



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"