



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:

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

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: _____
