

Agricultural Goal Statements

Proposed Goal Statements

Promote small dairies and field crop farms in the size of 1,200 acres and below.

Promote sustainable farming practices sized to the environmental carrying capacity of the land.

Promote farming that increases the value of non-farm properties located in the area.

Promote policies that encourage agricultural enterprises and protect the health and well-being of Cayuga Lake and the residents of the Town.

Promote health and vigor of Ledyard's agricultural base in a manner that is consistent with the ecological integrity of its soil and water base , and the well-being of Cayuga Lake.

Encourage the maintenance of family farms, develop roads and services to allow new farm enterprises, encourage new types of farming, and promote understanding between farmers and other residents.

Agriculture must be carried out in a way that's compatible with protecting and preserving our clean water, fertile soil and fresh air.

Promote practices which combine profitability with sustainability and recognizing that the land is the most important resource and the need for good stewardship practices.

Promote and encourage small dairy farms by starting a small cheese or milk plant that gives the farmers a cost of production and small return on investment.

Preserve valuable farmland without restricting a farmer's freedom to make economic decisions impacting their families.

Recognize the importance of the American farmer as the backbone of the country as well as the Savior in many ways of our economic well-being.

Support farmers as well as all Americans by promoting the use of Brodesel fuel and ethanol based gasoline, thereby decreasing our dependency on foreign oil produced in nations unfriendly to Americans.

Promote the well-being and viability of farmers in the Town.

Develop policies that promote the growth of agriculture in the Town in order to maintain our open spaces and rural environment.

Develop policy that encourages a broad spectrum of agricultural activity and that recognizes the interdependence of all sizes and types of agricultural activity of each other.

Encourage a vehicle whereby the uninformed non-agricultural community can develop an understanding of complexity and requirements of today's agricultural community.

Farming to protect our streams

Support and promote a healthy economic environment to allow farm businesses to supply a good quality of life for farm families and owners and employees.

Develop policies to preserve farmland, protect from development and support and promote farming practices that increase good stewardship of the farmland.

Agricultural operations in the Town should profit the environment in the following ways: to protect and preserve the quality of ground water, to protect and preserve the quality of recreational waterways, and to protect and preserve the aesthetic qualities that promote tourism and residential development.

Encourage and support agricultural businesses that contribute to economic activity, employment, and the tax base of the Town.

Encourage agricultural and forestry practices and farming operations that enhance as well as preserve the existing natural landscape, ecological populations and communities as they presently exist.

Realizing the value of the great natural resource represented by the irreplaceable soils within our Town, we should actively develop and promote policies to preserve them for future generations.

We should strive to make occupation of farming more profitable to help sustain the land in agriculture.

Utilize zoning and any other local regulations to preserve high quality farmland (Specific soil associations) as forever green and balance off this restriction with designation of less productive soils as development zones.

Create local ordinances and utilize State and Federal ordinances to achieve zero tolerance for surface water contamination by agricultural practices.

Promote farm and tourist interaction businesses as a method to bring dollars into the Town economy which stays in the economy.

Based on an animal census of chickens, pigs and cows, there should be a moratorium on increases in animal numbers until adequate sewage treatment, water quality and quantity measures, control of culled animals, testing of ground and lake water (atrazine, etc.), and drainage tiles and in place.

Regulations for certain types of new agricultural enterprises and the location of those enterprises.

Develop cash crop, vineyards and small family farms, also encourage cottage agriculture industries.

Stop the development of factory farms ie, large dairy industries, hog farms and operations that destroy our environment and water quality.

Encourage responsible farming in the community, which preserves farmland and preserves the freedom of expansion and development of the farming industry.

Comments/ Statements

Require environmental impact studies on all expansions of existing, and all new large scale livestock facilities.

Clean air and water, respect for neighbors, respect for rights of neighbors, and put a number on the number of animals on any one farm.

Offer incentives for farm tours.

Many modern farm practices are devaluing rural homes due to odors and water pollution.

Invite State and Federal Congressman to listen to discussion since they are being made aware that Ledyard is the first town in Southern Cayuga to adopt vision statement and consequences of a miss-step are very serious.

Keep it clean, as it used to be

Love thy neighbor, like it was

Respect thy neighbor, ie: don't plow their crops under

Stop the greed by a few

Halt animal numbers now until environmental and industry ramifications are understood

Achieve this by petition of community members

Create comprehensive symposium so all community residents understand "Right to Farm Act"

Understand that the creation of water and sewer lines will promote expansions of animal operations in Ledyard.

Understand road use and define agricultural and industrial – define traditional practice

Create guidelines for industry standards ie: size restraints, and environmental impact

Demand a disclosure statement for energy generation ie, methane digester

Closely examine property values, land assessments, and how agricultural practices are affecting these

Examine public interference in private transactions ie, Kurtz pig farm proposal by Town Supervisors Digan & O'Dell 4/4/04

Examine "Cayuga Marketing Plan for Southern Cayuga County" perhaps Supervisor O'Dell can expound

Invite Nathan Rudgers, Commissioner of Ag & Markets to speak to Ledyard Town Residents on the true vision of agriculture

Invite "Community Environmental Defense Fund" ie, Tom Linzay to speak to Ledyard residents

Discuss clause in Right to Farm Law prohibiting buyer of property in Agricultural District to complain about "practices" integral to modern farming

Invite "Nataionl Farm Family Coalition ie, John Bunting to discuss sustainability of large CAFO's

Invite residents from other areas of State with similar community farm/residetnail/environmental problems

Implementable Tasks