

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Orange County Legislature will authorize funds of \$30,000 per year to be used by the AFPB to promote agricultural economic development in Orange County.
2. The AFPB work with local municipalities and the public to educate about farming, including but not limited to:
 - *Review existing and proposed local laws/ordinances to identify "agriculturally sensitive" aspects, especially conflicts with NYS Agricultural Districts Law.
 - *Pursue changes in local laws to be more "agriculturally sensitive."
 - *Identify and publicize "farmer friendly" and "land protection friendly" aspects of local laws/ordinances.
 - *Endorse favorable ratable characteristics of farming.
 - *Endorse economic, environmental, and aesthetic value of farming.
 - *Lobby towns to adopt a local right-to-farm ordinance based on the State right-to-farm law and assist towns in drafting such an ordinance.
 - *Support education efforts by other agencies.
3. The AFPB establish and execute programs to encourage economic development of existing agriculture and agricultural products, and to develop new agriculture-related business.
4. The AFPB encourage towns and realtors to:
 - *Include agricultural notes on all zoning and subdivision maps.
 - *Require developers to research and notate on plat maps, land proposed for development lying in or adjacent to an agricultural district as part of the subdivision application process.
 - *Provide required buyer notification to land buyers when showing property in or adjacent to an agricultural district, or at a minimum, at the time a buyer is making a purchase offer.
5. The AFPB lobby for a change in the New York State formula for valuing organic soils, especially in support of Senate Bill S5546.
 - *Encourage the Orange County Legislature to pass a resolution supporting such a change.
 - *Cooperate with the Farm Bureau, the Orange County Vegetable Growers and other grower groups in this effort.
6. The AFPB adopt a policy supporting fair taxation to all farmers so that they remain productive and competitive. Various components of fair taxation include, but are not limited to:
 - *Implementing "value-in-use" assessment.

- *Eliminating all special assessments on productive agricultural land, regardless of when the special district was organized.
- *Extending circuit breaker tax credits for New York State farm owners beyond the school tax credit program.
- *Eliminating real property taxes on specific-use farm buildings.
- *Increasing the exemption limit for New York State estate taxes.
- *Extending Section 405B of the Real Property Tax Law to new farmland and farm structures.

7. The AFPB provide assistance upon request, as practical, to commodity groups to resolve and/or address critical issues.

8. Orange County Planning Department incorporate as part of the County Master Plan Review process an evaluation to preserve and protect farmland, scenic vistas and other open space.