

**Feedback from Easton Farmer Workshop
February 2, 2016**

# Sticker Votes	Comments	Multiple Mentions
14	diversity of ag - small and large all embraced	
9	community built around ag	
8	ag infrastructure, machine chops, large animal vets, other businesses that support ag	
7	great soil, water, weather, climate, landscape, natural resources	
6	strong community/community support support of Towns, County, neighbors	✓
4	ag contributes to look of county and aesthetic appeal, beauty of area	
3	Agricultural Stewardship Association	✓
3	small family farms	
3	Washington County Fair	✓
2	attitude toward farming - positive	✓
2	combination of all features make it strong	
2	Cornell Cooperative Extension	
2	hunting/fishing/recreation land	
2	location to markets	✓
2	open space - still lots, rural landscape, less traffic	✓
2	quality of life	
1	access to capital \$	
1	close enough to Albany to benefit and far enough to avoid problems	
1	cost of land	
1	county- open/wilderness - attracts non-farmers	
1	culture of self-reliance	
1	demand for food	
1	economic input in county	
1	Family - 6 generations/family ties	
1	FFA programs/ FH	✓
1	good communication and help among farmers - work together	
1	lack of tourism/ there is a farm culture here	
1	SUNY Adirondack - new ag programs	
0	"future proofing" - protection of land/ag/food	
0	\$\$\$ (?)	
0	Amish - land use and agri-tourism - bring land back in production - skill set	
0	business/professional assistance (CPA, lawyers, etc)	

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- 0 canal/transportation routes
- 0 diverse markets
- 0 employment
- 0 farmers contribute to tax base/cost of community - better value than residences per \$1
- 0 good for raising kids
- 0 good local food
- 0 good use of farmland
- 0 history, tradition, land history, sense of history
- 0 honesty and hardworking farmers
- 0 industrious - work year-round
- 0 keep families farming
- 0 lack of development pressure compared to surrounding counties
- 0 lack of hotels/ bed and breakfasts
- 0 land and topography
- 0 logging/tree farms/lumber
- 0 lot of protected land
- 0 many farms
- 0 offshoot/connection with ag businesses
- 0 processing of inputs - keep it local
- 0 skilled farmers - network and learn
- 0 tours - cheese, fiber, craft beverage
- 0 what farmers give back to community

# Sticker	Comments	Multiple Mentions
16	lack of public education about farming i.e. taxes, lack of understanding by non-farmers	
13	lack of internet	
7	beauracracy - problems with regulating land and water; NYS, fed/EPA water issues, over reach, clean water act, water quality, too much govt restrictions	✓
7	development	
7	property and school taxes, farmers bear more than they should, lack of control with unfunded mandates	
5	access to low cost capital	
4	competition for land among farmers and with non-farmers	✓
4	cost of labor, \$15/hour may reduce number of workers that can be hired	
3	animal rights activists	✓
3	difficult for 1st time farmers, land access to young beginning farmers and expanding farmers	
3	finding good labor force, lard to located good young labor, competition for labor	✓
3	need a way to market downstate	
3	public perception that food is expensive	
3	shrinking profit margin - leads to other problems, costs of inputs and cost to purchase	
2	aging farmers	
2	get all farmland protected in the county	
2	lack of food hub and aggregation	✓
2	lack of school budget for ag education	
2	lack of transition/succession planning	
2	social conflict - famer-nonfarmer conflicts	
1	balance industry and farmland	
1	decrease funding to Cornell Cooperative Extension	
1	defining important farmland - shouldn't be too narrowly defined	
1	economy - dairy can't control prices	
1	hard to get slaughter (USDA)	
1	lack of understanding of New York State	
1	need more urban centers to sell more/more growth	
1	negative attitudes by non-farmers	
1	rely on landowners that may not allow certain crops to be grown - need education	
1	selling at wholesale but purchase at retail /economics	
1	side effects of farming - public concerns (manure, traffic, etc.)	

- 1 value-added facilities - limited
- 0 changes in weather patterns
- 0 cooperative distribution for wholesale markets
- 0 cooperative purchasing
- 0 dangerous for farmers to travel on roads
- 0 disconnect with government regulators and what happens on the farm/practicality
- 0 education- ag not career choice - no senior awards ✓
- 0 expensive to do business in New York State - worker's comp. insurance
- 0 famers losing land to solar ✓
- 0 farm conversion - big farms buy then sell and develop
- 0 fewer farm families
- 0 hard to find land to expand/competition with farmers and development
- 0 hard to reach markets
- 0 Hispanic labor/immigrant labor - hard to find now
- 0 how to define farming (identity crisis)
- 0 keep ag production areas away from ag tourism areas
- 0 lack of connection - demand where can't reach
- 0 land assessment on land quality
- 0 land grab - farmer to farmer
- 0 less diversification of ag-related businesses
- 0 marginal land not being fully utilized
- 0 marketing- poor- competition with Canada and other places - thinking too soft
- 0 misconception that farmers are wealthy - land, equipment
- 0 need better community building and family consensus building
- 0 need more larger markets
- 0 need to be competitive in global market
- 0 New York State not as competitive as other areas
- 0 NYS legislation - need balance - subdivision
- 0 political - Washington County hasn't much clout
- 0 pricing
- 0 problems beyond local control
- 0 public concern over water pollution
- 0 school budgets - hard to have line item for ag teacher
- 0 strength of US dollar - prices set nationally and globally - can't control
- 0 try to maintain self-sufficient/no or low debt

0 where to have non-farming population that will be consumer- needs planning

Sticker

Votes

Comments

	market together - consolidate marketing stream to work together - marke our products better elsewhere - system needs to be developed for marketing - regional brand - up marketing strategy, cooperative marketing, centralize marketing	
11		
7	food hub - processing facilities and teaching opportunitites	
6	educate officials	
5	get ag programs back in school budgets	✓
	look at all ways to do cooperative actions - increase purchasing power i.e. fuel, shipping, processing	
5		
5	telecommunications improvement	✓
4	educate public better - farmers need better public relations	
4	fix logistics for transportation/aggregation/distribution of goods	
4	labor pool clearinghouse - part-time/temporary	
3	need more funding to research and more programming	
3	promotion of CCE's clearinghouse, existing resources	
3	split New York State	
	bottling plant - Washington County milk - more organic dairies - get higher price for milk	
2		
2	cooperative ag education programs/ no BOCES program	
2	educating consumer - how it benefits community	
2	education on right to farm law	
2	enable young, beginning famers to get started - protect smaller parcels	
2	Farm Bureau - a voice for ag - help with local ag education	
2	grants for processing plants	
2	help kids understand venues in ag careers - applied applications/science	
2	hemp market/fiber	
2	i.e. co-packers in Kingston - processing facility	
2	more \$ for easements	
2	more financing for ag education/scholarships	
2	more representation at higher levels - people more engaged	
2	policy change in milk pricing system	
	show how ag community could benefit from enhanced broadband - will help	
2	show evidence for need to invest in new technology	

1 add % to Real Estate Transfer Tax to dedicate to farmland protection
1 advocate at state level - educate legislators
1 ag in the classroom/get ag education back in school
1 business management advisors - ag economic assistance
1 central packing plant
1 consolidate education resources to make more accessible
1 diversification
1 education- ag not career choice - no senior awards
1 farm to table
1 FFA/visit diverse farms - experience what ag is available
1 find ways to attract \$ from outside for farmland protection
1 greater promotion of county farms (increase knowledge)
1 how to mitigate effects of climate change/severe storms etc
1 increase number of Farm Bureau members (400 members but 800 farms in
1 county)
1 list serve to buy and sell equipment
1 look at land use regulations - lack of could mean lack of protection - look at
1 land use tools
1 match labor supply and demand
1 more local schools need to purchase local products - can it be mandatory?
1 need for more local processing - need more meat processing
1 protect ag based on soil quality - keep soils that are prime protected (even
1 small)
1 regional programming
1 robotic milking to get younger people
1 schools collaborate - distance learning
1 stronger awareness of educational opportunities
1 study taxes farmers pay vs. non-farmers /cost of community service study
0 access to subsidized funding like low interest loans
0 access to training
0 add tax surcharge for farmland protection
0 advocate to NYS Dept of Ag and Markets for entities to submit more PDR
0 applications
0 ag tourism/promotion/county-wide
0 better roads

0 business management training for beginning farmers
0 communicate better with non-farm neighbors
0 conservation easements - has + and - aspects
0 Cornell Cooperative Extension
0 county ag educator - work at all schools
0 county land for auction - keep farmland
0 different schools share ag services
0 educate and focus on 18-25 year old group of ag and bring them in
0 enforces anti-dumping law of produce (undercutting products)
0 everyone has to reach out to elected officials inform/communicate better
0 expand slaughter house facility
0 federal policies for labor - streamline
0 help farmers diversify operation (i.e. dairy)
0 hops/barley/alfalfa seed crops
0 how to reduce tax burden on farmers and balance needs of ag? - quantify
0 value of landscape and use that value for farmland protection
0 incentives for keeping land open/recreation
0 keep famers involved in creation of new resources so it is applicable to local
0 farmers
0 land grabbing by investors, other countries - no community investment
0 list serve (i.e. Vermont Berries Association) - exchange ideas, knowledge,
0 discussion group
0 need ag program within school - not separate like BOCES
0 political courage to choose - may need to limit people to have farm - can't
0 have both and realize the choice has implications
0 taxes
0 use canal
0 water protection
0 youth internships on farms - get school credit or college credit