

Whole Farm Planning Outline

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I. INTRODUCTION

Outline the context of the site and the goals for farm planning. How will the plan be used? Who are the stakeholders? What is the current future intent for the site?

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Outline the principles guiding land use at the site. What are the principles guiding SITL and the stakeholders? What qualities are of most importance to the stakeholders? What qualities are most important to SITL? Environmental stewardship, risk management and economic sustainability are good places to start.

III. REGIONAL CONTEXT

- A. Ecological Region Summary
 - 1. Identify the EPA Level III and IV ecological region
 - 2. Past landscape setting (pre-European settlement)
 - 3. Current landscape
 - a. Characteristics
 - b. Settlement and population centers
 - c. Unique natural features, including watersheds, natural landscapes and environmental corridors
 - d. Regional natural resource Concerns
 - e. Existing regional land use and agriculture
- B. Past and Current Cultural Setting
 - 1. Indigenous peoples
 - 2. Colonial settlement
 - 3. Current population centers, cultures and markets
- C. Regional Planning
 - 1. Comprehensive Planning
 - 2. Land Use Planning
 - 3. Watershed Plans
- D. Transportation and Infrastructure

IV. THE FARM

- A. Site Description
- B. Natural Resources
 - 1. Climate
 - a. Climate characteristics
 - b. Temperature and growing zones
 - c. Site microclimate
 - d. Potential for renewable energy sources (including solar and wind)
 - 2. Soils
 - a. Major soil types and characteristics
 - b. Soil quality and health
 - c. Soil concerns (drainage/hydric soils, erosion)
 - d. Soils map
 - 3. Water
 - a. Watershed
 - b. Hydrology
 - o Flood information
 - o Subsurface hydrology and groundwater basin
 - o Waterways on or in proximity to site
 - c. Precipitation

- o Annual
 - o Seasonal and extreme event frequency
 - d. Water quality on site and in water bodies in close proximity
- 4. Topography
 - a. Map
 - b. Significant topographical features
 - c. Erosion or water-related concerns
- 5. Plant and Wildlife Communities/ Habitat
 - a. Community types and approximate area (acreage)
 - b. Community health and applicable restoration
 - c. Riparian areas
 - d. Other natural areas of special interest (e.g., native remnants)
 - e. Inventories of flora/fauna
- 6. Natural Resource Concerns
- C. Agriculture and Working Lands
 - 1. Current cropping / livestock
 - 2. Past and historical Cropping / livestock
 - 3. Farmland suitability (soils, topography)
 - 4. Soil health
 - 5. Drainage
 - a. Surface
 - b. Subsurface
 - c. Impacts upstream/downstream
 - 6. Irrigation
 - a. Source
 - b. Type
 - c. Usage
 - 7. Wind and water erosion
- D. Built Environment and Infrastructure
 - 1. Building history
 - 2. Building condition
 - 3. Road, aisle and path condition
 - 4. Support facilities and amenities
 - 5. Equipment
 - 6. Housing
- E. Social and Human resources
 - 1. Management
 - 2. Stakeholders
 - 3. Labor, volunteer or paid

V. OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- A. Ecological Stewardship
 - 1. Ecological services
- B. Risk Management
 - 1. **Finances**
 - 2. **Production**
 - 3. **Marketing**
 - 4. **Human interaction**
 - 5. **Legal issues, Regulatory**
 - 6. Weather
- C. Cost reduction
 - 1. Producing inputs
 - 2. Energy efficiency
 - 3. Labor efficiency

- D. Neighborhood
 - 1. Horizontal relationships
 - 2. Linking farms
 - 3. Development
- E. Market Opportunities
 - 1. New market relationships
 - 2. New goods and services
 - 3. Current Market opportunities
- F. Government programs
 - 1. FSA and NRCS
 - 2. State initiatives
 - 3. Local gov't or NGO
 - 4. Land conservancy
 - 5. Farmland preservation
- G. Other, including recreation, agrotourism and opportunities unique to the site.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Ecological Stewardship
 - 1. Water management plan
 - a. Quality improvement/protection
 - o Testing/assessment
 - o BMPs
 - o tile
 - b. Watershed impact and improvements
 - c. Water conservation
 - o Irrigation
 - o Drain tile management
 - 2. Soil health management
 - a. Nutrient management plan
 - b. Soil testing
 - o Organic matter
 - o CAC
 - o pH
 - o NPK
 - o Soil tilth and texture
 - c. Erosion management
 - 3. Pest management
 - 4. Energy
 - a. Energy conservation
 - b. Renewable energy and energy independence
 - c. Reduce carbon emissions
- B. Markets/marketing
- C. Tenants
- D. Management Structure

VII. REVENUE GENERATION

- A. Identify best strategies for revenue generation based on opportunities and recommendations

VIII. APPENDICES

May Include:

- A. Soils report
- B. Farm business plan examples
- C. Samples leases
- D. Nutrient and pest management planning tools
- E. Supporting documents on watershed and ecoregion

F. Maps