

1. What agricultural products do you sell wholesale? _____ or none _____

1. Hay
2. Beef and hay
4. Hay and corn
5. Feeders and cull cows
11. Milk
12. Milk, hay, corn, oats, dairy cattle, beef
15. None
16. None
17. Hay, corn
3. None
6. None
7. None
8. None, but is an Agribusiness – livestock fencing
9. None
10. None (Maple products – temp. not in business)
13. None
14. None

2. What agricultural products do you sell retail? _____ or none _____

1. Wood products
2. Beef
4. Hay and corn
5. Firewood and lambs
11. None
12. None
15. Blank (hay,...?)
16. Lamb, wool, registered sheep, chicken, eggs, bread
17. Pumpkins, sweet corn
3. None
6. Christmas trees and hay
7. None
8. None
9. None
10. None (Maple products – temp. not in business)
13. Hay, corn
14. Blank

3. Of the land you own in Knox, about how many acres are used for agriculture? _____

- 1. 15
- 2. 120
- 4. 150
- 5. 275
- 11. 270
- 12. 255
- 15. 100%
- 16. About 10
- 17. 400
- 3. 60
- 6. Blank
- 7. 110
- 8. About 50
- 9. 28 approx.
- 10. 50+ acres (temp. not in use)
- 13. 300+
- 14. Blank

Do you lease additional land for agriculture? _____ If so, about how many acres? _____

- 1. No n/a
- 2. No n/a
- 4. Yes 200
- 5. Yes 65
- 11. No n/a
- 12. Yes 200
- 15. No n/a
- 16. No n/a
- 17. Yes 300
- 3. No n/a
- 6. No n/a
- 7. No n/a
- 8. Yes About 50
- 9. No n/a
- 10. No n/a
- 13. No n/a
- 14. No n/a

4. What percentage of your household's gross annual income is from agriculture? (Please mark one)

- | | 0% | 1% to 20% | 21% to 40% | 41% to 60% | 61% to 80% | 81% to 99% | 100% |
|-----|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| 1. | 1% to 20% | | | | | | |
| 2. | 61% to 80% | | | | | | |
| 4. | 81% to 99% | | | | | | |
| 5. | 1% to 20% | 1% to 20% | | | | | |
| 11. | 81% to 99% | | | | | | |
| 12. | 100% | | | | | | |
| 15. | Nobody's business! It's personal info.! | | | | | | |
| 16. | 1% to 20% | | | | | | |
| 17. | 100% | | | | | | |
| 3. | 1% to 20% | | | | | | |
| 6. | 1% to 20% | | | | | | |
| 7. | 1% to 20% | | | | | | |
| 8. | 1% to 20% (rent) | | | | | | |
| 9. | 0% | | | | | | |
| 10. | 0% | | | | | | |
| 13. | 21% to 40% | | | | | | |
| 14. | Blank | | | | | | |

5. Do you plan to (1) **expand**, (2) **decrease** or (3) **maintain** (Please mark one) your agricultural/undeveloped acreage in the future?

If you plan to expand, do you think you will (1) **buy more land**, (2) **rent land** or (3) **other** _____

If you plan to decrease your operation, do you think you will (1) **sell land** (2) **rent to others** or (3) **other** _____

- | | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 1. | Maintain | |
| 2. | Maintain | |
| 4. | Maintain | Rent land |
| 5. | Maintain | |
| 11. | Maintain | |
| 12. | Maintain | |
| 15. | Blank | |
| 16. | Expand | Buy more land |
| 17. | Maintain | |
| 3. | Maintain | |
| 6. | Maintain | |
| 7. | Maintain | |
| 8. | Maintain | |
| 9. | Maintain | |
| 10. | Maintain | |
| 13. | Expand | Use more of my land currently not in use. |
| 14. | Maintain | |

6. Have you considered conservation/farmland preservation easement opportunities to keep your land agricultural/undeveloped in the future, or is this something you might be interested in? _____

1. No
2. Yes, this is something we plan to pursue in the future.
4. Depends on the differences between Ag value and development.
5. Looked at it but not attractive.
11. Most farmers do not have readily available cash. They have accumulated assets, land, buildings, livestock and crop or produce. All these are emergency funds, retirement funds, operating or expanding funds and inheritance for future generations. To enter into an easement program would limit the assets available for any unforeseen opportunity or emergency. No one can predict the future.
12. No
15. Not interested
16. Yes, but Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy was not interested in our land.
17. Might be
3. No
6. No
7. ?
8. I have considered it but not interested at this time.
9. Yes
10. Yes, possibly interested
13. Yes, I have, and have a contract with OSI (Open Space Institute)
14. Blank

7. Do you have heirs (or others) who will continue working your land or keeping it undeveloped after you retire? _____

Please describe: _____

1. Possible
2. Hopefully, our daughters
4. Yes, grandson is now operating the farm with me.
5. No
11. Yes
12. What concern is this of Town?
15. We have no idea!
16. No
17. Heirs and/or others
3. Maybe, three sons
6. Yes, daughter and family
7. Yes
8. Uncertain
9. I am retired. No, they will sell for best price.

- 10. Yes. My son is planning to do maple syrup + in 4 ½ years on 50+ acres.
- 13. Yes. I have one family who will take over.
- 14. No

8. How much do you value having the One Cut Rule (allows a parcel to be divided without Planning Board approval) as an option to sell or divide some of your land? (10=very much, to 1=not at all) _____

- 1. 10
- 2. 1
- 4. 7
- 5. 5
- 11. I believe the rule is not farmer proactive. As stated above, assets could have to be sold to allow operation to continue or in case of emergency allow family to pay unforeseen debt (health, natural disaster, crop failure).
- 12. Not sure what this is but with struggling Ag economy – sell off land is only option.
- 15. 10
- 16. 5 Not too familiar with the details of the rule.
- 17. 10
- 3. 10
- 6. 1
- 7. 1
- 8. 10
- 9. 10. Many seniors are forced to divide property & sell to pay taxes.
- 10. 5
- 13. 1. There will be no division of this land EVER.
- 14. 10 – Very much.

Please use other paper if you need more room:

9. What are the best things about agriculture in Knox? _____

- 1. Need more tillable soil!
- 2. Blank
- 4. Attitude of our neighbors about Ag operations including noise, air pollution, highway traffic, dust, agricultural runoff
- 5. The variation in the topography and land cover (woods, pastures, hay fields, wetlands) within a finite area allows one to partake in a wide variety of activities on the land. One can pursue a lifestyle that involves raising and working with livestock, haying, working in the woods, vegetable farming, gardening and hunting. These activities preserve the open fields and spaces, providing a connection, for one family and neighbors to the land and nature.
- 11. Blank
- 12. Not much anymore, only 3 dairy farms, a few hay and beef farms. No services, markets are all 50-60 miles away.
- 15. Open land. The 3 acre zoning must be changed to minimum 5 acres!
- 16. The people, the landscapes, the seasons, the lifestyle, (not the clay soil).
- 17. Keeping farm atmosphere in the Town of Knox

3. That any still exists
6. We are free to develop our land as we please.
7. Blank
8. It preserves open space, adds to the local economy
9. It still exists - they aren't making any more of it!
10. Maintain country environment
13. It is close to cities – making transports easier and faster. I have wonderful land.
- 14.

10. What new opportunities or trends could benefit agriculture in Knox?

1. Education of agricultural opportunities
2. Blank
4. Part time smaller parcels with direct retail marketing for part time farmers
5. Retail sales – farmer markets
11. Blank
12. Too late for farming in Knox – should have thought about this 30 years ago.
15. Blank
16. Comprehensive Ag. Zoning that included more than Ag. Soils; government support for farming; nearby markets (not necessarily in town); program to attract young farmers.
17. Windmills
3. “Buy local”
6. ?
7. Blank
8. Farm markets, community supported Ag. Better internet connections to rural areas allows better marketing, advertising & online sales.
9. No strip malls – apt. complexes – more trailer parks
10. Since everyone knows that taxes (property) are hard to deal with if you are trying to farm because farming is not a get rich program.
13. We in Knox can provide food for many & work for many.
- 14.

11. What issues, challenges or threats face agriculture in Knox?

1. Lack of interest – selling land for resale opportunities – e.g. buy it wholesale, sell it retail
2. Development – i.e. building houses on open land
4. Keeping Ag values low
5. Development, school taxes
11. An uneducated public
12. Poor soil, climate, living in a community with houses and people who have no consideration for farmers.

15. High taxes!
16. Climate change, hydraulic fracking, lack of young people to take over, sprawl (the next housing bubble), lack of tax benefits
17. Outside people telling us how to farm
3. Development pressure
6. Government says I must sell \$10,000 worth in farm products or they will zone land for housing.
7. Taxes
8. Taxes. Farming will continue as long as it is economical. When the costs exceed the benefits it will surely decline. Also again with internet, can't compete with other businesses.
9. Drilling – pollution from non-driven wells.
10. Property taxes
13. The toughest issue will be taxation. We must prioritize how we tax farmers – it must be done soon!
- 14.

12. What strategies or policies could support/improve agriculture in Knox? _____

-
1. Higher retail prices for products produced in Knox
 2. Cluster development
 4. Ag value assessment, Ag districts, right to farm laws
 5. Support for Ag districts
 11. Blank
 12. Educate Town Board and public of modern agriculture practices & regulations governing modern farming.
 15. Lower taxes would help!
 16. Ag. Advisory Committee; promotion of Knox as an agricultural community to other towns in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley
 17. Blank
 3. ?
 6. Government stay out of farm business
 7. Blank
 8. Greater tax breaks for agriculture, for example Knox could consider the Ag exemption for the fire tax.
 9. Allow discount on property tax on unfarmed lands.
 10. Pay low property tax but lose the ability to divide property.
 13. If we encourage farmers to think about future generations, even if not family relations and get (can't decipher)
 - 14.

13. What locations are especially suitable for agriculture in the Town of Knox, and should therefore be protected? _____

-
1. Treat all the same in Knox
 2. Blank
 4. All land that is now open should be encouraged and supported to stay cultivated and harvested.

5. Land in Ag districts
11. Blank
12. Agriculture districts
15. Blank
16. All areas currently used for agriculture should be encouraged to stay in agriculture.
17. Every farmer should have the ability to sell pieces of land if needed to be able to survive in tough market years.
3. The best soils
6. Fields that are farmed for hay should be maintained so they don't grow up into brush.
7. Blank
8. Those that currently exist.
9. Beaver dams, wetlands should remain & not scheduled for plantings.
10. Fields & forests
13. Gibbs Farm, Saddlemire Farm, Brian Whipple's Farm, Hearn's Farm, Burgess' Farm. This end of town has good soil - & has been worked responsibly.
14. What is meant by Protection? Conservation easements are OK on a voluntary basis. Restrictive zoning without compensation to the affected property owner (i.e. reduced assessment on re-zoned land) is unacceptable.

Please mark one answer and add any comments you may have:

14. Should genetically modified crops be cultivated in Knox? **Strong Approval** **Approve** **Okay Either Way** **Disapprove** **Strong Disapproval**

Comments: _____

1. Disapprove
2. Strong Approval – This should be the decision of the landowner.
4. Strong Approval
5. Strong Approval
11. Strong Approval – This is not new technology. These crops allow for more flexibility on planting. They allow less pesticides to be used and have boosted yields. Using these crops are a tool. Planting them are allowing or ensuring that a crop will be harvested. They also save money on tillage, fertilizer and pesticide costs.
12. And what concern is this of Town? This is 2013 modern day agriculture.
15. Strong Approval. It is a personal choice. Keep out of farmers business. Every time government gets involved it adds to price of product.
16. Strong Disapproval. If it is legal, it should be allowed, BUT have a committee meeting (with CCE) to discuss genetically modified seeds.
17. Strong Approval – Already been growing in Knox for years – helps the farmer be more productive.
3. Strong Disapproval
6. Strong Approval
7. Disapprove
8. I think this topic deserves more investigation. On one hand I think the consumer should decide if they want to consume genetically modified crops, on the other hand genetically modified crops could cross pollinate with traditional crops and affect their desirability or saleability.
9. Disapprove
10. Okay Either Way
13. Disapprove. This will come back to bite us.

14. Strong Approval. Use of GM seeds reduces tillage, diesel use, GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions & significantly improves yield & reduces overall pesticide use.

15. Should pesticide-treated seeds be cultivated in Knox? **Strong Approval** **Approve** **Okay Either Way** **Disapprove** **Strong Disapproval**

Comments: _____

1. Okay Either Way
2. Strong Approval – This should be the decision of the landowner.
4. Strong Approval
5. Strong Approval
11. Strong Approval – This is not new technology. Using these seeds allow planting to occur earlier in Spring and opens different soil types not utilized before. Another tool used by farmers. Do not believe that any certified seed can be purchased that isn't treated with something (fungicide, pesticide).
12. They have been for years – where do you find untreated?
15. Strong Approval
16. Strong Disapproval. If it is legal, it should be allowed, BUT have a committee meeting (with Cornell Cooperative Extension) to discuss pesticide treated seeds.
17. Strong Approval – Farmers need everything possible to help them survive.
3. Strong Disapproval
6. Approve
7. Disapprove
8. Strong Approval
9. Disapprove
10. Don't know the science.
13. Until we come up with something better.
14. Strong Approval – minimizes pesticide use, increases crop yields.

16. Do you use or want to use renewable energy to reduce your energy costs? **Yes** **Not sure** **No**

Please describe: _____

1. Not sure
2. Yes, we are interested but unsure of the financial feasibility.
4. Not sure
5. Yes, hoping to install solar
11. Blank (see comment at # 17)
12. Yes
15. Only if it is profitable!
16. Yes. 9kW solar system/wood fired baking oven.
17. Yes. Renewable energy such as ethanol? Such as corn?
3. Not sure
6. Not sure

- 7. No
- 8. Yes, solar hot water & solar electricity
- 9. Yes, windmills are fine.
- 10. Yes
- 13. Yes, but not corn based energy – corn takes too much out of soil.
- 14. Yes, fuel wood, solar hot water.

17. Should large wind turbines (over 125' tall) be allowed on farms/large parcels for on-site use to lower energy costs? Yes Not sure No

Comments: _____

- 1. Not sure
- 2. Yes
- 4. Yes
- 5. Yes, depends on site
- 11. I feel that government, town or state, need to stay away from these subjects (renewable energy, wind turbines, hydrofracking). This technology is changing all the time. Becoming safer and more appealing to public. It needs to be left to "find its own way" without gov't interference. I also believe that if you have the means to pursue these technologies you should be allowed to do so without any interference.
- 12. Yes – Asked 2 times about this subject, never got a call
- 15. Personal choice.
- 16. Yes
- 17. Yes – Farmers need all the help they can get!!
- 3. Yes
- 6. Not sure
- 7. No
- 8. Yes
- 9. Yes. Must have proper maintenance schedule.
- 10. Not sure. The organization of homes in the Hilltowns is random. This presents an infinite number of situations. Each should be addressed separately.
- 13. Yes
- 14. Yes

18. Would you consider devoting part of your land to a solar farm or wind farm as a way to increase your income? Yes Not sure No

Comments: _____

- 1. Not sure
- 2. Yes
- 4. Yes
- 5. No
- 11. Blank (see comment at # 17)
- 12. Yes
- 15. No

- 16. No. We are a small farm and need it for pasture.
- 17. Yes – Would help us survive.
- 3. Yes
- 6. Yes
- 7. No
- 8. Yes
- 9. Yes
- 10. Not sure. I need more information.
- 13. Not sure
- 14. Yes

19. Should commercial wind turbines (200' + tall) be allowed on farms and large parcels as a way to increase income?

Strong Approval Approve Okay Either Way Disapprove Strong Disapproval

Comments: _____

- 1. Disapprove
- 2. Strong Approval
- 4. Approve
- 5. Disapprove
- 11. Blank (see comment at # 17)
- 15. Blank. There is not enough wind to make them profitable!
- 16. Approve. They look nice in small groups, but not too many.
- 17. Strong Approval – if needed.
- 3. Approve
- 6. Approve
- 7. Disapprove
- 8. Strong Approval
- 9. Okay Either Way
- 10. Not sure. Need more information.
- 13. Approve
- 14. Strong Approval

20. Should hydrofracking for shale gas be allowed in Knox?

Strong Approval Approve Okay Either Way Disapprove Strong Disapproval

Comments: _____

- 1. Strong Disapproval
- 2. Knox should follow the direction of NYS
- 4. Okay Either Way
- 5. Okay Either Way
- 11. (see comment at # 17)

12. Strong Approval
15. Approve If it is proven to be safe!
16. Strong Disapproval! We'll move! Fracking will destroy the rural character people love.
17. Strong Approval – if they can find it.
3. Strong Disapproval
6. Okay Either Way
7. Okay Either Way
8. Have not yet decided
9. Strong Disapproval
10. Not sure. Need more information.
13. Strong Disapproval (underlined 4 times) NEVER.
14. As a way to increase income? Strong Approval. No documented cases of H2O contamination, demonstrated economic & environmental impacts – positive, potential increase income for many town residents. The question should have included “as a way to increase income.” Currently, the potential for wind or the extraction of natural gas and petroleum liquids appears to be marginal at best. Of the two, extraction of natural gas and/or petroleum liquids offers a greater income yield and would benefit more Town residents. This is because the standard spacing unit for a well pad is 1 square mile (640 acres). All land owners in a production unit would receive royalty payments. With wind, only the landowner on whose properties the turbines are located would receive payments. High volume hydraulic hydrofracturing for shale gas, shale oil & petroleum liquids has been transformative for this country. Lower electric and heating costs for those who have access to natural gas, robust economies in production areas and a growing resurgence in manufacturing (steel, plastics, etc.) all occurring without 1 documented case of drinking water contamination from frack fluids.

21. How do you see the role of agriculture in Knox? _____

-
1. Same as historically has proven to be.
 2. Agriculture will keep space open and therefore preserve the character so many say that they highly value.
 4. Needs to be profitable to maintain open space.
 5. Only way to provide large areas of open space and hunting.
 11. Blank
 12. Hobby farms & houses on developments
 15. There is no money in farming.
 16. Knox IS a farming community. It creates beautiful landscapes, a sense of “ruralness,” and great food for residents.
 17. Hope it can continue. Lots of pressure.
 3. Declining, mainly due to pathetic/misdirected government policies (mainly federal).
 6. With people looking to buy houses out of cities, I see land being put into housing, and farming decreasing.
 7. Blank
 8. I'm not optimistic. The pressures on farm operations from taxes and development are great.
 9. Losing the battle.
 10. Probably stay about the same.
 13. I see agriculture growing in Knox IF there is a concerted effort to encourage (lower taxes) farmers.
 14. Keeps some land open, allow some residents to qualify for agricultural assessment (exemption?).

22. What is your vision for the future of agriculture in Knox? _____

-
1. See 21.
 2. Blank
 4. Our nearness to populated areas gives us all opportunity to market our products.
 5. Limited by land prices, taxes & development.
 11. (See comments above)
 12. The farms are primarily all gone.
 15. Poor! High taxes, marginal land!
 16. A new generation of farmers; profitability.
 17. Hope to see it continue.
 3. Not optimistic
 6. Blank
 7. Blank
 8. I would like to see Ag. Remain at or above current levels but I also see that this is difficult under current tax policies.
 9. Maintain
 10. Good if agribusiness ventures are added to the mix.
 13. We could encourage goat dairy (cheese), bees/honey & related products, teaching (hands on), sheep (lower impact)
 14. That it at least holds its own. Would not like to see significant clearing of land for Ag. Due to wildlife habitat loss. Not a big fan of cattle - but to each his own.

23. Any questions you would like to ask other farmers about agriculture in Knox? _____

-
1. None
 2. Blank
 4. What opportunities do you see in your future?
 5. Blank
 11. Blank
 12. Blank
 15. No
 16. Blank
 17. No
 3. No
 6. Blank
 7. Blank
 8. Blank
 9. A mass effort to kill Knapweed should be in place to keep fields from being destroyed for any hay.
 10. Clean up your property.

13. How committed are you to work on a viable future plan?

14. Blank

24. Any questions you would like to ask the public about agriculture in Knox? _____

1. None

2. Blank

4. Are you willing to live with the inconvenience of living with agriculture to maintain open space?

5. People near me seem glad to see agriculture.

11. Blank

12. Blank

15. Definitely not the public!

16. How important is farming to you? Do you value local food?

17. Do they enjoy seeing the fields worked as they are now?

3. No

6. Blank

7. Blank

8. Blank

9. Maintain property or have someone do so.

10. Clean up your property.

13. How much would you like to see farming remain here? Would you encourage your children to learn through work? Would you be willing to learn through work?

14. Blank

25. Any questions you would like to ask your Town representatives about agriculture in Knox? _____

1. None

2. Blank

4. Keep informed + listen to farmers' concerns + suggestions

5. Blank

11. Blank (see comment at # 17)

12. Why not plan a day to visit actual farms and learn actual Ag practices?

15. Definitely not, they do not know anything!

16. How would you promote agriculture in Knox? What is your view of farming in Knox?

17. Blank

3. No

6. Blank

7. Blank

8. Blank
9. No – they don't represent me.
10. ?
13. #1 How familiar are you with the needs of farmers? How open are you to funding creative solutions to farmers' needs?
14. Will you commit to expanding & in no way diminish the extent of state & local Ag. Districts in the Town?

26. How can Town representatives help develop markets for agricultural products produced in Knox? _____

1. None at this time
2. Blank
4. Work with markets in urban communities + help farmers make connections.
5. Blank
11. Blank
12. Not sure.
15. Stay out of farming issues!
16. Develop Ag. Advisory Committee to develop markets; work with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) to identify markets; include Ag in business districts.
17. We can take care of ourselves.
3. ? Town government is not likely to be part of the solution to Ag vitality in Knox.
6. Blank
7. Blank
8. Reduce taxes and provide less restrictions on Ag related businesses.
9. Listen to others that are not just in office or "ruling" party
10. ?
13. 1st see what other creative towns are doing – with similar climate.
14. Not sure.

27. Would you like the Town to form an Agricultural Committee to represent the interests of farmers to the Town and to promote agriculture in the community? _____

1. No
2. Blank
4. Yes
5. Yes
11. Yes
12. No
15. No. We have enough committees doing nothing!
16. Yes!
17. Not really.
3. ? Town government is not likely to be part of the solution to Ag vitality in Knox.

6. Blank
7. Yes
8. This could be a good idea. Such a committee could take issues more readily to Albany County Ag & Farmland Protection Board and therefore better assist farms in the area.
9. If they are bi-partisan - yes – if just another political appointment – why bother.
10. Yes
13. Yes
14. Not sure.

Any other thoughts, suggestions, ideas?

13. We do not have to be big agribusiness to be effective & successful. We do need to really care on every level about each other & the land. None of us truly owns the land. We have the privilege of caring for it. I call it stewardship – you may have other words but on the deepest level we must RESPECT and nurture what we have. There will NEVER be any more than there is now. The land is the only reason we as a race can be here. We must find ways to engage with our farmers who are tired, stressed and stretched to their physical limits. They love what they do and do it well and are under compensated for their efforts. Find out from them what works and what does not. Get 2 way conversation started but by far the most important part of the 2 way is listening.
17. Knox needs a gas station and a store. Store would give me a place to eat lunch, wouldn't have to go to Altamont to buy gas. That would be easier!!!