

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Introduction:

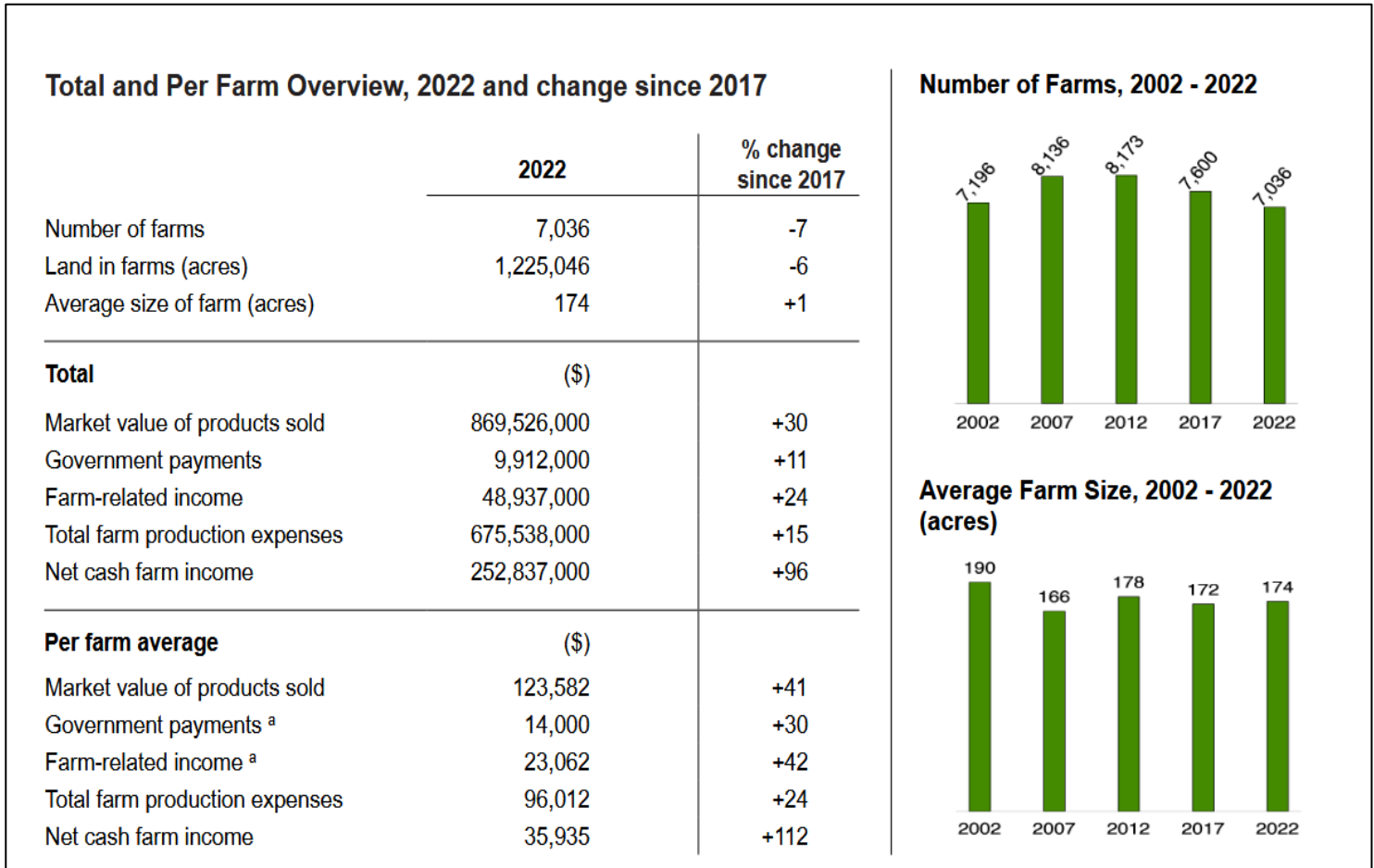
In Maine, agriculture and forestry were the traditional economic backbones and the original engines that drove the local economy, and in many ways, they still do. Farm Credit East's Northeast Economic Engine report, completed in 2020, calculated that Maine's agriculture industry contributes over \$3.6 billion in economic impact and supports approximately 27,000 jobs statewide. In Solon even today, many families rely on agriculture and forestry related industries for employment or on revenues from their woodlots. Farm and forest land also provides open space, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics, all which Solon residents consider elemental to their community's rural character and critical to outdoor recreation.

This chapter profiles the current state of agriculture and forestry in Solon, as well as the resources for supporting these activities.

Agriculture in Maine:

Maine has ranked number one in the United States for wild blueberry production since the 1950s. As of 2020, Maine ranked third in the production of maple syrup and ninth for potato production. The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service does a Census of Agriculture every five years. The overview of those results for Maine are detailed in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1: MAJOR LAND USES IN MAINE



Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture- USDA

(https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Online_Resources/Cou nty_Profiles/Maine/cp99023.pdf)

Figure 1 Highlights:

- Maine is still very much a farming state, though the number of farms decreased by 7 percent.
- While the acreage of farms has declined since 2017, the average farm size increased by 1 percent.
- Both total and average market value of products sold has increased significantly in the last five years.
- Also notable, for both total and average market value, the net cash farm income has increased drastically.
- While the number of farms has decreased since 2007, the approximate total acreage changed little in the decade between 2007 and 2017.

Agriculture in Somerset County:

As of the 2017 Census of Agriculture (most recent data), out of the 16 counties in Maine, Somerset County ranked second out of the top five for agricultural production.

FIGURE 2: SOMERSET COUNTY’S STANDING IN AGRICULTURAL SALES

Top 5 counties in agricultural sales, 2017		Total receipts percent of State	Total receipts 1,000 dollars
Total receipts			
1. Aroostook County		30.3	201,974
2. Somerset County		12.6	83,931
3. Washington County		10.4	69,253
4. Penobscot County		7.6	50,915
5. Kennebec County		7.3	49,007
State Total			666,962

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2023

From equipment repair to agriculture supply stores and veterinarian services, farming and agriculture create a diverse economic base for the region. The economic impact of agriculture extends even further; agritourism provides alternative opportunities for the public to interact with and observe farming activities.

FIGURE 3: ACRES OF FARMLAND

Top Counties: Land in Farms (acres)	
Aroostook	305,052
Washington	121,714
Somerset	119,646
Penobscot	100,176
Oxford	82,478

Source: 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Maine/cp99023.pdf

Farms in Solon:

Solon’s rural resources – agriculture and forestry operation – can be credited for the town’s current, traditional landscape. Although fewer residents work at farming or logging full-time than in the past, rural towns like Solon still value the traditional land uses that keep their community healthy and productive.

There are other reasons for maintaining farm, forest, and other open space land – it is good for the tax base. It is a common misconception that increasing the tax base through development is the best way to increase revenues to combat rising taxes and service demands. There are numerous studies that show the opposite: more undeveloped towns equal lower taxes, generally. This can be attributed to the fact that even though open land pays very little in taxes, it costs less than it pays because it demands minimal public services.

The same cannot be said of commercial, residential, or any other type of development. New development is not the cure for rising taxes; it is the cause.

The principal farming enterprises in Solon have historically been dairy, beef, and chickens. Recent trends in Maine and elsewhere indicate that small, specialty farms, also known as micro farms, are growing in number and replacing large, commodity-based farms.

Solon’s dairy farms were significantly impacted by the Federal Dairy Termination Programs, also known as “the dairy-herd buyout”. The program was authorized in the Food Security Act of 1985, and the liquidation of dairy herds occurred from 1986 through 1987. Producers (dairy farmers) bid to have operations removed in return for payouts and herds were then sent to slaughter. Farmers were also required to remain out of production for at least five years after a buyout (until 1991 or 1992). The intention was to reduce milk production and the government’s purchases of surplus dairy. It resulted in the loss of a lot of dairy farms state-wide.

Overall, farming in Solon has been on the decline for many decades, especially large-scale commercial farms. While farming is not any less essential, there are just fewer and fewer active farms in the area. There are likely multiple reasons for this decline- the cost of farming, the general age of the population, as well as other factors detailed further in the subheading Threats to Farmland and Farms.

Farms of all sizes, including smaller to mid-sized but in particularly large farms, require prime farmland soil, hired labor, transportation infrastructure, and support services -- a mixture hard to find and maintain in Maine, whereas micro farms require only a local market for their products. These small farms can be managed part-time on small parcels of land. They can diversify into niche and value-added products, and they are flexible enough to shift products when necessary. The recent public emphasis on “local” and “organic” is an effort to highlight the importance of small farms. Examples of small farms are local vegetable stands, pick-your-own strawberries, maple syrup producers, and nursery operations.

The trend toward smaller farms and micro farms is apparent in Solon, as well as throughout the state. Table 1 is a list of local farms in Solon; this list is by no means exhaustive as there are too many farms to list.

TABLE 1: LOCAL FARMS IN SOLON

Farm Name	Product/Specialty
French Hill Farm	Sheep
Kennebec Valley Farm (https://www.kennebecvalleyfarm.com/)	Produce
Solon Greenhouse and Garden Center	Flowers and veggies
Skillings Nursery	Trees
Heavenly Knoll Farm	Horse training, riding lessons, boarding, etc.

Source: Solon Comprehensive Plan Committee members

In addition to the farms listed above, there are numerous residents who grow their own food in small garden plots, raise bees for honey, or raise livestock for their families. There are also nearby farms in neighboring towns that provide Solon residents with access to local products.

Farming Infrastructure:

As detailed throughout this chapter, over the past several decades, there has been a noticeable decline in agricultural activity through Solon and the region, taking the area further from its agricultural roots. The *Agriculture and Forest Resources Map* in the Appendix shows the location of farms and areas of agricultural use in Solon.

An important factor for viable farming is soil type. There are several types of soil known to be excellent for farming activities. They are:

- Prime Farmland Soil
- Farmland Soil of Statewide Importance
- Farmland Soil of Local Importance

The *Soil Map* in the Appendix of this Plan delineates the extent of “Prime Farmland soils” in Solon.

While soil type is an important factor in farming and forestry, there are other necessary considerations, as well. The availability of markets for agricultural produce is particularly important for the new style of small producers. Local farmers’ markets, roadside stands, pick-your-own, and nursery/greenhouses are also examples of local marketing styles necessary for today’s farmers.

Community Collaboration:

Many agricultural support organizations are responding to the trend of small-scale farming. Among them are the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), with its “buy local” promotions and programs, the USDA, with programs like grants for building winter greenhouses, and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), with buy local and organic certification programs. The key, from a local perspective, is that the new business model for agriculture relies much less on investment in land, machinery, and prime soil, and much more on developing local markets.

While Solon does not currently have a farmer’s market; however, residents have easy access to locally grown foods at several nearby farmer’s markets, especially the large farmers’ market in neighboring Skowhegan.

Several attempts have been made to establish a farmers’ market in Solon, each in different locations. Most recently, a grassroots effort sought to create a market in the parking lot of the Solon Hotel. One ongoing challenge is the presence of the well-established and long-running farmers’ market in nearby Skowhegan, which is widely known and offers a broad range of products. While not a direct competitor, its strong regional reputation makes it harder for a new Solon market to gain traction.

Other structured programs that provide support for local agriculture, including farm Community Shared Agriculture (CSAs) and community gardens, are limited in Solon. But there is no lack of need or desire for locally grown products.

Roadside stands selling produce are similar to a farmers’ market, though less formal. Solon has seen efforts to establish roadside stands to sell locally produced items over the past few years.

In addition, there are community gardens on the grounds of the Solon Town Office. The Community Garden is structured in a way that residents can purchase a gardening box in which to grow their own food. Solon residents also volunteer at the Community Garden to grow food for the local food cupboard.

More formally structured programs provided by the state are detailed below:

The DACF, Maine Farmland Trust (MFT), and the MOFGA advocate for farming-friendly communities through a variety of land-use policies and farmland protections, and by promoting and building the population of farmers.

The Agricultural Resource Development Division of the DACF provides a variety of programs, resources, and information that help individual businesses in agriculture flourish and succeed despite the challenges of farming in Maine. A few examples include the grants and loans webpage, information on exhibitor opportunities, energy efficiency opportunities, training and education programs, Market Promotion and Special Events Program, and more.

The DACF also has information and programs available on its webpage for the consumer, such as Explore, Experience, Discover, and Connect with Maine Farms, Maine Agritourism, State Fairs, Maine Maple Sunday, Open Farm Day, Farmers' Markets, Maine Maple Sunday, and Open Farm Days.

The Maine Farms for Future Program is another great example of a program provided by DACF's Agricultural Resource Development Division. This program provides grants to farm business owners to conduct research and strategic business planning that brings about changes aimed at long-term, maintainable, farm profitability, and net worth.

There are also many publicly sponsored programs to support local agriculture, including the Maine State Grange which used to have a significant presence in Solon, University of Maine's Sustainable Agriculture program, and the Farmlink Program through Maine Farmland Trust, which matches prospective farmers in search of land with retiring farmers in search of successors, to name a few.

The town's most significant demonstration of support for agriculture and forestry is its commitment to avoiding unnecessary regulation of these activities.

Land Use Policies Regulating Farming and Forestry:

Aside from the state mandated Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Solon does not have zoning to regulate or restrict farming and forestry practices. While the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance sets standards for farming and forestry operations, the town's only other means for regulation is through their Building Ordinance. However, this lack of regulation is simultaneously beneficial and problematic as there is no formal protection for farming and forestry, either.

The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance sets four zoning districts within Solon. They are detailed below.

TABLE 2: AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND ZONING DISTRICTS

Zoning District	Agriculture
Resource Protection	PB
Stream Protection	PB
Limited Residential	PB
Limited Commercial	Y

Source: Solon Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

Table 2 Highlights:

- The Limited Commercial district is the only district where agricultural activities are allowed without a permit, as long as they comply with all applicable land use standards.
- Agricultural activities in Resource Protection, Stream Protection and Limited Residential districts require a permit issued by the Planning Board.

The wording in Solon’s Shoreland Zoning Ordinance does not go above and beyond the requirements of minimal state standards for agricultural and forestry operations. In areas outside of those delineated as Shoreland Zones, the nothing regulating agricultural and forestry operations; however, that means there is nothing to protect these land uses, either.

A unique form of protection for agricultural endeavors is Solon’s Food Sovereignty Ordinance. Adopted around approximately 2015, Solon was one of the first 20 towns to adopt such an ordinance that protects the rights of citizens to produce food locally to sell directly to consumers without state licensing or inspection. This ordinance affirms the right to produce, sell, and consume local food, thus supporting small-scale community-based agriculture within the town.

Non-Regulatory Farmland and Forestry Protection Efforts

Solon works with multiple entities to protect farms and forestland. These include Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF), Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), as well as several other organizations detailed below:

- ***Somerset Woods Trustees Somerset Woods Trustees (SWT)*** is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to conserving ecologically and culturally significant lands in Somerset County, Maine. The headquarters for Somerset Woods Trustees at the Parkman Hill Farm in Solon, off Parkman Hill Road. Since 1927, the organization has protected over 3,000 acres to support wildlife, outdoor recreation, climate resilience, and public access. Through partnerships with landowners and local communities, it promotes healthy ecosystems, inclusive recreation opportunities, science-based stewardship, and a strong local economy rooted in natural and cultural heritage.

<https://www.somersetwoodstrustees.org/properties-2>

One project through the Somerset Woods Trustees is called Somerset Woods Share. This program provides emergency heating assistance to community members in need of firewood, acting like a food cupboard but with firewood instead. SWT utilizes their conserved lands to source firewood through regular stewardship activities and occasionally, via larger timber harvests.

- ***Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway*** (Route 201) is a 78-mile route through Maine's Kennebec Valley, stretching from Solon to the Canadian border at Jackman. Once a historic trade and migration path used by the Abenaki and early settlers, it is now known for its dramatic river and mountain views, wildlife sightings, and outdoor recreation. The byway passes through charming towns and scenic overlooks, offering a mix of natural beauty, history, and adventure—especially vibrant during fall foliage season. Additionally, the byway organization collaborates with towns to permanently preserve land and scenic views.

The state also has provisions available to farmers for their protection and to aid them in continuing the operation of viable farms. One such provision is Maine's Agriculture Protection Act (commonly known as the Right to Farm Law) that protects farmers from complaints regarding odors, noise, and other aspects of farming operations.

Other strategies for supporting and encouraging agricultural and forestry practices in appropriate areas are detailed further in the Policies and Strategies table of this plan.

Farmland and Open Space Tax Law Programs:

The state offers multiple tax programs aimed at improving and protecting agriculture and forestry operations. There are three current-use tax programs that relate to forestry or agriculture in Solon: Farmland Tax Law, Open Space Tax Law, and Tree Growth Tax Law (Tree Growth will be addressed later in this chapter). The Maine Legislature declared in the Farm and Open Space Tax Law (Title 36, MRSA, '1101 et. seq.), that “it is in the public interest to encourage the preservation of farmland and open space land in order to maintain a readily available source of food and farm products close to the metropolitan areas of the state.” These programs are detailed below.

- **Farmland Tax Law:** This tax law was adopted to encourage the preservation of farmland and open space land and to protect farmland and open space land from competing with higher-valued uses. The farmland program provides for the valuation of farmland based on its current use as farmland, rather than based on its fair market value for other potential uses. This reduced land value results in lower property tax bills for owners of farmland. Lower taxes are designed to function as an incentive to preserve Maine’s farming communities. In addition to reducing the farmland owner’s tax burden, the municipality avoids costs associated with development and state subsidies are positively impacted.
- **Open Space Tax Law:** This law provides for the valuation of land based on its current use as open space, rather than its highest and best use. To qualify for open space classification, land must be preserved or restricted for uses providing a public benefit. This classification encourages landowners of open, undeveloped land to prevent or restrict its use from development by conserving scenic resources, enhancing public recreation, promoting game management, or preserving wildlife, and/or wildlife habitat. This is mutually beneficial, as the landowner’s proportionate tax burden is reduced, the municipality avoids costs associated with development, and state subsidies are positively impacted.

TABLE 3: PARCELS OF LAND IN SOLON ENROLLED IN THE FARMLAND TAX LAW

	2015	2023	% Change
Number of Parcels	9	10	11%
Acres First Classified	340	0	-100%
Farmland Acres	165	152	-8%
Farmland Valuation	\$82,500	\$106,050	29%
Woodland Acres	709	810	14%
Woodland Valuation	\$98,740	\$114,120	16%

Source: 2015 & 2023 Municipal Valuation Return Statistical Summary

TABLE 4: PARCELS OF LAND IN SOLON ENROLLED IN THE OPEN SPACE TAX LAW

	2015	2023	% Change
Number of Parcels	11	9	-18%
Acres First Classified	0	0	0%
Total Acres	639	569	-11%
Total Valuation	\$319,500	\$398,300	24.7%

Source: 2015 & 2023 Municipal Valuation Return Statistical Summary

Table 3 and 4 Highlights:

- The actual number of parcels enrolled in both the Farmland and Open Space Tax Law programs changed minimally between 2015 and 2023.
- For Farmland Tax Law, there was a decrease in acres enrolled as farmland and an increase in those enrolled as woodland acres.
- In all cases, the valuation of the land increased. For the Open Space Tax Law, the valuation increase was quite significant.

Challenges and Threats to Farmland and Farms:

Solon no longer has large-scale, traditional commercial farms; most were phased out over the past several decades. The remaining farms are small, family-owned operations, along with scattered pastureland, hay fields, and homesteads. Because of this, the proximity of new homes or other incompatible uses does not affect any normal farming and logging operations.

A major threat to farmland is the conversion of fields to solar farms. Other pressures include shifting agricultural land to residential uses and the financial challenges that lead landowners to sell portions of large parcels.

These changes create a tradeoff: residential growth supports housing needs expands the tax base but can diminish Solon’s rural character. Maintaining a balance between development and the preservation of agricultural and forestry land is essential.

Key threats to Solon’s farmland and open space include:

- Limited access to prime farmland soils
- Landowners selling parcels due to financial need
- High costs of maintaining land or farm operations
- Agricultural land being sold for more lucrative solar development

There are not currently any large tracts of agricultural land that have been or may be sold for development in the foreseeable future.

Forestry:

Forests provide many values to the Solon community in addition to supplying a source of wood and income to landowners, residents, and local sawmills. Forested areas typically collect water in the landscape by intercepting precipitation thereby reducing the volume and rate of runoff as well as reducing soil erosion and phosphorus loading in lakes, streams and ponds. Forests also retain soil moisture across a broad landscape that may otherwise be subject to larger seasonal flooding and its associated erosion problems. Additionally, forests provide habitat and travel corridors for wildlife, and outdoor recreational areas, and they purify the air.

Historically, forestry has played a significant role in Solon's economy. While this trend still holds, the components are changing. There has been a decrease in smaller logging companies managing forests while large-scale commercial forestry operations by timber company giants such as Weyerhaeuser has increased. The result of this is that there are fewer small logging companies available for less expensive or private logging operations.

Currently, Weyerhaeuser owns approximately 2,322.5 acres in Solon and there are roughly 16,000 acres enrolled in the state's Tree Growth Tax Law Program.

There are still large tracts of industrial forestland in Solon, owned by private timber companies, though the amount of acreage has declined in the last few decades due to development. The Town of Solon does not own any community forests, tree farms, or town woodlots that are under town management.

Table 5 below shows the forestry harvest data from 1991 to 2020, along with totals and averages from each category.

TABLE 5: FORESTRY HARVEST INFORMATION

Year	Selection	Shelter wood	Land Use Change	Clearcut	Totals	# of Reports
1991-2001	9,414	834	50	462	10,760	349
2002-2011	5,607	1,502	66	288	7,463	241
2012-2016	3,854	1,376	50	74	5,354	157
2017-2021	2,078	1,532	38	139	3,788	94
Total	20,953	5,244	204	963	27,364	841

Source: Data compiled from Confidential Year End Landowner Reports to Maine Forest Service.

Table 5 Highlights:

- Based on the 'Totals' column and the '# of Reports' column, forestry harvesting activities have been on the decline in Solon for the past several decades.
- While certain areas, such as shelter wood acres harvested, have increased, there has been a significant decline overall in harvesting.

Tree Growth Tax Law Program:

As of 2023, 265 parcels in Solon were classified as Tree Growth properties under the State’s Tree Growth Tax Law Program in Table 6 below. This program, like the Farmland and Open Space Tax Law programs, provides landowners with an opportunity to have their land valued for its productivity rather than its market value.

TABLE 6: SOLON PARCELS ENROLLED IN THE TREE GROWTH TAX LAW PROGRAM

	2015	2023	% Change
# Of Parcels	276	265	-4%
Acres First Classified	0	0	0%
Softwood Acres	2,413	2,691	12%
Mixed Wood Acres	10,898	10,179	-7%
Hardwood Acres	3,111	3,315	7%
Total Acres	16,422	16,185	-1%
Total Value	\$2,232,081	\$2,352,417	5%

Source: 2015 & 2023 Municipal Valuation Return Statistical Summary

Table 6 Highlights:

- The number of parcels and acreage enrolled in the Tree Growth Tax Law program changed minimally between 2015 and 2023.
- The valuation of the land enrolled in this program increased by five percent in this time period.

In contrast to the Farmland Tax Law and the Open Space Tax Law programs, the State reimburses municipalities for a portion of lost tax revenues from properties enrolled in the Tree Growth Tax Law Program. Additionally, local participation is typically higher because this tax law allows multiple uses on the designated property, if the parcel remains primarily used for the growth of trees to produce forest products that have commercial value. As with the Farmland Tax Law and the Open Space Tax Law programs, land withdrawn from the Tree Growth Tax Law Program before maturity is subject to financial penalties.

Challenges and Threats to Forestry in Solon:

Threats to forestry in Solon are multifaceted. The town is concerned not only with maintaining sustainable timber harvesting, but also with preserving forestry as a long-term economic and cultural asset. As forestry remains one of Solon’s major industries, these concerns extend beyond the woods and into the community’s daily life.

Logging truck traffic illustrates this connection. Heavy trucks increase road maintenance needs, and in the village—where Route 201 cuts through the downtown—their size and speed reduce walkability and raise safety issues. Despite these challenges, forestry continues to play a central role in Solon’s identity and economy.

Although the forest industry is currently stable, it is gradually declining. Several emerging and ongoing threats jeopardize the long-term sustainability of forestry operations in and around Solon:

- Invasive species and pests. Emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, fungal infections, and other emerging threats can severely damage or destroy woodlots, often with little warning and limited options for prevention.
- Poor forest management practices. Overharvesting or relying too heavily on single-species replanting depletes soil nutrients and reduces long-term forest productivity.
- Advances in harvesting technology. Mechanical harvesting has increased efficiency but now outpaces natural regrowth rates, leading to smaller harvests and reduced profitability.
- Economic pressures and land sales. When timber prices drop, selling land may be more profitable than harvesting it. Timber companies have recently sold parcels for residential development, and large landowners like Weyerhaeuser have begun selling numerous 40-acre parcels across their holdings.
- Changes in residue management. Modern practices remove treetops and limbs for chipping, reducing the organic matter that once decomposed on-site and replenished soil nutrients.
- An aging logging workforce. Fewer young workers are entering the field, creating long-term labor uncertainty.
- Loss of paper mills and lumber mills. Statewide, mills to process timber products have been closing. Historically, Solon had several mills along various rivers and streams throughout the history of the town, but over the years those numbers have declined significantly. The removal of dams on waterways has potential to decrease the number of mills further, thus impacting the timber industry statewide.

Together, these pressures threaten Solon’s rural character. Large-scale land sales or reduced forestry activity could accelerate residential development, affecting town character, transportation systems, the local economy, and municipal finances. Some of these effects are already visible: land sales have led to more development and increased off-grid living in remote areas, which is expensive to serve with municipal services. Steering new growth toward already developed areas can help reduce sprawl and limit service costs.

New rural development also has the potential to conflict with active logging operations. Residents unfamiliar with working forests may not anticipate harvesting noise, truck traffic, or other realities of living near managed timberland. While not yet a major issue, it is an important consideration in the development review process.

Perhaps the most pressing concern is related to timber company giant Weyerhaeuser. In the past decade, Weyerhaeuser has been selling off 40-acre parcels as housing lots or for off-grid camps, creating increased potential for incompatible uses. Another concern is that Weyerhaeuser will sell off the company's large holdings of commercial timber property throughout Solon and beyond. The impact this sale would have on not just Solon, but the entire region would be unimaginable. As such, the town should remain vigilant and maintain communications with the company.

However, rural development is not inherently incompatible with Solon's character. When carefully sited and appropriately scaled, uses such as campgrounds or camps can support recreation, create local jobs, and coexist with nearby forestry operations.

Analysis:

- Overall, Maine is still a farming state, and Somerset County is second in farm productivity only behind Aroostook County.
- Solon's rural community once supported many agricultural activities and even more forestry activities; however, agriculture has slowly declined over the decades.
- Farming in Solon has shifted from large commercial farms to smaller homesteads and hobby farms- a trend observed region-wide.
- Historically, Solon was known for producing dairy, beef, and chickens.
- Solon does not have a farmers' market, but there have been recent efforts to establish one.
- There is a community garden at the town office where residents can grow their own food, and volunteers grow food for the local food cupboard.
- The town regulates agricultural activities only through the mandatory Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.
- Solon partners with the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway and Somerset Woods Trustees in protecting rural resources.
- The number of parcels enrolled in the Farmland Tax Law program increased from 9 in 2015 to 10 in 2023.
- The number of parcels enrolled in the Open Space Tax Law program decreased from 11 in 2015 to 9 in 2023.
- Threats to agriculture are numerous with the sale of large parcels of land and potential development for solar farms on agricultural land at the top of the list.
- Forestry is still a significant industry in Solon, though it has declined over the last several decades.
- Weyerhaeuser owns approximately 2,322.5 acres in Solon but has been selling off parcels.
- The number of parcels enrolled in the Tree Growth Tax Law program decreased in 2023.
- Threats to forestry in Solon are numerous and range from invasive species to aging logging workforce.