

May 25, 1984

Auburn Farm Study 1984

Dear Participant:

This questionnaire is part of an effort to understand the impact of Auburn's farmland protection law. The ordinance has been in effect since the early 1960's and there are many questions concerning its influence on the City of Auburn.


A group of University of Maine-Farmington and University of Southern Maine students are engaged in a study of rural Auburn as a class project. The questionnaire is an opportunity for you as a farmer to express your ideas about importance of agriculture and its future in Auburn.

Please answer the enclosed questions; the information you provide will be helpful in making wise decisions about farmland protection. You may skip any questions that you do not wish to answer and no signature is desired. Results of the questionnaire will be forwarded to you. Information about individual responses will remain confidential.

If you seek additional information about this survey contact Rodney Lynch, Department of Community Development, Auburn City Hall.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Paul B. Frederic
Assoc. Prof. of Geography
University of Maine-Farmington
(Project Director)

PBF/g
enclosure

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5. continued

D. How has your farm changed since you began farming it?

___ has become larger

___ has become smaller

___ has remained the same size

___ production has diversified

___ production has become more specialized

6. What percent of the land you farm is in the agricultural resources zone? _____

7. What conservation practices do you engage in on land you farm?

	<u>Owned Land</u>	<u>Rented Land</u>	<u>In Agric. Zone</u>	<u>Outside of Agric. Zone</u>
A. drainage	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. seeding programs	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. grass waterways	_____	_____	_____	_____
D. contour cropping	_____	_____	_____	_____
E. Other	_____	_____	_____	_____
(Explain: _____				

_____)				

RENTED FARMLAND

1. Do you rent any of the land you farm? _____

If "yes," how much? _____ acres

Where is it located? In Auburn _____

Elsewhere _____

What percent of your rented land is in the agricultural zone? _____

2. From how many different people do you rent land? _____

How many acres from each? _____

3. How easy is it to get enough land to meet your needs?

_____ Plenty of land available; no problem.

_____ Land available, but rent or purchase price is too high.

_____ Not enough land available; no room for expansion.

_____ Other

4. On the average, what does rented or leased land cost per acre?

For hayland? Range \$ _____ to \$ _____ Average \$ _____

For cropland? Range \$ _____ to \$ _____ Average \$ _____

For other land? _____

5. Has the cost of rent increased? _____

If so, by about how much? In 5 years? _____

In 10 years? _____

In 20 years? _____

6. What agreement do you have with the owner of the land you rent or lease?

_____ None

_____ Lease (Number of years _____)

_____ Other arrangement (trade for services, etc.)

Please specify: _____

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7. Who owns the land you rent?

_____ Other active farmers.

_____ Owned by farms no longer operating.

_____ Owned by private non-farm local residents.

_____ Owned by companies, developers, commercial entities.

_____ Others _____

8. Does the owner:

_____ live on the land?

_____ live elsewhere in the community or state?

_____ live out-of-state?

_____ Is the owner a company or corporation?

9. Do you think most of the land you rent or lease will be available in the future for farming?

1 yr. 5 yrs. 10 yrs.

_____ Yes. Owners have no other known plans.

_____ Uncertain. Explain. _____

_____ No. Owner plans to sell or develop.

_____ No. Owner plans to increase rent fees; will not be cost effective to continue renting.

_____ Other: _____

EFFECTS OF GROWTH

- 1. How many new homes and businesses have been built on properties adjacent to your land (or rented land) since you started farming here? _____
- 2. Have problems of theft and destruction (vandalism, theft of crops, damage by dirt bikes, snowmobiles, etc.):
 increased? _____ decreased? _____ stayed the same? _____

3. How do non-farm neighbors feel about certain farming practices?

	<u>Don't</u> <u>Care</u>	<u>Dislike &</u> <u>Complain</u>	<u>Accept</u> <u>Positively</u>
A. noise	_____	_____	_____
B. odors	_____	_____	_____
C. use of pesticides	_____	_____	_____
D. straying livestock	_____	_____	_____
E. slow moving machinery on hwy.	_____	_____	_____
F. cattle crossings on hwy.	_____	_____	_____

4. Are there things you do differently today because of the way the neighborhood has changed? _____

5. Do you support the Auburn Farmland Protection Law?

Yes _____ To some extent _____ No _____

Please comment: _____

C O N F I D E N T I A L

The purpose of the following questions is to find out how much agriculture contributes to the local economy. Some of the questions concern your expenditures and sources of services and supplies. Your answers will be kept confidential. The data will be compiled with that from other farmers so that only a total picture will be presented.

Markets:

How do you market your produce? (If more than one commodity is marketed, answer for each. If a commodity is marketed using several methods, show percentage sold through each method.)

Example: 50% roadside; 50% wholesale

<u>NAME OF PRODUCT</u>	<u>NAME OF PRODUCT</u>	<u>NAME OF PRODUCT</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	roadside stand
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	local cooperative
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	local processor
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	direct sales to local stores
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	wholesaler or supermarket chain
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	large regional co-op or distributor
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	Other: _____

Labor:

Do you use hired help in the operation of your farm? _____

If so, how many are employed full-time? _____

part-time or seasonal? _____

NOTES ON INPUTS SECTION:

1. Some farms will not have all components (an orchardist may not have livestock, etc.). Delete parts that do not apply.
2. Some services may be performed by farmers themselves. Leave blank or indicate "self."
3. Some commodities may be purchased from more than one source on a regular basis. Use extra lines to elaborate.
4. Some farmers may not be able to give cost figures for individual items but know how much they spend in general. If this is the case, ask for a total figure for the page and don't press for a detailed breakdown.

5. TYPES OF ESTABLISHMENTS: Some common establishments that will be given include

Farm Supply Stores: Agway, Farmers' Union

Neighborhood Stores, garages, etc.

Neighbors, other farmers

Special Purpose Establishments: gas company, hardware store, automotive supply stores
building supply stores, plumbing & heating firms, etc.

Inputs: (What kind of contribution does farming make to Auburn?)

The following are a list of services and purchases which are made by farmers. Please indicate the approximate yearly cost of each and where they are obtained.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Approximate annual cost</u>	<u>Approx. spent in Auburn</u>	<u>Please list most important type establishment where you purchased items</u>
1. <u>MACHINERY:</u> Repairs, Maintenance, Fuels (Ex: gasoline, tires, general inventory, welding, machine shop)			1 2 3
2. <u>CROPS:</u> (Ex: seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, spraying, lime spreading, planting)			1 2 3
3. <u>LIVESTOCK:</u> (Ex: veterinary services, medical supplies, purchased feed, breeding/supplies, trucking)			1 2 3
4. <u>BUILDINGS:</u> (Ex: repairs, milking equipment, general carpentry work, cooling, electrical work)			1 2 3
5. <u>OTHER BASIC OPERATING COSTS:</u>			
a. Taxes			NA
b. Rent			
c. Insurance + Utilities			

Overall, what is the total operating budget for a farm of this size (less interest & depreciation)?
