## Optional Assignment: Regional Opportunities and Challenges for Your Farm

This assignment helps to illustrate issues that you may face in the regions where you farm. Draw from the list below, or think of other specific issues for farms in your area. Complete the rest of chart by thinking of challenges and opportunities related to those issues.

**Some likely issues may be:**

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| * Land Prices | * Soil capability |
| * Development pressure | * Potential niche markets |
| * Regulatory climate (state and local) | * Competition |
| * Farming community (other farmers, farm supply stores) | * Climate (growing season, rainfall) |
| * Local “environment” for farming (neighbors, regulators) | * Proximity to markets (farm stand, farmers markets, restaurants, etc.) |
| * Personal and family considerations (off-farm job needs, school system, proximity to extended family, cultural and recreational opportunities) | * Possibility of crop damage due to pest infestation and/or weather events |

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| Issue | **Challenges** | **Opportunities** |
| **Example:**  Densely populated area | High land costs, loss of farm service businesses, farm-clueless neighbors | Agri-tourism, direct marketing, close to spouse/partner off-farm job |
| **Your issues:** |  |  |
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Adapted from the New England Small Farm Institute’s, “*Exploring the Small Farm Dream”*

***Suggested for use with Lesson: Evaluation of Resources***