

The DEEP administers an agricultural license agreement program. The goal of the program is to improve and maintain wildlife habitat on designated department-owned lands through a cooperative effort with compatible agricultural producers.

The following is an excerpt from the license agreement at Topsmead State Forest, which allows a local farmer to harvest hay in a manner that maintains grassland bird habitat in critical areas, while maintaining certain areas for recreation and public access/tourism of an estate/house (Lot #1 and Lot #2):

A. Licensee can use the following lots to only grow hay (see figure 1);

Lot #1 (main house lot)- 12.2 acres	Lot #1a- 3.0 acres
Lot #1b- 1.0 acre	Lot #2 (adjacent to parking lot)- 5.5 acres
Lot #3- (old orchard)- 10.4	Lot #4- 12.5 acres
Lot #5- 9.1 acres	Lot #6a (north of old barn)- 18.0 acres
Lot #6b (south of old barn)- 12.5 acres	Lot #7- 12.0 acres
Lot #8- 9.3 acres	

B. Lot #1 main house lot & Lot #2 adjacent to parking lot, (see figure 1 for locations) must be mowed twice annually. The first mowing must be done no later than July 4th

C. All lots south of Chase Road (Lots # 3, 4, 5, 6a, 6b, 7, 8) cannot be cut before July 15th

D. Hay on all other lots cannot be cut before June 15th

E. Licensee must purchase and apply fertilizer suitable for the estate lawns each year. Fertilizer should be applied at rates acceptable to the Park Supervisor and at the time of year he specifies. Licensee must submit receipts directly to John Hine, Park Supervisor of Topsmead, documenting that you fertilized the specific lawns in agreement.

F. All roadsides/trails must be mowed annually as designated by the Park Supervisor. There may be additional mowing of old field areas as designated by the Park Supervisor or District Biologist.

G. If during the term of this agreement the fields need to be reseeded, it will be the responsibility of the Licensee to do so. The seed mixture to be used will be designated by the Wildlife Division of the DEEP.

H. Each year 130 bales of hay (mulch quality is sufficient) must be made available for pick up by DEEP personnel.(80 bales from your original agreement and 50 from the William Butts agreement)

- I. Licensee should be aware that annual bird “censusing” will be conducted in some agricultural fields. This should not interfere with harvesting, but if there are questions concerning stakes, flagging, etc. or any other aspect of the “censusing” or this agreement, please call Peter Picone, District Biologist, at DEEP Sessions Woods office at (860) 424-3032.