

From the subsistence farms of the Town's early beginnings to today's family farms, Maple came into existence and grew due to small, family-oriented farms. Current operations include dairy and beef, hay and grains, chicken and egg facilities as well as bee-keeping and maple syrup entities. The Town is supportive of so-called "Freedom to Farm" laws as they apply to these operations, as well as others.

There is no support for so-called "factory farms" and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in the Town for a variety of reasons: They contribute little, if anything economically to the Town. They can potentially push out smaller operations. The most viable farm land in Maple is located in the northern half of the Town, on the Lake Superior Clay Plain, where polluted run-off into streams feeding Lake Superior is a major concern. Air-quality issues may also come into play, with odors and dust from increased traffic creating hazards. Health issues caused by dust and the spreading of animal waste which may contain harmful bacterial agents and residual antibiotics, as well as flies and other undesirable creatures around manure storage areas can be an issue. The Town is opposed to any CAFO locating in the Town.

AN ADDENDUM TO Ch. V, AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES of the TOWN OF MAPLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN adopted by the Town Board February 12, 2015