

Cayuga County Pre-Application
for
New York State's
Farmland Protection Implementation
Grants Program
2008

PURPOSE

In response to growing interest among local farmers in the State's Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Program, **Cayuga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB)** has adopted a pre-application process in order to review and select farmland protection projects to compete at the State level for FPIG grant funds.

PROCESS

The AFPB will review and rank pre-applications, and will select those proposals that may advance to the next stage. Applicants of pre-applications chosen by the Board will have authorization to proceed with development of a full application, to be submitted by the Board to the State. AFPB review criteria reflect the State's FPIG Program priorities.

PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE

Pre-applications **must be received** by Cayuga County Planning Department on or before **Monday March 3rd, 2008**. Mail or hand-deliver (1) original to:

Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development
160 Genesee Street, 5th Floor
Auburn, New York 13021
ATTN: Trish Ottley Riter

REVIEW & SELECTION

County Planning staff will undergo a preliminary review and ranking of FPIG applications based on established criteria. The top ranking applications will be presented to the AFPB for final review and selection. A meeting date has not yet been established, but will be announced publicly through the press. The Board will select proposals to advance to the next stage at this meeting. The AFPB will consider all criteria in its evaluation including farm viability, development pressure and environmental benefit indicators.

STATE DEADLINE

At this time, New York State has not issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Farmland Protection Program. Although there is no guarantee that funding will be made available this year, we are initiating the pre-application process now so that approved applicants may have maximum amount of time to prepare full proposals once the RFP is issued.

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Trish Ottley Riter, Community Development Planner, Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development, (315-253-1276) with any questions or concerns about the Pre-Application. Please contact Judy Wright, American Farmland Trust consultant (315-255-2508) with any questions or concerns about the State or Federal Farmland Protection Program.

For more information on the County's Farmland Protection Program, please visit us online at:
<http://www.co.cayuga.ny.us/planning/farmland>

CAYUGA COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM PRE-APPLICATION

1) Owner Name(s) _____

2) Name of Farm _____

3) Mailing Address _____

4) Phone _____ 5) Email _____

6) Nature of farm operation _____

7a) No. of Acres Owned _____ 7b) No. of Acres Tillable _____ 7c) No. of Acres to be Protected for Crop and/or Livestock Production _____ 7d) Do you anticipate excluding any future building lots? If so, how many and total number of acres? _____.

8) Please list tax map ID numbers for all parcels included in your FPIG proposal, as well as all individuals/entities with ownership interest in those parcels. **ALL OWNERS MUST SIGN THIS PRE-APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE AFPB.**

TAX MAP ID NUMBERS _____

OWNERS _____

Attach additional pages if necessary.

9) Is your farm located within an agricultural district? _____ Yes _____ No

9a) If yes, please list the district number _____.

10) Describe the nature of land use adjacent to your farm, including a description of the level of farm and non-farm activity occurring within a 1-mile radius of your farm.

11) Please describe your level of farm management. Do you have a nutrient management plan? Have you participated in Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District programs? What other activities have you undertaken that demonstrate best practices in farm management?

12) Please describe major investments you have made in your farm to date, such as barns, irrigation, fruit trees, drainage tile, manure storage, etc. Include dates of investment.

13) Have you completed Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the State's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program (required)? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes please list the dates of completion for Tiers 1 and 2 _____. **If no, you are not eligible to apply to the County's Farmland Protection Program.** The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District provides Tier 1 and Tier 2 AEM services at no cost to the landowner. Please contact the District at 252-4171 to go through this process prior to submission of the pre-application or supplement. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions *may* be made. Please contact Trish Riter at Cayuga County Dept. of Planning and Economic Development, 315-253-1276, to discuss further. If your land is selected for the County's application, you must complete Tier 3 of the AEM Program prior to the State's application deadline.

14) Please explain briefly why you would like to include your farm in the State's PDR Program.

15) Please describe your plans for farm succession _____

16) List the public roads your farm fronts, and the number of feet of frontage for each:

17) What is the proximity of your farm to public water? _____

18) What is the proximity of your farm to public sewer? _____

19) Does your farm provide access to, or is it part of, a scenic vista? If yes, please describe:

20) Please describe the development pressure around your farm. Quantify if possible with number of subdivisions, building permits, new home construction in your area over the past several years.

21) Is your farm located within a public water source area (includes watersheds, reservoirs, aquifers and other water recharge areas)? If yes, please describe:

22) Does your farm front a stream, river, lake, or other surface water body? If yes, please describe, and provide the number of feet of frontage for each water body:

23) Is your farm located within a floodplain or does it contain wetlands? If yes, please describe. Please provide the number of acres of wetland if applicable.

24) Does your farm serve as a **buffer** to a significant natural resource? If yes, please describe. (e.g. maintaining vegetative buffer strips or no-till zones along stream corridors; providing buffer to adjacent parkland; etc.)

25) Have you initiated conversation with a land trust (e.g. NY Agricultural Land Trust, Finger Lakes Land Trust) to discuss holding the conservation easement on your property? _____yes _____no

25a) Name of person you've been working with _____

25b) Name of land trust organization _____

26) Local Match: NYS Farmland Protection Program will fund up to 75% of the value of development rights on farmland. Typically, farmers will commit to a "bargain sale" of their development rights, meaning that they will accept 75% of the value from the state, and assume the remaining 25% as an in-kind contribution. Please indicate your willingness to assume 25% of the value of development rights on your farm.

I will provide the required 25% local match through bargain sale of my development rights _____.

I will not provide the required 25% local match through bargain sale of my development rights _____.

Certification: I (we) certify that all information presented in this pre-application is, to the best of my (our) knowledge, accurate and true.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Pre-applications must be received by Monday March 3rd 2008.

CAYUGA COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

2008 Ranking Criteria: Score Sheet

| RANKING CRITERIA | Measurable | Thresholds | Weight | MAX Weight |
|--|--|--|----------|------------|
| FARMLAND VIABILITY (SUBJECT PROPERTY) | Quality of Soils | Based on RPS Agricultural Assessed Value of Soil Associations | 1-40 | 40 |
| | % Total Farm Available for Ag Production | Greater than 90% | 10 | 10 |
| | | 75-90% | 5 | |
| | | <75% | 0 | |
| | Level of Demonstrated Farm Management | Owner participates in farm management programs, BMPs | 5 | 5 |
| Owner has not invested in farm, does not participate in programs | | 0 | | |
| DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE | Public Road Frontage | Greater than 20 LF/acre | 10 | 10 |
| | | 15 – 20 L.F/acre | 7 | |
| | | Between 10-15 L.F/acre | 5 | |
| | | < 10 L.F/acre | 0 | |
| | Proximity to Public Water | Located within ¼ mile | 10 | 10 |
| | | Located between ¼ - ½ mile | 7 | |
| | | Located between ½ - 1 mile | 5 | |
| | | Located > 1 mile | 0 | |
| | Proximity to Public Sewer | Located within ¼ mile | 5 | 5 |
| | | Located between ¼ - ½ mile | 3 | |
| | | Located between ½ - 1 mile | 2 | |
| | | Located > 1 mile | 0 | |
| ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT | Proximity to Public Drinking Water Source | Located within watershed of public drinking water source | 10 | 10 |
| | Stream and Water Frontage | > 5000 L.F stream frontage, > 200 L.F. lake frontage | 5 | 5 |
| | Other Significant Natural Resources | < 5000 L.F. stream frontage; wetlands (5+ acres); proximity to public parkland | 5 | 5 |
| | Buffers Significant Natural Resource | e.g. Maintenance of vegetative buffer strips or setbacks; buffers parkland; etc. | 5 | 5 |
| FARMLAND VIABILITY (EXTERNAL FACTORS) | Buffers Protected Farmland | Within ½ mile of protected farmland | 20 | 20 |
| | | Within 2 miles of protected farmland | 15 | |
| | | Within 5 miles of protected farmland | 10 | |
| | Percentage of farmland within 2-mile radius | Greater than 75% | 30 | 30 |
| | | 50 – 75% | 5-30 pts | |
| Located within an Ag District | Farm is located within a certified agricultural district | 5 | 5 | |
| ACREAGE IMPACT | Number of acres to be protected | Greater than 500 | 10 | 10 |
| | | 200-500 | 7 | |
| | | Between 50-200 | 5 | |
| | | Less than 50 acres | 0 | |
| PROPERTY OWNER COMMITMENT | Number of times applied to program | More than once | 5 | 5 |
| | | First time | 0 | 0 |