



Is Your Community Farm Friendly?

A Checklist to Gauge Local Support for Agriculture in Your Community

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY...

Prioritize natural resource conservation

...have policies or regulations to support access to water for food production (e.g., traditional agriculture, urban agriculture, and/or community gardens)? YES ☐ NO ☐

...have policies to address food waste and recovery (through strategies such as composting, gleaning programs, and/or food product recycling programs)? YES ☐ NO ☐

Encourage agriculture and food production

...have a section on agriculture and food production in your comprehensive plan or other community plans (e.g., economic development, strategic, or sustainability plan)? YES ☐ NO ☐

... support agricultural leadership (e.g., an agricultural ombudsman, advisory board, or commission to represent farmers and ranchers in local decision making)? YES ☐ NO ☐

...provide public land for farming and food production (e.g., lease land to farmers, provide space for community gardens or urban agriculture)? YES ☐ NO ☐

...encourage connections between agriculture and residents (e.g., through agritourism, direct marketing, and/or promotion of local farms)? YES ☐ NO ☐

Protect farmland

...create agricultural protection zones specifically to support working farms and ranches? YES ☐ NO ☐

...purchase conservation easements (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 protection activities? YES ☐ NO ☐

Improve 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 ordinances to support agriculture and food production (e.g., accessory use allowances, farm labor housing policies, setbacks and buffers, on-farm processing)? YES ☐ NO ☐

...create voluntary districts where agriculture is encouraged and protected? YES ☐ NO ☐

...have livestock regulations to address nuisance, environment, and welfare issues (e.g., regulate number of animals per acre, manure and nutrient management)? 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 ☐

...support marketing infrastructure for local farmers (e.g., farmers markets, food hubs)? YES ☐ NO ☐

...support value-added processing (e.g., slaughter facilities, cold storage, packing sheds)? YES ☐ NO ☐

...support farm to school and other institutions' procurement policies? YES ☐ NO ☐

Promote local farms

...have a "Buy Local" campaign? YES ☐ NO ☐

...provide promotion materials such as maps, resource guides, and interactive websites? YES ☐ NO ☐

Adapted from New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture and UNH Cooperative Extension's
"Is Your Town Farm Friendly? — A Checklist for Sustaining Rural Character"