

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PROTECTION OF FARMS AND FARMLAND
Cross State Office Building – Room 206
Augusta, ME
Wednesday, September 3, 2008

9:30 Introductions – Select dates for next 3 meetings

9:45 Review the Committee's duties and recent legislation proposing the creation of agricultural protection areas – *Committee staff*

10:00 Overview of Agricultural District Programs –purposes & functions, benefits and drawbacks – *Cris Coffin, American Farmland Trust*

11:00 Fields and Forests Forever Campaign – a regional approach to ensure that farmland is available for future generations - *Stephanie Gilbert, Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources*

Lunch

1:00 Agricultural resources as a component of Community Comprehensive Plans - the Growth Management Act and review criteria under the State Planning Office's Chapter 208 Rule – *Sue Inches, State Planning Office; Paul Schumacher, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission*

1:30. Maine's Current Use Property Tax Laws – Farm, Open Space and Tree Growth: basic differences and participation rates - *Dave Ledew, Maine Revenue Services, & Julie Jones, Office of Fiscal and Program Review*

2:00 The Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program – Summary of Provisions, Status of Rulemaking - *Julie Jones, OFPR, & Stephanie Gilbert, Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources*

2:15 Discussion,
Directions to staff

3:15 Adjourn