

Forum Issues Summary				
MAPC Scope Topic	Nonprofit Partner	Questions From Forum		
		What Barriers are farmers facing?	What obstacles do munis face?	What are the potential solutions/action items?
Increasing Production		No critical mass of farm support orgs - need more suppliers, etc.		Older farmers taking younger farmers under their wing
Management of Town-Owned Land	LFG, SVT		Assistance w/ town-owned land leaseing for ag, use agreements, length of use, priorities for type/class of ag, etc.	Land Trusts that only works on Ag  Creating a model conservation restriction template w/ farmer input
Dispute Resolution (conflicting interest for land use)	SVT	Conservation restrictions (limitations on use) Need to get some conservation land back into ag.	Boards ability to respond appropriately to complaints How to deal w/ nuisance complaints  Competition for resources (e.g. recreation vs. ag vs. ed, etc.)  Perception that munis are hostile to farming	Set-up ag comms in towns that lack MMA & MA Assoc of Planning Directors should discuss ag issues 61A Lands must stay in agriculture
Zoning/Regulatory and Other Legal Issues	CLF	Regulations: one-size fits all for large & small opps  Communication barriers w/ BOH - no dialogue with farmers prior to legislative change 5-year exemption under WPA - non-ag use becoming jurisdictional wetland Competing interest w/ public uses (recreation, conservation, etc.) Municipal requirements in regulations (liability & insurance)  Poor planning by local officials Inconsistent and antiquated regulations Conditions of APR State legal issues around the uses of muni lands Regulations: need for better understanding of the ag system	Politics getting in the way  Town bans on specific types of practice  Boards ability to respond appropriately to complaints  Reactive rather than proactive departments	Repository for ag preservation tools (land use/zoning)  Enforcement of Right to Farm Bylaws and promotion of RTF
Leasing	LFG, SVT	Availability of hayfields and affordable large parcels of farmland Finding affordable land Access to land for young farmers		
Marketing	CLF			"Buy local" - marketing Farm marketing and publicity (e.g. "county fair" subregional markets

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<b>Succession Planning</b>	<b>LFG, SVT</b>	Land tenure and access to farmland		
<b>Traning/Education</b>	<b>MAPC w/DAAR &amp; Farm Bureau Assistance</b>	Lack of consumer ed on production practices (i.e. organic vs non)  Lack of knowledge from general public	Lack of knowledge about farming  Failure of education system - not training for farmers anymore Lack of municipal ed on production practices  Lack of knowledge about what farmers need	Educate towns boards re: agriculture importance and basics  Improve broad public ed about farming  Education in school curriculum, open houses & field trips tp farms Municipal outreach and education about local farming  Education: new residents, understanding what a farm brings to a community
<b>Housing</b>		Cost of housing and rent too high for farmers		
<b>Funding</b>			Lack of funding to protect farmland	
<b>Other</b>		Production vs. retail cost. Trying to make a living Competing w/ large commercial & national farms Lack of insfrastructure for processing (i.e. slaughter facilities)  Need for expanded processing facilities (demand is currently greater than supply) Understanding costs to farmers Lack of purchasing by supermarkets Farmers arent defending their rights or do not have time too	Infrastructure i.e. slaughterhouses Lack of communication among stakeholders	Allow for small-scale slaughterhouses Making connections w/ chambers of commerce