright**

**6/29/09**

**prepared by Laura Ten Eyck, Field Consultant, American Farmland Trust**

**Next Meeting: July 22, 2009, 7:00 PM, Wright Town Hall, Gallupville, NY**

### **Mapping**

Lillian Bruno of the Schoharie County Planning Department Agency presented the committee with the final map depicting active agricultural land within the Town of Wright. Although a few small revisions remain to be made this essentially the final product of months of hard work. The map was reviewed at the meeting and Lillian will e-mail maps and aerial photos to committee members so that each committee member can examine it on their own. Any further revisions will be forwarded to Lillian.

### **Prioritizing Agricultural Land**

The committee reviewed an e-mail from John Brennan to Lillian outlining various options for prioritizing agricultural land. Several options that might be best were discussed by the committee, including focusing on active agricultural land and identifying a core area of active farms and high quality soils. Laura will summarize the options and they will be further discussed at the next meeting. The committee also discussed agriculture conservation easements at the application process for purchase of development rights grants through the State's Farmland Protection Program as well as the Schoharie Land Trust and the donation of easements.

### **Economic Impact Study**

David Cox, of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Lillian presented a draft of the economic impact study they are working on for inclusion in the town's agricultural and farmland protection plan. The draft includes a list of the types of statistics they will be generating and a description of the economic impact of agriculture based on available data from the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The study also sites information about farming in the town based on agriculture district records. The committee will review this draft and forward comments to Laura prior to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the meantime David and Lillian will continue to work on the draft of the study and compiling statistics.

### **Review of Regulations**

The committee went over the Review of Regulations document prepared by AFT. Committee members made suggestions for changes which will be incorporated into a revision of the document.

### **Addendum to AFT Toolbox**

Laura submitted an addition to the previously drafted AFT toolbox, addressing recommendations for achieving the goals of attracting new farmers, cultivating the next generation of farmers and educating the public. The committee reviewed the document and discussed the importance of educating local children about the importance of agriculture.

### **Timeline**

The committee reviewed a timeline for completion of the plan by the January 7, 2010 date required by the terms of the grant. Concern was expressed that the timing of the town board vote to adopt the plan was too close to the election. Asking the town board to adopt the plan just prior to the election may politicize the issue. If it is put off until after the election then there may be a number of new board members who are unfamiliar with the plan. There were also questions regarding the timing of the public hearing and the number of days notice required prior to the public hearing. Laura will look into these

issues and present alternative timelines at the next meeting. In the meantime the committee will proceed according to the current timeline. Laura is working to have an initial rough draft of the plan ready for the July meeting.

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE**  
**112 Spring Street Suite 207 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**  
**Tel: (518) 581- 0078 Fax: (518) 581-0079**  
**[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)**