

**FARM STEWARDSHIP POLICY**  
**LINCOLN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
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*Adopted by the Conservation Commission - January 11, 2023*

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**FARM STEWARDSHIP POLICY**  
**LINCOLN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
*(Revised January 2023)*

The Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC), as part of its mission, works to support and sustain agriculture in Lincoln. The LCC aims to build mutually beneficial working relationships with the farmers operating on town-owned conservation land. This is to help to provide high quality, locally produced agricultural products, and to practice and support responsible stewardship of these natural resources for future generations. The LCC reviews and approves all Farm Licenses, and the Lincoln Conservation Department (Department) handles the day-to-day administration of the Farm License Program.

Lincoln's farms are not only a source of local food and fiber, but are also critical for combating climate change and building healthy, resilient ecosystems. The LCC's goal is to work to continuously move towards organic and regenerative agricultural practices, focusing on the production of sustainable, locally-grown food and fiber products for people. The LCC strives to minimize and ultimately eliminate the use of herbicides, synthetic and other harmful pesticides, and chemical soil amendments where possible.

Town agricultural fields are licensed to farmers for a 5-year period to provide a framework for long-range planning and investments in and on the land by the farmer and the potential for long term licensing relationships. The Farm License and Relicense Application Process is fully described in Section D. Farmers are required to file a **Farm Plan** and **Field Map** during this process. Each field, and its accompanying agricultural use, is unique, and therefore "Special Conditions" are issued with each license to govern all field management activities. Fields will be licensed based on the proposals received from farmers and the guidelines described below.

**A. AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP LICENSING POLICY OBJECTIVES**

1. Town-owned conservation land that has traditionally been used for agricultural practices should remain in agricultural use and be managed and farmed capably and responsibly.
2. The Department works to ensure that the following general policy goals are achieved:
  - a. Licenses should be affordable to the working farmer, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, at rates that will encourage responsible use of, and investment in, Town lands for generations to come. While farmland rentals are a revenue source, it is not our goal to maximize the short-term dollar return at the expense of other policy goals expressed herein.
  - b. Town farmland should be cared for according to responsible agricultural practices as described below in this Policy, and such other policies, rules, regulations, and license terms as may be prescribed.
  - c. The LCC aims to promote stability in the use and management of our farmlands. Experience shows that long-term licensed farmers will act as partners in the management of a parcel of Town farmland and will care for it more responsibly than those who only have a short-term investment in the health of the parcel. Therefore, when choosing among rental proposals, LCC favors a Licensee who is currently farming the land, provided the farming practices are in accordance with this and other applicable policies of the LCC.
  - d. Licensed farmers on Town owned land should work to provide a number of opportunities for the public to learn more about the role of farming in providing access to healthy foods, and provide opportunities for hands on farming experiences and jobs for members of the community.

3. All Licensees under License Agreements pertaining to agricultural land under the care and control of the LCC shall be subject to this Policy.
4. Farm Licenses are for a range of agricultural uses; tillage, haying, greenhouses, grains, orchard, or pasture field operations. Use of other fields and woodland surrounding the licensed agricultural fields is prohibited unless approved by the Department.
5. Additional requests and/or directives to Licensees of Town-owned conservation land may be made if, in the Department's judgment, they are necessary to promote the goals of this Policy.
6. The Department conducts Annual Reviews followed by a Summary Review in the 5th year of the license. Except as provided below, it is the intention of the LCC to offer to extend the license for an additional five years if the Comprehensive Review is favorable, the farmer desires to continue licensing the land, the conditions of license have been followed, and the land in the LCC's opinion has been kept healthy, as defined in the policy.
7. The LCC reserves the right to terminate or modify licenses based on failure to follow conditions of the license, unless the Licensee, within a reasonable period of time after notice, corrects any problems or issues as noted in the Annual Review or through other communication with the Department.
8. The LCC's goal is to support long-term continuous farming operations by currently licensed farmers. However, the LCC reserves the right to terminate or modify a license, or decline to renew it at the end of the 5 year term, if the LCC determines that a different agricultural use for a particular field is more appropriate, or that a particular field should be partitioned in a different manner. These changes may be based on changes in agricultural policies, preferred production methods, new best management practices, or concerns with current use or potential for alternative future use.

## **B. FARM STEWARDSHIP GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. **Increasing Soil Health** - Organic matter replenishment is a requirement that may be completed using cover crops (especially legumes where possible), crop rotation, rotational grazing, manures, residue management, and compost. Conservation tillage methods are strongly preferred. Experimentation with no-till methods is encouraged. Sound nutrient management shall be practiced, based on crop needs and current soil tests. Farmers are responsible for the proper nourishment and pH of the soil on any lands they license – 5% organic matter in soil is considered a good indicator of “healthy soils”. Farmers shall use appropriate amounts of fertilizer, lime, and other soil amendments in accordance with soil test results and expected uptakes of nutrients, accounting for additional nitrogen supplied by organic matter, compost, manure, and cover crops. Organic fertilizers are preferred.
2. **Insect and Plant Pest Management** - The LCC supports the use of organic agricultural methods consistent with Bay State Organic certification standards. Farmers whose practices/crops are not USDA certified organic are still encouraged to use organic practices, and at a minimum must operate within current Integrated Pest Management (IPM) standards for all crops with specific standards, such as corn, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, peppers, etc. For crops with or without IPM standards, the pesticide label, instructions and material safety data sheets (MSDS) shall be strictly followed as required by law. See the Pesticide Guidelines listed below for more details. **As used in this policy, the term ‘pesticides’ includes herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and any substance included within the definition of ‘pesticide’ under the Massachusetts General Law 132B, the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act. For more information, see Appendix B.** The LCC strives to minimize the use of pesticides. Note that the LCC reserves the right to regulate, restrict, or disapprove the use of any pesticide, including those approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR). The LCC will work with farmers to assess

current pesticide and herbicide use and, where appropriate, will provide guidance for alternative practices that are less toxic and/or environmentally harmful. The use of any pesticide or herbicide not listed as approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) requires the review and prior approval of the LCC.

3. **Runoff, Erosion and Cover Crops** - Farmers shall use all reasonable means to prevent erosion on licensed lands, such as berms, vegetated buffer-strips, maintenance of post season vegetative stubble and cover crops. Cover crops (winter rye or other) shall be planted by October 15 of each year, weather conditions permitting. Alternatives to planting a cover crop must be proposed in writing to the Department on or before October 1, for approval by the LCC. Wind erosion and water run-off shall be managed so that soils do not flow or blow directly into wetlands, trails, field roads, or other areas outside the established agricultural field border. Erosion shall be minimized by maintaining mowed vegetated borders along trails and wetland edges. Crop rows should be planted across slopes. Unavoidable field run-off shall be directed to vegetated buffer strips. Compost/manure piles shall be located in areas that are well-drained and not prone to the effects of run-off, ponding, or erosion. Any new locations for composting must be approved by the Department. Manure storage piles must meet the regulations of the Lincoln Surface Water Protection Bylaw and Section 12.4 of the Zoning Bylaw (Aquifer Protection and Watershed Protection Overlay Districts).
4. **End of License Clean-Up** - If and when a farmer or the Department decides to end a license, the Licensee will clean up the field by removing, at the Department's direction, all agricultural materials, including stakes, fencing, mulch, containers, temporary agricultural structures, machinery, attachments, vehicles, containers, wastes and compost piles, etc., and then returning the field/staging/storage areas to a natural field grass-covered state. The LCC will, in most circumstances, require that field areas be smoothed (i.e. ditches, furrows, holes and trenches will be leveled) and seeded with a field grass mix approved by the Department to provide soil stabilization and allow for regular maintenance/mowing. All permanent infrastructure (i.e. utilities, wells, permanent buildings, farm roads/culverts, and fencing), with LCC approval, will be left in place and become property of the Town.
5. **Wildlife Enhancements** – Farmers are encouraged to undertake wildlife enhancement opportunities to the extent practicable. Examples include leaving a vegetated buffer strip between crop fields and wooded edges to provide a diversity of habitat encouraging beneficial insects, butterflies, and small mammals; establishing hedgerows and brush piles in appropriate locations as wildlife corridors and shelters and as protection from wind-caused erosion; and building and maintaining birdhouses for open land birds such as bluebirds, etc. The LCC may require additional buffer if pesticides are proposed as part of the operation. Most native neotropical migrant birds are declining (whether or not they are species of special concern) and wherever possible, habitat for nesting, foraging, and/or cover should be encouraged. If and when edge habitat needs to be controlled to preserve field size, timing should take wildlife into consideration - such work should be done as late as possible in the fall, or in the winter.
6. **On-Site Composting** – The LCC encourages compost applications to increase the health and vigor of our agricultural fields. In order to protect water resources and maximize available land, compost piles must meet the following guidelines: material needs to be local and/or be from known entities, be safe for the environment, and be free of invasive plant material and contamination (chemicals, man-made objects, trash, etc). Any composting activities must be submitted for review and approval by the LCC.
7. **Genetically Modified Organism (“GMO”) Policy** - Given the environmental concerns over the use of genetically engineered crops, the LCC has banned their use on Town-owned fields, unless specifically allowed by the LCC. The LCC has considered this position carefully and does not support the use of GMO crops and their associated herbicides and pesticides on agricultural conservation land at this time. The principal risks and concern are for the impact of GMO crops on related native

species (e.g., cross-pollination) and the impact on native plant species and pollinators of the broad application of herbicides onto GMO crops. However, farmers interested in growing GMO crops should provide their rationale to LCC, and LCC will review these requests on a case-by-case basis.

### C. FARMING EXPECTATIONS

1. The LCC expects that farmers will act as stewardship partners in the management of agricultural fields, and will care for farmland responsibly according to Best Management Practices as described below.
2. **Wetland Buffer Strips (where applicable)**- An appropriately vegetated filter buffer-strip shall be established or maintained between crop fields and waterways or wetlands. Buffers filter out eroded soil, fertilizers, and pesticides that run off fields, lessening their impact on wetlands. These buffer strips shall not be fertilized or sprayed with pesticides. Their width and the type of vegetative cover will depend on the sensitivity of the wetland, the stability of the adjacent soils, and the nature of pesticides and fertilizers used, and will be defined in the field by the Department. The LCC may require fencing to prevent farm animals from getting into wetlands, ponds, and vernal pools.
3. **Field Edge Maintenance & Trail Access** - A minimum of an 8' mowed vegetated buffer shall be maintained by the Licensee around all agricultural fields, unless this requirement is waived by the Department. This will allow for proper access to fields and fence lines, help control runoff and invasive plants, and provide public access for trail users. It is the responsibility of the Licensees to keep these buffers free of furrows, agricultural products and wastes, fallen branches, stone piles, and other farm-related materials. Materials shall only be stockpiled in approved locations. All mowing/cutting/clearing shall be done within Department approved guidelines. Upon request, and depending on availability, the Department may provide support to Licensees in maintaining field edges.
4. **Protection of Grassland Bird Nesting Habitat (where applicable- currently at Farm Meadow)** - Open grasslands are a diminishing resource in the region. This has led to an overall decline in breeding birds that rely on this habitat type, such as bobolinks and other grassland-dependent wildlife. Therefore, certain fields, or portions thereof, may be designated for delayed cutting of hay in order to protect the young of rare or declining grassland bird species during their nesting season. If necessary, these areas will be delineated in the field by the Department. They will also be referenced in the Special Conditions for each licensed field subject to a delayed cut. The first cut on these areas shall be no earlier than July 20. To avoid nest destruction, no application of fertilizers, pesticides, or other materials, and no vehicular access, are allowed between May 5 and the cut date. The size and location of these delayed cut sites may vary based on factors such as field health, plant composition, habitat factors, and fluctuating bird populations. There shall be no license fees for these areas because of the reduced value of the late harvest hay.
5. **Animal Pests** - Farmers shall submit plans, for approval by the Department, of methods for dealing with animal pests, such as deer, turtles, coyotes, beavers, woodchucks, and birds, that are causing crop damage (or serious damage to the land). These plans shall attempt to identify all potential wildlife conflicts with the proposed crops to be grown, thresholds of damage, and proposed actions to be taken when thresholds are exceeded. Proposed actions shall be those that are the least invasive to wildlife and comply with all applicable laws.
6. **Appearance of Fields** – All farmers shall keep the licensed lands free from litter, including but without limitation, containers and packaging for agricultural products, unused farm equipment, tools and other farm process materials, such as fencing, agricultural fabrics, irrigation materials, pots, stakes, flats, pallets etc. All of these items when not in use, unless otherwise arranged with the

Department or properly disposed of, shall be stored/parked in designated areas. Areas around structures and field edges will be maintained free of invasive vegetation, clutter, and debris.

7. **Stones in Fields** - When necessary farmers may remove stones from licensed lands in accordance with sound agricultural practices and shall place them in a location agreed to by the Department.
8. **Farm and Field Infrastructure** – Permanent and temporary structures, utilities, and related accessories are not allowed in the agricultural fields or surrounding lands unless specifically approved by the LCC. These include but are not limited to: barns, sheds, greenhouses, gravel roads, farm stands, solar panels, fencing, etc. To be approved, a Licensee must, at a minimum, demonstrate that a structure is essential to the farm operation and that it does not negatively impact the conservation values of the field, including aesthetics. Approval is at the sole discretion of the LCC. Even after such approval has been granted, the LCC reserves the right to require that structures be removed due to a range of conditions, such as lack of maintenance, unsafe conditions, poor vegetation maintenance around structures, and other concerns. NOTE: In addition to LCC approval, permits may also be required by other Town Boards.
9. **Well or Water Source** - The installation of a well or use of any other permanent water source or pond must be reviewed and approved by the Department. Any proposed well location must have no potential adverse impact on wetland resources on/or adjacent to the site. The location of any well or municipal water taps and the associated infrastructure (trenches, utility structures, poles, water troughs, and stand-pipes, etc.) must be reviewed and approved by the LCC prior to installation. Licensees are responsible for obtaining permits for wells from the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission when required. Licensees may request financial assistance from the LCC for costs of drilling and associated well infrastructure, but the LCC cannot guarantee that funds will be available that year. Farmers acknowledge that there will be no compensation from the LCC, at the expiration or early termination of a license, for costs associated with the creation of the well, and the permanent well infrastructure will stay with the property and the LCC.
10. **Stockpiling Materials** – Agricultural bulk materials and products may only be stockpiled in fields after approval by the Department.
11. **Sublicensing** – Licensees may be allowed to have other parties conduct agricultural activities on their licensed fields (for example, hosting a beekeeper’s hives on the edge of vegetable fields). In such cases, the Licensee shall communicate the proposed use to the Department for review and prior approval. The Licensee shall be fully responsible for all activities conducted on their licensed fields by third parties, and shall ensure that activities are carried out in accordance with the Farm Stewardship Policy, the license agreement, and any special conditions.

#### **D. EVALUATION OF FARMING PRACTICES AND 5-YEAR LICENSE SUMMARY REVIEW**

The LCC evaluates new proposed and existing farming operations on Town conservation land. Current farm operations are assessed annually and cumulatively over the 5-year license cycle. These evaluations will be carefully considered in awarding future licenses as well as the consideration of other conservation land use objectives. There may be occasions when the LCC determines that a different agricultural use for a particular field is more appropriate. The LCC has the discretion to not renew an existing license.

The two sections below describe the submission requirements for:

- Five year license requirement: applications for a newly available field, or applications to re-license a field at the end of the 5-year license period.
- Annual reporting requirements that must be submitted by all licensed farmers each spring.

## **LICENSING AND LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS**

License submission requirements will differ depending on whether a farmer is applying for a newly available field or re-applying to continue operating on their current field(s) at the end of the 5-year license period. Licensees shall be subject to the LCC's Farm Stewardship Policy and such amendments, rules and regulations as the LCC shall promulgate.

**Submission Requirements for a newly available field** - When agricultural fields on Town of Lincoln Conservation Land are available for licensing, the Department will request proposals for new farm operations. The following information must be submitted:

1. Farm Plan, Business Plan and Field Map (Full details provided in Appendix A). In addition, a detailed description of previous farming history including experience/education and current farming activities, including acreage and location(s) farmed, ownership, nature and location of equipment, number of seasonal and permanent employees, and description of farming practices.
2. A signed "Farm License Statement" affirming the applicant's willingness to abide by the Farm Stewardship Policy and other conditions (Appendix C).

Proposals will be evaluated based on an applicant's apprenticeship training/educational knowledge, previous experience with farming, viability of their business plan, conformity with the Farm Stewardship Policy, and other factors. Preference is given to farming practices that work with natural systems to improve soil health using organic methods or the best management practices of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

**Farmer License Renewal Submission Requirements** – During the 5th year of the license, the Department will evaluate the farmer's annual reviews for the past 4 years and recommend to the LCC whether to re-license the field to the current farmer. If the Department recommends that the LCC should offer to re-license the field to the farmer, it will send the farmer a re-licensing packet. If the Department determines not to re-license the field to the current farmer, the farmer would have been previously advised through their annual reviews of the need for improvement in their operation, and that their license renewal was in question without the required improvement.

The following items are required from farmers who wish to re-license their current fields (**full details provided in Appendix A**):

- Farm Plan and Field Map
- Soil Test Reports
- Insurance Documentation
- Annual rental payment
- Signed Farm License Statement (Appendix C)

## **ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

By **March 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year of the license cycle, licensed farmers must complete an Annual Reporting Checklist (supplied by the Department) and submit the required items. This includes:

- Updates to the Farm Plan and Farm Map if relevant
- Soil Test Reports
- Insurance Documentation
- Annual rental payment

**Annual Review** – Department staff will meet with licensed farmers at least once each year in the field or at the farm to discuss operations, programs and any issues. In some situations, staff may waive the annual site visit. Department staff will complete a Summary Review in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the license period to guide the LCC's decision on license renewals, and will review the past five years' activities with the licensed farmer at that time.

## Appendix A: Farm License Submission Requirements

**Farm Plan** (new application & renewal application) – Must include a detailed discussion of what the farmer plans to do on the land including the subjects listed below. The Farm Plan needs to include a forecast for the full 5 years of the license period. Some sections may not apply to certain agricultural operations. Department staff can advise farmers on which sections are appropriate for their operation before they complete the Farm Plan. Staff will provide a Farm Plan template at the beginning of the license cycle that farmers are encouraged, but not required, to use. The following information should be included in the Farm Plan:

- 1) **Business Plan** – include sufficient budget details to assess the viability of the proposed commercial or non-profit venture. Existing farmers may update their prior plan.
- 2) **Planned Field Use:** Market gardens, row crops, pasture, fruits & berries, hay & grains – Licenses are for tillage, haying, orchard, or pasture field operations. Include any plans to promote ecosystem health (e.g. establishment of hedgerows, wildlife habitat, pollinator pathways, etc). Use of other fields and woodland surrounding the licensed agricultural fields is prohibited unless approved by the Department. License proposals should clarify if surrounding land is desired for supporting farming operations and, if approved, shown on the Field Map.
  - a. People employed in agriculture (Number of employees working in Lincoln)
  - b. Educational/training programs: Types of Education/training for staff, public, & consumers
- 3) **Crop Information (if applicable)**
  - a) Planted & Rotations - Type & varieties by area
  - b) Crop Production - Units of production by crop
  - c) Cover Crops - Type & variety (and estimated date of planting)
- 4) **Pesticides/Fertilizers (if applicable)**
  - a) All Pesticides Proposed: Name, brand, quantity, target, rate, date, location, crop, acreage etc. for chemical or organic pesticides including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. Details of the pests being targeted, history of previous remediation efforts, evaluation of treatment efficacy for past years, and evaluation of non-pesticide remediations must also be included.
  - b) All Fertilizers proposed: Name, brand, quantity, date, location, crop, acreage etc.
  - c) Name of person applying pesticides and a copy of such person's pesticide applicators license (if required/applicable according to pesticide label and MSDS).
- 5) **Soils/Composting**
  - a) Soil Management Plan: Tillage & cover crop plans. Consideration of soil health related to carbon sequestration (e.g. efforts to reduce tillage where possible).
  - b) Soil Amendments: Composts, soils, manure, minerals, sands, peat moss etc.
    - i. Composting: A detailed composting plan for proposed activities is required that describes the full current and potential growth of the operation and related activities needs to be described in the Farm Plan. The physical location of compost piles and vehicle access path must be shown on the Field Map. Information is needed on the composition of the material that will be brought in to the farm for composting, who will be bringing it, where it is from, how field access will be controlled, what volumes will be handled, and how the compost will be managed and utilized. When reviewing composting proposals, the Department needs to factor in all the above issues. In most cases composting will not be allowed within 100 feet of wetland resource areas, within

surface water or groundwater protection zones, or where groundwater is found within four feet of the composting surface. Existing compost piles need to be reviewed by the Department and will need to be phased out if they do not meet the above guidelines. Any applicable State regulations need to be followed.

- ii. Manure Management - Storage of more than four cubic yards of animal manure and bedding on a site will require a manure management plan. This will include details on siting of the manure storage or composting area and protections to be put in place such as a cover, roof, and/or impervious pad to prevent run-off of leachate and possible contamination of groundwater and/or surface water. The manure management plan will also include details of how and when manure is to be spread on the land to ensure that nutrients in the manure will be taken up by growing plants and not cause pollution of the water resources.

6) General discussion of existing and proposed Infrastructure/Irrigation including:

- a. Farm Structures:
- b. Fencing needs – both seasonal and year-round fencing, winter access agreements (if applicable)
- c. Irrigation Methods: Wells, ponds, and/or stream use (stream and pond use requires LCC approval)
- d. Utilities- Details for power and utility lines (above ground or underground) needed for the operation.
- e. Signage needs and usage

7) Field Edge Maintenance Work – Planned field edge maintenance

8) Animal Control Issues: Issues & strategies proposed (must be approved by the Department)

**Field Map** - A detailed aerial view GIS map of the farm and or field areas shall be submitted. Multiple maps will be needed if the farm operation covers fields that are not contiguous. The Department can help provide digital or paper maps for farmers 'use. The following information shall be shown on the field map:

- a. Notation for each field as to what farm use is occurring (i.e. crop, hay, grazing,)
- b. Location of all farm structures, materials, and related accessories. These include but are not limited to barns, sheds, silos, signs, fencing, gates, animal handling structures, feeders, waterers, utilities, wells, irrigation ponds, trenches, tanks, storage piles, wood piles, rock piles, compost piles, ditches, walls, tents, farm stands, bale stacks, materials handling supplies, equipment and vehicle staging and storage areas, as well as service/public parking areas, farm roads, and access points to and from public ways.
- c. Locations of protected wildlife enhancements, if applicable (i.e. pollinator meadows or grassland bird habitat.

**Soil Test Reports** - Annual soil testing must be done on all licensed fields that are growing vegetable, fruit, or hay crops. Fields that are being grazed need to have the soil tested every other year. Soil testing should be consistent from year to year from the same lab to help track any changes in soil fertility and organic matter over time. There are a number of soil testing services that can be used. If you use the UMass Soil and Plant Nutrient Testing Lab, the test form to use is the “Commercial Fruit, Vegetables, and Field Crops” form and testing must include the “Routine Analysis”, “Organic Matter”, and “Soluble Salts”. All soil tests must include the percent of “organic matter”. The LCC may require use of other testing sources or updated methodologies as necessary to better monitor Town field soils.

**Insurance Documentation** - The Licensee shall carry a general liability insurance policy and an automotive liability insurance policy covering liability for the Licensee and the Licensee’s employees for injury to persons, including death, and for damage to the property resulting from the operations of the Licensee, the Licensee’s employees, and the Licensee’s agents under this agreement.

- a. Automotive liability shall include coverage for owner, non-owner and hired vehicles that are used on municipal land.

- b. Such policies shall provide indemnity protection to the amount or limit of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- c. The Town of Lincoln **shall be named as a certificate holder on all required insurance policies.**
- d. The Licensee shall also carry (a) Worker's compensation insurance, covering all benefits required under Chapter 152 of the General Laws and section 34A of Chapter 149 of the MA General Laws, and (b) Employer's liability insurance with a limit of at least \$100,000 each accident.
- e. Licensee agrees to release, indemnify, defend (with counsel acceptable to the Town) and hold the Town harmless from any liabilities, costs, expenses (including attorney's fees), claims or demands threatened or incurred made in connection with the activities of Licensee, its agents, employees, and invitees on the Premises.

**Annual Rental Payment** – Fields are licensed at a rate of \$35/acre for haying/grazing operations and \$40/acre for all other operations (vegetable, orchard, etc). Annual rental payment is due on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## Appendix B - Pesticide Guidelines

The information below applies to all farmers who are using IPM methods, but does not apply to organic farmers. The LCC is strongly interested in limiting the use of chemical pesticides and requires the implementation of an IPM program for all fields that are not managed organically. The LCC welcomes recommendations based on farmers' experiences with pesticides and alternative means of farming to help shape future policy decisions. The LCC's goal is to move away from any potentially harmful chemicals. As used in this policy, the term 'pesticides' includes herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and any substance included within the definition of 'pesticide' under the Massachusetts General Law 132B, the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act.

1. The use of any pesticide shall be in conformance with all provisions under Massachusetts General Law 132B, the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act, and all regulations promulgated thereunder in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, and all label directions. All non-OMRI approved pesticide applications shall be applied by or under the direct supervision of an individual with a current MA Pesticide Applicator's License on file with the Conservation Department. All pesticides, herbicides, fungicides must be stored in a locked building/structure after use, along with any containers or sprayers used in the process when parked or stored on conservation lands. The process for handling the cleaning of pesticide containers, equipment, or tanks will be established with the Conservation Department.
2. **The LCC may phase out, condition, or prohibit the use of any pesticide.** Products currently prohibited on Town conservation fields are: Atrazine, Alachlor, Guthion, Lasso, Sutazine, and Telone II and any pesticide marketed under an alternate name whose components include any of the above-mentioned products. Neonicotinoid insecticides are also banned, including Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiachloprid, and Thiamethoxam. The LCC may at any time add or remove products from this list. The LCC strives to minimize and ultimately eliminate the use of synthetic and other harmful pesticides. Note that the LCC reserves the right to regulate, restrict, or disapprove the use of any pesticide, including those approved by the EPA or MDAR. LCC intends to work with farmers to assess and implement alternatives to pesticides gradually and when feasible. The use of any pesticide or herbicide not listed as approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) requires the review and prior approval of the LCC.
3. The Licensee will work with the Conservation Department to ensure that appropriate signage, such as the following, is located effectively and is maintained during and after the use of pesticides: "*WARNING-Pesticides in Use. Pass at your own risk. Please stay on roadway and trails*". If the pesticides have a re-entry interval, those reentry times must be stated on the signs.
4. Buffer strips and other means for protection of the general public and neighboring properties shall be proposed by the Licensee and reviewed by the Conservation Department on a case-by-case basis shown in the **Farm Plan** and on the **Field Map**. Areas of immediate concern of pesticide effects include but are not limited to people, pets, wild animals, organic gardens and lawns, farm roads and trails, wells, wetlands, and open water bodies.
5. Spray applications shall not be done during windy conditions. Any applicator shall cease spraying if trail users or other persons are nearby and only resume when the area is clear.

**Appendix C: Farm License Statement**  
(To be included with any Agricultural Land Proposal)

**I, the undersigned, agree to the following if awarded a license for agricultural use of Town of Lincoln conservation land:**

- a. I shall abide by the Commission's Farm Stewardship Policy and such amendments, rules, and regulations as the Commission shall promulgate.*
- b. I shall abide by any and all other special conditions, policies, rules and regulations governing the use of Lincoln farmland during the term of the license.*
- c. I certify under penalties of perjury that this proposal has been made and submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud with any other person. As used in this certification, "person" shall mean any natural person, business, partnership, corporation, union, committee, club or other organization, entity or group of individuals.*
- d. I shall execute a license on the Lincoln Conservation Commission's standard form.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature:

<p>Address:</p>          <p>Phone Number:</p>          <p>Email:</p>          
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