

# WELCOME TO SOUTHWICK

## A PROUD RIGHT-TO-FARM COMMUNITY!



Solek Farms - photo courtesy of Andrew Solek

Farming has been a part of Southwick's history since its incorporation in 1770... and long before!

Our farms generate both traditional and new crops & products! With over 15 active farms and 1,600 acres of protected farmland, Southwick enjoys many benefits from its strong farm economy and we are committed to preserving our agricultural heritage and supporting the future of farming here

**If you're a new resident here, welcome! We hope you'll appreciate and enjoy the many benefits that our farmers and farmlands offer!**

**What is a Right-to-Farm bylaw?:** A Right-to-Farm bylaw encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, & protects farmlands within the community.

**“Manure is like money: if you don't spread it around, nothing grows.”** That's why we need a Right-to-Farm bylaw. As productive farmland has been converted to residential development, people new to farming are moving into agricultural areas. Residents new to rural living may be surprised to discover that the beautiful agricultural landscape is sometimes accompanied by odors, noise from field work, equipment on roadways, & other necessary by-products of farming. Many states, including Massachusetts, have adopted Right-to-Farm language in the state statutes to protect farmers from nuisance lawsuits & to create public awareness regarding the needs of local farms & farmers.

**The Right-to-Farm bylaw is based on Massachusetts laws,** specifically Article 89, or the “Home Rule Amendment,” of the MA Constitution. The Southwick Agricultural Commission and our Right-to Farm bylaw were created by Town Meeting in January 2006.



Signage posted at our town limits

**Homebuyer Disclosure Notification:** It is the policy of this community 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.

Purchasing or renting property within the Town of Southwick means that one should expect and accept farming activities that cause noise, dust and odors.

Further details are provided in the Town's Right-to-Farm Bylaw are available for review at the Town Hall and at [www.southwickma.org/agricultural-commission](http://www.southwickma.org/agricultural-commission)