



**Progress Report  
Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Development**

**Towns of Seward and Carlisle  
February 19, 2009**

**Prepared by Laura Ten Eyck, Field Consultant, American Farmland Trust**

**Farmer and Landowner Interviews Underway**

Laura Ten Eyck of AFT began farmer/landowner interviews on January 15<sup>th</sup>. To date she has interviewed Lester Hay, Eric and Cindi Shelley, Randy Broadwell and Bob Smith from Carlisle and Jim Robinson and Dan France from Seward. Interviews will continue through the end of February through the first half of March. The majority of interviews will be completed prior to the public meetings. After the interviews are completed Laura will write a summary of the findings. The interviews are confidential and although quotes may be used to illustrate certain points they will not be attributed.

**Public Meeting Dates Set**

Dates for public meetings to gather public input for the development of the agriculture and farmland protection plans in Seward and Carlisle have been set and then reset. The new dates are as follows: the Carlisle public meeting will be held on March 18; the Seward public meeting will be held on March 23. The joint committee meeting will be rescheduled to March 30. Zachary Thompson of the Schoharie County Planning Department is working on preparing publicity that will run in the local newspapers prior to the public meetings. At their February meeting the committee will set an agenda and decide on speakers for the public meetings.

**Thinking About Maps**

At the January meeting, Zachary gave a presentation to the committee on mapping options the Schoharie County Planning Department can offer with its GIS system. The committee discussed the types of maps it will need. The Schoharie County Planning Department is working on preparing sample maps for the committee to review at their February meeting. The committee plans to have maps on display at the public meetings.

**Inventories Reaching Completion**

The Town of Seward's committee has finalized its inventory of agriculture in the town. The Town of Carlisle committee is still revising their inventory and it should be ready to be finalized soon.

**Next Steps**

Complete Interviews/*March*  
Interview Summary/*March*  
Review Maps/*February*  
Begin Discussion of Goals/*February*  
Public Meetings/*March*  
Assess Public Input/*March*  
Draft Goals for Plan/*March-April*

Next Seward/Carlisle Joint Executive Committee Meeting: March 30, 2009