



Town of Lincoln Water Department Farming and Agricultural Water Rate Account Criteria Policy

SECTION 1 Overview

It is the policy of the Town of Lincoln to conserve, protect and encourage the expansion, maintenance, and improvement of agricultural land within the Town for the production of food and agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value.

The Board of Water Commissioners has developed a water rate structure that encourages water use efficiency and conservation, while also trying to:

- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Town of Lincoln's water supplies through appropriate revenue from customers
- Promote equitable distribution of costs among rate payers
- Protect affordability of water for essential needs

SECTION 2 Definitions

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of agriculture, or accessory thereto; "farmer" is a customer who is farming on agricultural land. The words "farming" or "agriculture" or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- Dairying;
- Production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- Farmers markets, CSA programs;
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- Raising of livestock, including horses;
- Keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise;
- Keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, sheep, rabbits, ratites, camelids and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees, fiber, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry and lumbering operations;
- Preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transport to market.

Agricultural land refers to a parcel of land devoted to commercial and non-commercial agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, or viticulture on parcels of five acres or more or to parcels 2 acres or more if the sale of products produced from the agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture use on the parcel annually generates at least \$1,000 per acre

based on gross sales dollars in an area not zoned for agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture. For such purposes, land divided by a public or private way or a waterway shall be construed as 1 parcel. The term “two acres” in Lincoln is 80,000 sq. feet (1.86 acre). Note that the Planning Board may issue special permits for smaller lots that sell vegetables only; these permitted lots will also be considered agricultural land for water rate purposes if they meet the \$1000/acre/annum requirement. (Reference: Town of Lincoln Agriculture and Right to Farm By-laws and Mass. General Laws c.40A § 3).

SECTION 3 Qualifications

To qualify for Agricultural (AG) water rates, a customer must submit an application along with a written statement describing the nature of the farming/agriculture operation to the Board of Water Commissioners.

All water use by certified AG customers will be assigned to the Agricultural Tier rate structure designated by the Lincoln Water Commissioners for agricultural users. A separate water meter is required for all water use that is eligible for special agricultural water rates.

To continue to qualify, the application must be renewed each fiscal year. Agricultural water rate eligibility is not transferable to new property owners. A new owner must submit an application for consideration.

The agricultural operation is subject to inspection by the Water Department.

If public and non-public water are used, cross contamination control must be in place.

Agricultural water meters must be checked weekly for leak indications; any leaks indicated shall be reported to the Water Department and must be fixed within a 4-week period.

SECTION 4 Determinations:

The Board of Water Commissioners shall review all applications for agriculture water rate. Eligible lands must comply with Lincoln farming bylaws prior to receiving agricultural water rates.

Version Control

Version	Date	Notes
1.0	4/30/19	MaryBeth Wiser
2.0	1/29/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
3.0	2/6/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
4.0	2/7/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
5.0	2/22/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
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7.0	9/24/2020	Ruth Ann Hendrickson



TOWN OF LINCOLN
WATER DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF LINCOLN
WATER DEPARTMENT
16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, MA 01773-6353
Phone: 781-259-2669

Town of Lincoln Water Department
Application for Agricultural Water Rates

Due by April 1

New request: _____
Fee: \$100.00

Annual renewal: _____
Fee: \$50.00

Approval of this application will result in the account being assigned to an agricultural rate structure. Approved Agricultural accounts will also be exempt from the water conservation restrictions that apply to residential and commercial customers. Applicants must provide all the information requested on the Agriculture Application and provide a valid signature. Applicants must provide proof of Agriculture/farming gross revenue as described above. Customers who fail to provide information requested on this form will forfeit any benefits of agricultural water service account status. Please allow two (2) to four (4) weeks to process your request

Date application received: _____

ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (If this operation has multiple addresses, submit an application for each address)

Form with fields for: (Your name), (Service Address), (Phone Number), (Email Address), (Account & Customer number), (Mailing address if different)

Meter numbers at this address: _____ / _____ / _____

DESCRIPTION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY See Attachment []
(hay, grain, vegetables, cattle, sheep, orchard, farm stand, etc... Attach separate sheet if necessary)

WATERING SYSTEM See Attachment []
With what type of watering system do you support your agricultural activities?

Is there an automatic irrigation system for the agricultural crops on this site? If yes, how many agricultural irrigation controllers are on the property? _____

Water conservation is critical. What water conservation measures are you using?

See Attachment

Do you have a water supply source(s) other than Lincoln Water supply (LWD)? If yes, please specify the other source(s). _____

Do you have cross contamination control between the Lincoln water supply and the other source(s)? _____
(Cross contamination control is required)

I attest that all water used for agricultural purposes is on a separate meter.

I do not have a separate water meter for agricultural use, but agree to have a separate water meter installed at my expense if approved for the agricultural rate and will pay an additional base charge per year for this meter.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

I certify that I have answered the questions on this agricultural water-use certification truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I understand that LWD will be conducting site verifications and, if necessary, I will permit LWD or its representatives to enter the property for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of this certification form. By signing above, I certify that I am the property owner or a legal representative of the property owner.

You can email your request to: Lafalamd@lincolntown.org or you can mail your request to:

Town of Lincoln Water Department
ATTN: Darin LaFalam, Water Superintendent
16 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, Ma 01773

	Date	Board of Water Commissioners
<input type="checkbox"/> WD Inspection completed	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee paid	_____	Michelle Barnes
<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional pending meter	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional pending cross contamination control	_____	Jim Hutchinson
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural meter installed	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-cont. control installed	_____	Ruth Ann Hendrickson
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	_____	