New York's Right To Farm Act
(and many local ordinances)
Protect Farm Practices Like:

Operation of farm machinery, which creates noise and dust

Operation of farm machinery in the early morning and late evening throughout the year

Transportation of farm-related products with slow moving farm machinery on local roads

Spraying of pesticides and application of fertilizers

Spreading of manure

Shooting of air cannons

How Can I Assist Farmers?

*Notify farmers in advance if you are planning to hold a special event outside. That way they can try to avoid unpleasant activities.
*Refrain from unwarranted complaints to local, state, or federal governments about generally accepted farm management practices.
*Refrain from any actions that would discourage farmers from conducting standard farming practices.
*Refrain from filing frivolous lawsuits aimed at curtailing farming practices on agriculturally zoned property.
*Always receive permission from farmers before entering their property for any purpose so as to avoid damaging crops and/or disrupting farming operations.

New York Farm Bureau
159 Wolf Road, P.O. Box 5330, Albany, NY 12205, 1-800-342-4143, www.nyfb.org

Erie County Farm Bureau
21 S Grove St, East Aurora, NY 14052 (716) 652-8480, www.erie.gov

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets
www.agriculture.ny.gov

Town of Newstead

Sights, Sounds, Smells...

Living In A Farm Community

Knowledge for farmers and neighbors to happily coexist

Having Farmers For Neighbors

Farmers produce food, fiber and fuel products needed to make the world flourish and grow. To make this happen, farmers sometimes must carefully apply manure to fields as well as pesticides and fertilizers to crops. In addition, farmers work long hours to ensure their success. These farm practices—long hours, manure application and crop management—sometimes conflict with rural homeowners' perceptions of living in the country. Noise, dust and odors are all part of living near farms. Farms are active places, driven by the change of seasons and dependent on the weather. This means that when the season and weather are right, farmers spend long hours on their machinery in the fields. Early mornings and late into the evening, sometimes working under lights, is normal for many farming operations. Smells from animal manure should be expected and will be present in pastures, and is also spread in farm fields as fertilizer.
While farmers try to be good neighbors and lessen any unpleasant sights, sounds or smells, these are sometimes unavoidable. Under the Agricultural Districts Law, new homeowners are alerted to this fact so they can make informed decisions about living in a farming area.

Keep Safe on or Near a Farm

Farming is one of the most hazardous occupations. There are many opportunities for injury on a farm, for farm workers as well as for non-farmers who have no knowledge of farm operations.
*Livestock fences are often electrified and can give quite a jolt if brushed against or touched
*Some livestock do not like people in their pasture and will charge. Livestock have teeth and can bite.
*Always wash hands after touching animals to avoid the possibility of bacteria-borne illness.
*Farm fields may be treated with pesticides.
*Plowed ground is soft, uneven and frequently stony; walking on it can be hazardous.

*Do not touch animals without permission of the owner.
*Dogs should be leashed in areas near farms to avoid chasing livestock.
*Sometimes livestock can get out of a pasture fence and into the road or neighboring yards. If this happens, please contact the farmer immediately.
*If you encounter any farm machinery/tractors on the road please be considerate and pass with care.

What is an Agricultural District?

Land that is included within an agricultural district has been recognized by the local and state governments as being viable farmland and an important resource. Having land located within a county adopted, State certified, agricultural district is different from having land zoned for agricultural use under a municipality's zoning code. In order to be included in an agricultural district, land must be recommended for inclusion by the County Farmland Protection Board, approved by the country legislature and certified by the Commissioner of Agriculture & Markets. The purpose of agricultural districts is to encourage the continued use of farmland for agricultural production.

A Right to Farm limits the circumstances under which farming may be regarded as a nuisance. If a practice is determined to be a sound agricultural practice, this law protects farmers in cases where complaints about farming activities have been made.

When a home is purchased in an agricultural district, a real estate disclosure is required at the time of closing. This states that the property is in an agricultural district and notifies the new owner that agricultural activities are to be expected.