

Draft Vision - Future of Agriculture Study

A vibrant agriculture and food community characterized by its diversity, creativity and entrepreneurship, focused on sustainability as well as new opportunities in the Capital Region.

Draft Principles:

Principle 1: *Integrated approach*

- Ensure County support is strong, consistent, and coordinated
- Integrate the opportunities (from large scale field crops to agri-tourism)
- Fine tune policies specific geographic areas
- Elevate food and agriculture as a priority area for economic development
- Decisions about capital and operating budgets should recognize needs of agriculture

Principle 2: *Supportive land use policies*

- Manage growth to minimize the development footprint
- Reduce land fragmentation and conversion to non-agricultural uses
- Direct growth to areas that have less negative impact on agriculture
- Identify the permanent long term agricultural land base and strengthen the protection of agricultural lands
- New policies with a variety of techniques (zoning, reduce fragmentation, transfer of development credits)

Principle 3: *Entrepreneurial Culture*

- Elevate the priority of agri-business and agri-tourism
- Ensure that opportunities to establish new businesses/facilities/sites are not unduly restricted by by-laws or regulations
- Support programs for education (training and mentoring) to attract and develop entrepreneurs
- Develop more small scale agricultural activities in country residential areas
- Ensure the 'state of agriculture' is measured on an ongoing basis

Principle 4: *Fostering local leadership*

- Foster focused and committed leadership to transform ideas into strategies and action
- Provide forums for leadership in both existing and emerging areas
- Work with other regional partners and industry groups
- Develop advocacy groups