



Chairman Bruce Garstka

TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT

LEDYARD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Town of Ledyard
Ledyard, CT 06339
<http://www.ledyardct.org>

TO: Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee
FROM: Chairman Bruce P. Garstka, Agricultural Commission
DATE: December 3, 2025

RE: Clark Farm Property Lessee Recommendations

The Agricultural Commission is setting forth a list of criteria that may be helpful in securing a new lessee for the 102-acre Clark Farm Property, located at 1025 Colonel Ledyard Highway, and the 42-acre 1087 Colonel Ledyard Highway Property. The Clark Farm has prime farmland soils and the 1087 Colonel Ledyard Highway Property has a deed restriction attached stating that the property may be used for agricultural purposes only. Our objectives are to keep the properties in agricultural use, keep invasive plants from encroaching into the fields, reduce/eliminate invasive plants and maintain soil health.

To accomplish these goals we recommend the following before a lease agreement is signed:

1. The land shall be used for the production of hay only.
2. Any change of crop must be approved beforehand in writing.
3. The fields must be mowed at least yearly with a mowing height not to exceed eight inches.
4. Any harvested hay may be stored on site at a location chosen by the Town.
5. No harvested hay may be stored over one year and all harvested hay must be removed at end of the lease.
6. All necessary insurance is to be in effect for the term of the lease.
7. A five-year renewable lease is preferred.
8. Lessee must have a proven track record.
9. Lessee must have a means to fulfill lease terms.
10. References must be provided.
11. Fields shall be limed, fertilized, and sprayed for weeds using approved agricultural methods and standards.
12. The fee is to be determined.

As a Commission, we feel that finding a good steward of the land will benefit the Town while freeing Town resources from maintaining the properties. The harvesting of hay will have the least impact on the land while keeping it in agricultural use for generations to come.

Cordially,

Bruce P. Garstka, Agricultural Commission Chairman