

VOLUNTARY MUNICIPAL FARM SUPPORT PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS:

- “....to protect and support local farms, preserve farmland and reduce the potential tax burdens from new development,..... (7 §60-A);
- ...(a) provide a renewable and long-term source of farm and forest products and services; (b) provide for long-term management of farmland and forest land in accordance with best management practices to prevent erosion, sedimentation and other degradation of soil and water resources; (c) provide employment opportunities in Maine; and (d) support investment in local businesses and community services that depend directly upon, or provide ancillary services to, the agricultural and silvicultural industries. (*Silviculture is the practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values.*) (Page 5, Rules);
- Conserve productive farmland and active farms to maintain the agricultural business section, cultural heritage and rural character...(Page 5, Rules);
- Up to 100% tax relief;
- Town Council must approve each application for the program;
- Eligibility:
 - Not less than 20 year easement;
 - 5 contiguous acre minimum;
 - \$2,000 annual income;
 - Ownership must be in “fee simple” (without limitations or conditions....).