



Agriculture in Amherst

Goals of the Amherst Farmland and Agricultural Protection Plan (Adopted 2021)



CONSERVE key Areas of viable farmland, important soils and natural resources that are suitable for permanent protection through the use of Agricultural Conservation Easements



PROMOTE economic innovation and sustainability in agricultural production including diversification of farming and agricultural practices, and the exploration of new markets



LEVERAGE the Town's natural resources and agricultural assets to encourage support for agricultural activities, clean energy initiatives, and encourage ancillary means of income for farm operations and agricultural enterprises.



ENCOURAGE the link between farms & food and farms & secondary income, to increase awareness, grow the industry and help ensure the long term sustainability of the farming activities in Amherst

Community Support for Agriculture and Conservation

71% of survey respondents feel that existing open land and farms are in need of conservation and protection.

76% of survey respondents think that the Town should help protect existing agricultural needs and activities.

91% of respondents visit local farmers' markets and 63% would like to have more opportunities to purchase local farm products.

Solar Energy Development In Amherst



5 Megawatts of power output



13,260 Solar Panels



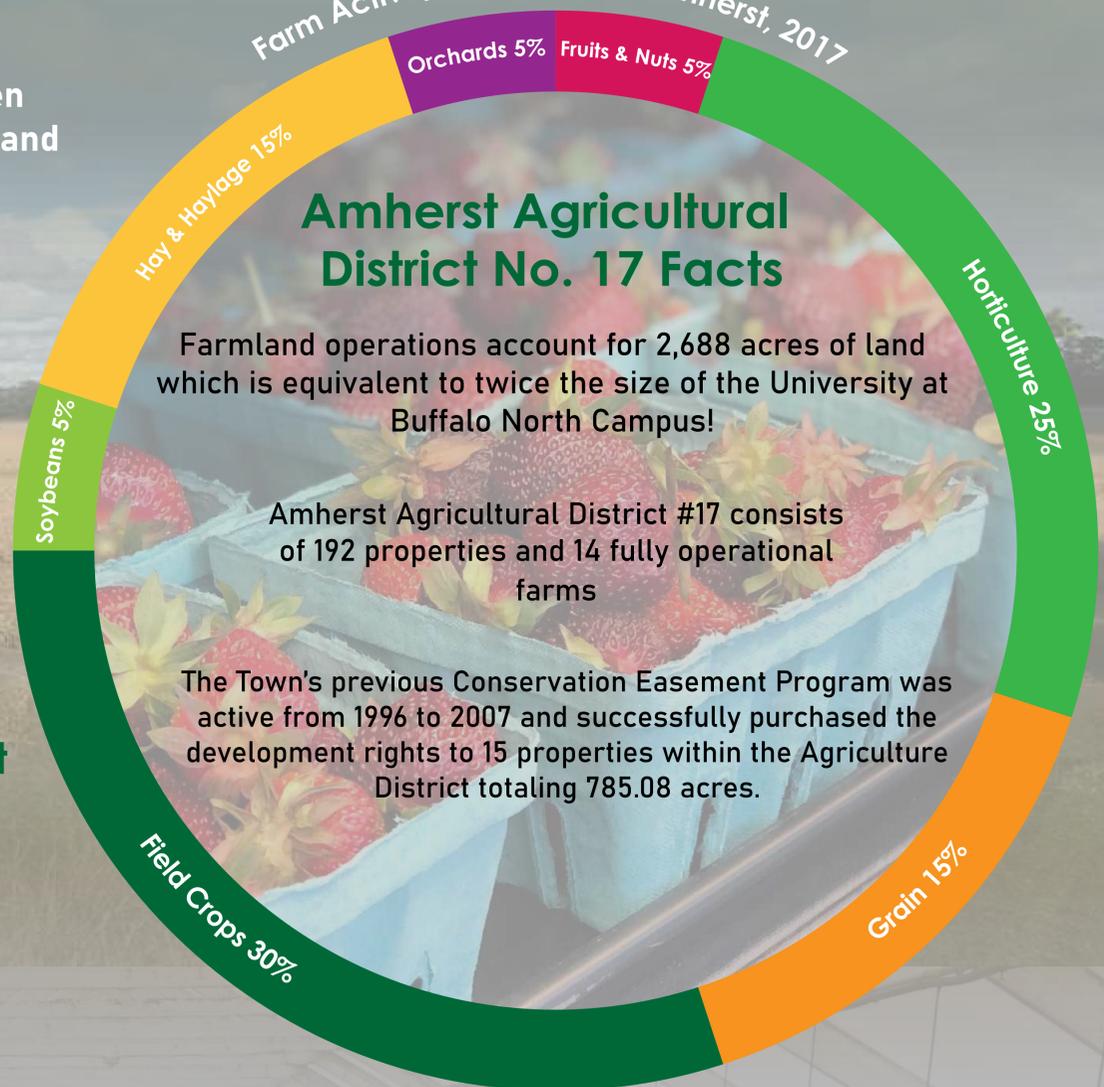
20 Acre Solar Farm

The first solar energy development in the Town of Amherst is located on Schoelles Road in North Amherst. Located in the Amherst Agricultural District No. 17, this development will include the co-location of an agricultural use that can include beekeeping, pollinator gardens, sheep grazing, etc.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- Establish Agricultural and Farming Advocacy
- Amend Zoning Ordinance to better accommodate farming
- Continue the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Promote local Community Support Agriculture Organizations
- Study opportunities to support cannabis and hemp production

Farm Activity by Product in Amherst, 2017



Amherst Agricultural District No. 17 Facts

Farmland operations account for 2,688 acres of land which is equivalent to twice the size of the University at Buffalo North Campus!

Amherst Agricultural District #17 consists of 192 properties and 14 fully operational farms

The Town's previous Conservation Easement Program was active from 1996 to 2007 and successfully purchased the development rights to 15 properties within the Agriculture District totaling 785.08 acres.

**Hungry For More?
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