



Farming has been an integral part of life in Canton for over 200 years. It is intertwined with the town's history and is essential to Canton's character and community.

A History of Farming

Long before Canton was incorporated as a town in 1806, the land was farmed. Early agricultural uses included dairy farming, hay production, forestry products, vegetable and grain crops, maple syrup, and charcoal production. Canton has been home to a wide variety of livestock farming as well, including sheep, chickens, horses, pigs, goats, and llamas. While the number of farms in town has declined in recent years, Canton is proud to host a certified organic vegetable farm that offers community farm shares, a large dairy operation, and a variety of farm-to-table operations.

The Right to Farm

The Town of Canton officially recognizes the importance of farming to its rural quality of life, heritage, public health, scenic vistas, tax base, wetlands and wildlife, and local economy. It is the declared policy of the Town of Canton to conserve, protect, and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural

land for the production of food and other agricultural products for its natural and ecological value.

To protect existing farms and farm lands, as well as to encourage an expansion of farming in Canton, the Town of Canton passed its Right to Farm Ordinance in November, 2015.

The ordinance specifically:

- ❖ Encourages the pursuit of agriculture;
- ❖ Promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities;
- ❖ Protects farmland in Canton by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies; and
- ❖ Recognizes that agricultural practices can sometimes be unwelcome, but that occasional inconveniences to abutters are greatly diminished by the many benefits farming brings to its community.

Agricultural Practices

The Right to Farm ordinance recognizes that generally accepted agricultural practices may occur at all times of the day and night, and throughout the year. Any noise, odors, dust and fumes caused by these activities, when following generally accepted agricultural practices, are recognized as a part of the permitted activities. Such activities, when reasonable and necessary for the particular farming activity, are protected by this ordinance. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Incidental noise from livestock or farm equipment;
- ❖ Odors from livestock, manure, fertilizer, or feed;
- ❖ Dust and fumes associated with normally accepted farming practices;
- ❖ Use of agricultural chemicals, provided such chemicals and the method of their application conform to the practices approved by the State of Connecticut; and
- ❖ Irrigation and water management associated with normally accepted farming practice.



Questions, Concerns, and Compliance

Any questions about farming practice, zoning or permitted uses of land for farming, or concerns about the impact of a farm on abutting properties should be addressed to the Canton Land Use Department. Depending upon the nature of the question or concern, the Land Use Office will identify the appropriate governmental body or organization to address the specific issue. Organizations that are available for assistance with issues related to farming practices include:

- Canton Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
- Canton Conservation Commission
- Canton Planning and Zoning Commission
- Connecticut Department of Agriculture
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
- Connecticut Farm Bureau
- Farmington Valley Health District



Please call the Land Use Office (860)693-7856 if you have any questions, or visit our website at www.townofcantonct.org.

Canton Conservation Commission

Canton Town Hall
P. O. Box 168
4 Market Street
Collinsville, CT 06022



Photo: John Fitts

RIGHT TO FARM ORDINANCE



Town of Canton Connecticut

