



2021 Public Policy Priorities

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- Support continuation and full funding of the Community Investment Act and the critical programs it funds in support of agriculture.
- Continue to encourage the development of on-farm anaerobic digester projects. They create multiple environmental benefits. A streamlined, expeditious and financially feasible permitting and regulatory process by CT DEEP is still needed and essential to the success of these projects.
- Maintain science based state and federal agency only jurisdiction over the regulation of pesticides and herbicides in Connecticut.
- Support changes to the CT Winery Act whereby all wineries that qualify as small wineries (producing 55,000 gallons or less) be required to produce at least 25% of their alcohol volume from CT Grown fruit in order to qualify for the benefits provided under CGS 30-16. Allow sale of CT Grown Wine in grocery stores.
- Support amending the PA 490 Maritime Heritage Classification to extend the classification to underwater farmland and aquaculture so that shell fishermen derive the same tax benefits as all other Connecticut farmers.

Continued support for policies that support CT agriculture:

- Continuation of a stand-alone, cabinet level Department of Agriculture.
- Full funding for farmland preservation.
- Adequate funding for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Agri-science and Technology Program and the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut.
- Oppose any changes to PA 490, CT's Current Use Assessment Law for farmland, forest land, open space and maritime heritage land that would negatively impact the intent of the legislation and loss of land to development.
- Continuation of the Farmer sales tax exemption and Off-road fuel tax exemption.