



Putnam County
Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
841 Fair Street, Carmel, NY 10512

**Putnam County Agricultural & Farmland Protection
Board (AFPB) Meeting**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 9:45 am – 11:15 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Ag Board Members: Christine Nastasi, Cassandra Roth, Ruby Koch-Fienberg, Trish McLoughlin, Nicole Scott, Dave Vickery, Joni Lanza, Nancy Montgomery, Fred Finger

Public: Brett Yarris - SWCD Vice-Chair

Call to Order at 9:50 am

- Approved minutes from 1/28/26 meeting.
- Ag District Enrollment Form Discussion
 - Christine shared exemplar Ag District Enrollment Forms from Westchester and Ulster counties for the board to review
 - *Please see 2026 draft of new Ag District Application Form for all proposed edits*
 - Part V of our application
 - Action item: ask the law department to review and approve language for this section of the form
 - Neither the state ag law nor Putnam county resolution states you need to meet a minimum sale criteria to be included in the Ag District
 - AGM does have a definition of what the requirements are for the protection of AGM
 - Action items:
 - Add a disclaimer of inclusion into the ag district vs protection under AGM to the intro page
 - Add a homestead vs. commercial section to the internal Site Visit Checklist
 - Discussed equine requirements
- Review of the application process
 - *Who receives the application?* Currently, applications go to the Legislative Clerk and then comes to the AFPB

- Proposal for applications to go to a new administrative position within the Putnam SWCD: this position will support farmers who apply to join the Ag District and offer guidance with the application process.
- Discussion to change the inclusion period for 2027
 - *Is it possible to create a longer intake period?* No – note NYS AGM Ag Law 303–b: we are required to stick to a 30 day application acceptance period and then 30 days from then, the Chairperson must submit their report to the Leg. The report must get to the Physical Services Committee before their meeting in May.
 - April vs May: April is an easier month for the farmer board members to prioritize site visits
 - Proposing to change the inclusion period to from April 1 - 30th to March 1 - 31st beginning in 2027 with site visits scheduled for April 2027
 - There was some confusion with scheduled site visit dates last year. This year, will let applicants know that they need to prepare for board members to visit on two different dates during the month of May
- Next Steps
 - Nicole and Cassandra will draft an updated Enrollment/ Application Form and share with the board for review before the March 25th meeting. All board members come to the next meeting with comments and suggested changes to the document.
 - At the March 25th meeting, the board will finalize the application so it can be published to the county website as soon as possible and review + edit the Weighted Rubric and Site Visit Checklist documents
 - Promotion plan: Putnam Farmers listserv, CCE social media, and SWCD
 - Discussed creating a general email for the AFPB chairperson.
 - Nancy will follow up with IT to create a *afpb@putnamcounty.gov* email so all inquiries for the AFPB will go to this address and will then forward to Christine’s personal email address
- Adjourned at 11:31 am

Next meeting: **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ 9:45 am**