

**1 Buy local produce.** It's healthier for us and we are lucky to have it. Stop at Carver's farmers' market and at local roadside stands. Buy local produce at the grocery store, too – if you don't see it, ask for it. When you buy local, you support farm families and preserve the agricultural character of Carver. Remember we can't have farms without farmers.



**2 Be a good neighbor.** Farmers work seven days a week, dawn to dusk and sometimes later. If you're planning a backyard event, talk with your farmer neighbor about timing of farm operations. Farmers have families too and are understanding and can be accommodating.

**3 Give a thumbs up for farm traffic.** If you get behind a tractor on the road, understand that they are not meant for speed. Be patient and share the road. Remember that farm machinery is a necessary part of a serious business that's important to Carver. Give the farmer a thumbs up to show your support.



**4 Know that farmers use best management practices.** The state requires farmers to be trained, licensed and current in proper pesticide use and storage. Farmers are decreasing pesticide use and improving water management whenever possible to reduce costs and labor and to keep their crops and the environment healthy. Acre for acre, farmers use less chemicals on cropland than homeowners use to keep lawns green and weed-free and homes clean.

**5 Respect farmers' private property.** Remember that farms are private property, so respect posted signs and gates. A farm can look like a nice place to go for a walk, hike or ride but there can be hazards associated with a farm operation. For your safety, gain permission from the farmer first. The farmer cares about your protection, too.

**6 Support farms.** Did you know that Carver is a "right-to-farm" town? Farming success is dependent upon the weather, markets, and land prices. It is also dependent on the farmer's ability to use generally accepted farming practices without hindrance. Carver's right-to-farm by-law affirms our farmers' right to manage their farms using best management practices. If you have a concern about a farm practice, contact the Carver Agricultural Commission.

**7 Understand that farming is a business.** While farmers are responsible for being good neighbors, they must also be good farmers. Noise, dust, and odors are all part of a farming business. Get to know your farming neighbors and their farm practices.



**8 Learn how agriculture benefits Carver.** Farms provide a stable tax base at very low cost. For each dollar that a farm is taxed, it requires a fraction of that in town services. Not only do farms provide our town's character, but they also keep our taxes down. For more information, check out the Carver Agricultural Commission's website.

**9 Communicate.** Meet and talk with your farmer neighbor before and after you have a problem. Remember that it's in both your interests to be good neighbors. When you have an issue and work out a solution, stay in touch with each other. If you have a conflict that cannot be resolved through communication, please contact the Carver Agricultural Commission.

**10 Volunteer.** Carver's agricultural commission can always use volunteers with varied skills to support efforts to promote agriculture and protect our town's rural character.

**T**hink about what attracts you to Carver: its beauty, history, peacefulness, and scenic cranberry bogs.

For generations, your farming neighbors have nurtured and cultivated their bogs and fields, creating the unique and beautiful New England countryside we all cherish and call home.

As our town grows, farmers are becoming closer neighbors with non-farmers. Here are ways we can work together.

*Carver Agricultural Commission*



## The Carver Agricultural Commission

The mission of the Agricultural Commission is to represent the Town of Carver's agricultural community and interests. Activities of the Agricultural Commission include the following:

- Serving as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Carver
- Promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in the town
- Acting as mediators, advocates, educators and/or negotiators' in an advisory capacity on farming issues for established town committees and department
- Pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community
- Encouraging the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle

### For more information:

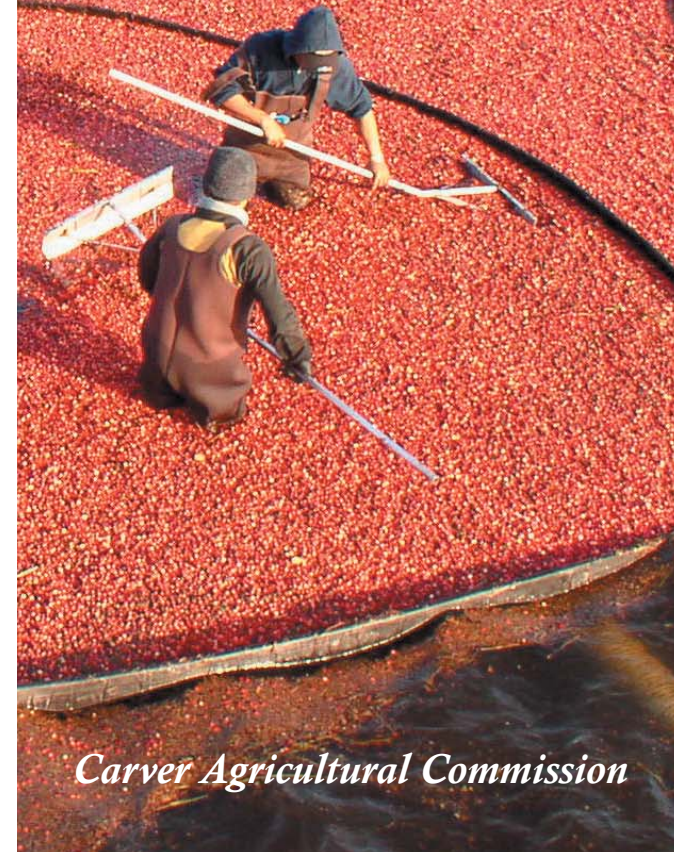
Contact information for the Carver Agricultural Commission and links to additional resources are available on-line at:

[www.carverma.org/agricultural\\_commission.html](http://www.carverma.org/agricultural_commission.html)

*The Carver Agricultural Commission wishes to recognize the A.D. Makepeace Neighborhood Fund and Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. for supporting the production of this brochure.*

# Living Near a Farm

How to become a farmer's friend in 10 easy steps.



*Carver Agricultural Commission*