

VISIT REHOBOTH'S FARMS

*A guide to the best locally grown
fresh produce, agricultural products, and family
fun in Southeastern Massachusetts.*



*Come visit... we're just
minutes away.*

PRODUCED BY
THE REHOBOTH AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
WWW.REHOBOTHAGCOM.COM

***What's a "CSA"?** Many people have not heard of CSA, which stands for Community Supported Agriculture. CSA's have become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. Here are the basics: a farmer offers a certain number of "shares" to the public. Typically the share consists of a box of vegetables, but other farm products may be included. Interested consumers purchase a share (a.k.a. a "membership" or a "subscription") and in return receive a box (bag, basket) of seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season. There are many benefits to CSA membership. You can be assured you are getting ultra-fresh food, with all the flavor and vitamin benefits. You will be exposed to new vegetables and new ways of cooking. Children typically favor food from "their" farm – even veggies they've never been known to eat. Perhaps most importantly, you will develop a relationship with the farmer who grows your food and learn more about how food is grown. Several Rehoboth farms offer CSA. Check their Web sites for information regarding season, types of produce, and cost.



What does this sign mean and why is it important?

The Agricultural Commission has installed these signs on all major roads leading into Rehoboth. It tells visitors (and residents) that Rehoboth has adopted a Right to Farm Bylaw to protect and encourage commercial agriculture by protecting farmers and farm operators against nuisance

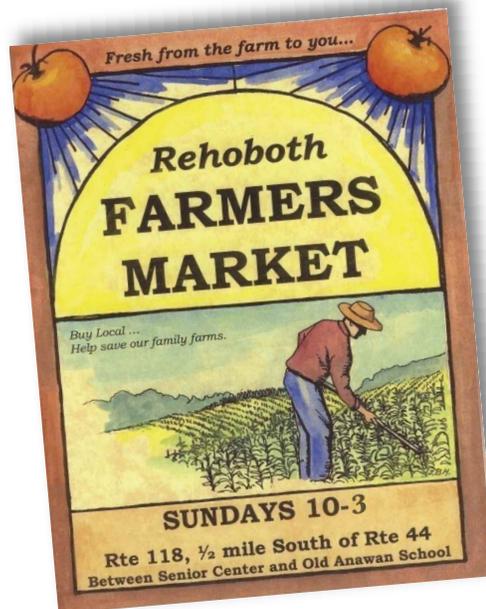
lawsuits. Over the past 30 years, as productive farmland has been converted to residential development, persons not involved in farming have moved into traditional agricultural areas and with them they sometimes bring new complaints concerning odor, flies, dust, noise from field work, spraying of farm chemicals, slow-moving farm machinery, and other necessary byproducts of farming operations. Many states, including Massachusetts, adopted Right to Farm language in their state statutes to protect active farmers from nuisance lawsuits from neighbors.

(Adapted from www.pvpc.org)

The Town of Rehoboth was established in 1643 as part of the Plymouth Colony, and until the early 1900's, almost all Rehoboth residents lived or worked on farms. Although the town has become increasingly residential in recent years, farms and farmland still define Rehoboth, linking us to the past with a landscape of fields and pastures, stone walls, and weathered barns shaped by generations of hard-working farm families. Today, Rehoboth farms still play an important role in providing produce and dairy products throughout the region, and farming provides an important source of income for many Rehoboth residents.

The town's winding roads are dotted with signs proudly identifying the names of family farms of all sizes and types. Most of these are private, but throughout the town one can find farms that invite you to visit. We encourage you to develop closer connections with these farms. Our farm tour map provides an introduction to Rehoboth Farms and Equestrian Centers that welcome the public. Visit a farm. Ask questions. Your life and your meals will be enriched by the knowledge that you know who grew your food and where it came from.

— Rehoboth Agricultural Commission



*For more information and updates please visit
www.rehobothagcom.com.*



This brochure has been made possible thanks to a grant from SARE.
Special thanks to E. Otis Dyer for sharing information about Rehoboth history.

Written by June House.

Photographs used with permission from Dufort Farms, Edinger Farm,
J.B. House, Rosasharn Farm, and the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society.

Design by Sandy Connor Art Direction.
Printed on recycled paper.

Rehoboth Agriculture, Then and Now

Farming has been and will always be an important way of life in Rehoboth.

Several families have been farming for generations. Few farms today can survive on farm income alone; it is more common for one or more members of the family to take a job off the farm to supplement farm income. Agricultural production requires long hours of labor, and significant investment in equipment, supplies, and land in order to be sustainable. Farmers often work 16- to 18-hour days, 7 days a week. Live-stock and crops must be cared for in all weather and there are no holidays. A vacation may mean an afternoon spent at a fair.

Most people who farm do so because they love the tradition, the connection to the land, and the satisfaction of producing a crop, whether it be animal or vegetable.

Corn – and lots of it – is one of the principal crops grown in Rehoboth. Sweet corn is grown for sale at the farm as well as in local stores. When you buy sweet corn from a farmer, be sure to ask what type of corn you're getting. You will hear names you'd never expect in a vegetable: Providence, Camelot, Sweet Rhythm, Charisma, Temptation, Luscious, Silver Queen... the list goes on and on. Much of the corn grown in Rehoboth is "field corn" grown to feed the town's cattle herds. Field corn is allowed to mature until fall, when it is cut and chopped up, stalks and all, to produce nutritious feed called silage. Throughout the winter this can be seen in huge piles next to the barns, where it will feed the cattle during the winter. One of the recognizable smells of the harvest season is the aroma of silage floating behind the trucks as they transport it through town.

Timber was the first major agricultural product to be exported from Rehoboth. In the late 1700's much of the town's forest was harvested



and milled into boards for export to England, the Caribbean, and other countries that had exhausted their own forest resources. Sawmills were built along the town's rivers and streams. Today the fragmented stone foundations of 28 of these mills can still be found. Rehoboth was also a major supplier of firewood to nearby cities and towns. Wood was also converted to charcoal by long slow burning in "mounds," remnants of which can still be found in the woods, if one knows where to look. Located on the eastern side of town are three large swamps which were known for the fine cedar poles they produced for use in shingles and fencing. When the swamps froze in the winter and snow covered the ground, it was easy to get in and out with a team of oxen and a sled. Today, firewood for home heating is still harvested and sold by local farms, although nowhere near the levels of 100 years ago.

Hay has always been an important part of Rehoboth agriculture. A good hay harvest was, and is, necessary to provide winter feed for farm animals. Today, hay is also used for bedding, gardening, and construction projects. Three sunny days are normally required for a good hay harvest, which involves four steps: mowing; tedding (fluffing); raking into rows; and baling. It is critical that the hay be allowed to dry prior to baling, and a rainy summer can result in a much smaller harvest. Most hay today is stored in round or square bales to make storage and transport easier. Although the hay baler was invented around 1850, many Rehoboth farms still were harvesting loose hay well into the 20th century, using a pitchfork to toss hay high onto horse or oxen-drawn wagons. To pack a wagon high and wide with loose hay took skill, and early photographs point

to this being a source of pride among local farmers. Today, it is not uncommon for Rehoboth residents to allow a farmer to hay an unused field in a practice known as Custom Farming. Some of Rehoboth's earliest farm families are still in the hay business.



In the 1930's and 40's, over one-third of Rehoboth residents raised poultry and turkeys, and in World War II, poultry farming reached its peak with 100,000 birds raised in the town. By the 1960's the economics of poultry farming had changed and large factory farms had largely taken over. Most, but not all, of Rehoboth's smaller family poultry farms went out of business and the abandoned and collapsing coops are slowly melting back into the landscape. Free range eggs are available at most farm stands in town, and several farms still raise turkeys. The drive to Rehoboth for a fresh Thanksgiving turkey has become a cherished family tradition for many.



Livestock and their related products also play a role in Rehoboth agriculture today.

There are forty permitted piggeries in Rehoboth. Horses, cattle, sheep llamas, and goats are bred, raised, and sold. One farm processes sheep's milk into artisanal soaps; another sells wool fleeces to spinners and weavers. Another farm offers grass-fed beef and pork.



Today, Rehoboth has five working dairy farms — more than any other town in Bristol County.

When the Rehoboth dairy industry was at its peak, there were over 150 dairy farms in Rehoboth, most having small herds of 10-12 cows. Milk was collected in cans and brought by horse and wagon (later by truck) for sale to dairies in nearby cities, which delivered it to people's homes. By the mid-20th century, farmers no longer brought



their milk to town in cans but were required to store it in refrigerated bulk tanks on the farm, to await pick-up by a larger milk truck. Many farms could not afford these tanks and sold their herds. Today, the five dairy farms in Rehoboth have an average herd size of about 60 cows. Milk is collected by large tank trucks, and will end up as Garelick and Cabot branded products. Folks with a preference for fresh raw milk will be pleased to know that this is available fresh from the farm in Rehoboth.

With over 150 stables registered in the town, Rehoboth is host to equine activities of all types.

Most are small stables for family use only. Other small family farms augment their income through horse boarding. Others specialize in breeding. Several equestrian centers offer horse boarding, training, and riding instruction in all disciplines. Many contain indoor riding arenas making it possible to ride through-out the winter. Summer riding camps provide an opportunity to introduce youth to all things equine.

Many of Rehoboth's commercial vegetable crops are grown in the southwestern part of the town,

where the land is flat and the soils are fertile and relatively free of rocks. A wide variety of vegetables are grown for the Southeastern Massachusetts and Providence markets. Rehoboth farms also provide orchard fruit, berries, flowers and nursery stock.

These can be purchased directly from the grower at farm stands, farmers markets, and CSA's. Whereas there may be three or four types of tomatoes, squash, or peppers available at a chain grocery store, you will find closer to 12 of each at a local farm.

Take a drive to a farm in Rehoboth. Know your farmer, know your food.

VISIT REHOBOTH'S FARMS

(See map for locations)

1 Agraria Farm

Barbara Link

17 Willard Avenue • (508) 336-3823 •

www.agrariafarm.com

Products: CSA.* Fresh farm produce, flowers, hay, & berries of all kinds including strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, currants, gooseberries, elderberries, lingonberries & more.

Availability: Call or check Web site for more information.

Begun in 2000 on 25 acres, Agraria Farm grows high quality berries, produce and other value-added offerings.

2 Bateson's Apple Farm

68 Barney Avenue • (508) 336-8356

Products: Farm Stand selling many varieties of apples, peaches, pies, breads, jams, relishes, fudge, & candy.

Haunted Hayrides in October.

Availability: Sept - Nov, Thurs-Sun 10-5. Weekends in Dec.

Three generations of Batesons prepare the delicious pies and other orchard products available at the farm. Haunted hayrides through the farm woods in October. The Christmas Fair offers special homemade treats, stocking stuffers, & crafts. Call for more information.

3 Bettencourt Dairy Farm

Paul & Beverly Bettencourt

100 Simmons Street • (508) 252-5464

Products: Raw milk, eggs, seasoned cow manure.

Availability: Year round. Call ahead.

Paul is the third generation of Bettencourts dairy farming at this location, established in 1891. The herd varies from 40-60 head of Holsteins, Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Brown Swiss.

4 B.M. & Son Farm / Munroe Feed & Supply

Ben Munroe

200 Fairview Avenue • (508) 252-6050

Products: Firewood available by the cord; large logs & tree sections available for furniture & art projects. Square & round bale hay. Livestock feed & supplies.

Availability: Feed store open year-round, Mon-Fri 8-6; Sat 8-5; Sun 10-3.

Farming in Rehoboth since the late 1700's, the Munroe family farm now specializes in hay and forest products. Also located at the farm, Munroe Feed & Supply offers a full range of feeds, bedding and supplies for pets and livestock.

5 Cedar View Farm

Liz Botelho

4 Cedar Street • (508) 669-5937

Products: Riding Lessons; birthday or special occasion parties at the farm.

Availability: Call ahead for scheduling and reservations.

6 Dufort Farms

John & Carolyn Dufort

55 Reservoir Avenue • (508) 252-6323

jddufort@dufortfarms.com • www.dufortfarms.com

Products: Grass fed natural beef & pork; chicken, eggs, honey, preserves; U-pick blueberries & raspberries; fresh Thanksgiving turkeys

Availability: U-Pick July-Sept, Wed & Sat 8-noon.

Meats: Year-round.

Established in 1990, Dufort Farms have over 1000 blueberry bushes in seven different varieties, so picking is good from July through Sept. The cattle are bred, born and raised on the farm, and are 100% free of hormones, antibiotics and animal-by-products.

7 The Farmer's Garden

Steve & Tammy Noons

140 Davis Street • (501) 889-7632

noons140@comcast.net • www.farmersgardencsa.com

Products: CSA.* Free range eggs, vegetables. U-Pick: strawberries, pumpkins & beans (shell beans, lima beans, green beans, yellow wax beans, & black eyed peas), fall ornamentals, turkeys, Christmas trees & decoration.

Availability: CSA June-Oct. Farm open Thurs-Sat 7-5.

We farm over 170 acres throughout Rehoboth, Swansea and Seekonk, Ma. The Noons family has been farming in Rehoboth for generations.

8 Fine Farms

Ruth Fine & George Handy

Greenhouse: 353 Smith Street

Farm stand: intersection of Anawan & Tremont Sts. (Rte 118)

(508) 226-0616 • info@finefarms.com • www.finefarms.com

Products: Greenhouse grown annuals, perennials, herbs & vegetable plants. Farm stand offers wide range of fruits & vegetables.

Availability: Greenhouse open Apr-June 7 am-7:30 pm.

"Corn Crib" farm stand open Mon-Fri 12-6; Sat & Sun 10-6 in season.

The Fine family has operated the farm continuously since 1903. In the spring, we sell plants directly from our greenhouses.

Choose from thousands of annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetable plants. Buy direct from the grower at great prices.

9 Homestead Hay Farm

Skip Vadnais

115 Homestead Avenue • (508) 252-9029 or (774) 259-6960

www.homesteadhayfarms.com

Products: Hay – wholesale and retail; Goats – Boer and Nubian/Boer Mix; Sheep – Welsh Mountain/Southdown Mix. Chicks.

Availability: Hay year-round. Pick up or delivered. Animals in season. Call or check website.

Many types of hay available at retail: dairy & beef cow hay, first cut, second cut, fancy third cut, & construction/mulch.

10 Lawton Farm

Ed & Rachel Lawton

68 Blanding Road • (510) 913-6142

lawton.family@comcast.net • www.lawtonfarm.com

Products: Pullets, fresh eggs, vegetables, fresh turkeys. Farm Stand.

Availability: Call or e-mail the farm for the best time to stop by.

11 Niles Christmas Tree Farm

165 Plain Street (Rte. 118) • (508) 252-4106

Products: Christmas Trees. Balsam & Fir.

Availability: mid-Nov-Christmas, Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4.

12 Oakdale Farms Country Barn & Garden Shop

Richard & Marie Pray

61 Wheaton Avenue • (501) 336-7681

oakdalefarm@juno.com • www.oakdalefarms.com

Products: CSA.* Fruits & vegetables in season. Vegetable plants, perennials, & herbs. Country gift shop includes linens, pottery, candles, baskets, and locally made primitive cupboards. Special events.

Availability: Country Barn open year-round daily 10-5.

The Pray family has been farming for 4 generations in Rehoboth. Oakdale Farm consists of 150+ acres and ten greenhouses where the Prays raise a large variety of vegetables, annuals, perennials, and herbs. In the fall, day and evening hayrides are offered, and a fall harvest barbeque. Farm-themed birthday parties.

13 Pearson's Christmas Tree Farm

113 Barney Avenue • (508) 336-6302

Products: Christmas trees & wreaths.

Availability: Nov-Dec, Weekends 9-4 plus the Friday after Thanksgiving.

14 Pleasant Street Christmas Tree Farm

187 Pleasant Street • (508) 252-6206

info@pleasantstchristmastreefarm.com

www.pleasantstchristmastreefarm.com

Products: Christmas trees, pumpkins, mums, corn stalks, holiday gift shop. Petting zoo & hayrides.

Availability: Oct 7-Nov 19 we are open every Sat & Sun 9-4.

After Thanksgiving we are open Mon-Thur 12-4. Fri-Sun 9-4.

Our farm is family run and has been around for over 20 years.

Visit our gift shop for great gifts for the holidays. Christmas trees, wreaths, pumpkins, petting zoo, hayrides, sleigh rides.

15 Rainbow Turkey Farm

Judy & Thomas Mello

199 Homestead Avenue • (508) 252-4427

Products: Farm fresh turkey

Availability: Thanksgiving through Christmas. Place your order after November 15.

Founded in 1987, Rainbow Turkey Farm is a 5-acre farm raising high-quality, chemical-free turkeys.

16 Rehoboth Farmers Market

½ mile south of Rte. 44 on Rte. 118

Products: Local farms selling a variety of fruits, vegetables, preserves, and products produced on the farm.

Availability: July through October, Sundays 10-3.

New expanded hours.

17 Rehoboth Nurseries

Charles J. Rugeiro

148 Plain Street (Rte. 118) • (508) 252-4811

ciplantman@comcast.net

Products: Vegetables, herbs, annuals & perennials. Soil by the bag or by the truckload, pick up or delivery.

Availability: Open daily in season, Apr-Nov.

Hardy Hydrangeas are a specialty, with 20 hard-to-find varieties grown at the nursery. This is a Certified Agricultural Composting Site. New for February 2010: learn how to start and grow your own plants in the greenhouse. Instruction and your own greenhouse space provided.

18 Rosasharn Farm

Anne Petersen

57 County Street • (508) 252-5247 or (301) 807-6537

rosasharnfarm@gmail.com • www.rosasharnfarm.com

Products: CSA.* Fresh farm produce. Breeding & sale of award-winning Nigerian dwarf goats & AKC registered Great Pyrenees livestock guard dogs. Artisan goat-milk soaps.

Availability: CSA spring, summer & fall shares available. Goats available year-round. Puppies seasonally. Soap is available for purchase on the farm, online, & at select retail outlets.

We are a family-run farm which seeks to uphold the integrity of farming without chemicals to sustain the health of our land & our community. Groups (clubs, 4-H, Scouts, school, churches, etc.) are welcome for tours. If interested in a farm visit, please call or e-mail ahead.

19 Schobel's Farm

Mike Schobel

156 Hornbine Road • (508) 252-4631

Products: Horse-drawn hayrides & carriage rides at the farm or at your event.

Availability: Year-round.

20 Seven Gables Farm

Angela Cairo

260 Plain Street (Rte. 118) • (508) 252-5163

Products: Herbs, vegetable plants, shrubs, & hanging baskets

Availability: Apr-Oct. Open 9-7, 7 days a week until July 4.

After July 4, open Thurs-Mon 9-5.

Bring in your patio pot or window box to be custom designed and planted by Angela. At the end of the season, mums are a locally-grown specialty.

21 Sunny Meadow Farm

Dick & Linda King

69 Plain Street (Rte.118) • (508) 252-6527

Products: Wool, fleeces, roving. Turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Availability: By appointment only. Turkey orders after Oct 1.

22 Three R-s Farm

Russell Pray

70 Almeida Road • (508) 989-5279

Products: Hay – square bale.

Availability: Year-round. Call ahead.

The Pray family has been farming in Rehoboth for four generations. Russ has about 30 acres in Rehoboth.

23 Tranquil Lake Nursery

Philip Boucher & Warren Leach

45 River Street • (508) 252-4002 • tranquil-

lake@earthlink.net • www.tranquil-lake.com

Products: Over 2,500 cultivars of daylilies & 200 cultivars each of Siberian & Japanese iris. Also offering a select assortment of herbs, perennials, shrubs, grasses, & trees.

Availability: Daily 10-5 from May through Oct.

Tranquil Lake Nursery is the largest grower of daylilies and Siberian and Japanese iris in the northeastern United States. Visitors are always welcome to stroll through the display gardens and more than 10 acres of growing fields. Garden lectures throughout the season and two all-day festivals. Details and schedule on the website.

EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

24 Summerland Stables at Bluemead

Carolyn Staley
18 Mason Street • (774) 644-2212
summerlandstables@hotmail.com
www.summerlandstables.biz
Offering private lessons in Hunt Seat for all ages and levels on your horse or ours. Boarding. Indoor arena, outdoor ring, and hunt course. Riding Camp in July. "Saddle Club" held on Saturdays from 11-2 year-round. Call for more information.

25 Flatlands Equestrian Center

154 Agricultural Avenue • (508) 222-5856
flatlands3@aol.com • www.flatlandsequestrian.com
Offering day and evening lessons to students on their horse or ours. Flatlands Equestrian Center is a combined training facility, specializing in introducing horses and riders to eventing. Ship your horse in for weekly lessons or join us for an intensive training week. Boarding offered as a service to students.

26 Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center

Edith Wislocki & Sheila Greenbaum, Directors
55 Summer Street • (508) 252-5814
greenlocktrc@gmail.com • www.greenlock.org
Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that utilizes equine-related activities for the therapy of individuals with physical, developmental, and emotional differences. Uniquely, the horses are our treatment partners. Volunteers are integral to the success of Greenlock. Persons aged 14 and older are eligible. Training will be provided. Check website for details.

27 Edinger Farm

Christina Menard & Amanda Morse
8 River Street • (401) 447-2349
edingerfarm@cox.net • www.edingerfarm.com
Edinger Farm is a boarding facility offering 16 stalls with an attached 80 x 130' indoor arena and oversized 180 x 200' outdoor sand ring. We welcome all disciplines and offer boarding, lessons, & leasing. For 2010 we will be hosting a schooling show series as well as a limited number of camp sessions for ages 6-16.

28 Fairfield Acres

Trish Lipson
42 Fairfield Street • (508) 455-2843
trishlipson@fairfieldacres.com • www.fairfieldacres.com
Horse boarding, riding lessons, horseback camps. Day and evening lessons offered from beginner to advanced levels, English & Western. Group or private instruction. 4-H training. Full boarding offers large turnout, riding rings, jump ring, & trails. Training offered for horses at all levels.

29 Foxmerle Farm

88 Chestnut Street • (508) 252-3201
Foxmrl@aol.com • www.foxmerlefarm.com
Foxmerle Farm is a modern equine riding and boarding facility offering specialized amenities including a heated viewing room; a large, well-lit indoor natural arena; a lighted outdoor sand arena; and a locked, heated tack room. Riding lessons in dressage and eventing for all ages and skill levels.

30 Palmer River Equestrian Center

Dawn Marie Cook
173 Pine Street • (508) 252-6347
prec173@comcast.net • www.palmerriver.com
Palmer River Equestrian Center is a full-service facility offering private and group riding lessons, boarding, leases, rehabilitation, facility rental. Summer riding camp for runs June through September, and school vacation weeks. Palmer River is especially proud of its cross-country course.

31 Royal Oaks Stables & Supplies

Dain & Betsy Moody
(508) 252-6976 • royaloakstable@aol.com
Alyshia Gaw, Johnson & Wales Equine Studies graduate, offers training and riding lessons morning, afternoon, and evening, for riders of all levels and disciplines. Indoor and outdoor riding arenas. Retail sales of grain, hay, and shavings.

