

## Ag Committee comments on draft Comprehensive Plan

- Page 57- Where do they get this data from?
- Ag land usage is very incorrect. What about land being leased to farmers?
- They did a decent job in explaining they want to protect farmland although it is very vaguely worded.
- Page 30- Ag land represents 22.5% of the land area in Dryden. Where did they get that number? *That may have come from the Ag Plan. The source is the county GIS data base.*
- Page 31- Ag land is shown as vacant land. If they knew that to get the percentage then their numbers are way off.
- The owner might not be claiming ag exemption for their land. In that case, it's considered vacant land even if it's been worked for 50 years. Some farmers don't want Ag exemptions.
- Page 53- How they define open space is not consistent in every map. wouldn't ag be considered in open space? It's not included in the map.
- Do they have residential maps that are being leased by farmers?
- Why does it say dairy farms have a higher assessed taxable value? Dairy land and field crops should be among the same value. *It's possible that since they are using parcels instead of acres that a dairy farm parcel would be a much larger piece than a field crop parcel.*
- Page 53-
- It's inconsistent how they define open space.
- Page 110- Future land use is totally different from zoning.
- Page 123- Why is 3 acres the minimum residential lot size?
- Nearly 1 quarter of total agriculture sales in Tompkins County are generated in the Town of Dryden. *That may have come from the Ag plan.*
- There's nothing in the plan about Dryden's right to farm law or ag and markets law. Those should be in there.
- The town says they want to protect farmers, but they're trying to put a trail through ag land...
- They don't mention the economic stresses on farmers. They could at least stop putting stresses on farmers. Help the farmers protect their land.
- There needs to be a map of active farmland.
- On page 58, there's a comparison being made between farm parcel evaluations. Dryden farms are valued at \$507k and crop farms are valued at \$225k. What's the value of having that in the comp plan?
- On page 63, action #7 is to identify resources and funding to support farmers in using sustainable farming practice. The committee feels like the word sustainable has many different interpretations. Recently it's been used as a green/organic term. They recently passed a resolution stating they will not endorse or reject any specific farming practices. They feel sustainable is too broad of a term.
- On page 59, the map shown does not make sense and the committee would like to see the ag district map there instead.