

Right to Farm



Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223d



Town of Becket Right to Farm Town



Phone: 413-623-8934
Web site:
www.townofbecket.org



Right to Farm Disclosure

“It is the policy of the Town of Becket to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers that the property they are about to acquire lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Purchasing, and henceforth occupying land within Becket means that one should expect and accept such conditions as a normal and necessary aspect of living in Becket.”



Farming Activities

“Farming” shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- operation and transportation of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the town;
- control of pests including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators, and disease organisms of plants and animals;
- application of manure, fertilizers, and pesticides, according to state law and regulation;
- conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer’s market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products;
- relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operation;
- construction and use of farm structures and facilities for the storage of animal wastes, farm equipment, pesticides, fertilizers, agricultural products and livestock, for the processing of animal wastes and agricultural products, for the sale of agricultural products, and for the use of farm labor, as permitted by local and state building codes and regulations; including construction and maintenance of fences.

Right to Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist with the Town of Becket. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and shall include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protections of this Bylaw are intended to apply exclusively to those agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right to Farm Bylaw shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, or local zoning bylaw. This Bylaw does not supercede local, state or federal laws or regulations or private covenants.

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