

*The Farm is located on ancestral homelands of the Abenaki, Penacook, and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We honor with gratitude the flora, fauna, the land itself, and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.*

## A Brief History

Muriel Church was a schoolteacher in Chester for nearly 50 years, from 1945 to 1995. A single woman, who considered the townspeople her family, she decided at the end of her life to give her 400-acre property \*to the Town. Her wish was to protect the open spaces and historic buildings from residential development, continue the legacy of Chester's farming culture and rural lifestyle, and provide for recreation, education, and conservation.

Today, the *Spring Hill Farm Trust*, the *Town of Chester*, and the *Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee* are working together to restore and renovate this wonderful unique place to grow, play, and learn.

You're invited to join in the project to optimize its use. Opportunities exist to volunteer, and to participate in activities at Spring Hill Farm. Find out more about how you can help us bring this rural gemstone back to an active life, for the good of the entire community!

*WinterFest at Spring Hill Farm, from above.*



## Where do I Start?

- Visit the property, and see for yourself!
- Visit our web page on the Chester Town website:  
<https://www.chesternh.org/spring-hill-farm-advisory-committee>



- Sign up for our quarterly newsletter:  
[SHFTrust@yahoo.com](mailto:SHFTrust@yahoo.com)
- Visit our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/springhillfarmchester>
- Contact us for more information:  
[SHFAC@ChesterNH.org](mailto:SHFAC@ChesterNH.org)
- Attend or monitor our monthly meetings:  
3rd Monday of the month in the Meeting Room at the Municipal Complex, 84 Chester Street; On-demand, online, on Chester PACT (Comcast channel 20)  
<https://reflect-chesterctv-from-nh.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>

Spring Hill Farm



96 Towle Road  
Chester, NH

## Celebrate Chester's Agricultural Heritage at Spring Hill Farm

Very few southern New Hampshire towns have a 400-acre farm that's public property...

**CHESTER does!**

Spring Hill Farm



96 Towle Road  
Chester, NH

You and your family can support the effort to get everyone to enjoy this timeless treasure! If you have time and skills to volunteer to help restore and renovate the 1850s farmhouse and out-buildings; want to help harvest hay this summer; or can create exciting educational agricultural programs to share with townsfolk, there's still a lot to be done at Chester's Spring Hill Farm.

***The mission of Spring Hill Farm is to preserve and promote the legacy of Muriel Church through the continuance of agricultural operations and the conservation and stewardship of both open land and forests, while providing educational and recreational opportunities to the community.***

*As a Chester resident, every adult, student, and senior is a stakeholder in the future of fun on the farm. If you have other ideas, volunteer now to help Chester put this beautiful, valuable Town asset to its best intended use.*



## Excitement is Growing at Spring Hill Farm

The historic 1850s farmhouse is being renovated to fully comply with all current ADA-regulated specifications, including a wheelchair-accessible ramp, new wider entryway and passageways inside, and handicap-accessible bathroom facilities, so that public access can be accommodated. We are seeking additional volunteers with involvement in, or experience with, grant-writing or endowment funding programs to support the many projects on the list. Plans are that the house will become a popular meeting place for local groups and organizations, as well as for classes and workshops on agricultural topics for both local commercial farmers, and area amateur gardening enthusiasts of all ages.

All we need now is YOU! Get in touch today to let us know your interests or expertise. There's room for everyone in this plan.

## 400 Acres of Great Outdoor Recreation

Whether it is attending annual Chester Fall Fest or Winter Festival, or other seasonal events; hiking the miles of developed, signed and mapped trails; snowshoeing and cross-country skiing the open fields and forest, or embracing a conservation project on the Spring Hill Farm property, there is something for everyone of every age down on the farm! Trail maps are available for reference and return at the trailhead on the "High Tunnel" side of Towle Road.



## Conservation is a Top Priority

Members of the Committee are working with the [Rockingham County Conservation District](#), the [NH Department of Natural Resources](#), and the [NH Fish and Game Department](#) to abate invasive plant species and protect resident animal species that nest on the Spring Hill Farm property. We work cooperatively with the [Chester Conservation Commission](#), [Recreation Department](#), [land-lease tenants](#), the [NH Trail Riders Association](#), [local Scout Troops](#), and other local area groups to protect and conserve this tremendous natural resource that is significant in its history, its size, and the scope of its potential use for current and future generations in Town.

## Modern Agricultural Use Today

- Local cattle farmers lease pasture and barn space and graze a small, growing herd of cows on the property.
- Hay grown and harvested on the property annually is sold to local farms and livestock owners. Profits from the sales go back to the operation of the farm.
- Organic growers run a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) garden and offer shares of locally grown produce to the public. They also raise goats on the property, which earn their keep by eating several invasive vegetation species to develop growing space.
- All of these activities make the historic Spring Hill Farm property a modern working farm that is contributing to its own self-sustaining future.

