

Farming Goals & Priorities | Where do you want to farm?

Deciding where you want to put down roots can make a significant impact on access to markets, feelings of wellbeing, and ultimate success of your operation. Sometimes it is as easy as picking an adequate market for your product sales and drawing a 30 mile radius from the center of that location. Or you might be restricted by the location of off-farm work. Other times it can be more important to be close to people who share similar values and culture.

Once you have completed all the sections below, circle the factor that is your top priority when selecting site location (e.g., community, proximity to market, land cost, etc.).

Location

What is your desired city, county, state, or general region? Do you have a preference for an urban, peri-urban (urban adjacent), or rural location? Do you need to be close to off-farm work?

Where are nearby markets and needed infrastructure (e.g., processing facilities for livestock, farmers' markets for sales)? How far are you willing to travel to reach them?

Community

Who do you want to live near (friends, family, people with shared values)?

What community assets are important to you (e.g., schools, churches, clubs)?

Price

The price of land, taxes, and general cost of living vary by location. Do these costs in your desired location align with your budget? If you do not know your price range, the section "Preparation: Your Finances" offers resources and worksheets to get an idea.