

(TOWN STATIONERY)

(DATE)

Dear (TOWN) Farmers:

I would like to cordially invite you to a very important agricultural meeting scheduled for (DATE). A **Proposed Agricultural Commission Exploratory Meeting** will be held at (TIME) at the (PLACE), in the (ROOM). Refreshments will be provided at (TIME).

Commissioner Douglas Gillespie of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) will be present as will members of the Westport and Dartmouth Agricultural Commissions. They will provide their views about the value that Agricultural Commissions have had in their towns and in the state.

The purpose of this exploratory meeting is to:

- 1) introduce (TOWN) residents, most particularly farmers, to the concept and benefits of a Town Agricultural Commission and
- 2) discuss if (TOWN) should pursue organizing an Agricultural Commission of our own.

An Agricultural Commissions is:

- 1) a local, politically recognized entity comprised of farmers,
- 2) a voice for the agricultural community,
- 3) a resource for mediation, and
- 4) a link to assistance providers.

Your attendance is very important. If this is a concept that makes sense to you, your input and that of your fellow farmers may lay the groundwork for moving the idea of an Agricultural Commission to the next Town meeting.

Please call (CONTACT PERSON) at (PHONE # OR EMAIL) if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Look forward to seeing you,

NAME