

## Definitions

### Existing

*Farm: A tract of land containing five (5) acres or more, used in part or wholly for agricultural purposes, excluding fertilizer manufacture. A “farm” may include premises used for keeping livestock and other domestic animals when permitted by these regulations. A “farm” may include as an incidental use, structures and facilities for slaughtering and processing of animals, as may be permitted by these regulations. (Amended Effective: June 8, 2018)*

### Proposed

Agriculture and Farming: The terms agriculture and farming shall be defined as outlined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-1 (q).

## DISCUSSION

Agricultural Buildings and Structures: Buildings or other structures used in connection with agriculture, including shelter for livestock and storage for farm machinery, equipment and supplies.

Agritourism: An Accessory Use to a Working Farm, which allows the Farm to be used by the public for the purpose of enjoyment, education, or active involvement in the activities of the Farm or operation, including, but not limited to, hayrides, corn mazes; weddings, meetings, events; on-farm sales such as farm stands and pick-your-own operations, retailing farm and farm-related products, farm store; and/or recreational enterprises; on-farm processing operations; and passive recreation such as bird-watching and hiking.

Farm Products/Agricultural Commodities: Any products of agriculture, including fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, nuts, shell eggs, honey or other bee products, maple syrup or maple sugar, flowers, nursery stock, Christmas trees, other horticultural commodities; livestock food products, including meat, milk, cheese and other dairy products; products from any tree, vine or plant and their flowers; or any such products that have been processed by a farmer, including, but not limited to, baked goods, soaps, crafts or other products made with farm products; subject to any other required license and/or permits.

## DISCUSSION

Market: A for-profit or nonprofit cooperative, enterprise, or association that regularly occupies a given location, and that operates principally as a common marketplace for a group of farmers to sell locally-grown, raised or produced farm products directly to consumers.

Farm Products Stand: A temporary moveable tent, table or stand setup from which Agricultural Products are grown or produced on the Farm.

Farm Store: A building from which locally grown, raised or produced Farm Products are sold.

Locally Grown, Raised or Produced Farm Products: Farm Products or Agricultural Commodities that are grown, raised or produced anywhere in Connecticut, Berkshire County in Massachusetts or in Dutchess or Putnam Counties in New York State.

Working Farm: A Farm whose agricultural land and buildings are in active use for crop production and/or the raising of livestock or other Agricultural Commodities and in the preceding taxable year had a minimum gross income, as demonstrated on IRS Form 1040, Schedule F, of \$2,500 or more from such agricultural production.

## DISCUSSION

### Section 025-050 Agricultural Uses

#### Existing

- ~~A. Farming: The following agricultural uses: farming, forestry, truck gardening, nursery gardening, and the display and sale of farm and garden produce are permitted in any residential zone subject to the following conditions and issuance of a zoning permit by the Zoning Enforcement Officer:~~
- ~~1. Any parcel of land intended for the above noted permitted agricultural uses must contain at least three fourths (3/4) of an acre.~~
  - ~~2. Any buildings, temporary and permanent, to be erected associated with said agricultural uses must be located in conformance with the minimum yard setbacks for the zone.~~
  - ~~3. A minimum of one (1) off-street parking space, consisting of a dustless surface shall be provided for each 50 square feet of farm stand sales area. All parking areas must be located in conformance with the minimum yard setbacks for the zone.~~
  - ~~4. All products sold from the property must be locally grown or raised. Locally for the purposes of this section of the regulations shall include all Connecticut counties as well as Dutchess and Putnam counties in New York.~~
- ~~B. Farm Products Stand: In a commercial zone a temporary, moveable table, tent, or stand setup for the sale of locally grown produce in season may be permitted as an incidental use to the principal commercial use of the lot subject to the site plan approval in accordance with Chapter 175 of these regulations. Such a stand may be permitted where there is sufficient parking and circulation for both the principal and incidental~~

## Section 025-110 Accessory Uses and Buildings Permitted in a Single Family Residential District

### Existing

2. No accessory building shall exceed a height of 18', as building height is defined in Chapter 15 of these regulations.

3. An accessory building with a building footprint greater than 900 square feet, or a maximum peak height greater than 20', or which is proposed to be connected to a separate septic system shall require approval of a special permit and site plan application in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 180 and 175.

### Proposed

A. Agriculture and Farming uses as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-1(q) are permitted in any residential zone and subject to the following standards and application procedures as outlined below and in Table A:

1. Required Yard Setbacks:

- i. Any proposed Building or Structure must be located in conformance with the minimum yard setbacks for the zone.
- ii. An existing Building or Structure which is legally nonconforming with regard to minimum yard setbacks may be used for agricultural purposes, subject to standards and application requirements as may be required by these regulations, and in accordance with the Connecticut Public Health Code and local ordinances.

2. Agritourism is allowed as an Accessory Use to any Working Farm; except that farm weddings and similar events are subject to the following restrictions, in addition to applicable Special Permit criteria within §180-40:

- i. only permitted on parcels with a minimum Lot Area of fifty (50) acres
- ii. weddings and similar events are restricted to the months of May – October
- iii. weddings and similar events are restricted to no more than two per month
- iv. wedding activities are restricted to Friday – Sunday and must cease by 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 7 p.m. on Sunday
- v. venue locations must be a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any property line

3. Local Farm Products Requirement:

- i. 90% of the products sold at the Farm shall be Locally Grown or raised. locally produced, grown or raised, provided that a minimum of fifty (50) % of the products are grown or produced on the Farm.
- ii. 10% of the products may be produced elsewhere, but must be a Farm Product/Agricultural Commodity.

4. Horses and Livestock: The additional standards of § 025-060 shall apply to the keeping and stabling of horses and livestock.

**DISCUSSION**

TABLE A Proposed Use	Minimum Percentage of Agricultural Products produced, grown or raised on the Farm where the use is located.	Parking Standards	Application Process
Farm Products Stand <i>(not exceeding 200 s.f.)</i>	100%	1 space required	No zoning permit required. All products must be grown or raised on the subject Farm
Farm Store	50%	1 space per 200 s.f. of building sales area	A) A Farm Store with a Floor Area of 1,000 s.f. or less requires a Zoning Permit.  B) A Farm Store with a Floor Area greater than 1,000 s.f. requires a Site Plan Application
All other Agricultural Buildings or Structures	50%	None	Zoning Permit
Agritourism Outdoor Uses	50%	Ability to provide 7 spaces per active acre of Agritourism use*	A one-time Zoning Permit is required to establish an Outdoor Agritourism use on a property
Agritourism Indoor Uses – including but not limited to education, exhibition, meetings, excluding weddings, for up to 50 people.	n/a	1 space per 200 s.f. of building floor area*	A one-time Zoning Permit is required to establish an Indoor Agritourism use
Agritourism-Special Events for such uses as outdoor weddings and similar events	n/a	As determined by the Commission	Special Permit Application Required.

*\* This calculation shall be inclusive for any parking required for a Farm Stands and/or Farm Store located on the farm. Such parking facilities need to comply with the area requirements outlined in Section 135-060 of the regulations; except the parking space may be accommodated in a farm field or similar area, where formal space designation is not required.*

**DISCUSSION**

## Proposed Amendment to Section 025-060 Horses and Livestock

The keeping or stabling of horses and livestock is permitted subject to the following limitations and conditions:

A minimum of three-fourths of an acre of required lot area [~~land~~] is available for the first unit and one half an acre of land is available for each additional unit. A unit shall be defined as the following:

- One (1) cow or horse
- Three (3) llamas [~~or similar ruminants~~] or alpacas
- Two (2) young stock
- Five (5) goats or sheep
- Fifty (50) chickens

No limitation with respect to the number of units is imposed on parcels of land containing five (5) acres or more.

Adequate fencing must be installed and maintained. Any building *to be erected* associated with the keeping or stabling of horses or livestock must be located [~~at least 50 feet to any property line~~] in conformance with the minimum required yard setbacks for the zone.

### Section 145-050 Permitted Signs

All signage described in this section requires a zoning permit, **except as indicated below.**

1. Residential Zones: In a residential district, MR District, AACZ, MPRDD, CCSD, R-MH, or any future residential zone which may be created, one (1) sign is permitted for legally existing uses as follows:

a. One (1) sign not exceeding four (4) square feet in area is permitted for legally pre-existing home occupations, professional offices, bed and breakfast inns, riding academies, farm stands, and general home occupations. The sign may be either free standing, wall-hung, or a wall sign. A free-standing sign may not exceed a height of eight feet (8') from the ground to the top of the sign.

**b. The following signs are permitted on Working Farms ~~or Farm Stands~~**

- i. One (1) free standing sign, per Lot, not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area and eight (8) feet in height, measured from grade; provided that the sign is not internally illuminated or backlit and may only be downlit from a single fixture, whose light source is shielded; and**
- ii. One (1) wall mounted sign, per Lot, not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area affixed to an Agricultural Building or Structure; and**
- iii. Murals and barn quilts depicting agriculturally themed activities are exempt from the sign regulations.**

c. One (1) sign not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area and ten feet (10') in height for a freestanding sign may be permitted for churches, schools, colleges, [~~farms~~] public libraries,

community buildings, public parks, public playgrounds, public recreation buildings, stadium or athletic field, golf course, nursery, hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes, cemeteries, marinas, municipal buildings, and other philanthropic organizations.

**~~[Section 025-110—Fences~~**

~~B. Fences shall not be placed in such a manner as to inhibit lines of sight or otherwise affect traffic safety. Razor wire and other similar types of hazardous fencing are prohibited in residential zones, with the exception that barbed wire and electric fencing may be erected on properties with agricultural uses. No fence in excess of 8' in height from the ground level to the top of the fence may be erected on any lot in the residential zone.]~~

**DISCUSSION**

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