

Progress Report 9/29/09
Town of Wright, Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 29, 2009, 7:00 PM, Wright Town Hall, Gallupville, NY

Draft Plan Revisions

The committee continues to review and revise the draft plan. Committee members are currently going over the recommendations to be made in the plan, identifying recommendations that are a priority and clarifying language. In some cases recommendations, similar in nature, are being consolidated.

Two recommendations will be added to the plan. One is to adjust the number of incorrect assessment codes on parcels appearing on the tax map discovered during the process of identifying active agricultural lands. Another is to create a check list of to be used during the review of subdivision proposals and site plans. Language regarding future water and sewer lines will be clarified.

The committee is taking a closer look at incentives the town can offer in order to encourage developers to use conservation subdivisions. The committee is also examining the recommendation that agriculture land be designated as a critical environmental resource. These recommendations will be reviewed in detail at the next committee meeting.

Laura Ten Eyck, field consultant for American Farmland Trust is editing the text in the first part of the plan and putting together the appendix. She has met with Stephen Hoerz, District Manager for the Schoharie County Soil & Water Service to discuss the town's soils and topography and will be writing a section on the town's soils which Stephen will review.

The economic impact study has undergone another revision. Most of the data that appears is at the county level. Obtaining data at the town level from the agricultural census because the town encompasses 5 zip codes. The town also includes three different school districts which also makes town-specific analysis challenging.