

Think about what attracts you to Holliston: its beauty, peacefulness, and scenic landscapes.

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

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

Holliston Agricultural Commission



The Holliston Agricultural Commission

The mission of the Agricultural Commission is to represent the Town of Holliston's agricultural community and interests. Activities of the Agricultural Commission include:

- Serving as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Holliston.
- Promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in the town.
- Acting as mediators, advocates, educators and/or negotiators in an advisory capacity on farming issues for established town committees and departments.
- Pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community.
- Encouraging the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

For more information:

Contact information for the Holliston Agricultural Commission and links to additional agricultural resources are available on the commission's website at:

<http://www.hollistonagcom.org/>

Living Near a Farm

How to become a farmer's friend in 10 easy steps.



Holliston Agricultural Commission

1 *Buy Local Produce.*

It's healthier for us, and we are lucky to have it. Stop at Holliston's farm stands or ask your supermarket to carry local produce. When you buy local, you support farm families and preserve the agricultural character of Holliston. Remember, we can't have farms without farmers.

2 *Be a good neighbor.*

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

3 *Give a thumb up for farm traffic.*

If you get behind a tractor on the road, understand that they are not built for speed. Be patient and share the road. Remember that farm machinery is a necessary part of a serious business that's important to Holliston. Give the farmer a thumb up to show your support.

4 *Know that farmers use best management practices.*

The state requires farmers to be trained, licensed and current in proper pesticide use and storage. 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 smaller quantities of chemicals on cropland than homeowners use to keep lawns green and weed free and homes clean.

5 *Respect farmers' private property.*

Remember that farms are private property, so respect posted signs and gates. 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. For your safety, gain permission from the farmer first. The farmer cares about your protection (and not just because you're customers).

6 *Support farms.*

Did you know that Holliston is a "right-to-farm" town? Farming success is dependent upon the weather, markets, and land prices. It is also dependent on the farmer's ability to use generally accepted farming practices without hindrance. Holliston's right-to-farm bylaw affirms our farmers' right to manage their farms using best management practices. If you have a concern about a farm practice, contact the Holliston 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 business. Get to know your farming neighbors and their farm practices.

8 *Learn how agriculture benefits Holliston.*

Farms provide a stable tax base at very low cost. For each dollar that farm is taxed, it requires only a small fraction of that in town services. Not only do farms provide our town's character, but they also keep our taxes down. For more information, check out the Holliston Agricultural Commission's website.

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 Holliston Agricultural Commission.

10 *Volunteer.*

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