

## BEFORE WE BEGIN...

This survey has been sent to:

Please correct address information if needed.

You have received a copy of this survey because your property is on record in the Town of Rehoboth under Chapter 61, 61a, stable licenses, piggery permits, or because you are known to members of the Agricultural Commission or the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP) as a working farm.

**IF THIS SURVEY WAS SENT TO YOU IN ERROR AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION DISTRIBUTION LIST, PLEASE CHECK HERE \_\_\_\_\_ AND SEND THE SURVEY BACK TO US. (Just fold, tape/staple, and mail. Postage is paid.) Thankyou.**

**We have sent the survey to Rehoboth farms of all types and sizes. Help us understand who we are reaching by answering the following questions:**

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     riding instruction  
 milk/dairy     forest products     livestock(meat/fiber)  
 U-pick     farm stand     visitor activities (hayrides, corn maze, etc.)  
 Christmas trees     other: \_\_\_\_\_    other: \_\_\_\_\_

*I added  
a more equine  
fields. Customize  
as needed for  
your town.*

6. Is your farm woman owned/operated? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

7. Would you be interested in forming a group with other women farm operators? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**LET'S GET STARTED...THINK ABOUT THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS ON YOUR FARM...**

8. What are the 3 greatest challenges your farm has faced in Rehoboth?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are the 3 best things about having Rehoboth as a location for your farm?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other issues (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

*Very few people did the ranking.  
Recommended change: "Please check the  
3 most important ~~items~~ <sup>concerns</sup> in the  
list below, ~~in terms of their~~  
as they relate to your  
farm."*

11. Think about the knowledge and skills required to run your farm. What are the 3 most crucial skills or pieces of knowledge you would like to acquire to run your farm?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*I'd delete this. This  
issue is better addressed on  
pp 4-5*

**FARM SUCCESSION --- the future of your farm.**

*not many people knew  
this answer. I'd  
consider leaving it  
out.*

12. How many years have you been farming in Rehoboth? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

13. Are you the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth generation to be farming at this location? (circle one)

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

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

16. Is it likely that you may need to sell part or all of your land when you retire?  yes  no

Put in the groups most active in your area.

## SOURCES OF GRANT FUNDING, SERVICES, AND TRAINING:

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 check appropriate answer below)

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
Bristol County Farm Bureau	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
Bristol County Conservation District	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
Pilgrim RC&D Area Council Inc.	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
Bristol County Farm Service Agency	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.
RI Center for Agricultural Promotion & Education(RICAPE)	<input type="radio"/> Have attended.	<input type="radio"/> Receive info.	<input type="radio"/> Not familiar with.

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

19. Listed below are several options for the type of educational events offered by the above organizations. Which of these formats would be best for you to attend? (Please check all that apply).

- Seminars/Workshops. Your preferred month(s) to attend: \_\_\_\_\_
- On-farm demonstrations at a local farm. Your preferred month(s) to attend: \_\_\_\_\_
- Presentations during regular meetings of organizations to which you belong
- Learn from home. If you prefer to learn from home, how would you like to receive the information?
  - I prefer receiving written materials, such as newsletters, articles, or books
  - I prefer getting information through the internet, such as web sites or emails
  - Online courses

20. Which days and times for these events would best fit into your schedule? (Please check all that apply).

- Weekdays
- Weekends
- NO PREFERENCE
- Morning (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon)
- Mid-day (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
- Afternoon (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- Evening (after 7:00)
- NO PREFERENCE

This did not yield much useful info.  
Lots of folks filled in only part of it

This is the meat of the questionnaire.

## YOUR EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDS

21. On these 2 pages we have listed skills and pieces of knowledge that other farmers have mentioned as important for running their farms. We want to know if additional training in any of these topics would assist you in improving your farm operation and/or profits. Please indicate how high a priority each category is, with regard to your educational needs.

### FARMING PRACTICES

#### INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:

Biosecurity Management	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Irrigation & Water Management	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Animal Waste Management	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Conservation Practices	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Conventional, Sustainable and Organic Management	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a

### PRESERVING THE FARM

#### INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:

Farm Transfers/Succession	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Agricultural Protection Restrictions (APR's)	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Farmland Preservation Techniques & Funding Sources	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Planning for Retirement	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a

### UNDERSTANDING & COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

#### INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:

Working with Town Zoning Regulations	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Working with Health Regulations	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Wetland Regulations	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Keeping up with Legislation	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Pesticide Management Regulations	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Groundwater Protection Regulations	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Water Management Act	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Right to Farm Laws	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
GAP: Good Agricultural Practice Certification (not a regulation)	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
MA Endangered Species Act	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a
	___HIGH	___MEDUM	___LOW	___n/a

**REDUCING COSTS / INCREASING PROFITS**

Grants & Financial Assistance Opportunities	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Utilizing Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B Property Tax Relief	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Marketing Farm Products	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Increasing Productivity/Fertility (both livestock and crops)	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Reducing Energy Costs/Alternative Energy Sources	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
How to maximize income from value added/direct sales	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Alternative Enterprises/Agritourism	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Starting a Food Business or Processing Farm Products	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Farm Energy Discount Program	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a

**INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:****BUSINESS SKILLS**

Managing Finances (analysis and budgeting)	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Farm Recordkeeping	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Farm Tax Management	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Business Plan Development	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Applying for Grants - Basic Grantwriting Skills	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Labor Management	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a

**INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:****COMPUTERS**

Using Computers - Basic Computing Skills	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Using the Internet	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
How To Develop a Website for Your Farm	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a

**INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:****COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Protections Under the Right to Farm Bylaw	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Avoiding Trespassers & Theft	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Special Issues for Women Operators	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
Other (please write in and rank)	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a
	___ HIGH	___ MEDIUM	___ LOW	___ n/a

**INFORMATIONAL/TRAINING NEED:**

## FARM COMPUTER USAGE AND OWNERSHIP

22. Do you have access to a computer?  yes  no

- If 'no,' would you be interested in learning how computers can be used to help your farm become more profitable?  yes  no
- If 'yes,' in the space below, please list the programs/software you find useful for your farm/business.

*Too few people answered this one*

23. Do you have access to the internet?  yes  no

24. If "yes," in which ways do you use the internet? (please check all that apply.):

- Email communication
- Conducting research/finding information for your farm
- Purchasing goods and services that you use in operating your farm
- Marketing your farm's goods and/or services
- The farm has its own website
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## FUTURE AG COM INITIATIVES IN REHOBOTH. WE WANT YOUR INPUT...

**REHOBOTH AGRICULTURE EDUCATIONAL/PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE.** The Agricultural Commission has received a grant to publish a booklet educating town residents and others about the importance of agriculture in Rehoboth. Please answer the following questions to assist us in designing and producing the brochure:

- **Would you be willing to be contacted** by a member of the AgCom so that we can learn more about your farm and take photographs to illustrate the work which takes place throughout the year on a farm?  yes, feel free to contact me.  no thanks.
- In the brochure, **we will include a direct marketing listing of all farm enterprises** who welcome the public to their farm to purchase goods and services (including equine). Do you want your farm to be included in this listing?  
 Yes, I would like my farm listed.  No thankyou. My farm is private.

**REHOBOTH AGRICULTURE WEBSITE.** In the coming year we will be working with a local web designer to create a website devoted to agriculture in Rehoboth. This will include important updates about AgCom activities, Right-to-Farm information, and information about local farms. If you wish, your farm can be included in a listing of farms in Rehoboth. We also hope to have a photo gallery showcasing the many activities taking place on the farm as well as photos showing the beautiful agricultural landscapes throughout the town.

**Would you like to have your farm included on the Rehoboth Agriculture website?**  yes  no  
The web designer has indicated that for a very small fee (or barter for farm products) he is willing to work with individual farm enterprises to put together a web page devoted to your farm, containing information of your choosing so that you can promote your farm. Would you be interested in learning more about this?  yes.  no.

**FUTURE AGRICULTURAL EVENTS.** Would you be interested in participating in future agricultural events (such as fairs, festivals) which may be held in Rehoboth? \_\_\_yes. \_\_\_no.

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

**IF YOU RESPONDED 'YES' TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO AG COM INITIATIVES, PLEASE PROVIDE A PHONE NUMBER HERE SO WE MAY CONTACT YOU.**

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

***IMPORTANT! WE NEED AN EMAIL ADDRESS*** TO SEND YOU NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS AND ISSUES AFFECTING YOUR FARM. Many state agencies and organizations providing services to agriculture (including the Rehoboth Agricultural Commission) no longer have the budget to send information through the U.S. Mail. Computer Email, which costs nothing, is now commonly used for communication. The Agricultural Commission and other agencies such as MDAR will use email to notify you of issues and opportunities relating to your farm operation. 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...

***Thankyou for completing this survey. You are helping the Agricultural Commission in its mission to promote and preserve the agricultural way of life in Rehoboth. Please fold this survey so that the return address is displayed, tape or staple closed, and drop in the mailbox.***

-----fold along this line-----

**Rehoboth AgCom**  
**c/o House**  
**53 Pleasant Street**  
**Rehoboth, MA 02769**

we put  
a stamp  
here

**Rehoboth AgCom**  
**c/o House**  
**53 Pleasant Street**  
**Rehoboth, MA 02769**

-----fold along this line-----