

Annual Barn Inspection: the Why, Who, and What to Expect



Why are they done?

The purpose of a barn inspection is to ensure we have accurate information on where susceptible species are located in case we're dealing with a large-scale disease outbreak.

This information also helps us know what resources may be necessary to respond to significant flooding or other natural disasters.

Who does the barn Inspection?

A municipal animal inspector performs the barn inspection.

The animal inspector is nominated by the municipality and appointed and directed by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Division of Animal Health.

Please note, the animal inspector is a separate position from the animal control officer. An animal control officer may also be assigned the position of animal inspector, but it may be assigned to someone else instead.

The authority for the annual barn inspections is in the statute under MGL Chapter 129, Section 19, "...and they shall immediately inspect all domestic animals and any place where any such animals are kept whenever directed so to do by the director..."

What is the Process ?

MDAR sends a barn inspection booklet at the beginning of September to each municipal animal inspector and ask that they complete an inspection of every property where any livestock or poultry are kept, including horses, and submit the completed book back by January 1.

The Animal Inspector will complete a page of the inspection book for each property. MDAR explains the "directive" and provides guidance to the animal inspector on what should be documented.

MDAR asks for a record on anything that is traditionally kept as agriculture like cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine, llamas, alpacas, and poultry including waterfowl. Even if there is only one animal on the property or the animal is kept as a household pet, it would be included.

The animal inspector sends these records directly to MDAR, and they are not shared with anyone for any purpose besides emergency planning and response. We do not share it with the municipality for permitting or taxation purposes.

Questions?

To find out more about Barn Inspections, or find your animal inspector please visit our MDAR Animal Health page:

www.mass.gov/info-details/division-of-animal-health

or contact


Ashley Kraft

Email: Ashley.Kraft@mass.gov

Office: (617) 626- 1810

Cell: (617) 823- 0145

Fax: (617) 626 - 1738

 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

(Owner's Name) _____ (Farm Name) _____

(Address where animals are kept - street number and name) _____

(Town) _____ (Zip code) _____ (Phone number) _____

Dealer: Yes ☐ No ☐

	Adult	Young
1. Cattle (Adult = 2 years & over)		
Dairy		
Beef		
Steers / Oxen		
2. Goats (Adult = 1 year & over)		
3. Sheep (Adult = 1 year & over)		
4. Swine: Breeders		
Feeders		
5. Llamas / Alpacas		
6. Equines: Horses / Ponies		
Donkeys / Mules		
Stable use: Private _____ Boarding _____ Training _____ Rental _____ Lessons _____		
7. Poultry: Chickens _____ Turkeys _____		
Ratites (Ostrich, Emu) _____ Waterfowl _____ Gamebirds _____		
8. Rabbits		
9. Other _____		
10. Do animals listed appear to be free from contagious disease? _____		
11. Are accommodations adequate with reference to situation, cleanliness, light, ventilation and water supply? (explain briefly) _____		
I hereby certify that I have this day inspected these animals and the conditions under which they are kept.		
Date _____	Inspector of Animals (signature) _____	

Form 74

Example of a Barn Book Record

