

Agriculture contributes both to maintaining open space and to creating jobs. Because of its importance, Ancram applied for and got a state grant to develop an Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan. For this, we need an inventory of all Ancram Farm Operations. **Your responses will be anonymous, tallied by independent consultants. We need 100% participation!** Please take 15 minutes to complete and return it in the postage paid envelope ASAP . Thanks in advance!

1. What are your farm activities?

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

- a. Dairy _____
- b. Beef _____
- c. Horses _____
- d. Other Livestock _____
- e. Dairy Products _____
- f. Fruits _____
- g. Vegetables _____
- h. Horticulture _____
- i. Christmas Trees _____
- j. Hay _____
- k. Cash Crops _____
- l. Forestry _____
- m. Other _____

6. How many households (including your own) does your farm help support? _____

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

Town	Total Acres Owned	Total Acres Rented
*Ancram		
Pine Plains		
Copake		
Gallatin		

2. How many workers (including family) does your farm employ?

Number of Workers	Year-Round	Seasonal
A. Full-Time Workers		
B. Part-Time Workers		
C. Total Workers		

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

Town	Total Acres Owned	Total Acres Rented
Farmstead complex		
Cropland		
Pasture		
Open, idle land		
Wooded		
*Totals should equal Ancram in # 7		

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

Hours Worked/Wk	Year-Round	Seasonal
A. Full-Time Worker		
B. Part-Time Worker		

9. 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 of your farm workers live on your farm? _____

5. How many housing units do you provide for your farm workers? _____

10. Is your farm organic?

- Yes ___ No ___ Becoming organic ___

I 1. 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	NO OPIN.
A. Farm Friendly Zoning <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	0	
B. Open Space Subdivisions <i>A development design technique that concentrates buildings on a portion of the site to allow the remaining land (minimum 60%) to be used for farming, open space, or recreation.</i>	1	2	3	4	0	
C. Information Program for Townspeople on Agricultural Assessment Program <i>Explanation of the state property tax exemption program for farmers.</i>	1	2	3	4	0	
D. Information Program for Townspeople on Farming Basics <i>Educational program on basics of farming.</i>	1	2	3	4	0	
E. Promotional material on Ancram farms and farm products <i>Information for consumers on local farms, farm products for sale, and farm tours.</i>	1	2	3	4	0	
F. Attracting New Farms and Farmers <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	0	
G. Sale or Lease of Development Rights <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	0	
H. Transfer of Development Rights <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	0	
I. Discussions with non-farmer landowners <i>Forum for farmers and landowners to discuss opportunities to make more land available for farming.</i>	1	2	3	4	0	
J. New slaughterhouse in the area — USDA approved	1	2	3	4	0	
K. Ancram Comprehensive Plan Agricultural Strategies <i>Strategies and action plans to promote agriculture in Ancram, including recommendations of zoning changes to better support agriculture.</i>	1	2	3	4	0	
L. Encourage Farm-related Businesses	1	2	3	4	0	
L. Other <i>please describe::</i>	1	2	3	4	0	

I 2. 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. _____

I 3. What Farm-related businesses would you like to see in the area?

14. Please rate the following challenges on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being VERY CHALLENGING and 4 being NOT CHALLENGING AT ALL to the future success of your farm (circle the appropriate number).

	VERY CHALLENGING		NOT AT ALL CHALLENGING		NOT APPLICABLE
	1	2	3	4	O
A. Availability of farm labor	1	2	3	4	O
B. Property taxes	1	2	3	4	O
C. Land prices	1	2	3	4	O
D. Loss of productive farmland	1	2	3	4	O
E. Rental costs of land	1	2	3	4	O
F. Availability of rental land	1	2	3	4	O
G. Fuel cost	1	2	3	4	O
H. Residential encroachment/ nuisance complaints	1	2	3	4	O
I. Limited succession plans for the farm (few new farmers)	1	2	3	4	O
J. Estate taxes	1	2	3	4	O
K. Environmental regulations	1	2	3	4	O
L. Land use regulations (zoning & permitting)	1	2	3	4	O
M. Water availability (quality & quantity)	1	2	3	4	O
N. Availability of farm housing	1	2	3	4	O
O. Access to adequate financing	1	2	3	4	O
P. Access to agri-services	1	2	3	4	O
Q. Access to marketing or business support	1	2	3	4	O
R. Lack of local customers	1	2	3	4	O
S. Lack of processing facilities	1	2	3	4	O
T. Lack of local dairy processing	1	2	3	4	O
U. Lack of commercial kitchen	1	2	3	4	O
V. Sales Prices of your farm products	1	2	3	4	O
W. Machinery costs	1	2	3	4	O
X. Production costs	1	2	3	4	O
Y. Other: _____	1	2	3	4	O

15. Of the above challenges, what are the top three greatest challenges facing your farm?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

16. What are the 3 greatest opportunities for your farm?

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

17. Please list your 2008 actual sales from your farm in Ancram \$ _____

or check a range:

- Under \$10,000
 \$10,000 – \$24,999
 \$25,000 – \$49,999
 \$50,000 – \$99,999
 \$100,000 – \$199,999
 \$200,000 – \$499,999
 \$500,000 +

18. Please list 2008 operating & capital expenditures on your farm in Ancram \$ _____

or check a range:

- Under \$10,000
 \$10,000 – \$24,999
 \$25,000 – \$49,999
 \$50,000 – \$99,999
 \$100,000 – \$199,999
 \$200,000 – \$499,999
 \$500,000 +

19. Looking back over the past 3 years, has your farm been ...

- profitable
 at break even
 unprofitable

20. Do you, or a member of your household, have off-farm income to help make ends meet at the farm?

- Yes _____
 No _____
 Sometimes _____

21. What trends do you see in agriculture in Ancram and nearby? (Please check all that apply.)

- a. A smaller number of large farms
 b. Farm diversification
 c. A larger number of small operations
 d. Movement of farms out of the area
 e. No significant change
 f. Other: _____

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%).

- a. Retail, direct to consumer _____
 b. Retail, through farm stand _____
 c. Retail, through farmer's market _____
 d. Milk Company or Coop _____
 e. CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) _____
 f. Through other retail outlets _____
 g. Through restaurants _____
 h. Other _____

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

	Within 1 year	... 5 years	... 10+ years
A. Expand your farming operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Decrease your farming operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Diversify your farming operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Stay the same size	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Sell all or a portion of your land to another farmer for farm use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Sell a portion of your land for non-farm purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Sell all of your land for non-farm purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Relocate and continue to farm elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Transfer the farm to a family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Begin a new farming operation on your land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Other, please explain: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Add a sheet if necessary.

24. How concerned are you about the loss of farmland in Ancram?

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

Why? _____

25. How are your relationships with your non-farm neighbors?

- Excellent
 Good
 Not very good
 Poor

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

27. Please give the ages of all family members, including yourself, who work on your farm.

- Under 25
 25 - 44
 45 - 64
 65 - 74
 75 +
 No. _____
 No. _____
 No. _____
 No. _____
 No. _____

28. How many years have you operated your farm? _____

29. How long has your land been in farm production? _____

Thanks for your participation! Please include additional comments on a separate page.