



## **Town of Lincoln Water Department Farming and Agricultural Water Rate Account Criteria Policy**

### **SECTION 1 Overview**

It is the policy of the Town of Lincoln to conserve, protect and encourage the expansion, maintenance, and improvement of agricultural land within the Town for the production of food and agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value.

The Board of Water Commissioners has developed a water rate structure that encourages water use efficiency and conservation, while also trying to:

- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Town of Lincoln's water supplies through appropriate revenue from customers
- Promote equitable distribution of costs among rate payers
- Protect affordability of water for essential needs

### **SECTION 2 Definitions**

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of agriculture, or accessory thereto. The words "farming" or "agriculture" or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- Dairying;
- Production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- Farmers markets, CSA programs;
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- Raising of livestock, including horses;
- Keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise;
- Keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, sheep, rabbits, ratites, camelids and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees, fiber, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry and lumbering operations;
- Preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transport to market.

Agricultural land refers to a parcel of land devoted to commercial and non-commercial agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, or viticulture on parcels of five acres or more or to parcels 2 acres or more if the sale of products produced from the agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture use on the parcel annually generates at least \$1,000 per acre based on gross sales dollars in an area not zoned for agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture,

horticulture, floriculture or viticulture. For such purposes, land divided by a public or private way or a waterway shall be construed as 1 parcel. The term “two acres” in Lincoln is 80,000 sq. feet (1.86 acre). Note that the Planning Board may issue special permits for smaller lots that sell vegetables only; these permitted lots will also be considered agricultural land for water rate purposes if they meet the \$1000/acre/annum requirement. (Reference: Town of Lincoln Agriculture and Right to Farm By-laws).

**SECTION 3 Qualifications**

To qualify for Agricultural (AG) water rates, a customer must submit an application along with a written statement describing the nature of the farming/agriculture operation to the Board of Water Commissioners.

All water use by certified AG customers will be assigned to the Agricultural Tier rate structure designated by the Lincoln Water Commissioners for agricultural users. A separate water meter is required for all water use that is eligible for special agricultural water rates.

To continue to qualify, the application must be renewed each fiscal year. Agricultural water rate eligibility is not transferable to new property owners. A new owner must submit an application for consideration.

The agricultural operation is subject to inspection by the Water Department.

If public and non-public water are used, cross contamination control must be in place.

Agricultural water meters must be checked weekly for leak indications; any leaks indicated shall be reported to the Water Department and must be fixed within a 4-week period.

**SECTION 4 Determinations:**

The Board of Water Commissioners shall review all applications for agriculture water rate. Eligible lands must comply with Lincoln farming bylaws prior to receiving agricultural water rates.

**Version Control**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.0	4/30/19	MaryBeth Wiser
2.0	1/29/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
3.0	2/6/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
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5.0	2/22/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
6.0	2/25/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson



**TOWN OF LINCOLN  
WATER DEPARTMENT**

TOWN OF LINCOLN  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
16 Lincoln Road  
Lincoln, MA 01773-6353  
Phone: 781-259-2669

**Town of Lincoln Water Department  
Application for Agricultural Water Rates**

***Due by April 1***

**New request:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fee: \$100.00**

**Annual renewal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fee: \$50.00**

Approval of this application will result in the account being assigned to an agricultural rate structure. Applicants must provide all the information requested on the Agriculture Application and provide a valid signature. Applicants must provide proof of Agriculture/farming gross revenue as described above. Customers who fail to provide information requested on this form will forfeit any benefits of agricultural water service account status. Please allow two (2) to four (4) weeks to process your request

**Date application received:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOUNT INFORMATION:** (If this operation has multiple addresses, submit an application for each address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Service Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Account & Customer number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address if different)

**Meter numbers at this address:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY** See Attachment

(hay, grain, vegetables, cattle, sheep, orchard, farm stand, etc... Attach separate sheet if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WATERING SYSTEM** See Attachment

With what type of watering system do you support your agricultural activities?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there an automatic irrigation system for the agricultural crops on this site? If yes, how many agricultural irrigation controllers are on the property? \_\_\_\_\_

What water conservation measures are you using to minimize water use? See Attachment

Do you have a water supply source(s) other than Lincoln Water supply (LWD)? If yes, please specify the other source(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have cross contamination control between the Lincoln water supply and the other source(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cross contamination control is required)

I attest that all water used for agricultural purposes is on a separate meter.

I do not have a separate water meter for agricultural use, but agree to have a separate water meter installed at my expense if approved for the agricultural rate and will pay an additional base charge per year for this meter.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have answered the questions on this agricultural water-use certification truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I understand that LWD will be conducting site verifications and, if necessary, I will permit LWD or its representatives to enter the property for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of this certification form. By signing above, I certify that I am the property owner or a legal representative of the property owner.

You can email your request to: [wiserm@Lincolntown.org](mailto:wiserm@Lincolntown.org) or you can mail your request to:

Town of Lincoln Water Department  
ATTN: MaryBeth Wisser, Water Superintendent  
16 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, Ma 01773

	Date	Board of Water Commissioners
<input type="checkbox"/> WD Inspection completed	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee paid	_____	Michelle Barnes
<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional pending meter	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional pending cross contamination control	_____	Jennifer Glass
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural meter installed	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-cont. control installed	_____	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	_____	