

People are attracted to Lincoln because of its history, peacefulness, and scenic open spaces, including beautiful farm fields.

For generations, your farming neighbors have nurtured and cultivated their fields, creating the unique and beautiful New England countryside we all cherish and call home.

As our town changes, farmers are becoming closer neighbors with non-farmers. Here are ways we can work together.

--Lincoln Agriculture Commission



Lincoln Agriculture Commission

Lincoln has been a farming community since the 1650s. In 2013 Lincoln has almost 500 acres in active agriculture.

The March 2011 Town Meeting voted to pass the Right to Farm bylaw which affirms our farmers' right to manage their farms using best management practices, as provided under state law.

The Lincoln Agriculture Commission was created by Town Meeting vote in 2006 to: "preserve, protect and promote agriculture in Lincoln...The Commission will also seek further protections for existing lands, the identification of new lands for agricultural use, both public and private, and work to assist in natural resource management that is consistent with sustainable agricultural practices."

For additional information contact:
The Town of Lincoln Agriculture Commission
at agriculture@lincolntown.org

LINCOLN is a FARM-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



10 WAYS to SUPPORT AGRICULTURE in LINCOLN MASSACHUSETTS

1 Buy local produce. Lincoln has many farms selling locally-raised produce through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, farm stands and farmers markets. When you buy local, you support farm families and organizations and you help preserve the agricultural character of Lincoln. Remember, we can't have farms without farmers.



2 Be a good neighbor. Farmers work seven days a week, dawn to dusk and sometimes later. If you're planning a backyard event, talk with your farmer neighbor about the timing of the farm's operations. Farmers have families too, are understanding, and can be accommodating.

3 Give a thumbs up for farm traffic. If you get behind a tractor on the road, understand that they are not meant for speed. Be patient and remember that farm machinery is a necessary part of a serious business that's important to Lincoln.



4 Know that farmers use best management practices. Some farms in Lincoln are either certified organic or use other sustainable practices including using little or no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Farmers are decreasing pesticide use and improving water management whenever possible to reduce costs and labor and to keep their crops and the environment healthy. Acre for acre, farmers use fewer chemicals on cropland than homeowners use to keep lawns green and weed-free.

5 Respect farmers' property. A farm can look like a nice place to go for a walk, hike or ride but there can be hazards associated with a farm operation. Respect posted property signs.

6 Support farms. Did you know that Lincoln is a "right to farm" town? Farming success is dependent upon the weather, markets, and land prices. The March 2011 Town Meeting voted to pass the Right to Farm bylaw which affirms our farmers' right to manage their farms using best management practices as provided under state law. If you have a concern about a farm practice, contact the Lincoln Agricultural Commission.

7 Understand that farming is a business. While farmers are responsible for being good neighbors, they must also be good farmers. Noise, dust, and odors are all part of a farming operation. Get to know your farming neighbors and their farm practices.



8 Learn how agriculture benefits Lincoln. Lincoln has a long history of farming. Many of the acres being farmed in Lincoln are owned by the Town of Lincoln and are licensed to farmers. Thanks to the privately and publicly owned farms, Lincoln maintains almost 500 acres as agricultural open space, adding to the scenic beauty of the town.

9 Communicate. Meet and talk with your farmer neighbor before and after you have a problem. Remember that it's in both your interests to be good neighbors. When you have an issue and work out a solution, stay in touch with each other. If you have a conflict that cannot be resolved through communication, please contact the Lincoln Agriculture Commission.

10 Volunteer. Lincoln's Agricultural Commission can always use volunteers with varied skills to support efforts to promote agriculture and protect our town's rural character.