



## Forever Farm Tour Guide

*Get this guide stamped at three or more farms and be entered to win a special prize.  
Leave the filled out tour guide at your last stop to be entered into the drawing.*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

This tour of permanently protected farms in our region is **free and open to the public**. Bring your family and friends to meet the farmers, their crops and animals on beautiful properties throughout the East Quabbin region.

*For this event, please leave your pets at home.*

### **Frohloff Farm, 236 Upper Church Street, Ware**

The current tenant farmer, Bill St. Croix, raises pigs, goats and chickens on the eight acres of pasture. We'll have some grain so you can feed the animals. Wander a ¼ mile down the rail trail to the new accessible trail loop which overlooks the Ware River. Listen to local musicians inspired by being outdoors.

*The Frohloff Farm was purchased by the East Quabbin Land Trust in 2010 with the goals of encouraging farming into the future, protecting the Town of Ware water supply, encouraging rare wildlife, and revitalizing the former railroad bed as part of the Mass Central Rail Trail.*

### **Mandell Hill, 684 Barre Road, Hardwick**

Cattle share the pastures with grassland birds, like bobolinks, at Mandell Hill. Each day, the cattle are moved to a new paddock. This grazing style called "mob grazing" revitalizes the grasses and soil microbes because the cattle trample much of the grass biomass, leaving lots of nutrients. Then the cattle move onto the next paddock area, allowing each area to rest and regrow before being grazed again. Besides cattle, five llamas are in the lower paddock helping to control the brush in an area that is rocky and steep, making mowing challenging. The Chris Ellison Memorial Birding Platform is a great spot to watch the birds and view Mount Wachusett. Talk with local artists as they paint nature-inspired works.

*Mandell Hill was donated through a bequest in 2003 by Betty Mixer Morss to permanently protect the land and the house is our office.*

### **Rice's Roots Farm, 203 East Street, Petersham**

Conor Rice began this vegetable operation in 2017 and offers a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and farm stand. Fresh veggies can be purchased. Wander through rows of tomatos, spinach and lots of other vegetables. Many of these plants were started in the greenhouses in March before being transplanted. Moccasin Brook runs along the main field edge, and visitors can hike to the back pastures or woods trails to explore the wilds of Petersham.

*The East Quabbin Land Trust purchased the entire farm (238 acres) and facilitated its conservation. Now, the Town of Petersham holds the Conservation Restriction, or development rights, to the land, allowing the possibility of farming and woods management by the farmer into the future.*



### **Still Life Farm, 1643 Petersham Road, Hardwick**

This diversified farm is part of an extended family farming operation. Still Life Farm raises vegetables, nuts, berries, goats, and chickens. Curtis and Halley Stillman offer shares in a winter CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) of vegetables grown in the fields and greenhouses. Check out their extensive crop of tomatoes! The farm pond and Muddy Brook provide water to irrigate the crops during dry periods. The fields off Breen Road have more nut trees that you can wander around. Talk with local artists as they paint nature-inspired works. ***Additional residential building is restricted on Still Life Farm by the Conservation Restriction covering the future uses of the sixty-acre property. The East Quabbin Land Trust bought the entire property from the former owner, worked with Curtis Stillman to draft an agriculturally friendly Conservation Restriction (CR), and co-holds the CR with the Town of Hardwick.***

### **Walker Farm at Whortleberry Hill, 1290 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree**

Devon cattle graze the many pastures at the Walker Farm. Joan and Randy Walker are incorporating silvopasture – or grazing in woodland areas – into their farming practices. Ask Joan about the benefits of silvopasture as you meet her cattle! Grass-fed beef is available at the farm store, along with pork, eggs and other locally raised goods. Enjoy a farm-related craft while soaking in the sights and sounds of a working farm. Be sure to meet the cattle! ***Ninety-six acres of the Walker Farm are conserved with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, which is similar to a Conservation Restriction, but held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to promote agriculture. The East Quabbin Land Trust facilitated this process and provided financial support.***

### **Wendemuth Meadow, 25 Bates Street, North Brookfield**

This beautiful 30-acre property is owned by the East Quabbin Land Trust and managed for grassland birds and public walking trails. A local farmer, Ralph Buzzell, cuts the hay in July, after the newly hatched birds grow up enough to successfully fledge from their nests in the grass. The center of the property is a wet meadow that is frequented by red-winged blackbirds and tree swallows, among other birds. The fields are alive with all kinds of insects. See what you can find as you walk the mowed trails around the property. ***In 2013 the East Quabbin Land Trust purchased the property and sold a Conservation Restriction to the Town of North Brookfield, which made the transaction financially feasible. The land is managed with extensive volunteer support to reveal the network of stone walls and control invasive plants like multiflora rose and bittersweet.***

The East Quabbin Land Trust is able to preserve important farms like these because of people like you. **If you enjoyed this tour and appreciate farmland conservation in our region, please become a donor to the East Quabbin Land Trust.**