

LP 5 Community Support for Agriculture Checklist

DOES THE COMMUNITY ...

Plan for agriculture

.... Clearly address agriculture in its comprehensive plan or other community plans (e.g., economic development, strategic or sustainability plans?)

YES NO

.... Support agricultural leadership (e.g., an agricultural ombudsmen, advisory board or commission to represent farmers and ranchers in local decision making?)

YES NO

.... Provide public land for farming (e.g., lease land to farmers/ranchers, provide space for community gardens or urban agriculture?)

YES NO

.... Encourage connections between agriculture and residents (e.g., incentivizing space for marketing outlets and infrastructure, such as farmers markets or food hubs, allowing agritourism, on-farm marketing and/or promotion of local farms and ranches?)

YES NO

Protect farmland and natural resource conservation

.... Create farmland protection zones specifically to support working farms and ranches?

YES NO

.... Purchase conservation easements (aka development rights) on agricultural land?

YES NO

.... Have urban growth boundaries?

YES NO

.... Have a transfer of development rights program or mitigation ordinance to engage private developers in farmland protection activities?

YES NO

.... Have policies or regulations to support access to water and water rights?

YES NO

.... Support its local Conservation District (e.g., appropriating funds for District programs and operations, co-sponsoring watershed and other projects, providing use of county-owned equipment, etc.)

YES NO

Support agricultural viability

.... Have a local right-to-farm ordinance?

YES NO

.... Provide tax credits and exemptions (e.g., property tax relief, school tax credits, sales tax exemptions)?

YES NO

.... Have flexible zoning provisions to support diverse agricultural systems (e.g., accessory use allowances, farm labor housing, setbacks and buffers, on-farm processing)?

YES NO

.... Authorize voluntary agricultural districts where agriculture is encouraged and protected?

YES NO

.... Have reasonable livestock regulations to address neighbors, buffers, environment and welfare issues (e.g., the limits on number of poultry or livestock in residential areas, regulate nutrient management, require buffers between new developments and existing livestock operations)?

YES NO

.... Provide provisions for on farm housing needs, including farm labor?

YES NO

Support markets and infrastructure

.... Have regulations scaled appropriately to address on-farm marketing and direct-to-consumer systems (e.g., agritourism, CSAs, farm and roadside stands)?

YES NO

.... Incentivize marketing infrastructure (e.g., packing, processing, cold storage and distribution facilities, slaughterhouses, transportation systems, reliable internet access?)

YES NO

.... Allow on-farm and value-added processing to support agricultural marketing and recreation (e.g., slaughter facilities, cold storage, packing sheds?)

YES NO

.... Support farm-to-school and other institutional procurement policies?

YES NO

.... Provide farm promotional materials such as maps, resource guides and interactive websites?

YES NO

Adapted from "Is Your Town Farm Friendly – A Checklist for Sustaining Rural Character" by the New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture and UNH Cooperative Extension and Maine Farmland Trust's "Is Your Town Farm Friendly Checklist."

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