AEM Tier 2 Worksheet

Agriculture & the Community

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 (taxes) x .33 (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 (1/2 acre lots) x $2000 (tax) x 1.11 (cost of services) = $444,000 in public services annually ($2,220 per lot)
>
> $2,220 (cost per lot) – $2000 (tax) = $220 per residence x 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):

  _____ Hiking _____ Hunting

  _____ Cross country skiing _____ Swimming

  _____ Snowmobiling _____ Picnicking

  _____ Fishing _____ 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:

  _____

  _____

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:

  _____

  _____

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

_____

other: _____

_____

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: _____

_____

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