

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INTEREST

On September 21, 2016, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources held a public hearing to amend the following regulation: 330 CMR 22.00, Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program ("Regulation") at Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Richard Cronin Building Room 110, Westborough, MA. The purpose of this Regulation is to provide guidance for persons who apply for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction ("APR") program and owners of land who have sold an APR to the Commonwealth. The Regulation includes procedures for: the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee ("ALPC") review and approval of the acquisition of APRs; APR applications; project eligibility; project review criteria; MDAR approvals; notification procedures; and enforcement of APRs. MDAR is proposing to amend the Regulation to be consistent with statutory amendments and United States Department of Agriculture funding requirements. The public will benefit from these amendments as it clarifies roles, obligations, and responsibilities.

All persons who desired to provide oral testimony were hereby notified to appear at the designated location noted above. In addition to oral testimony, written comments were to be submitted by September 21, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. However, MDAR's believes that it is in the public interest to extend the written comment period and accept comments until October 14, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. Written comments should be addressed to Gerard Kennedy, Director, Division of Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114.

The full text of the regulations and background information is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/proposed-amendments-to-regulations.html>. A hard copy of the full text of the regulation and background information are also available upon written request made to at the address set forth above.

By: John Lebeaux, Commissioner