

What you need to do if you want to keep farm animals

The town of Lincoln allows residents to keep farm animals and does not require a special permit.

However, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) requires that anyone who house farm animals must have the premises inspected once a year.

<https://www.mass.gov/municipal-animal-inspector-program>

If you have recently started to own farm animals or are planning to do so, please notify Lincoln's state-licensed animal control officer:

Jennifer Condon.

Tel: 978-897-5596

<https://www.boardmansanimalcontrol.com/>

The goal of the inspection is to protect the health and safety of residents, as well as to promote the humane treatment of animals. Barn inspections ensure the compliance with minimum standards for keeping farm animals, which includes sufficient land and proper shelters.

Farm animal – any animal which is not commonly kept as a household pet and which is normally and has historically been kept and raised on farms in the United States, including, but not limited to alpacas, cows, ducks, emus, geese, goats, horses, sheep, pigs, llamas, ostriches, rabbits, turkeys, and chickens.

Barn inspections are designed to:

1. Get a census of the domestic animal population of the town.
2. Ensure that the animals appear to be in good health and free from disease.
3. Observe animal housing and ensure ample food and water are supplied.

A Right-to-Farm Bylaw encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities and protects farmlands within the Town of Lincoln by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies.

<https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/9/Right-To-Farm-Bylaw-corrected-?bidId=>

If you have questions, contact the Lincoln Agricultural Commission:

Agcom@lincolntown.org