

Resources



Here is a list of resources to help you advocate for agriculture in your community. Links have been provided to on-line publications, additional resources and websites.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association Resources:

Here is where find the following information for download or to print:

<http://www.cfba.org/ctfarmbureauadvocacytoolkit.htm#>

- All of the fact sheets in this publication.
- An abridged version of the tool kit designed for students.
- A recording of a webinar providing guidance and training on how to use the tool kit.
- A statewide database of Connecticut municipalities that offer the municipal optional tax reduction programs for farms.*
- A statewide database of Connecticut municipalities that have adopted agricultural commissions, local Right to Farm ordinances and other initiatives to support local agriculture.*

**It is advisable to consult with your local tax assessor or town planner for updated information presented on these databases. If your town is not listed on these databases consult with your local assessor or town planner for initiatives your town has taken to support local agriculture.*

Federal Agencies:

USDA Service Centers are designed to be a single location where customers can access the services provided by the **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**, and the **Rural Development (RD)** agencies. Here is a link to all of the Connecticut county offices. On this page are also links to FSA, NRCS and RD:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?service=page/CountyMap&state=CT&stateName=Connecticut&stateCode=09>

USDA Service Centers in Connecticut:

Danielson Service Center 71 Westcott Rd. Danielson, CT 06239
Phone: (860) 779-0557 FAX (855) 946-3967

Hamden Service Center 51 Mill Pond Rd. Hamden, CT 06514
Phone: (203) 287-8038 FAX (855) 947-1611

Norwich Service Center 238 W Town St. Norwich, CT 06360-2111
Phone: (860) 859-5218 FAX (855) 946-3967

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Torrington Service Center 1185 New Litchfield St. Torrington, CT 06790-6017
Phone: (860) 626-8258 FAX (855) 946-3967

Wallingford Service Center 97 Barnes Rd Wallingford, CT 06492-1885
Phone: (203) 269-6665 FAX: (203) 294-9741

Windsor Service Center 100 Northfield Dr. Fl. 4 Windsor, CT 06095-4730
Phone: (860) 688-7725 FAX (855) 947-1611

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	www.usace.army.mil
U.S. Department of Agriculture	www.usda.gov
• USDA Farm Service Agency	www.fsa.usda.gov
• USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov
• USDA Rural Development	www.rurdev.usda.gov
U.S. Department of Labor	www.dol.gov
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	www.epa.gov
U.S. Food and Drug Administration	www.fda.gov
U.S. Internal Revenue Service	www.irs.gov
U.S. Small Business Administration	www.sba.gov

State Agencies:

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)

www.ct.gov/caes Phone: (203) 974-8500

The mission of the CAES is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research. .

Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAG)

www.ct.gov/doag Phone: (860) 713-2500

State agricultural grants, farmland preservation, farm product marketing, farm processed foods, selling at farmers' markets, CT Grown, agricultural laws, permits and regulations.

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)

www.ct.gov/dcp Phone: (860) 713-6100

DCP can provide advice on acidified and non-acidified food processing, packaging and labeling. They also have oversight of commercial bakeries.

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

www.ct.gov/ecd Phone: (860) 270-8000

DECD is the state's lead agency for the development and implementation of policies, strategies and programs that support business growth and innovation. The department offers a wide range of programs and services to help companies prosper in Connecticut including financing, tax credits and incentives, technical assistance and small business assistance.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

www.ct.gov/deep

Phone: (860) 424-3000

Laws, regulations and permits related to energy, public utilities, environmental quality and natural resources including pesticide application, water diversion, inland/wetland regulations, water resources, composting and more.

Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL)

www.ctdol.state.ct.us/

Phone: (860) 263-6000

Labor laws and regulations.

Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH)

www.ct.gov/dph

Phone: (860) 509-8000

DPH can provide resources and advice on water testing, proper food processing, food handling tips, food -borne illnesses and links to local health departments.

Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

www.ct.gov/opm

Phone: (860) 418-6200

OPM implements state policy and budget, provides municipal support, interagency coordination, state Plan of Conservation and Development.

Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS)

www.ct.gov/drs

Phone: (860) 297-5962

Laws, regulations and permits related to the collection of state taxes including sales and use tax, fuel tax, excise tax and Farmers Tax Exemption permits.

Connecticut General Assembly (CAG)

www.cga.ct.gov

Browse and/or search all state statutes; track legislation, agendas and public hearings; contact your legislators; contact legislative committees; contact House and Senate leadership; information on the legislative session.

Education:

Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation (CTAEF)

<http://ctaef.org/>

The Mission of the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is to seek and administer funds for the benefit of programs that promote Connecticut agriculture through education. Sponsors of Ag in the Classroom.

Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators

www.caaeonline.org

An association representing Connecticut agricultural educators instructing in the agriscience centers.

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

www.nesare.org

Phone: (802) 656-0471

CT Coordinator: (860) 875-3331

SARE offers competitive grants to projects that explore and address key issues affecting the sustainability and future economic viability of agriculture.

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University of Connecticut www.uconn.edu

- Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) www.clear.uconn.edu
Provides information and assistance to land use decision makers and other audiences in support of better land use decisions, healthier natural resources, and more resilient communities. On-line mapping and resources on Connecticut's changing landscape.
- Environmental Conditions Online (CT ECO) www.cteco.uconn.edu
CT ECO includes a variety of online maps and tools for viewing Connecticut's environmental and natural resources such as protected open space, farmland soils, wetland soils, aquifer protection areas, water quality classifications, and drainage basins. Each can be viewed separately or in conjunction with other environmental and natural resource information. In addition, CT ECO includes several sets of high resolution orthophotography.
- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) www.nemo.uconn.edu
NEMO was created to provide information, education and assistance to local land use boards and commissions on how they can accommodate growth while protecting their natural resources and community character.

University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System

www.extension.uconn.edu Phone: (860) 486-9228

Provides a variety of services in plant and animal agriculture. Here you will find links to the various programs, county offices and a directory of over one hundred education specialists.

- Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program
www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu
Farm risk management planning, farm business planning, farm estate and transition planning, farm labor laws and regulations, agricultural marketing, crop insurance fact sheets and examples.

Organizations:

AGvocate Program

http://aginfolgv.org/agvocate_program/

The AGvocate Program provides Northeast Connecticut Towns technical assistance to initiate Agriculture Commissions; review and implement tax reduction options; plan for farmland protection, encourage buy local opportunities, explore methods to promote local farms; include agriculture in town plans; and pass right-to-farm ordinances.

American Farmland Trust

www.farmlandinfo.org

Connecticut office phone: (860) 683-4230

A clearinghouse for information about farmland protection, stewardship and Cost of Community Services studies.

Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers

www.caaao.com

Professional membership association open to all State of Connecticut public officials who are engaged in the administration of property assessments, including assessors, employees of assessors' offices and board of assessment appeals members. Website includes links to frequently used local tax filing forms such as Personal Property Declarations, M28 Exemption for Farm Machinery, PA 490 filing forms and more.

Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions

www.caciwc.org

Provides education and information to the volunteers and staff that carry out the responsibilities of Connecticut's municipal Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions.

Connecticut Conservation Districts

www.conservect.org

Five conservation districts lend technical services and education about resource conservation to municipalities and citizens.

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

www.ccm-ct.org

Statewide association of towns and cities.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

www.cfba.org

Phone: (860) 768-1100

Click "Advocacy" to download Local Advocacy Toolkit materials from this guide. Click "Resources" for information on emergency preparedness for farmers; information on processing acidified foods and jellies; farm to grocery information for farmers; information for new and beginning farmers; and more. Click PA 490 on the home page for the PA 490 Guide and related filing forms.

Connecticut Farmland Trust

www.ctfarmland.org

Phone: (860) 247-0202

Private statewide land trust dedicated to the protection of family farms.

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

(Previously Eastern CT RC&D and King's Mark RC&D)

www.ctrcd.org

Phone: (860) 373-7408

Helps communities protect natural and agricultural resources while strengthening the local economy

Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association

www.ctnoga.org

Phone: (203) 308-2584

On-line resource for organic food, farming, gardening and land care in Connecticut

Land for Good

www.landforgood.org

Phone: (603) 357-1600

Provides guidance to help farmers, landowners and communities navigate the complex challenges of land access, tenure and transfer. On-line resource for farm seekers and information on farmland leasing.

The Last Green Valley

<http://thelastgreenvalley.org/>

Phone: (860) 774-3300

The Last Green Valley is the 35-town National Heritage Corridor in eastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts. It's also a member supported, non-profit stewardship organization.

The Last Green Valley hosts a page The Last Green Valley's AgInfo website for agricultural businesses:

<http://aginfotlgv.org/>

Working Lands Alliance (WLA)

www.workinglandsalliance.org

Phone: (860) 683-4230

A project of American Farmland Trust, WLA is a broad-based, statewide coalition working together to preserve Connecticut's most-precious resource, its farmland.

6 Resources (*continued*)

Publications:

- **Advocating for Connecticut Agriculture in Local Communities
A Tool Kit for Connecticut Farmers**
www.cfba.org/ctfarmbureauadvocacytoolkit.htm#
Practical guidance and downloadable fact sheets on initiatives to support local agriculture.
- **Connecticut Agricultural Business Management Guide**
www.canr.uconn.edu/cea/frm
A must-read comprehensive guide for any farm business owner. Provides guidance on setting up a farm business and the various laws and regulations pertaining to owning a farm business in Connecticut.
- **Connecticut State and Federal Agricultural Organizations**
<http://www.store.uconn.edu/free-publications/cooperative-extension-publications/category/12-connecticut-state-federal-agricultural-organizations.html>
A comprehensive directory of state and federal agricultural organizations and contact information.
- **Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland**
www.farmland.org/connecticut
Describes options and programs for protecting farmland.
- **Farmland ConneCTions**
www.farmland.org/connecticut
A guide for Connecticut towns, institutions and land trusts interested in leasing farmland.
- **Guidance and Recommendations for Connecticut Municipalities
Zoning Regulations and Ordinances for Livestock**
http://easternrcd-ct.org/pdf/LivestockManual_6_20_12.pdf
- **New Farmer Bucket List Key Resources for New and Beginning Farms in Connecticut**
http://www.cfba.org/images/resources/new_farmer_bucket_list_fall_2014.pdf
Technical resources and tips for new and beginning farmers.
- **PA 490 A Practical Guide and Overview for Landowners, Assessors and Government Officials**
<http://www.cfba.org/pa490guide.htm>
A comprehensive guide on Connecticut's land use value assessment law for farmland, forest land and maritime heritage land.
- **Planning for Agriculture: A Guide for Connecticut Municipalities**
www.ctplanningforagriculture.com
Guide and website to help Connecticut municipalities plan for the sustainability of Connecticut agriculture. Here you will find additional resources and publications to assist you in planning for the future of Connecticut agriculture.