

Appendix 3—Classifying Farmland Protection Laws, Using The Expanded List of Rural Amenities

In table 2b (p. 22) we identify five categories (and four sub-categories) of rural amenities. We also identify a larger list of 17 categories (appendix table 3.1). This expanded list was then used as a basis for classifying State farmland protection laws (appendix table 3.2).

The bottom row of appendix table 3.2 lists the number of States that mentioned the category of output listed at the top of each column. Three categories are mentioned by over half of the States as amenities desirable for protection: “local food security/quantity” (27), “scenic beauty (and other aesthetics), including viewing wildlife or farm activities” (27), and “unique terrain/agrarian cultural heritage/historic/nostalgia” (26). In contrast, only three States mentioned “national food security.”

A quick look at the body of appendix table 3.2 reveals one obvious and easily identifiable aspect of the data: the X’s are relatively dense in the Northeast and Pacific, relative to the rest of the Nation, and especially relative to the Northern and Southern Plains, Southeast, and Mountain States. In fact, the only “output” not mentioned in the enabling legislation of at least one Northeast State is “national food security/quantity.” Surprisingly, only Maryland and Vermont mention the “lack of congestion/development—low density—physical space” category. This is despite the relatively high degree of development in all Northeastern States.

In contrast to the Northeast, there are 12 of 18 output categories that are not mentioned by any Northern Plains State. Further, with the exception of Nebraska, an

additional five categories are not mentioned. Seven categories are not mentioned by any of the eight Mountain States. And, with the exception of Montana, an additional four categories are not mentioned. Those output categories not mentioned in both the Northern Plains and the Mountain States are mainly those related to productive agriculture, including “national food security/quantity,” “agricultural viability/active agriculture/preserve farming,” “preserve agriculture’s contribution to local economy/agricultural jobs,” “live rural way of life/sense of community/‘sense of place’.” “Air quality” and “forest use” are also not mentioned. A nearly identical result occurs for the Southeast.

Upon closer examination, there are two other notable observations. First, seven States make no mention of rural amenities at all, including North Dakota, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Idaho, New Mexico, and Wyoming. In addition, Kansas, South Dakota, South Carolina, and Texas mention only “local food security/quantity.” Nevada mentions only the category labeled “scenic beauty (and other aesthetics), including viewing wildlife or farm activities.” In contrast, the Pacific States are similar to the Northeast.

Three categories of outputs have the most universal appeal geographically: “food security,” “scenic beauty, including viewing wildlife or farm activities,” and “agrarian cultural heritage/historic/nostalgia/unique terrain.” Open space concepts (with and without public access) and wildlife habitats also have wide appeal, being mentioned by nearly half the States.

Appendix table 3.1—Rural amenities and other outputs from farmland

Expanded List		Condensed List	
1	Lack of congestion/development low density—physical space	1	Orderly development Low density; physical space;
2	Orderly development		Orderly development of rural land; lower public
3	Lower public utility provision costs		utility provision costs; prevention of sprawl
4	Local food security/quantity	2	Local and national food security (quantity/quality)
5	National food security		
6	Preserve agricultural contribution to local economy/agricultural and timber jobs	3	Preserve local agricultural/timber economy/agricultural/timber jobs/other natural resource economy and jobs
7	Forest use		
8	Water quality/quantity/control/recharge	4	Protection of environmental services amenities: pollution reduction; groundwater recharge; flood control; water quality/quantity; air quality
9	Air quality		
10	Other environmental services		
		5	Protection of rural amenities
11	Open space —outdoor recreation—including scenic parks/landmarks, visual settings; including lack of, or prevention of, or slowing of development	5.1	Open space , usually visual; including lack of, or prevention of, or slowing of development
12	Agrarian cultural heritage /historic/nostalgia/unique terrain	5.2	Rural/agrarian character: Agrarian cultural heritage/historic/nostalgia/unique terrain; Preserve farming/active agriculture/agricultural viability; Live rural way of life/sense of community/ "sense of place"
13	Preserve farming /active agriculture/agricultural viability		
14	Live rural way of life /sense of community/ "sense of place"		
15	Wildlife habitats	5.3	Wildlife habitats / Natural areas
16	Natural areas		
17	Scenic beauty (and other aesthetics), including viewing wildlife or farm activities	5.4	Aesthetics , usually visual, including scenic beauty, viewing wildlife or farm activities

Appendix table 3.2—Amenities mentioned in legislation (using expanded list)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		CGST	ORDR	UTLT	LFOOD	NFOOD	AGJOB	FORST	WATER	AIR	ENVIR	OS	AGRAR	VIABL	WAY OF	WILDLIFE	NATUR	SCNIC
Original list		1 (DEV)			2 (FSEC)		3 (ECON)		4 (ENV)									
Northeast	CT				X			X	X			X	X			X		X
	DE				X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	ME		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	MD	X	X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	MA				X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
	NH								X			X	X		X	X		X
	NJ		X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
	NY				X		X			X	X	X	X					X
	PA		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
	RI		X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	
	VT	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Lake States	MI	X			X	X	X					X						
	MN		X		X		X	X			X	X		X	X			X
	WI		X					X	X	X		X						X
Corn Belt	IL	X			X		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	IN				X													
	IA	X	X		X		X					X	X	X		X		X
	MO		X				X		X			X	X					X
	OH							X	X			X		X		X	X	X
North Plains	KS				X								X	X				
	NE	X		X					X			X	X					
	ND	NONE																
	SD				X													
Appalachian	KY				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
	NC				X			X			X		X		X			
	TN	X	X				X	X	X			X	X			X		X
	VA				X			X		X	X	X				X	X	X
	WV				X									X	X			X
Southeast	AL	NONE																
	FL												X			X		X
	GA				X				X		X		X			X		
	SC				X													
Delta	AR				X						X	X				X	X	
	LA							X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
	MS	NONE																
South Plains	OK	NONE																
	TX				X													

Continued—

Appendix table 3.2—Amenities mentioned in legislation (using expanded list)—Continued

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
		CGST	ORDR	UTLT	LFOOD	NFOOD	AGJOB	FORST	WATER	AIR	ENVIR	OS	AGRAR	VIABL	WAY OF	WILDLIFE	NATUR	SCNIC		
Original list		1 (DEV)			2 (FSEC)		3 (ECON)		4 (ENV)											
Moutain	AZ				X							X	X			X		X		
	CO				X						X	X	X			X		X		
	ID	NONE																		
	MT	X	X	X							X	X	X			X	X	X		
	NV																	X		
	NM	NONE																		
	UT											X	X			X		X		
WY	NONE																			
Pacific	CA		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	OR		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X					X		
	WA	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		
48 States		9	14	9	30	3	16	17	19	10	20	31	27	17	9	23	13	30		

Column Key:

- 1 (CGST) Lack of congestion / development --- low density --- physical space.
- 2 (ORDR) orderly development.
- 3 (UTLT) lower public utility provision costs.
- 4 (LFOOD) local food security / quantity.
- 5 (NFOOD) national food security.
- 6 (AGJOB) preserve ag contribution to local economy / ag jobs.
- 7 (FORST) forest use.
- 8 (WATER) water quality / quantity / control / recharge.
- 9 (AIR) air quality.
- 10 (ENVIR) other environmental services.
- 11 (OS) open space.
- 12 (AGRAR) agrarian cultural heritage / historic / nostalgia / unique terrain.
- 13 (VIABL) agricultural viability / active agriculture / preserve farming.
- 14 (WAYOF) live rural way of life / sense of community / "sense of place."
- 15 (WILDLIFE) wildlife habitats.
- 16 (NATUR) natural areas.
- 17 (SCNIC) scenic beauty (and other aesthetics), including viewing wildlife or farm activities.