

Summary of Recommendations in the 2007 Town of Batavia Comprehensive Plan and
2001 Genesee County Agricultural Preservation Plan

Town of Batavia Comprehensive Plan

The Town's decision to prepare this Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan originated with recommendations in the Town of Batavia Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in March 2007. The Comprehensive Plan addressed land use, housing, economic development, natural resources, agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, recreation and community facilities. The Comprehensive Plan's goals and recommendations related to agriculture are as follows:

Goals

1. Promote the continued economic viability of agriculture.
2. Attract and retain agricultural support businesses such as suppliers and processors.
3. Preserve a large, contiguous area of high quality farmland to ensure a viable land base for continued agricultural production in the Town.
4. Reduce the potential for conflict between farmers and non-farming neighbors.

Recommendations

1. Work with landowners, private land trusts and governmental agencies to purchase land, place conservation easements or acquire the development rights to large areas of farmland. Target land that would result in the preservation of large areas of contiguous, high-quality farmland, such as the Agricultural Protection areas identified in the Future Land Use Map.
2. Revise zoning regulations to permit farm-related businesses, such as farm markets and craft manufacturing, to be established on farm property in conjunction with agricultural operations.
3. Encourage agriculture-related businesses, such as suppliers and processors, to utilize Genesee County's revolving loan fund for economic development.
4. Work with County and State economic development agencies to attract and retain agricultural support businesses.
5. When residential subdivisions are proposed that abut active farmland, require effective buffers to be incorporated into the subdivision design.
6. Encourage the preservation of farmland under conservation easement in conjunction with the subdivision review of residential development in designated rural/ agricultural areas of the Town.
7. In conjunction with the revision of zoning regulations, establish a committee that includes farmland owners to identify effective agricultural protection mechanisms that would result in the long-term retention of farmland within the Agricultural Protection areas identified in the Future Land Use Map. Revise the Town's zoning regulations to include effective provisions to encourage the retention of high quality farmland for continued agricultural use.

Genesee County Farmland Protection Plan Recommendations

1. Refine the Strategic Farmland Map and incorporate it into the Smart Growth Plan.
2. Reaffirm the importance of existing agricultural districts, especially with regard to water and sewer extensions. Conduct an 'audit' of each town's zoning and subdivision provisions and recent past development patterns to help the towns understand the potential impact on maintaining a critical mass of farmland
3. Consider the designation of an 'agricultural production zone'
4. Consider use of incentive zoning as a mitigation tool
5. Develop new funding sources specifically for a farmland protection fund
6. Create 'Enhanced Agricultural District Program' for mid-term protection of Farmland
8. Prepare to Purchase Development Rights
9. Integrate a farmland protection component into the County's public education efforts about agriculture.
10. Conduct periodic estate planning seminars for farmers and professionals.
11. Advocate for implementation of the Agriculture Development Plan.
 - Retain, expand and recruit agribusiness
 - Support improvements to rural utilities
 - Integrate county plans, policies and programs
 - Direct consistent and supportive land-use policies
 - Advocate for appropriate infrastructure development