

CAYUGA COUNTY

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

2017

PURPOSE:

This pre-application has been prepared by the Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) in response to the interest from local farmers in the State's Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Program. This pre-application will be used as a tool to gauge the viability and competitiveness of projects and to select farmland protection projects to compete at the State level for FPIG grant funds. The AFPB reserves the right to reject applications deemed incomplete.

PROCESS:

Once pre-applications have been received, members of the Cayuga County AFPB will review and score each farm project using criteria developed by the Board that aligns with the State's scoring criteria. The AFPB will utilize this scoring process and other relevant information to select one or more farm projects to receive the Board's endorsement for the FPIG program and to move on to the next stage of application.

For this round of State funding, Cayuga County will not act as the applicant on behalf of property owners in the county. The New York Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT) is available to act as the applicant for FPIG projects located in Cayuga County and is partnering with the AFPB to assist landowners with their State applications. Therefore, farm projects that are selected by the AFPB will be submitted to NYALT for their review and consideration. NYALT will review all pre-applications that they receive from each of the four counties in CNY that they work in and select farm projects for submission to the State. NYALT will contact property owners directly to prepare the final application to the State.

PRE-APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

RETURN COMPLETED PRE-APPLICATIONS BY **FEBRUARY 24, 2016** TO:

**Cayuga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
c/o Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development
160 Genesee Street; 5th Floor
Auburn, New York 13021**

In order to meet the submission deadline, fully completed pre-applications must be received:

- Via mail, must be postmarked by Wednesday February 22nd
- Via hand-delivery, by 4:00pm on Friday February 24th to CCPED at the County Office Building, 5th Floor
- Via email, by 4:00pm on Friday February 24th to kterwilliger@cayugacounty.us (CCPED will email you to confirm we have received your emailed pre-application. If you do not receive a receipt email, please contact CCPED.)

Pre-Application Process Questions:

Cayuga County Planning Department (CCPED)
Kari Terwilliger, Senior Planner
(315) 253-1485
kterwilliger@cayugacounty.us

Easement Questions and Full State Applications:

NY Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT)
Amy Olney, Project Manager
(518) 860-6615
aolney.nyalt@gmail.com

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets funding information: www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html.

NOTES:

Applicants to the State's FPIG program, such as NYALT, are limited in the total number of farm applications they can submit per round of funding. NYALT actively works in several counties in CNY therefore; the AFPB cannot guarantee the number of projects located in Cayuga County that will be selected by NYALT to be submitted to the State.

Some questions inquire as to the status of plans or other documents pertaining to the farm operation. These documents may be requested as part of the farm project review by the AFPB or later by NYALT when preparing the final application to the State, but are not required to be attached to this pre-application.

In addition to the pre-application to be submitted by the applicant, the Board shall ask the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development (CCPED) to provide parcel data and mapping information as part of the review process, to include: aerial photographs, tax maps, soil classification data, agricultural district enrollment, natural resources/protected lands data, and housing and infrastructure data from various cited sources. CCPED will assemble this information after your pre-application is submitted and incorporate it prior to initial review by the AFPB. Information in the pre-application will be used by NYALT to prepare the final State application. Pre-applications found to be incomplete will not be reviewed or scored by the AFPB.

ELIGIBILITY:

Beginning in 2008, the AFPB began requiring that all landowners applying for State funding for farmland protection MUST have completed a Tier 1 and Tier 2 worksheet in the State's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program in order to be eligible. The AFPB stands behind this decision today and maintains this eligibility requirement for landowners. 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 (315) 252-4171 to go through this process prior to submission of the pre-application. CCPED staff will verify with CCSWCD staff that all applicants have completed both a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 worksheet.

Additionally, landowners may only request funding for agricultural parcels in Cayuga County that they own in their pre-application and subsequently in their application to the State if they are chosen. While this application does ask about land that is rented by a farmer in addition to what they may own, in order for the AFPB to understand the true size of their farm operation and impact on the agricultural economy in Cayuga County, the State will only award protection funds for parcels that are legally owned, not additional lands that are rented. If you have questions about your eligibility for this pre-application process please contact Kari Terwilliger in the Planning Department (contact information on previous page).

PROPOSALS MUST INCLUDE:

1. **Completed Pre-Application** - Please complete all sections of the pre-application form to the best of your ability. Forms may be printed and filled in by hand, or form fields can be filled in online, then saved or printed, at <http://www.cayugacounty.us/Departments/Planning-and-Economic-Development/Agricultural-Farmland-Protection/Purchase-of-Development-Rights> . Please attach additional sheets as necessary.
2. **Photographs** – Provide up to four (4) photos taken from your farm property that illustrate encroaching development or development pressures (i.e. recent adjacent subdivisions or non-agricultural commercial businesses). Additional photos may also be submitted that show important scenic viewsheds on/from the farm, or distinguishing features of the farm (natural habitats, waterbodies, historic structures, etc.). All photos should include written descriptions of what is being shown and from which parcel(s) the photos were taken. Photos may be prints, digital files on a cd/dvd, or emailed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):

To view a list of frequently asked questions, with answers, please visit the Cayuga County Planning Department's website <http://www.cayugacounty.us/Departments/Planning-and-Economic-Development/Agricultural-Farmland-Protection/Purchase-of-Development-Rights>

**PRE-APPLICATION
NYS FARMLAND PROTECTION GRANTS (PDR)
CAYUGA COUNTY 2017**

FARM NAME: _____

FARM LOCATION: TOWN (S) OF _____

FARM CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS OF FARMSTEAD(S): _____

FARMSTEAD PARCEL TAX ID NUMBER(S): _____

CONTACT INFO:

Person completing pre-application: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I (we) certify that all information presented in the pre-application is, to the best of my (our) knowledge accurate and true. (Signatures should include person completing application and owners of the property. Use additional sheets if necessary)

a. Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

b. Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

c. Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

d. Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

9. Do you plan to EXCLUDE any parcels (or acreage from parcels listed above) from this project proposal? If yes, please list the Tax ID number, acres to be excluded and reason why for each parcel.

Yes

No

* Note: applicants that are chosen by the County AFPB for submission to NYALT will be required to meet with County Planning staff briefly to identify both the Farmstead Complex (agricultural buildings and area for expansion) and any areas for Exclusion on a map in order to move on to the next step.

10. Do you lease any of the project parcels to other farmers? If yes, please identify the affected parcels and the acreage leased, purpose/use and length of lease.

Yes

No

PART 2. FARM HISTORY

11. Please briefly describe the history of the farm business. Focus on the most recent 50 years of farming operations conducted on the project property.

12. Please briefly describe the current and future planned farm uses of the property (if different from what you are doing now i.e. adding a value-added processing facility, changing from a dairy operation to raising livestock for meat production, etc.). Discuss the type and size of the operation; recent production history including crops grown, livestock raised, on farm sales (u-pick, CSA, farm stand, etc.); on-farm value added production; and markets for farm products grown.

19. List primary agri-business providers and farm suppliers that support the farm business.

20. What is the current status of the farm business plan?

Currently do not have a plan

Have a business plan for the farm

Plan has been updated and implemented in the past two years.

21. Future ownership (check the one that most closely describes the current situation)

No future ownership plan

Seccession plan in preparation phase

Seccession plan is in place.

PART 3. FARM VIABILITY

22. Total number of acres to be protected.

_____ **total acres**

Please also break out land uses and coverage for protected land below:

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. | <u>ACRES FARMED</u> | _____ acres | _____ % of total acres |
| | Tillable | _____ acres | to be protected. |
| | Improved Pasture | _____ acres | |
| | Actively Farmed Muck Land | _____ acres | |
| b. | <u>SUPPORT LANDS</u> | _____ acres/sq. ft. | _____ % of total acres |
| | Farmstead / Buildings (Barns, Silos, etc.) | _____ acres/sq. ft. | to be protected. |
| | Other: _____ | _____ acres/sq. ft. | |
| c. | <u>NON-TILLABLE LAND</u> | _____ acres | _____ % of total acres |
| | High-Quality Timberland | _____ acres | to be protected. |
| | Active Sugar Bush | _____ acres | |
| | <i>Average gallons of maple syrup harvested over the past 5 years</i> | _____ gallons | |
| | Scrub / Young Stands | _____ acres | |
| | Wetlands | _____ acres | |
| d. | <u>STREAMS, RIVERS OR PONDS</u> | | |
| | Ponds on property | Yes No | |
| | Streams on property | Yes No | |

23. As the farmland property owner, please explain why protecting this farmland is important to you and the agricultural economy

PART 4. BUFFER FOR SIGNIFICANT NATURAL PUBLIC RESOURCES

24. Are you aware of any benefits that protecting your farmland will have on important public natural or cultural resources in the area near your farm? Please explain. Resources could include: public trails or parks, streams or lakes, watershed of a lake used for drinking water, historic buildings or cemeteries, etc.

PART 5. EVIDENCE OF DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE

25. Please explain the development pressures your farm business and farmland is experiencing in your community. Such things that might be addressed include the impact of development on your farm business, nearby farmland converted to non-farm use, desire of neighbors to have access to public water or sewers, new houses or small subdivisions, etc.