

Appendix 2: Agricultural Survey

This survey has been sent to:

Please correct address information if needed.

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) is concerned about the loss of agricultural land use on Cape Cod and is conducting an extensive analysis of the current status of agriculture. Based on our analysis to date, we have determined that your property fits the criteria of a working agricultural entity because the property either is classified Chapter 61, 61a, holds a stable license, or because you are known in retail outlets as a working farm.

In order to better understand the needs of farmers and the impediments to farming, we are sending this survey to all farms we have identified in the fifteen towns of Barnstable County. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to answer the following to the best of your ability and discretion:

1. Which of the below best describes your farm? (check one)

Full time operation for at least 1 family member. Primary source of family income.

Part time operation. Augments income from other jobs. Not primary source of family income.

Agricultural activity on my property is for friends and family, not for income.

Other:

2. What percentage of your family income is derived from your farm operation? _____%.

3. How many members of your family work on the farm? Full time _____ Part time _____

4. Please indicate your age group: (check one)

Up to 24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75 or more

5. Please indicate your main farm product(s) and/or activities. (check all that apply)

vegetables orchard fruit berries

hay flowers/nursery stable rental

milk/dairy forest products livestock(meat/fiber)

U-pick farm stand Christmas trees

riding instruction visitor activities (hayrides, corn maze, etc.)

other: _____

8. What are the 3 greatest challenges your farm has faced on Cape Cod?

- _____
- _____
- _____

9. What are the 3 benefits of farming on Cape Cod?

- _____
- _____
- _____

10. Please rank the following in the order of priority in which they pose a problem or concern to you relative to the operation of your farm:

- ___ Hiring help
- ___ Trespassing/vandalism
- ___ Pilfering/theft
- ___ Availability of fertilizers/pesticides
- ___ Availability of machinery/parts
- ___ Availability of veterinary services
- ___ Complaints from neighbors concerning farming operations
- ___ Regulations affecting farm operations
- ___ Marketing your farm production
- ___ Availability of technical assistance
- ___ Other issues (explain)

11. Considering the knowledge and skills required to operate your farm and market your products, what are the 3 most crucial skills or the most important information you would like to acquire to improve your farming practices?

- _____
- _____
- _____

12. How many years have you been farming on Cape Cod? _____.

14. How many more years do you expect to be the principal operator of your farm? _____.

15. Do you have an individual (family member or other) lined up to take over the farm when you retire? ___yes ___no

16. Is it likely that you may need to sell part or all of your land when you retire? ___yes ___no

17. Are you familiar with these local organizations that work to sustain agriculture by providing grants, education, and services to farms? Have you received information from them or attended any of their events? (Please select yes or no)

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources: ___yes ___no
Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP) ___yes ___no

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ___yes ___no

Pilgrim RC&D Council ___yes ___no

Cape Cod Cooperative Extension ___yes ___no

18. Have you been helped by any organization we have not listed above? Please identify them here and briefly describe the services you received:

23. Do you have access to the internet? ___yes ___no

24. Do you use the internet to aid in your agricultural business? ___yes ___no

25. If “yes,” in which ways do you use the internet? (*please check all that apply.*):

___ Email communication

___ Conducting research/finding information for the farm

___ Purchasing goods and services used in operating the farm

___ Marketing the farm’s goods and/or services

___ The farm has its own website

___ Other: _____

LET'S HEAR YOUR IDEAS. Please share any ideas you may have about public events that could be held to showcase agriculture on Cape Cod:

IMPORTANT! IF YOU PROVIDE US WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS, WE CAN SEND YOU NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS AND ISSUES AFFECTING AGRICULTURE ONCAPE COD. Please provide us with an email address so that we may keep you informed. If you do not use computers or email, perhaps a family member or friend would be willing to receive email on your behalf for this important purpose.

Contact Email address (please print clearly): _____

ANY LAST THOUGHTS? Are there any thoughts, questions, or insights you would like to share with us? We have left some space for you here...