



# AEM Tier 2 Worksheet

## Agriculture & the Community

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### Purpose of this Worksheet

1. **Document the economic, social, recreational and environmental benefits** of a farm to the community in which it is located.
2. Identify opportunities for a farm to **improve neighbor and community relations**.

This worksheet should be completed when **neighbor relations** have been identified as a concern in the Tier I questionnaire, or if a farm will be part of a watershed protection effort.

This worksheet should also be completed if a municipality (town or county) is undertaking **farmland preservation** efforts and wants to document the multiple public benefits of retaining a viable agricultural industry within the community.

## 1. Value to the Local Tax Base

For every dollar paid in taxes, residential areas require \$1.11 in public services compared to only .33 cents in services required by farmers\*.

This information can be used to calculate how farms keep the tax base low in a community by requiring much less in public services than residential land.

For example:

### Farmland:

A 100 acre farm pays \$12,000 per year in taxes:

$\$12,000 \text{ (taxes)} \times .33 \text{ (cost of services)} = \$3,960$  in public services annually.

This farmland provides a **savings to the town of \$8,040 per year**.

### Residential Property:

The same 100 acre farm is developed where zoning allows for 1/2 acre lots and average taxes are \$2000 per year:

$200 \text{ (1/2 acre lots)} \times \$2000 \text{ (tax)} \times 1.11 \text{ (cost of services)} = \$444,000$   
in public services annually (\$2,220 per lot)

$\$2,220 \text{ (cost per lot)} - \$2000 \text{ (tax)} = \$220 \text{ per residence} \times 200 = \$44,000$   
per year more in the cost of services than generated by taxes.

The development of this farm into residential lots **costs the town \$44,000 per year** more to provide public services than what is generated by taxes.

\* Source: American Farmland Trust

## 2. Farm's Contribution to Local Food Supply

- Farm products locally grown and sold (list products) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Marketing Mechanism (check those that apply):  
**Cooperative:** \_\_\_ Producer/Grower \_\_\_ Food  
**Direct:** \_\_\_ Restaurant \_\_\_ Store \_\_\_ Roadside Stand \_\_\_ Farmers' Market \_\_\_ Supermarket Chain  
\_\_\_ Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Contribution to Local Economy

Economic activity generated by the agricultural sector tends to have a larger impact on the local economy than dollars produced by other industries. Farmers typically spend more locally than other businesses, since they rely on a variety of local businesses such as feed and seed dealers, fertilizer and fuel companies, machinery dealerships and repair shops, veterinarians, grain haulers, etc.

- Local Businesses Utilized: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Families Supported : \_\_\_\_\_
- Farm's Gross Sales (circle one)     <\$10,000     \$10,000 - \$99,000     \$100,000 - \$500,000     >\$500,000

The economic multipliers listed below can be used with gross sales data to determine the local contribution of an individual farm and compiled to reflect the economic contribution of farms in your county or watershed:

Gross Sales \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ (Income Economic Multiplier \*) = \_\_\_\_\_

Jobs Provided \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ (Employment Economic Multiplier \*\*) = \_\_\_\_\_

\* **Total Income Economic Multipliers:** Dairy 2.29, Crops 2.28, Nursery 1.78, Poultry and Livestock 1.64

\*\* **Employment Economic Multipliers:** Dairy 1.52, Crops 1.51, Nursery 1.39, Poultry and Livestock 1.37

(Source: NYS Dept. of Labor and CALS/Cornell University)

## 4. Public Recreational Benefit

- Public Access Allowed  Yes  No
- Recreational Opportunities Available (check those that apply):
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (list) _____
- Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Tourism Benefits

- Farm is part of a desired view shed  Yes  No
- ...that promotes tourism  Yes  No
- ...that adds to the quality of life in the community  Yes  No

## 6. Farm Location

Additional opportunities and considerations can be determined based on farm location.

<u>Proximity of farm relative to:</u>	Nearby or Distant	Comments
Recreational or wilderness areas	_____	_____
Agricultural businesses	_____	_____
Nonagricultural businesses	_____	_____
Residential housing	_____	_____
Public buildings	_____	_____
Tourist areas	_____	_____

## 7. Farmland Preservation

- Does this farm contain a conservation easement?  Yes  No
- Is this farm part of an Agricultural District?  Yes  No
- Does this farm have a conservation (CNMP) plan that is being followed?  Yes  No
- Acres of prime and important farmland soils: \_\_\_\_\_
- Recent capital improvements to farm (list):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Historical significance of farm (explain):  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 8. Drinking Water Supply Protection Benefits

- Is the farm located within the:  
recharge area of public well?  Yes  No  
watershed of reservoir, river etc. that provides public drinking water?  Yes  No
- If yes*, are conservation (best management) practices being installed to protect a down gradient drinking water supply?  Yes  No
- Identify practices: \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Archeological Sites & Other Protected Cultural Resources

- Have archeological sites and other cultural resources been identified?  Yes  No
- Are these sites and resources adequately preserved?  Yes  No

## 10. Rural Fire Protection Benefits

- Does the farm contain a pond or other water source that local fire departments have year-round access to when fighting fires in the area?  
 Yes  No

# 11. Natural Resource Protection & Enhancement Benefits

- **Stream Corridor Management:**

length of streambank \_\_\_\_\_ feet  
length of riparian buffers being maintained \_\_\_\_\_ feet  
length of riparian buffers being installed \_\_\_\_\_ feet  
acres of floodplain not being encroached upon \_\_\_\_\_ acres  
stream bank and shoreline protection measures installed \_\_\_\_\_ feet; type \_\_\_\_\_  
fish stream improvement measures installed \_\_\_\_\_ feet; type \_\_\_\_\_  
spawning areas maintained for (type of fish) \_\_\_\_\_

- **Woodland Management:**

Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Forest type \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a forest management plan? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*If yes*, have you implemented erosion and sediment control practices when conducting timber harvesting activities? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Have you planted trees? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*If yes*, purpose: reforestation \_\_\_\_\_ acres windbreak \_\_\_\_\_ feet other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

- **Wildlife Management:**

Types of game species present \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife upland habitat management \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Species being managed for \_\_\_\_\_

Threatened and/or endangered species habitat: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

• **Wetlands Protection/Restoration:**

Total acres \_\_\_\_\_ Types \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Acres protected \_\_\_\_\_ Acres restored \_\_\_\_\_ Acres constructed \_\_\_\_\_ Acres enhanced

Objectives of wetlands improvement:

\_\_\_\_\_ Flood protection \_\_\_\_\_ Water quality protection \_\_\_\_\_ Aquatic wildlife habitat management

• **Erosion and Sediment Control:**

Does the farm contain Highly Erodible Land (HEL) acres? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*If yes:* HEL acreage \_\_\_\_\_

Are these HEL acres adequately protected from erosion? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

## 12. Environmental Protection

• Are you implementing practices to control:

erosion? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

nutrient runoff/leaching? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

pesticide leaching/runoff? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

odors? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

dust? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

mud/manure on roads? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

noise? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

flies? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

• Comments:

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# 13. Environmental Impact Monitoring

- Do you consider how your farm activities affect:

Water quality  Yes  No

Air quality  Yes  No

Soil quality  Yes  No

- Do you regularly inspect and maintain your conservation practices to ensure they are operating effectively?  Yes  No
- Comments:

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# 14. Neighbor Relations

- **Do you:**

pay attention to the appearance of your farm and farm equipment?  Yes  No

have an information sheet about the farm operation listing contact information for questions and concerns?  Yes  No

consider neighbor concerns regarding issues such as pesticide application, manure storage and spreading?  Yes  No

hold an open house on the farm?  Yes  No

host a community picnic?  Yes  No

provide sample farm products?  Yes  No

provide labor or equipment assistance for emergencies?  Yes  No

provide information/remediation for any spills?  Yes  No

allow use of your farm for educational and/or research purposes? *If yes, list groups below:*  Yes  No

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other: 

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# 15. Practices in Consideration of Neighbor Concerns

- Management practices implemented or modified in consideration of neighbor concerns:

manure incorporation                     Yes     No

timing of manure spreading             Yes     No

timing of pesticide application         Yes     No

timing of roadway use                   Yes     No

timing of field work                     Yes     No

other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_