

"It is the policy of the Town of Rochester 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. A disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy 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. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the Town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for such property under certain circumstances.

Purchasing, and henceforth occupying land within Rochester means that one should expect and accept such conditions as a normal and necessary aspect of living in Rochester"

Rochester Agricultural Commission
One Constitution Way
Rochester, MA 02770

508-245-0953

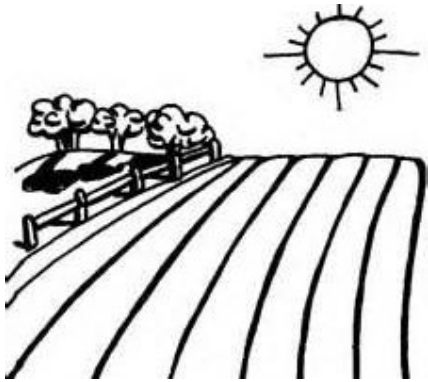
rochesteragcom@gmail.com



Roadside signs were produced with help from Makepeace Neighborhood Fund.



What does this sign mean to my neighbors and me?



A Right to Farm by-law was passed unanimously at the 2012 Fall Town Meeting in a show of the town residents' support for our farming community. This by-law doesn't change any of the rights of our farmers, but states the town's support of the rights granted by the Commonwealth. A copy of this by-law is posted on the town website.

The by-law establishes a process for notifying prospective residents of the town that farming activities occur in Rochester and that living here means expecting and accepting such activities as normal and necessary.

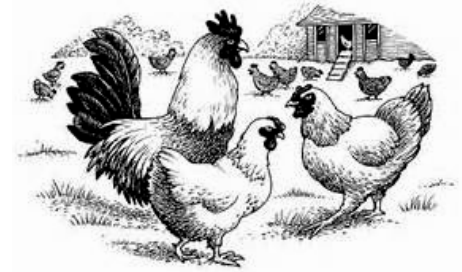
Right to Farm By-law

Disclosure Notification

This by-law mandates that a **Right to Farm Disclosure Notification must be signed by anyone entering into an agreement to purchase or lease property in Rochester. It is the responsibility of the land owner and/or agent to complete this document, have it signed by the buyer or prospective occupant, and file it with the Board of Selectmen.** Those failing to comply will be subject to a \$300 fine.

A copy of this disclosure notification will be posted at the town hall and on the town website. Printed copies may be obtained from the Tax Collector.

The Tax Collector shall include a copy of the above disclosure and notification requirements with all responses to requests for Municipal Lien Certificates.



The by-law further establishes the Rochester Agricultural Commission (AgCom) as an advocate in helping to resolve any conflicts that may occur between farmers and their neighbors or other town agencies. "Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Select Board, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, or the Board of Health, depending upon the nature of the grievance. The receiving board may forward a copy of the grievance to the AgCom or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance, and report its recommendations to the referring Town authority within an agreed upon time frame." The AgCom has neither regulatory nor enforcement authority.

Dispute Resolution