

## For Immediate Release

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### **Dryden Town Meeting on Agriculture and the Draft Comprehensive Plan**

Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30to 9:30PM, VFW Building (Rt 13 west of Dryden Village)

The Town of Dryden Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) is inviting local farmers and farmland owners to a meeting to discuss the Town's Draft Comprehensive Plan and its recommendations related to agriculture. The meeting is organized in cooperation with the Dryden Grange and the Tompkins County Farm Bureau, and has the support of the Dryden Town Board and Planning Board. This is an important opportunity for farmers to express their thoughts and concerns about the Draft Comprehensive Plan and any future policies suggested by the plan which may have a direct impact on agriculture and agricultural landowners within the town. Meeting organizers also hope to identify a few volunteers interested in continuing to represent the interests of the agricultural community as the Town moves forward with implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. This plan, over the long term, is intended to guide future growth and development in the town in a manner that will support a high quality of life for residents, protect agricultural and other natural resources, and ensure efficient use of local government funds. The Draft Plan can be viewed at the Dryden Town Hall, Southworth Library, or on the town website at <http://www.dryden.ny.us/compplan.html>.

During recent meetings of the Dryden Planning Board, members of the agricultural community have expressed concerns about some of the language in the current Draft Comprehensive Plan. Craig Schutt, Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board, offered to organize the upcoming meeting, in partnership with other local stakeholders, to provide a forum for addressing these concerns. Dryden's Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) is a body of citizen volunteers appointed by the Town Board to provide assistance on issues related to agriculture, natural areas, and environmental protection.

The September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is a unique and important opportunity for the agricultural community to influence their future and be part of the Town's planning process. This is a chance to formulate ideas that can provide reasonable alternatives to some of the suggested future land use policy as it pertains to agricultural property in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. All concerned and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Invitations will be sent by mail to farmers and farmland owners within the Town of Dryden. In addition, we are seeking assistance from the local media in spreading the word, and we invite local media to attend the meeting.