

Tax Incentives to Protect Family Farms Without Breaking Your Budget

An AGvocate Workshop

Monday, November 29, 2010

6:30 to 9 pm

Hampton Community Center

(At the Little River Grange)

178 Main Street (Rte 97)

Hampton, CT



Local governments can make good use of tax tools to create a supportive business environment for local farms. Are you an agricultural producer, agricultural based business, a municipal decision maker, or do you just have an interest in keeping Connecticut's working lands viable? Join us on November 29 for a FREE workshop, sponsored by the AGvocate program, to learn about available tax reduction programs that can help retain farms and farmland in your community.

This workshop will cover:

- Public Act 490-Ct land use value assessment law for farmland, forestland and open space land
- State tax exemptions and abatements currently existing for farms and farmland
- Optional tax exemptions and abatements your town can implement
- Lessons learned from towns that have successfully implemented tax incentives

Share Ideas, Gather Resources

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FREE Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

Workshop will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

To assure program materials, contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate Program Director, 860-450-6007 or AGvocate@yahoo.com to reserve your space.

Funding for the AGvocate Program was provided by a Ct Department of Agriculture Farm Viability Grant

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Workshop Agenda

6:30 p.m. Registration & Light Refreshments

Meet AGvocate town representatives

7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Tax Incentives to Protect Family Farms—*Joan Nichols, Government Relations Specialist, Ct Farm Bureau Association will provide a review of PA 490, what it is and who can benefit. She will then discuss state tax reduction programs available for farmers and optional tax reduction programs municipalities may adopt to protect family farms.*

8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Using Tax Reductions Programs to Create a Supportive Business Environment for Farms in your Town –Where to Begin and What Makes Sense —*A Panel Discussion with Paula Stahl, LLA, ASLS, AICP, Co-Director Green Valley Institute, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Town of Sprague, Carolyn Nadeau, CCMail, Assessor Towns of Watertown and Bethlehem CT*

8:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. AGvocate Program Update
Year 1 AGvocate Towns Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Franklin, Sterling, and Thompson
Year 2 AGvocate Towns: Eastford, Hampton, Windham, Woodstock

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

About the AGvocate Program

Since June 2009, the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Franklin, Sterling, and Thompson have been working with circuit rider "AGvocate", Jennifer Kaufman, to implement tools to strengthen farm friendliness, including forming agriculture commissions, reviewing tax reduction programs, planning for farmland protection, and establishing right-to-farm ordinances. A second grant has extended the program for another year and increased the number of participating towns to include the towns of Eastford, Hampton, Windham and Woodstock. For more contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate, at 860-450-6007 or AGvocate@yahoo.com.

AGvocate Steering Committee: Ben Bowell, American Farmland Trust • Lois Bruinooge, The Last Green Valley, Inc. • David Fuss, Town of Brooklyn • John Guskowski, Eastern CT Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. • Rick Hermonot, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm • Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate Program • Kevin Kennedy, Town of Thompson • Joyce Meader, UConn Cooperative Extension • Dawn Pindell, Windham County Farm Service Agency • Norma O'Leary, The Last Green Valley Natural Resources & Agriculture Committee • Elizabeth Rogers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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