

# Survey/Inventory 2013

Agriculture is very important in Copake. Because of its importance, the Town applied for and received a State grant to complete a town-level Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. For this effort, we would like to complete an inventory of farm operations in Copake as well as hear your opinions on matters that affect farming in Town. **We are hoping for 100% participation in this survey/inventory by all Copake farms!** Please take 15 minutes to complete and return this. You can complete it online by going to [www.planningbetterplaces.com/copakeagplan.html](http://www.planningbetterplaces.com/copakeagplan.html) OR by filling it out on paper and returning it in the envelope provided. Thanks in advance!

**1. What are your farm activities?**

(Check all that apply and indicate type or other relevant details.)

- Dairy \_\_\_\_\_
- Beef \_\_\_\_\_
- Horses \_\_\_\_\_
- Other Livestock \_\_\_\_\_
- Dairy Products \_\_\_\_\_
- Fruits \_\_\_\_\_
- Vegetables \_\_\_\_\_
- Nursery/Horticulture \_\_\_\_\_
- Christmas Trees \_\_\_\_\_
- Hay \_\_\_\_\_
- Cash Crops \_\_\_\_\_
- Forestry \_\_\_\_\_
- Fowl \_\_\_\_\_
- Bee Keeping \_\_\_\_\_
- Maple Syrup \_\_\_\_\_
- Seeds \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Is your farm organic?**

Yes \_\_\_  No \_\_\_  Becoming organic

**3. What secondary farm and non-farm activities are you engaged in, to diversify your farm?**

(e.g., farm stands, alternative energy, agritourism, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. How many hours a week does each type of employee typically work?**

	<i>Year-Round</i>	<i>Seasonal</i>
A. Full-Time Worker		
B. Part-Time Worker		

**5. How many households (including your own) does your farm support? \_\_\_\_\_**

**6. Check all that apply to your situation:**

- I am a farmer but rent land from someone else
- I am a farmer and farm land I own
- I am not a farmer myself but rent land to a farmer

**7. Please list the number of acres that you farm in each town, including both land that you own and land that you rent.**

<i>Town</i>	<i>Total Acres Owned</i>	<i>Total Acres Rented</i>
Copake		
Ancram		
Taconic		
Hillsdale		
Other		

**8. For your land in Copake, how many acres are used for each of the following?**

<i>Town</i>	<i>Total Acres Owned</i>	<i>Total Acres Rented</i>
Farmstead complex		
Cropland		
Pasture		
Open, idle land		
Wooded		

**9. How many years have you operated your farm? \_\_\_\_\_**

**10. How long has your land been:**  
**In farm production? \_\_\_\_\_**  
**In your family? \_\_\_\_\_**

**11. What is your age?**

- < 25    25 - 44    45 - 64    65 - 74    >75



**17. What farm or farm-related businesses would you like to see in the area?**

**18. How concerned are you about the loss of farmland in Copake?**

- Very concerned     Somewhat concerned     Not very concerned     Not concerned at all

**Why?** \_\_\_\_\_

**19. How are your relationships with your non-farm neighbors?**

- Excellent     Good     Not very good     Poor

**20. What can be done to improve/strengthen the relationship between farms and non-farm neighbors?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**21. Indicate which of the following you plan to do, and within which timeframe. (Check all that apply.)**

	Within 1 year	... 5 years	... 10+ years
Expand your farming operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decrease your farming operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversify your farming operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stay the same size	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sell all or a portion of your land to another farmer for farm use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sell a portion of your land for non-farm purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sell all of your land for non-farm purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relocate and continue to farm elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transfer the farm to a family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begin a new farming operation on your land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop renting your land for farm use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rent more land for farm uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase agricultural sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decrease agricultural sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eliminate agricultural sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please explain: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**22. How do you market/distribute your goods or services?** (Please check all that apply, list memberships and indicate what percentage of your sales are through each channel of distribution (Total equals 100%).

- Retail, direct to consumer \_\_\_\_\_
- Retail, through farm stand \_\_\_\_\_
- Retail, through farmer's market \_\_\_\_\_
- Milk Company or Coop \_\_\_\_\_
- CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) \_\_\_\_\_
- Through other retail outlets \_\_\_\_\_

**23. What initiatives or incentives should your town government undertake to help keep farming viable in your town?**

**24. Please rate your level of support for the following agriculture and farmland protection strategies on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being STRONGLY SUPPORT and 4 being STRONGLY OPPOSE.**

(circle the appropriate number)

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	2	3	STRONGLY OPPOSE	4	5	NO OPIN.
<b>A. Farm Friendly Zoning</b> <i>Local regulations that support agricultural activities. Zoning laws that are farm friendly simplify regulations and standards for farms and agricultural businesses, and allow flexibility in agriculture related businesses on the farm.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>B. Flexible Lot Subdivisions</b> <i>A development design technique that concentrates buildings on a portion of the site to allow the remaining land (minimum 50%) to be used for farming, open space, or recreation.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>C. Information Program for Townspeople on Agricultural Assessment Program</b> <i>Explanation of the state property tax exemption program for farmers.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>D. Information Program for Townspeople on Farming Basics</b> <i>Educational program on basics of farming.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>E. Promotional material on Copake farms and farm products</b> <i>Information for consumers on local farms, farm products for sale, and farm tours.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>F. Attracting New Farms and Farmers</b> <i>Promote and encourage new farmers to locate in the town by offering information, incentives and programs to help them get started.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>G. Sale or Lease of Development Rights</b> <i>The voluntary sale or lease of the rights to develop a piece of property by the landowner to a government agency or land trust. The price is determined by appraisal. The land is restricted to farming or open space.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>H. Transfer of Development Rights</b> <i>Development rights from one parcel may be permanently sold to be used on another designated parcel in Town. Landowner selling the rights agrees to keep the land farmed or in open space, undeveloped.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>I. Discussions with non-farmer landowners</b> <i>Forum for farmers and landowners to discuss opportunities to make more land available for farming.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>J. On-farm fowl processing</b>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>K. Copake Community Preservation Fund</b> <i>A fund created by the Town using real estate transfer fees that could be used to preserve open spaces, recreational areas, agricultural areas, wetlands, watershed areas, beaches and shorelines, rivers, or forest lands, Waterfronts, historic places and wildlife habitat.</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>L. Encourage Farm-related Businesses</b>	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>M. Other</b> <i>please describe::</i>	1	2	3	4	5		

**25. Please list the top 3 strategies, either from the above list or others, that you feel the Town should pursue to help keep farming viable.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: the identity of individual producers or landowners will be kept confidential and no names will be associated with any report. However, so that we can know who has and has not completed the survey and so that we may follow up to reach our 100% participation goal, please add your name and address. If you would like to be contacted for updates on this project, please also give your phone number and email.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_