

PDR farms protected in last three years

	Farms	Acres	Cost \$
2008 closed	7	675	3,785,198
2009 closed	10	1,370	7,179,659
2010 closed	15	1,228	6,955,585

The Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program purchases development rights to qualified farms to preserve prime and important farmland soils. The collective goal for the State is to preserve 130,000 acres of farmland, with 85,000 in cropland. In the past three years, development rights to 32 farms comprised of 3,273 acres were negotiated and acquired for \$17,920,442. Since inception of the Program, development rights have been acquired, or are under contract for acquisition, on **283 farms** totaling **37,262 acres** by the State with help of the agricultural community and private & public partner organizations.



144-acre Wike Brothers Farm, Sharon

Wike Bros. Farm— partners were the State, Connecticut Farmland Trust & USDA-NRCS.



PDR farms approved in Program by County

County	# Farms	Acres
Fairfield	3	293
Hartford	35	4,020
Litchfield	60	7,517
Middlesex	10	1,434
New Haven	8	820
New London	75	11,007
Tolland	28	3,756
Windham	61	8,415

Some farms extend county lines.

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CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM



70-acre Bushy Hill Fruit and Vegetable Farm, Granby

Bushy Hill Farm, Granby, CT

This 70-acre farm contains forty acres of fruit trees and shrubs including apples, peaches, pears, raspberries and blueberries, five acres of vegetables and a long-time, family-friendly farm stand frequented by local residents and city dwellers. Development rights were purchased for \$452,897 with funding from the State, Town of Granby, and the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. Subsequent to the sale of development rights, local farmers, Becky and Allen Clark, were able to purchase the farm for its agricultural value.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

DANNEL P. MALLOY, GOVERNOR
STEVEN K. REVICZKY, COMMISSIONER
JOSEPH J. DIPPEL, DIRECTOR

Objective and Benefits

Landowners who participate in the Program:

- ~ do so voluntarily
- ~ are compensated for the development rights
- ~ can still own and manage the farm
- ~ continue to pay local property taxes
- ~ can reinvest proceeds in the farm and apply for farm viability grants
- ~ can sell or lease the farm
- ~ maintain CT's agricultural heritage
- ~ conserve wildlife habitat & scenic vistas
- ~ foster local food security and a farmland economy
- ~ leave a legacy for their families and future farmers



The main objective of the Farmland Preservation Program is to secure a food and fiber producing land resource base, consisting primarily of prime and statewide important farmland soils, for the future of agriculture in Connecticut.

This land base will enable CT to produce at least 50% of its fluid milk needs and 70% of its in-season fresh fruits and vegetables. In-state production ensures local availability of fresh farm products, reduced energy costs on transportation, and jobs in agriculture, an important part of the State's economy.

Farmland Preservation Program



21-acre Buell Farm Orchard, Eastford

Highlights of 2010

- ~ preserved 15 farms comprised of 1,228 acres located in 12 towns and six counties
- ~ protected two dairies, four in dairy support, and four farms supporting the beef & livestock industry in Connecticut
- ~ protected four farms in vegetable and/or fruit production, and one in tobacco
- ~ received gift of development rights to 15-acre farm in East Windsor through the generosity of the late Helen Edna Crane
- ~ participated in four joint State-Town projects located in Granby, Ellington and Woodstock
- ~ entered a cooperative agreement with the U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation Service for federal cost share dollars for acquisition of development rights to qualified farms through the Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program in the amount of \$4,954,220.

Photos by Thomas W. Henry, Richard McDermott, and CT Department of Agriculture.

Funding Status

State Bonding Monies: Lump sums of \$5 million each were authorized in March and December of 2010, for a total of \$10 million. State bond funding provides money to leverage federal, municipal and private dollars for farmland preservation and was used to acquire development rights to 9 farms at a cost of \$4,504,261.

Community Investment Act Funds: Signed into law in 2005, this Public Act 228 funds farmland preservation through a portion of a fee on documents recorded into town land records. In addition to acquisitions, these funds provide staff to manage projects and a ready source of funding for land acquisition expenses such as appraisals, surveys and title work. In 2010, a portion of these funds was diverted to assist Connecticut dairy farmers with expenses in difficult economic times. CIA funding purchased development rights to six farms at a cost of \$1,102,367.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program: Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, this program provides federal cost-sharing funds for farmland preservation. In 2010, a cooperative agreement was signed for \$4,954,220 million in FRPP matching funds to acquire development rights on CT farms that meet specific federal requirements.

Local Partners: Towns and Connecticut Farmland Trust, a statewide farmland conservation organization, provided \$1,348,957 in funding in 2010 to assist the State in the protection of four farms important to local communities.



62-acre Bomba Farm, Seymour (& above)



168-acre Weigold Farm, Torrington
active dairy on scenic hilltop