



Farm Evaluation Checklist

for Farm Seekers

Use this checklist to track the characteristics of each property you are considering.

The Location

- Access
- Visibility
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Services, utilities, taxes
- Proximity to markets
- Local and state regulations
- Past uses - agricultural
- Past uses - other
- Restrictions (e.g. easement, right of way, liens)

Notes

The Land

- Acreage
- Topography
- Soil type(s) and class(es)
- Water source(s) and quality
- Sensitive natural areas
- Farm layout
- Productive capacity
- Vegetation, weeds, invasive species
- Environmental history (e.g. underground tanks)
- Predator pressure
- Forest resources

Climate

- Rainfall
- Length of season
- Micro-climates
- Growing degree days

Infrastructure

- Access and circulation; paths and roads
- Barns
- Outbuildings, other
- Power sources; solar, hydro, wind, grid
- Water distribution
- Fences and gates

Housing

- Existing dwelling
- Potential house sites
- Types of dwellings permitted
- Apprentice/farm labor housing
- Nearby housing opportunities
