

Good Morning

My name is Paul Doton. Along with my wife and our son we own and operate Doton Farm LLC in Barnard. We are a Certified Small Farm Operation. We have a total of around 100 Holsteins. Currently milking 60-65. My parents moved to the farm in late 1949 after my maternal grandfather sold the farm to someone outside the family and they were unable to make the payments. I was in a partnership with my parents beginning in 1979 after graduating from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and working off the farm. In 1992, I took over the farm with the passing of my father. In 2005 we formed Doton Farm LLC with our son to make an avenue to transfer the farm to him. He had graduated from high school in 2004 and had no desire to go to any higher formal education.

Over the years there have been changes to the number and knowledge of agriculture by neighbors. The number of animals and need for forage for our cattle has increased over the years. In early 1950 my father was milking 12-15 cows. As time moved along and there were 5 children in our family, he moved up to milking 30 cows. In the early 1960s we started having a community picnic as a way of thanking the neighbors for tolerating the twice daily crossing of Lakota Road of our herd for grazing. It is about a 2-mile circle around the farm that we invite our neighbors from. Then there were about 25 invitations this

past fall the list grew to 125 with 75 attending. We now go 6 +/- miles north and south of the farm to get enough forage to feed our herd. We cover around 225 acres of hay land between 3 & 5 times each year. We do not grow corn for our cows but instead buy about 300 ton already chopped into dump truck and delivered to the farm at harvest time. We do grow sweet corn and there usually are questions about GMO free and use of Roundup. The spreading manure on these fields has not been of concern on most of the fields we use. We try to spread early in the week so the aroma of spreading manure won't interrupt activities if they come to their weekend home the next weekend. We make wrapped round bales and try to store them as out of sight as much as possible. Only once can I think of a strong altercation with the owner of one of the new fields, we took over the use of from an out of business dairy farmer. We had spread manure on this field a couple of times without asking permission. When our crop consultant got back to this field with his Gator after taking soil samples he was met with a barrage of colorful language and a threat of arrest for trespassing on his property. He also demanded that the sample of his field be destroyed and if there was any data from the test that also be destroyed. He did call the police and later through email threatened to take us to court if I didn't respond in a certain number of days. He also demanded that the three of us in the LLC and the crop consultant sign a statement that we

would not enter onto his property without written permission. I also required that he and his wife sign to agree that we had complied with his demand. We do not have the time or money to be fighting lawsuits!

We were following the RAPs in taking soil samples every three years. I thought we were going to be helping him qualify for Current Use.

We have purchased a 10-wheeler truck with a side slinger manure spreader mounted so we can move manure from the farmstead area to more distant fields to make use of the manure which we all know is not a hazardous waste but an important piece of the ecosystem.

If dairy and all other types of agriculture and dairy especially because of its contribution to tourism are going to continue for the future (with my son as my focus) there needs to be a strong Right to Farm Law in this state. The bill that was passed by the Senate brings us on the path forward to achieving this and I support the bill.

Thank You