

Seneca County Pre-Application
for
New York State's

Farmland Protection Implementation

Grants Program

2009

Issued 1/7/2009

PURPOSE

In response to growing interest among local farmers in the State's Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Program, the **Seneca County Agriculture Enhancement Board** has adopted a pre-application review process in order to identify which proposed PDR projects are most likely to be competitive for State grant funds.

PROCESS

The Seneca County Ag Enhancement Board will review and rank pre-applications, and will select those proposals that may advance to the next stage. Applicants of pre-applications chosen by the Board will have authorization to proceed with development of a full application, to be submitted by the Board to the State. Seneca County Ag Enhancement Board review criteria reflect the State's FPIG Program priorities.

PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE Pre-applications **must be received** by the Seneca County Agriculture Enhancement Board on or before **Friday, May 15, 2009**. Mail or hand-deliver (1) original to:

Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension

308 Main St. Shop Centre
Waterloo, NY 13165
Att. Shawn Bossard

REVIEW & SELECTION

Seneca County Ag Enhancement Board members will undergo a preliminary review and ranking of FPIG applications based on quantifiable information. The top ranking applications will be presented to the full Board for final review, ranking and selection. The Ag Enhancement Board will meet to review and rank FPIG pre-applications. A meeting date has not yet been established, but will be announced publicly through the press. The Board will select proposals to advance to the next stage at this meeting. The Ag Enhancement Board will consider all criteria in its evaluation including farm viability, development pressure and environmental benefit indicators.

STATE DEADLINE

At this time, New York State has not issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Farmland Protection Program. Although there is no guarantee that funding will be made available this year, we are initiating the pre-application review process now so that approved applicants may have maximum amount of time to prepare full proposals once the RFP is issued.

Please contact Shawn Bossard, Executive Director, Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension, (315-539-9251) with any questions or concerns about the Pre-Application. Please contact Judy Wright, American Farmland Trust consultant (315-255-2508) with any questions or concerns about the State or Federal Farmland Protection Program.

SENECA COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM PRE-APPLICATION

1) Owner Name(s)_____

2) Name of Farm_____

3) Mailing Address_____

4) Phone_____ 5) Email_____

6) Nature of farm operation _____

7a) No. of Acres Owned _____

7b) No. of Acres Tillable _____

7c) No. of Acres Protected for Crop and/or Livestock Production _____

7d) Estimated value of development rights (cost per acre) _____

7e) Do you anticipate excluding any future building lots? If so, how many and total number of acres?

_____.

8) Please list tax map ID numbers for all parcels included in your FPIG proposal, as well as all individuals/ entities with ownership interest in those parcels. **ALL OWNERS MUST SIGN THIS PRE-APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE AFPB.**

TAX MAP ID NUMBERS	OWNERS
Attach additional pages if necessary.	

9) Is your farm located within an agricultural district? _____ Yes _____ No

9a) If yes, please list the district number _____.

10) Describe the nature of land use adjacent to your farm, including a description of the level of farm and non-farm activity occurring within a 1-mile radius of your farm.

11) List the public roads your farm fronts, and the number of feet of frontage for each:

12) What is the proximity of your farm to public water? _____

13) What is the proximity of your farm to public sewer? _____

14) Does your farm provide access to, or is it part of, a scenic vista? If yes, please describe:

15) Is your farm located within a public water source area (includes watersheds, reservoirs, aquifers and other water recharge areas)? If yes, please describe:

16) Does your farm front a stream, river, lake, or other surface water body? If yes, please describe, and provide the number of feet of frontage for each water body:

17) Is your farm located within a floodplain or does it contain wetlands? If yes, please describe. Please provide the number of acres of wetland if applicable.

18) Please describe your level of farm management. Do you have a nutrient management plan? Have you participated in Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District programs? What other activities have you undertaken that demonstrate best practices in farm management?

19) Have you completed Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the State's Agricultural Environmental Management Program (required)? _____ Yes _____ No If yes please list the dates of completion for Tiers 1 and 2 _____ . **If no, you are not eligible to apply to the County's Farmland Protection Program.** The Seneca 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 568-4366 to go through this process prior to submission of the pre-application or supplement. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions *may* be made. Please contact Shawn Bossard at Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 539-9251, to discuss further. The County will not submit any farms to the State that have not completed Tiers 1-3 of the AEM Program.

20) Please describe major investments you have made in your farm to date, such as barns, irrigation, fruit trees, drainage tile, manure storage, etc. Include dates of investment.

21) Does your farm buffer a significant public resource such as parkland or protected farmland? If yes, please describe.

22) Please explain briefly why you would like to include your farm in the State's PDR Program.

23) Please describe the development pressure around your farm. Quantify if possible with number of subdivisions, building permits, new home construction in your area over the past several years.

24) Have you initiated conversation with a land trust (e.g. NY Agricultural Land Trust, Finger Lakes Land Trust) to discuss holding the conservation easement on your property? _____yes _____no

24a) Name of person you've been working with_____

24b) Name of land trust organization_____

25) Please describe your plans for farm succession_____

26) Local Match: NYS Farmland Protection Program will fund up to 75% of the value of development rights on farmland. Typically, farmers will commit to a “bargain sale” of their development rights, meaning that they will accept 75% of the value from the state, and assume the remaining 25% as an in-kind contribution. Please indicate your willingness to assume 25% of the value of development rights on your farm by initialing one of the lines below.

I will provide the required 25% local match through bargain sale of my development rights _____.

I will not provide the required 25% local match through bargain sale of my development rights _____.

Certification: I (we) certify that all information presented in this pre-application is, to the best of my (our) knowledge, accurate and true.

Signature/Date _____

Signature/Date _____

Signature/Date _____

Pre-applications must be received by Friday April 10, 2009.