

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Form an Agriculture and Food Security Commission. Provide funding to enable effective outreach to and participation by existing and emerging farm enterprises –
Added

Educate farmers about tax incentive programs (This part is included) such as the Municipal Farm support program. Consider other incentives to encourage farm enterprises in SB – The town must opt into creating a Municipal Farm Support Program, added this along with “other incentives”

Using GIS mapping data to identify priority farm and forest land as an agriculture overlay protection area that is not SOLELY defined by soil analysis for prime farmland by the state. –
Included in NR

Include farm and forestry businesses in local and regional economic development plans– Included

Identify and remove obstacles to farm and forest associated businesses including, but not limited to, farmstands, roadside stands, PYO, greenhouses, hoopouses, firewood operations, sawmills, agritourism .Amend ordinances as needed. – Included

Safeguard farm and forests operations from development that would adversely impact these. – Not specific enough?

Develop development standards that do not adversely impact farm and forest operations. Require developers of new development projects to disclose in deeds, plans and marketing that adjacent properties are authorized for farm or forest uses that may generate some impacts such as odors, noise, hours of operation, pesticides and fertilizers – Needs clarification, are you recommending disclosing impacts TO the farms/forest or BY the farms/forest? How would this help farmers? I think this would be better addressed by requiring it as a development review application component? Not sure you can otherwise control deeds, or marketing but it could at least be disclosed in an application plan.

Actively promote farm enterprises and local food production including but limited to the above operations and including community gardens. Amend ordinances as needed. – Not specific enough? May need more direction than just “promote”

Limit non rural, non farm and non forestry businesses in rural zoned areas.- – Included

Review ordinances and regulations that impact Maine’s Right To Farm law– Added

Permit farming in all zones with the exception of livestock operations. –
Added

Encourage new farms through purchasing, leasing or selling active and inactive land owned by the town - Needs clarification, what do you mean by active & inactive?

Evaluate freshwater needs of farmers and work with municipal officials to facilitate access – Not specific enough, what would facilitating access look like? Expanding water service into rural areas?