

Agriculture Development Board Seeks Community Input

You are invited to provide input to the Wayne County Farmland Protection Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2015. Elizabeth Henderson, Chairperson of the Wayne County Agriculture Development Board, announced that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 1:30pm – 3:30pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Newark. Registration starts at 1:15pm. Please call 315-331-8415 for reservations.

The draft of the Agriculture Strategic Plan for Wayne County will be presented as well as discussion on changes and additions to the plan. Breakout groups will prioritize suggestions provided through the survey and incorporated them into the final plan for consideration by Wayne County Board of Supervisors and approval of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Accomplishments resulting from the current plan include 3600 acres of protected farmland, planning and zoning board training, hiring an Agricultural Development Specialist and the development of educational and financial support for new and beginning farms.

Copies of the draft plan are available for review at the following organizations and websites: Wayne County Planning Department – (<http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/Departments/planningdept/planningdept.htm>) and Cornell Cooperative Extension – <http://ccewayne.org> .

The Wayne County Agriculture Development Board is appointed by the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. Various members of the community (farmers, non-farmers, agriservice representatives, Town Planning Board members, etc.) are nominated to the board, in addition to representatives from various agencies that work with the agriculture community, such as: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Wayne County Planning Department, Soil and Water Conservation Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Farm Bureau. This board regularly hosts an annual tour of farms for the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and other decision makers across the county.