

WAYNE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

purchasing easements. In revising the plan, the Agricultural Development Board considered many new ideas and sought input at a public hearing on January 12, 2010.

accomplish results

It would be an exaggeration to claim that the 1997 Wayne County Plan is solely responsible for arresting the decline in farm numbers, however the planning process did result in improved coordination among county agencies like the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), Wayne Economic Development Corp. (WEDC), Tourism and Planning (WCPlan). This contributed to improving the overall climate for farming in the County which resulted in significant progress with several of the top priority projects in the plan:

1997

1. The county hired a full-time agricultural development specialist.
2. Purchase of Development Rights easements have preserved 3,400 acres utilizing State and Federal grants totaling \$6,606,000. In 2009 there are additional projects in four towns to protect 765 acres that were awarded approximately \$1,800,000 or 75% of the necessary funding. The Towns are seeking Federal funding for the remainder of the project costs.
3. A video on farming in Wayne County was produced.
4. Almost universally, as local Comprehensive plans are updated, the Towns identify agriculture and farming as being an important sector. The comprehensive plans are the basis for any changes in town zoning ordinances.
5. Training and support for town planning and zoning boards with emphasis on planning for agriculture.
6. Coordination of agri-tourism among farms and with the County Tourism has increased cooperation among farm markets has helped the markets reach out to a broader constituency.
7. Work with NY FarmNet and NY FarmLink programs to assist local farms.
8. New farmer program – Exploring the Small Farm Dream; advanced business plan courses
9. The Cornell Cooperative Extension created Spanish language resources available to farmers and farm workers and offers Spanish language training.
10. Micro-loan program for county farm businesses – has made loans and provided technical training to farmers to enable them to manage their businesses more effectively.
11. The Ag Development Board, Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau have hosted annual Farm tours for policy makers.

*600k
100k
tech
assist
500k
100k
pool*

*2002 started
~ 40 businesses*

*Farm
CCE
AA
FA*

WAYNE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

*Summary
of
Plan
update*

I. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Goals-

- 1) Support environmentally sound farm management practices
- 2) Support business plan development and implementation
- 3) Support for alternative energy projects
- 4) Education and outreach on new production techniques
- 5) Improve Drainage infrastructure

II. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Goals-

- 1) Continue strong Ag Microenterprise Program
- 2) Support efforts to access State and Federal grant programs
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- 2) Support efforts to access State and Federal grant programs

III. LAND USE PLANNING

Goals-

- 1) Support the use of Purchase of Development Rights by Towns
- 2) Support town efforts to develop a TDR program
- 3) Support town efforts to develop Incentive Zoning
- 4) Assist town efforts to adopt farm-friendly model zoning law
- 5) Ag Development Board should review local laws
- 6) Ag Development Board provide comment on Notices of Intent

IV. **MARKETING**

Goals-

- 1) Support farm business efforts to improve marketing methods
- 2) Promote the establishment of farmers' markets throughout Wayne County.
- 3) Increase the amount of local farm products consumed within the county, region and State
- 4) Increase percentage of locally-grown product purchased by County institutions
- 5) Helping to build a Buy Fresh/Buy Local campaign;

V. **INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF AG-SUPPORT BUSINESSES**

Goals-

- 1) Increase or maintain food processing industry
- 2) Increase ag support businesses

VI. **POLICY**

Goals-

- 1) Continue strong support for Ag Districts.
- 2) Ensure Adequate Labor supply
- 3) Increase the amount of local farm products consumed within the county
- 4) Support efforts to increase congressional support for USDA NRCS/FSA
- 5) Support efforts to increase congressional support for NYS DAM
- 6) Encourage local, State and Federal funding of programs at CCE and Geneva Experiment Station

VII. **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Goals-

- 1) Review proposed laws for impact on farms and make recommendation to Towns and Villages
- 2) Improve outreach for existing programs
- 3) Develop Ag Resource information
- 4) Develop programmatic support for Amish and Mennonite communities
- 5) Provide policy makers with information regarding significance of agriculture

example
of
plan
for mat

I. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Goals-

- 1) Support environmentally sound farm management practices
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- 5) Improve Drainage infrastructure

Recommended Actions-

- 1) ***Support environmentally sound practices like nutrient planning, composting, manure storage, minimum tillage, methane digesters or other technology***
 - (a) Time Frame: Ongoing
 - (b) Responsible Agency: Planning, CCE, SWCD, WCIDA
- 2) ***Support business plan development, implementation and low-cost loans for farm businesses including agritourism, new and beginning farmers. (see also WEDC Strategic Plan 2.A)***
 - (a) Time Frame: Ongoing
 - (b) Responsible Agency: Planning, CCE, WCIDA

3) ***Support for alternative energy projects-***

As energy costs escalate and begin impacting the ability of Wayne County farms to be competitive nationally and internationally, the county should support programs that will enable the local farms to better manage their energy costs. Programs could include

- technical assistance,
- loans,
- grants.

A example of technical assistance is to create a program to offer **Energy planning and audits for farmers modeled after the Agricultural Environmental Management program (AEM)** to help farmers create an energy plan and to identify different options for controlling their energy costs.

- (a) Time Frame: Ongoing
- (b) Responsible Agency: Planning, CCE, WCIDA

4) ***Production and management education***

Education and outreach concerning advancing production techniques is a critical part of farm business management support. This includes continued offering Pest management training and certification programs including pesticide training. Additionally, CCE offers training programs that help farm business owners identify and plan to control or reduce operating expenses or increase profit margins. by Cornell Cooperative Extension

- (a) Time Frame: Ongoing
- (b) Responsible Agency: CCE

5) ***Improve Drainage infrastructure-***

No one ever worries about the drainage system until it doesn't work correctly. It is critical to support methods that will ensure the existing drainage system is maintained in a manner that will allow excess water to flow away from growing crops. This could include cost-share programs for drainage tile, ditch maintenance and drainage easement acquisition programs.

(a) **Time Frame: Ongoing**

(b) **Responsible Agency: SWCD**

6) ***Support for cooperative ventures (see also WEDC Strategic Plan 2.F)***

(a) **Time Frame: Ongoing**

(b) **Responsible Agency: CCE, Planning, WCIDA**

7) ***Other initiatives that could benefit Wayne County farmers, but are not high priority needs at this time include-***

- **Woodlot management programs**
- **Work with the local SCORE office to support Wayne County farms**
- **Support initiatives to improve Landowner relations through information and programming**

(a) **Time Frame: Ongoing**

(b) **Responsible Agency: Planning, CCE, SWCD, WCIDA, SCORE**