

Chilmark Farm Thumbnail Descriptions

As they relate to the existing bylaw:

G. Use of premises or structures for fishing, shellfishing, or agriculture, or work related directly or indirectly thereto.

Allen Farm

Beetlebung Farm

Grey Barn Farm

Milkweed Farm

North Tabor Farm

Tea Lane Farm

Native Earth Teaching Farm – to follow

Mermaid Farm – to follow

Feb. 8, 2024

Farm Name: Allen Farm

Farm Description:

Working sheep farm, implementing rotational grazing and silvopasture, with a farm store on property that sells farm-raised meats, woolens, handwoven blankets, yarn, sweaters, vests, scarves and hats. Dating back to 1762, it is the island's oldest continuously working family farm.

Land under management (acres): 82 acres

Estimated annual food/other production (only if applicable/appropriate):

+/- 4,000 lbs of lamb

1200 lbs of beef cattle

100 chickens including meat and egg birds

Related Direct Work:

(this may include products and other actions directly related to ag):

Compost tea organic fertilizer

Fencing products

Meat from animals raised on the farm

Woolens, handwoven blankets, yarn, sweaters, vests, scarves and hats produced from animals raised on the farm

Related Indirect Work:

(this may include services and products indirectly related to ag):

Preservation and conservation of land currently in agricultural use

Land reclamation

Fence building and stone wall repair

Farm and land conservation consultations - including conservation practices

Events/Activities - Public Engagement (historical)

(these activities fall under the direct or indirect work of the farm)

Long history of being an integral part of our community offering experiences like:

Farm visits

School field trips

Events/ Activities - Public Engagement (only if desired for 2024):

Same as above (continue with historical engagement efforts) and the possibility of offering several farm dinners in 2024 and also voicing support for the agricultural community in their effort to expand public engagement opportunities.

Beetlebung Farm

Farm Description:

Small scale, minimal-till, educational farm producing vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers and honey in the center of Chilmark town. Public facing and generally open for walk-throughs. Honor farm stand. West Tisbury Farmers Market on Wednesday and Saturday throughout season and season extension.

Also, to be added in Spring 2024: a dual purpose processing/educational grain mill and a farm driven kitchen offering seasonal, locally produced grab and go foods from the farm and other island food producers.

Land under management: 6 plus acres

Estimated annual food production: approximately 18,000 lbs

Direct work:

- Primary work is to build soil and ecosystem health in support of intensive, low-till diverse vegetable and other food production.
- Connecting ecologically positive agricultural practices, variety selection and culinary use in every phase of crop planning, harvesting, marketing, sales and education.
- Incorporating locally grown grain (and other regional grains) to be milled on the farm to provide additional food offerings.

Indirect work:

- To educate the public regarding the value of regenerative farming practices and consuming locally grown, seasonal food.
- To educate the public regarding the value of small scale farming and a healthy local food system.
- To promote healthy eating choices focusing on culinary usage while minimizing food and other waste.

Activities/Public Engagement: historical

- Monthly curriculum based field trips for Chilmark School 4/5 graders led by farmers.
- Vegetable variety tastings with a prepared dish for 16 - 30 people
- Topic specific farm tours
- Seasonal farm dinners with farm tours led by farmers. Max 25 people
- Edible food forest permaculture community project
- Community education board, farmer written articles
- Workshops for farmers
- Trials and experimentation with seed breeders, small seed companies and universities
- Collaboration with partners to monitor and promote agricultural climate impact including the USDA (National Apiary Study), Fink Foundation (Island Wide Pollinator Project) and NOFA (longitudinal soil health study).

Activities - Public Engagement: desired for 2024, (same as above, plus:)

Topic specific farm and food tours/classes (variety selection, culinary use, grain mill) offered year round - continued intimate size and minimal to no impact on neighborhood

Farm Name: The Grey Barn and Farm

Farm Description: Medium-sized, diversified certified-organic farm with a backbone of dairy, most of which is made into cheese here on the property. We raise beef, veal and pork. We also maintain a flock of chickens for eggs. We operate an on-farm bakery and kitchen which is open year round. Most of our products are sold through our farmstand located here on the property.

Land under management (acres): The farm is approximately 100 acres and we manage an additional 125 additional acres for hay/crop/pasture around the island.

Estimated annual food/other production: Approximately 50,000lbs of cheese produced annually. 5000 dozen eggs. Over 15,000lbs of meat produced. Nearly 100,000 bakery items are produced annually.

Related Direct Work:

Raising and care of all the animals on the farm

Cultivation of hay and crops for consumption by our animals

Operation of our bakery incorporating the product produced here on the farm.

Related Indirect Work:

See our Mission statement below:

The Grey Barn is a small, diversified New England family farm where talented people come together to create great food from the land that surrounds us. We care about where our food is produced, how the land is

treated and how our animals are cared for. We believe that our small-scale, organic farm is a vital part of the local community.

COMMITMENT

Stewardship of the Land

- We are committed to organic and regenerative farming practices that enhance the health of the soil, the diversity of the ecosystem, and the well-being of all living beings. We strive to educate and engage our customers and partners in the importance of organic agriculture and its role in building a more equitable and resilient food system.

Animal Welfare

We respect our animals, providing them with comfortable conditions to express their natural behaviors and allowing them to live out their healthiest lives.

QUALITY

Beautifulicious

We work thoughtfully to produce superior products that are both beautiful and delicious. Our bread and pastry is made fresh each morning, our cheese is made meticulously by-hand. Our animals are looked after with immense care, [to optimize their health and quality of meat].

SERVICE

Customers/Community

Our customers are paramount to our success. Much of the care that we put into each of our products and our space is to maintain customer satisfaction. So many of our regular customers have become friends, and we are a must-see destination for thousands of seasonal visitors each year.

Each Other

It is our intention to work towards supporting one another for our collective success.

Events/Activities - Public Engagement (historical)

Farm Tours

Cheese tastings

Caroling with the cows

Educational/Instructional classes

4H club and school field trips

Seasonal interns and work study students from MVRHS

Events/ Activities - Public Engagement (only if desired for 2024):

In addition to continuing with the sort of events we have done historically we would love to be able to do meal pop-ups in conjunction with other local vendors that utilize our farm products. We would also potentially look to do a small number of seated farm dinners and not solely the to-go cooking we have heretofore done.

Farm Name: Milkweed Farm

Farm Description:

Our farm operates on a small and intimate scale, and our goal is to be an economically sustainable business. We seek to minimize our farm's negative ecological externalities where possible, eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides, and using water efficiently. On the periphery of the farm, we tend to and nurture the natural ecosystems in place, removing invasive plants and nurturing native plant communities wherever feasible. We aim to grow a diverse set of crops, managing our soil with care and minimizing soil disturbances in order to enhance soil health and soil carbon sequestration. We attend the West Tisbury Farmers Market 2x per week, and we partner with Grey Barn to sell our produce at their farm stand.

Land under management (acres): about 1 acre of intensive vegetable production; about 4 acres of orchard production, food forest production, and other land under management; total farm property is 12 acres (meadows and woodland included)

Estimated annual food/other production (only if applicable/appropriate):

It varies!

Related Direct Work (*this may include products and other actions directly related to ag*):

- Grow and sell a wide variety of (mostly) vegetables but also fruit and herbs
- Build soil health and practice no till agriculture
- Implement composting, cover cropping, stale seed beds, crop rotation
- Experiment growing various native fruit trees and shrubs

Related Indirect Work (*this may include services and products indirectly related to ag*):

- Nurture existing ecosystems and native plant communities

Events/Activities - Public Engagement (historical) (*these activities fall under the direct or indirect work of the farm*):

- We have not hosted events or activities in the past.

Events/ Activities - Public Engagement (only if desired for 2024):

- We would like to work with local chefs and host intimate farm dinners to showcase our produce and highlight the work of our talented chefs. Our entire operation is very small in nature, and we would like to keep it that way.

Farm Name: North Tabor Farm

Farm Description: Small, intensive, family-run farm specializing in baby vegetables, berries, pastured poultry and pork, mushrooms, and tomatoes. While not certified, we utilize organic practices and incorporate regenerative growing techniques such as cover cropping, tarping for weed suppression, and compost application. Our produce is sold at our on-site self-serve farm stand and local farmer's market. Our commercial farm kitchen helps elevate our crops into delicious and creative value-added products.

Land under management: we have about 5 acres of field crops and lease an additional 10 acres of pasture for chickens, hogs, and horses

Estimated annual food production (if applicable):

Crops-22,000# of veggies and fruit.

Meat- Chickens 3,500#, Pork 2,600#

Direct work (includes products and other actions directly related to ag):

Growing and selling of field crops and meat (retail and wholesale sales)

Cultivated best practices for land stewardship (composting, cover-cropping, silage tarping for weed suppression)

Creating value-added food products to sell

Equipment and infrastructure maintenance

Creating year-round housing for employees

Indirect work (includes services and products indirectly related to ag):

- Collaborating with The Fink Foundation in the creation of a pollinator garden
- Collaboration with Vision Fellow, Maggie Craig in introducing biochar to baby chicks
- Collaboration with The MV Agricultural Society in farm tours, climate action plan, soil testing, teaching workshops
- Collaboration with IGI's Gleaning program and food pantry donations
- Collaboration with local farmers in selling products at our farm store
- Collaboration with Island autism adults in hosting workdays
- Offering farm tours with a focus on crops and tastings
- Community pizza parties
- Seasonal community agricultural-themed celebrations (May Day, Solstice gatherings)
- Partnerships with local chefs, community dinners
- Hosting private educational farm dinners for non-profits
- Training of future farmers
- Hosting children-themed events (mushroom foraging for kids)
- Providing interactions with farm animals (family-friendly encounters)

Activities (historical): Listed above

Activities (desired for 2024): We would like to continue offering the same events we have been offering for the past 30 years. They are low-impact and intimate in size. All noise and BOH would be subject to town rules.

Farm Name: Tea Lane Farm

Farm Description: Small scale, female owned and operated organic flower farm. Our farm grows hundreds of varieties of annual and perennial flowers –while employing organic practices and intentionally utilizing more and more regenerative growing methods such as cover cropping, tarping, and composting. We design and arrange flowers for events, farmers market, and to sell from our honor system roadside stand. We also sell wholesale to local florists.

Land under management: 13 acre farm - with 6 acres devoted to organic flower production and 9 acres used as pasture land for sheep.

Estimated annual food/other production (only if applicable/appropriate): N/A

Related Direct Work:

(this may include products and other actions directly related to ag):

- Utilizing organic and regenerative practices to grow flowers
- Building soil and ecosystem health on farm and pasture land
- Selling and distributing locally grown florals (both through retail and wholesale means)
- Maintenance of original farm infrastructure - including 250 year old farmhouse, multiple barns, and greenhouse
- Providing pasture land for farm affiliated animals (sheep)
- Incorporating best practices focused on pollinator health

Related Indirect Work:

(this may include services and products indirectly related to ag):

- Designing florals for weddings and events
- Hosting private workshops for fellow artist and floral designers
- Providing floral design trainings
- Business and farm consultations for young farmers
- Creating and providing housing for seasonal employees

Events/Activities - Public Engagement (historical):

(these activities may fall under the direct or indirect work of the farm)

- Private flower workshops and trainings
- Photoshoots
- Private farm family celebrations – luncheons and dinners

Events/ Activities - Public Engagement (only if desired for 2024):

- Workshops for the public as well as for flower farmers and floral designers