

# WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF BETHEL

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**Greetings and Welcome to the Town of Bethel.** There are many things about Bethel that make us a unique and wonderful place to live, work and play. From our vibrant town center, beautiful parks and gardens to our Dr. Duggan Community Center, volunteers and generous neighbors, Bethel has something for everyone. We are glad that you have chosen to join our community.

One very important and special aspect of the Town of Bethel is our farming community. We are home to farms that raise cows, horses, sheep, alpacas, pigs and chickens. We have vegetable growers, greenhouses and nurseries, folks who grow hay and a distillery using farm products. Some of our farms have been in the same family for generations. Others are new for people who have decided that farming is their calling. In any case, Bethel is most appreciative of our farms and how they enhance our quality of life.

In 2010, the Town of Bethel adopted a Farmland Protection Plan and established a committee for its implementation. Part of the role of the committee is to help raise awareness about farming in Bethel, to promote our local products, and to encourage Bethel as a place to farm. This plan recognizes that agriculture plays a very important role in the quality of life of our town and that sustaining farming as an economic engine for our community is vital to our future. We also realize that farming has many impacts on everyday life, especially during summer months. Our goal is to find ways to help with these impacts so that farmers and residents can maintain a productive, safe and enjoyable experience.



We appreciate our residents and visitors as an important part of our community and local economy. We want to invite you to get to know more about agriculture and our farming community.

There are many positive aspects to becoming more familiar with farming and its activities, such as the possibility of visiting farms for a tour or being able to purchase local farm products, from produce to organic milk! A first step is education and outreach. If you would like to arrange a tour of one of our local farms, either for yourself or a group, we would be glad to show you around. This would make a wonderful field trip for fun or it could be an educational experience. Please contact [bethelagny@town.bethel.ny.us](mailto:bethelagny@town.bethel.ny.us) and we will be in touch.

Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbors so that they too can get to know our agriculture community and goals. We welcome your feedback and ideas.

Sincerely Yours,

## ***The Bethel Ag Committee***

**David Biren**, Bethel Planning Board | **Susan Brown Otto**, Bethel Planning Board | **Stacey Cohen**, Catskill Distilling Company | **Robert Dougherty**, Sullivan County Farms | **Denise Frangipane**, Councilwoman | **Bob Franklin**, Bethel Creamery | **Lowell Feldman**, Rolling Stone Ranch | **Carol Malek**, Malek Properties | **Jannetta MacArthur**, Community Volunteer | **Fred Michel**, Michel Farm | **David Slater**, Slater Farm | **Bob Yakin**, Bethel Planning Board | **Jennifer Young**, Fairytale Farm

# AGRICULTURE IN BETHEL ... Living and Working Together



Town of Bethel Roads are narrow one lane roads. They are shared by residents, visitors and farmers who must be aware of each other in order to avoid accidents on blind hills or sharp turns. Roads are also used by horseback riders and horse drawn carriages. Drivers should be patient and take extreme care when sharing the road with farm equipment. Most farm equipment is wide, slow and may make unexpected turns. Passing farm equipment in an unsafe manner places the farmer, the driver and any occupants at unnecessary risk of collision with oncoming traffic. A little patience can save a life. If you are behind a slow moving farm vehicle, take the time to enjoy our beautiful countryside.



Farmers must fertilize their fields in order to keep them viable and productive. Anyone who has spent a summer in Bethel may know that the odor from this activity can be very ...noticeable ... and may impact an enjoyable summer day. Many residents and businesses in Bethel are surrounded by farmland. Several of our farmers work with the community to ensure that farming activities do not have unwanted impacts on days when events are planned.



Communicating with farmers is important. Not only does it provide a chance to meet the people who are growing/producing our food; it is also an opportunity to reach out before an occasion or big event to insure that you are not impacted because the wind is blowing the wrong way that day. **But you need to know your farmers and be in touch with them in advance.** Meeting with your farmer neighbors is a great way to build better, more productive relationships. The Bethel Ag Committee is happy to help you with this.

