

Colby Farm
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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SECTION 2 OF RAISED BILL NO. 5416

Colby Farm is a diversified farming operation located in the Greater Newburyport area in Massachusetts. Newburyport is 35 miles north of Boston, 10 minutes from the New Hampshire border and 5 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Colby Farm is in the hay business. Approximately 30,000 small square bales of hay are produced annually, and additional hay is imported from Canada and New York on a need-be basis. Colby Farm operates a roadside farm stand. Twenty-five acres of assorted vegetables are grown annually to supply the stand with fresh vegetables. Colby Farm is home to a 20-sow farrow-to-finish hog operation. This locally-grown pork is sold at the farm stand and is one of the most popular items available for sale.

Our sows are presently housed in individual shelters and bedded in straw. Our hope is to construct a new facility in the future. Freedom to operate is of extreme importance to Colby Farm and its ability to continue in the hog business. It is our desire to operate a portion of the structure similar to our current system as well as install several gestation stalls in the new facility. While we do not believe we need the entire structure to have gestation stalls, numerous situations over the years have proven that not using gestation stalls has been detrimental to our animal well-being as well as the safety of our employees.

My husband and I are a first generation, family-owned farm. We have the good fortune of having a son and daughter-in-law who want to continue on with the Colby Farm, making it a second generation farm and hopefully a third down the road as their son matures. While we are a small operation, our commitment to produce safe and nutritious food in a responsible manner is our number one priority. If our hands are tied and we cannot operate in a way that works best for our animals and their care, then we will not survive. We must have the ability to make choices.

Lisa D. Colby
Co-Owner, Operator, Employee
Colby Farm