### WELCOME TO HALIFAX



#### A Right to Farm Community

Support your Local Farms & Agricultural commission Committee HOW?

Buy local farm products at farmers' markets, farm stands, garden centers, and grocery stores.

Attend Town Meetings and vote in favor of articles that support and encourage farming, farmland and agricultural economic development.

Volunteer to help. The Halifax Agricultural Commission is a non-profit organization and your time and/or donation of services are valuable.

Educate yourself. You live in Agricultural town. Learn about farming and farm practices by meeting your farmer neighbors; learning what they grow and/or raise, understand issues that affect them every day.



#### **Right To Farm By-Law**

The Right to Farm by-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, protects farmlands, and promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities within the Town of Halifax by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town Agencies. This by-law applies to all jurisdictional areas within Halifax. The Right to Farm by-law reinforces for all current and future citizens of Halifax that we cherish the right to farm here, continuing the traditions established by Sturtevant and our founding families.

# What is a town Agricultural Commission?

## A town agricultural commission is an appointed town standing committee that:

- Represents the farming community.
- Encourages the pursuit of agriculture.
- Promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities.

• Preserves, revitalizes, and sustains agricultural businesses and land.

Ag commission members are primarily farmers who get together with residents and town officials in order to understand each other, share concerns and opportunities, and then get the word out to the other folks in town.

Ag commission members document and address the interests of farmers, then consider how to work effectively with residential, municipal, commercial, and industrial interests.

In some towns, residents have formed planning groups for new schools, businesses, town-owned buildings and open space preservation, but seldom for the cherished resource of farming.

What if farming issues were addressed by a committed group of folks from your town who want to understand your needs, preferably before there's a problem?

Your own agricultural commission, like those that have formed in many other Massachusetts towns in the last ten years, could be the answer.



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