

Right to Farm By-Law

The Town of Ipswich unanimously passed the Right to Farm By-law at Town Meeting in 2010. This by-law works to protect the vibrant agricultural economy and farmlands of Ipswich. Stated briefly, farming activities may occur during holidays, weekdays, weekends, night or day, and the incidental occurrences of noise, odors, dust, and fumes are permitted and accepted. The full details can be found on the town's website.

www.ipswichma.gov.

You can find the Agricultural Commission page under Boards and Committees.

Phone (978)356-6607

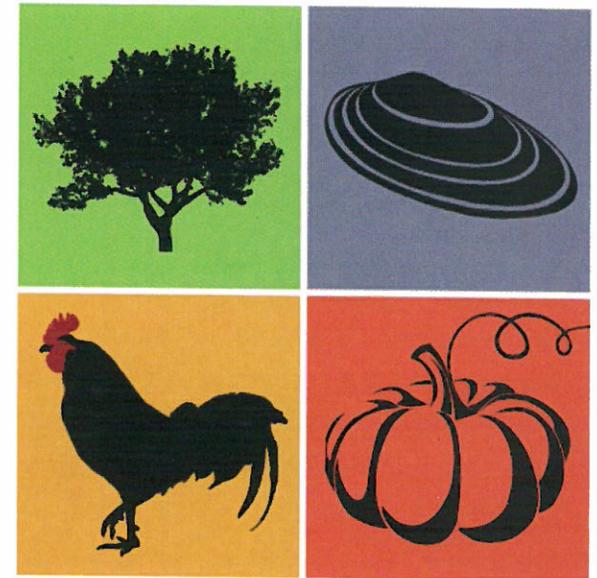


Local food is fresh! Farmers can grow varieties that are best picked hours before they are eaten rather than weeks. Those varieties don't need to be packaged or travel. Local food tastes better, looks better, and is much better for you.



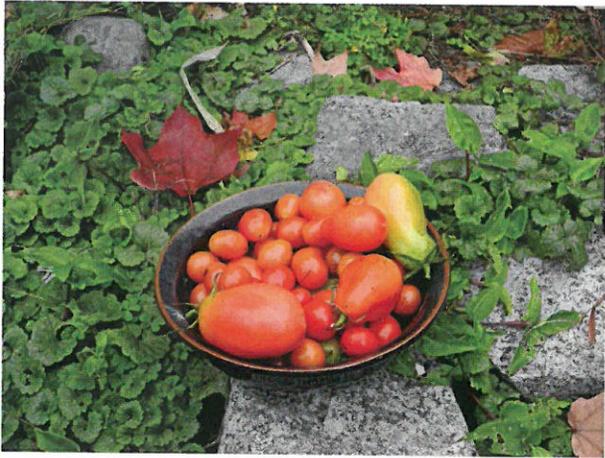
Local food is safe food. Your local farmer cares about what they grow for you, their neighbors. You can be assured they not only follow state and local regulations, they truly care about you and your family.

Local farms are a community asset. Farmlands preserve open space and wildlife habitat. They also provide jobs and revenue for the local economy. Farms build the foundation of a better future for our next generations.



Ipswich Agricultural Commission

Living in a Farm Community



A Simple Guide To Living With Agriculture In Ipswich



Give a nod or a wave or a thumbs up to the farmer on the tractor! Please be courteous and patient with the farm traffic in town. Please share the road safely.

If you have a question or a concern talk to your farmer before there is a conflict. The Agricultural Commission is also a good resource to discuss any concerns.

Know that farmers use Best Management Practices. They try to minimize the use of pesticides whenever possible because they are expensive and labor intensive. Overuse is not healthy for crops or the land. The state carefully ensures that their use is well-regulated.

Communicate with your farmer neighbor. They work seven days a week, dawn to dusk. If you are planning an event in your backyard, talk to your farmer about the timing. Farmers have families, they understand and can be accommodating.

Support your local farmer. Ipswich is host to some wonderful new and old farm families. Stop by their farmstands or the Farmers Market to buy your produce, dairy and meat. Your support is critical to sustaining this valuable economic and cultural resource.

Farmers use less chemicals on their crops per acre than homeowners do in their houses and on their lawns.

Respect farmers' private property. Farmlands are beautiful but they are not open to the public. For your safety ask permission before entering farmlands.

Volunteer! There are many opportunities such as the Ipswich Agricultural Commission or the Farmers Market. The best way to understand a farm is to participate in a farming activity. Become involved with any of these organizations.

Understand that farming is a business and, as with many businesses there may be noise or odors or dust involved.

Vote for farms. Keep abreast of issues facing farms and vote in ways that support them. Farms provide a stable tax base and require a fraction of town services compared to development.

Those incidental occurrences are protected under the Right to Farm By-Law.

