

Right to Farm

In April of 2007, the Town of Marshfield voted to uphold the Right to Farm, as well as establish an Agricultural Commission. The

Agricultural Commission represents the farming community, and acts as a

facilitator in encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Town.

The right to farm by-law reinforces for all citizens and future citizens of Marshfield that we cherish the right to farm here, continuing the traditions established by Daniel Webster and our founding families.

This general by-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Marshfield by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function harmoniously with abutters and Town Agencies.

This by-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.



Photo by Chris D. Bernstein

By-Law Information

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, or accessory thereto.

- Farming and all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil
- Dairying
- Production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations
- Raising of livestock, including horses
- Keeping, training, and boarding of horses as a commercial or private enterprise
- Keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches, and rheas) camelids (such as llamas and alpacas) and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals



Community Gardens at Mounces Meadow

- "Farming" shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:
- The 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
 - Conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, 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 farmers' market or farm stand including signage thereto
 - Maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment, or apparatus owned or leased by the farm or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products
 - On-Farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations
 - Construction, operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for farming purposes
 - The operation, management, conservation, improvement, or maintenance of a farm and its buildings, tools, and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land of brush or other debris left by a storm, as an incident to such farming operations

Agricultural History

Daniel Webster organized cattle shows on the Training Green and following his lead, the first agricultural fair was held in 1862 by the South Marshfield Farmers' Club. Over time this group developed into the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society, a private non-profit society established in 1867. This society organized the annual Marshfield Fair, one of the oldest agricultural fairs in the country.



Old photo of Agricultural Hall during the Fair

The Marshfield Farmers' Market was established in 2006, and is sponsored by the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

An assortment of vendors can be found at the Marshfield Fairgrounds every Friday from 2 - 6 pm June through October and on the 3rd Saturday of each month November through May from 10 am - 2 pm.



There are several old working farms around Marshfield; many have been handed down through the generations.

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Marshfield is known for raising cranberries, flowers, Christmas trees, cattle, horses, sheep, chickens, and produce.

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Did you know that Massachusetts is #1 in the USA in direct farm-to-consumer sales on a per-farm basis?

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Some of MA largest volume farm products include cranberries, blueberries, and organic produce.





Right To Farm

In the Town of Marshfield



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 Marshfield Agricultural Commission Fans
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