

Candia Agricultural Survey

Proposed Approach

1. Set up a survey with questions (below). Have a paper version and SurveyMonkey or other on-line tool for the survey.
2. Start the list with current members of the Ag. Committee.
3. Each current member then works to add names of local farmers and producers who they know. Some other ways to identify farmers and other agricultural businesses:
 - a. Contact businesses associated with agriculture such as a feed supply stores, etc.
 - b. Contact Conservation Comm. who may be working on possible farm conservation projects.
 - c. Use resources such as the local newspaper and the internet to identify farms.
4. Once a new contact is made, ask questions from the survey either via phone, in person or send the link for the SurveyMonkey to fill out.
5. If visiting a farm, perhaps take pictures (with permission, of course).
6. Potentially do a “windshield” survey of the town to find other businesses that may have not been found by other means.
7. Tally results from the survey – enter data collected from paper surveys into the on-line tool.
8. Summarize results and present a profile to the community.

Survey Questions

Name of Farm/Business _____

Contact person _____

Address _____

Relation of contact person to the business (i.e. owner, operator, etc.) _____

Number of people who support themselves on farm income

1. Type of farm: full-time ____ part-time ____
 hobby ____ other ____

Meeting USDA and NH definition of farming

2a. The USDA definition of a commercial farm is one which grosses, or would normally gross, at least \$1,000 of farm sales per year. Are you by definition a commercial farm?

2b. In RSA 21:34, Section II, the state of New Hampshire defines a farming and agriculture. (see RSA below) According to this definition is your business considered a farm?

2c. Do you produce most of your own food in addition to the products you offer for sale?

Farmer Demographics

3a. Number of persons employed in farm operation
 under 18 ____ 18-55 ____ older than 55 ____

3b. Collective years of farming experience of farm owners/operators and employees ____

Impact on employment base

4a. How many people do you employ?
 full-time ____ seasonal ____ part-time ____

4b. How many live in town? ____

Farm acres and use

5a. Acreage/square footage used in traditional agricultural production:

 Hay ____ Silage ____ Corn ____ Pasture ____ Tree Fruit ____ Small Fruit ____
 Vegetables ____ Nursery ____ Greenhouse ____ Xmas Trees ____ Cordwood ____
 Maple Syrup ____ Beekeeping ____ Other ____

5b. Acreage/square footage used in non-traditional agricultural production:

 Wild game _____
 Herb operations _____
 Garlic _____
 Cut flowers _____
 Aquaculture _____

Livestock numbers

6a. Number of livestock:
 Beef ____

Sheep____
Dairy Cows____
Swine____
Goats____
Other_____

Value of agricultural products produced or purchased for resale

7a. What products do you produce?

7b. What products do you purchase for resale?

Markets for products

8a. Do you sell your products within town?

Where?

What?

8b. Do you sell your products outside of town?

Where?

What?

8c. What value added products do you produce locally (i.e. cheese, pies, jams, wool products, evergreen wreaths, etc.)?

8d. How do you market your products?

Wholesale____ Retail____ Roadside stand ____ PYO____ Farmers' Market____ Other_____

8e. If you sell at a Farmers' Market, which markets do you sell at?

Benefit to Local Businesses

9a. Where do you buy equipment, seed, fertilizer and other ag. supplies?

9b. How much do you spend annually on local farm supplies?

9c. What other local businesses and service providers do patronize locally?

Adequacy of financing to start and maintain farm operations

10. Are local banks knowledgeable about and willing to provide credit agricultural operations?

Potential for loss of farmland

11a. Do you rent or lease land? ____

11b. How many acres?_____

Impact of current use taxation on farming

12a. Is your land in current use assessment? YES____ NO ____

12b. How many acres? Farmland____ Forest land____ Other_____

Barriers to farming – is your town farm friendly?

13a. How does your farm benefit the town?

13b. What benefits does the town provide you?

13c. Identify any problems related to farming in your town.

13d. Do you feel there is a need to protect agricultural land within town? If so, how?

Definition of Farming -

21:34-a Farm, Agriculture, Farming. –

I. The word "farm" means any land, buildings, or structures on or in which agriculture and farming activities are carried out or conducted and shall include the residence or residences of owners, occupants, or employees located on such land. Structures shall include all farm outbuildings used in the care of livestock, and in the production and storage of fruit, vegetables, or nursery stock; in the production of maple syrup; greenhouses for the production of annual or perennial plants; and any other structures used in operations named in paragraph II of this section.

II. The words "agriculture" and "farming" mean all operations of a farm, including:

(a) (1) The cultivation, conservation, and tillage of the soil.

(2) The storage, use of, and spreading of commercial fertilizer, lime, wood ash, sawdust, compost, animal manure, septage, and, where permitted by municipal and state rules and regulations, other lawful soil amendments.

(3) The use of and application of agricultural chemicals.

(4) The raising and sale of livestock, which shall include, but not be limited to, dairy cows and the production of milk, beef animals, swine, sheep, goats, as well as domesticated strains of buffalo or bison, llamas, alpacas, emus, ostriches, yaks, elk (*Cervus elephus canadensis*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), red deer (*Cervus elephus*), and reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*).

(5) The breeding, boarding, raising, training, riding instruction, and selling of equines.

(6) The commercial raising, harvesting, and sale of fresh water fish or other aquaculture products.

(7) The raising, breeding, or sale of poultry or game birds.

(8) The raising of bees.

(9) The raising, breeding, or sale of domesticated strains of fur-bearing animals.

(10) The production of greenhouse crops.

(11) The production, cultivation, growing, harvesting, and sale of any agricultural, floricultural, viticultural, forestry, or horticultural crops including, but not limited to, berries, herbs, honey, maple syrup, fruit, vegetables, tree fruit, grapes, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, sod, trees and tree products, Christmas trees grown as part of a commercial Christmas tree operation, trees grown for short rotation tree fiber, compost, or any other plant that can be legally grown and harvested extensively for profit or subsistence.

(b) Any practice on the farm incident to, or in conjunction with such farming operations, including, but not necessarily restricted to:

(1) Preparation for market, delivery to storage or to market, or to carriers for transportation to market of any products or materials from the farm.

(2) The transportation to the farm of supplies and materials.

(3) The transportation of farm workers.

(4) Forestry or lumbering operations.

(5) The marketing or selling at wholesale or retail, on-site and off-site, where permitted by local regulations, any products from the farm.

(6) Irrigation of growing crops from private water supplies or public water supplies where not prohibited by state or local rule or regulation.

(7) The use of dogs for herding, working, or guarding livestock, as defined in RSA 21:34-a, II(a)(4).

(8) The production and storage of compost and the materials necessary to produce

compost, whether such materials originate, in whole or in part, from operations of the farm.

III. A farm roadside stand shall remain an agricultural operation and not be considered commercial, provided that at least 35 percent of the product sales in dollar volume is attributable to products produced on the farm or farms of the stand owner.

IV. Practices on the farm shall include technologies recommended from time to time by the university of New Hampshire cooperative extension, the New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food, and appropriate agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture.

V. The term "'farmers' market" means an event or series of events at which 2 or more vendors of agricultural commodities gather for purposes of offering for sale such commodities to the public. Commodities offered for sale must include, but are not limited to, products of agriculture, as defined in paragraphs I-IV. "'Farmers' market" shall not include any event held upon any premises owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by any individual vendor selling therein.

VI. The term "'agritourism" means attracting visitors to a working farm for the purpose of eating a meal, making overnight stays, enjoyment of the farm environment, education on farm operations, or active involvement in the activity of the farm which is ancillary to the farm operation.

Source. 1961, 140:1. 1977, 95:1. 1979, 60:1. 1985, 6:1, eff. May 31, 1985. 1997, 250:1, eff. Aug. 18, 1997. 1999, 191:2, eff. Sept. 4, 1999. 2005, 107:1, eff. Aug. 14, 2005. 2006, 11:5, eff. March 3, 2006; 326:1, eff. Aug. 25, 2006. 2007, 157:1, eff. June 18, 2007. 2008, 8:1, eff. July 4, 2008