

SALEM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS GOALS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FARMS AND FARMLAND

On April 28 at 7:00 pm, the Town and Village of Salem will hold a public meeting to discuss the development of an Agricultural and Farm Viability Plan aimed to support a future for local farms. The meeting will be held at the Historic Salem Courthouse, 58 East Broadway, Salem. Farmers, agricultural landowners and others interested in supporting a future for farms in Salem are invited to attend.

Farmers, landowners, agricultural business representatives and interested citizens are invited to attend to share their thoughts on ways the Town can support agricultural viability. Attendants will have an opportunity to review a master land use map depicting agricultural lands in the Town and Village of Salem and provide their input on goals for the Farm Viability Plan.

- What:** *Public Meeting on Salem's Agriculture and Farm Viability Plan*
Who: Farmers, agricultural business owners, farm landowners, interested members of the public
When: Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Where: Historic Salem Courthouse, 58 East Broadway, Salem
Contact: Committee Chair Dottie Schneider for more information at 518-854-7053 OR Liz Brock, American Farmland Trust, 518-581-0078, ext. 305

The Town and Village of Salem have jointly been awarded a grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to develop an Agriculture and Farm Viability Plan. The purpose is to establish strategies that will result in the enhancement, management and continued viability of agriculture and farmland in the Town and Village of Salem. Salem has hired the American Farmland Trust (AFT) to assist the Town in creating strategies to enhance agricultural viability and has established a Study Advisory Committee consisting of local farmers and others involved in agriculture to provide a sounding board for such strategies.
