

Town of Lansing Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan Implementation Chart Goals and Strategies to Preserve Farmland and Promote Agriculture

INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURE'S BENEFITS			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Increase general agriculture awareness and support for the Town's agriculture industry			
1-a	Town Right to Farm Law & State Ag District Law - education & outreach	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL AC; CCETC
	Strengthen real estate property disclosure in Ag Districts (part of Ag District Law)	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; Board Realtors
1-b	Town website information about farming in the Town; Town newsletter articles	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL; CCETC
1-c	Promote farm direct marketers and encourage residents to buy local	HIGH - short term 1yr	Farm retailers; TOL; CCETC
1-d	Road signage denoting when entering farming areas/ag zone	MEDIUM - short term 2yr	TOL HD
1-e	Data gathering about farming in town - economic impact, trends	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL; CCETC
1-f	Farm tours for Town officials, school staff, farm neighbors, youth, public	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
1-g	Classroom Education about farming/4-H ag clubs/ Community & School gardens	MEDIUM - Ongoing	LCSD; TOL AC; CCETC
CREATE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FARMING			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Infrastructure/policies important to farming			
1-a	Maintenance of roads & bridges - for heavy ag vehicles	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL HD
1-b	Access to high speed internet	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL
1-c	Review traffic/speed limits/signage in agriculture areas to improve safety	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL HD; Tompkins County
1-d	Trespass control	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TC Sheriff
1-e	Public utilities - municipal electric (wind, solar, hydro)	MEDIUM - long term	TOL
1-f	Policies that enable farm-based renewable energy development	MEDIUM - short term	TOL
Goal 2 - Limit non-farm development in agricultural areas			
2-a	County Agriculture District Law provisions/protection	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC/TC AFPB
2-b	Limit water & sewer extension into agricultural areas	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC/TC AFPB
2-c	Avoid development of prime and soils of statewide significance	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/PB; TOL AC
2-d	Create a new Agriculture Zoning district in dominant ag areas	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL/PB; TOL AC
Goal 3- Create incentives to direct development away from agricultural areas			
3-a	Sewer development- South Lansing/Town Center	Ongoing	TOL
3-b	Infill-density in South Lansing/Town Center (consider TDR)	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/PB

3-c	Affordable housing in South Lansing/Town Center	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/PB; Better Housing TC
3-d	Ensure stormwater regulations are followed to avoid farm field damage	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/Zoning
3-e	Cost of services increases with scattered development - educate officials	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
Goal 4 - Tax policies that make owning farmland affordable			
4-a	Explore Town tax abatement through short term easements to keep land in ag	LOW - 3-5 yrs	TOL AC; County Assessment
4-b	Ensure fair farm property valuation practices by county assessment	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; County Assessment
4-c	Recommend to State to cap Agricultural Ceiling Value increases & update formula	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL AC; Farm Bureau
4-e	Educate farmers/rural landowners about Ag Assessment if not receiving	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
4-f	Educate farmers about NYS Farmers School Tax Credit if not receiving	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE BEST FARMLAND AND ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Promote land stewardship to protect soil, water and environmental quality			
1-a	Encourage sustainable soil building farming practices	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; SWCD
1-b	Encourage farms to adopt/ follow nutrient management plans	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; SWCD
1-c	Make farmers aware of programs and funding to protect environmental quality	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; SWCD
Goal 2 - Protect the best land for farming			
2-a	Investigate options for short term easements (Lease Dev Rights)	MEDIUM - mid-term	TOL AC; CCETC; COUNTY PLD
2-b	Support town farmer applications for State PDR funding	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; County Planning
2-c	Town co-hold easements on farms awarded State PDR funding	LOW - future	TOL
2-d	Investigate Town PDR program and means to fund	LOW - future	TOL
2-e	Educate landowners about benefits of renting/selling to town farmers	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
FARM FRIENDLY ZONING			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Create an Agricultural zoning district that gives priority to farming and related enterprises			
1-a	Change most of the current RA district in North Lansing to a new AG zone	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-b	Zoning laws should continue to permit ag commerce and related enterprises	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL; Planning/Zoning

1-c	Allow smaller ag enterprises in R3, RA, and Ag zones (farm markets, ag tourism)	HIGH - Short term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-d	Ensure town staff (code/planning) are familiar with NYS Ag District Law	HIGH - Short term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-e	Ensure local zoning is not in conflict with NYS Ag District Law	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-f	Investigate zoning to cluster housing on poorer soil and maintain open farm land	MEDIUM - mid-term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-g	Require developers to maintain buffer between housing & farmland in ag zone	HIGH - short term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-h	Link Agriculture Plan with Comprehensive Plan ensuring common goals are met	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL: Comp plan committee
STRENGTHEN THE FARM ECONOMY AND FUTURE VIABILITY OF FARMING			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Strengthen the Farm Economy, Farm Viability and Agricultural Economic Development			
1-a	Deer management - list of hunters/places to hunt	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; DEC
1-b	Farm energy conservation and renewable energy development	MEDIUM	TOL AC
1-c	Promote farm direct marketing opportunities and options	MEDIUM	TOL AC
1-d	Timber Sales based on forest management plans	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; DEC
1-e	Landowner coalition to inform farmers about gas leasing decisions/options	HiGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; DEC; CCETC; FB
Goal 2- Encourage new farming enterprises - promote new opportunities			
2-a	Identify organic farming, specialty crop, niche marketing opportunities	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
2-b	Encourage cooperative ventures among farmers to reduce cost/secure markets	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-c	Cooperative infrastructure (processing, marketing, storage, equipment, etc.)	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-d	Link local farms and the Lansing School District	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-e	More local food production for local consumption	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-f	Grants & funding info for new business development (info on Town website)	MEDIUM - short term	TOL AC; CCETC
2-g	USDA slaughter facility space availability	MEDIUM - Ongoing	CCETC
Goal 3 -Future Farmers/Farm Labor			
3-a	Increase high school student/guidance counselor awareness of farm careers	HIGH - short term	TOL AC; LCSD
3-b	High school training/internship programs	HIGH - short term	TOL AC; LCSD
3-c	Farm Business transfer information/education	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
3-d	Farm job posting on Town website	MEDIUM - mid-term	TOL AC
3-e	Hispanic families - future on farms/in community	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CU Migrant Program

	List of abbreviations		
	TOL - Town of Lansing; AC - Ag committee; HD - Highway Dept.		
	CCETC - Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County - Agriculture Program		
	TCSWCD - Tompkins County Soil & Water District		
	LCSD - Lansing Central School District		
	FB - Farm Bureau		
	DEC - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation		