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**Colrain Farmland: Certifying Locally Important Farmland Soils**

9 messages

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**Gardner, Sarah** <sgardner@williams.edu>

Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 1:51 PM

Hi Bobby,

Here is more detailed information that explains the Farmland of Local Importance initiative. Town boards may meet and discuss it, but by statute, there's no need for a board vote on it, a Planning Board or Ag Commission chair may sign off on the document. The document lists the locally important farmland soils present in the town--so it's not a policy document, just a statement of soils present.

**More detail about certifying locally important farmland soils:**

This initiative broadens farmland owners' eligibility for farmland protection programs. To move forward certifying the locally important farmland in your town, you would let me know that you'd like to pursue it, we draw up a document listing all the locally important farmland soils in the town, and you sign off on the document.

I would be happy to schedule a phone conversation to discuss this more if that would be helpful or my colleague or I could attend a virtual board meeting.

So far, 94 Mass towns have certified their locally important farmland; the attached map includes most of these towns (but it's not been updated for a month so doesn't reflect the recent additions).

Attached is a presentation that explains it more.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss it or if you'd like to send a link to your next meeting.  
Best regards,

**Sarah Gardner, Farmland Consultant**

**American Farmland Trust**

**Farmland of Local Importance: (presentation):**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Farmland%20of%20Local%20Importance%20MA-STC%202022-07-21.pdf>

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