



Szegda Farm, Columbia

Szegda Farm, Columbia: Contains 113.45 acres preserved by a joint state-town effort with Connecticut Farmland Trust that also included a financial contribution by Joshua's Conservation & Historic Trust. The farm contains 77.6 acres of prime and statewide important farmland soils and is used for growing hay and vegetables, as well as bedding plants in an on-site greenhouse.

Bielonko Farm, Suffield: A third generation farm that contains 58.18 acres in dairy support, vegetables, and tobacco overlooking the Connecticut River. The farm was a joint state-town project with the Town of Suffield, making it the 21st preserved farm in the town.



Bielonko Farm, Suffield

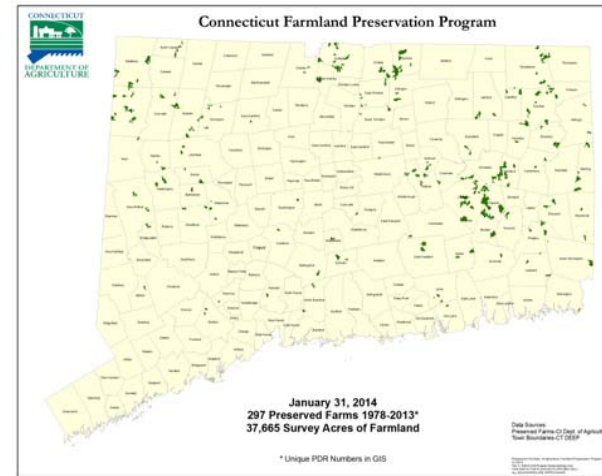
Farms Preserved Since 2007

	Farms	Acres	Cost \$
2007	11	1,186	5,504,372
2008	7	675	3,785,198
2009	10	1,370	7,179,659
2010	15	1,228	6,955,585
2011	16	1,969	11,922,061
2012	5	610	4,165,574
2013	5	1,170	2,738,178

Farmland Preservation - The Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program purchases development rights to qualified farms in order to preserve prime and statewide important farmland soils. The state's ultimate goal is to preserve 130,000 acres of farmland, with 85,000 in cropland.

Through 2013, with help of the agricultural community and many private and public partner organizations, development rights have been acquired for 297 farms totaling 37,665 acres.

Community Farms Preservation - The pilot of the new Community Farms Preservation Program is in full swing, with seven of 19 applications being considered and 25 towns having entered joint state-town cooperative agreements under the \$2 million program.



Farmland Preservation Projects by County

County	# Farms	Acres
Fairfield	3	293
Hartford	42	4,286
Litchfield	64	7,779
Middlesex	10	1,434
New Haven	10	1,563
New London	74	10,737
Tolland	37	4,383
Windham	69	8,753

Some farms extend across county lines so are counted twice in the # of farms column.

CT Department of
Agriculture
Farmland Preservation
Program



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CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM 2013 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



Governor Malloy and Commissioner Reviczky with other officials at the 825-acre Southbury Training School site.

Southbury Training School

In July 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation ensuring that 825 acres at the Southbury Training School will remain in agricultural production in perpetuity.

Built in the 1930's as a residence and training center for individuals with intellectual disabilities, the school is located on 1,600 acres and has more than 360 residents and 1,200 employees.

The school has its own farm, where residents produce an assortment of goods, raise chickens for eggs and grow bedding plants in a greenhouse for commercial sale.

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

Objectives And Benefits

Landowners who participate in the Program:

- ~ Do so voluntarily
- ~ Are compensated for the development rights
- ~ Continue to 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 Connecticut's agricultural heritage
- ~ Conserve wildlife habitat & scenic vistas
- ~ Foster local food security and a farmland economy
- ~ Leave a legacy for their families and

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 the state 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 - all important parts of Connecticut's economy.



Raffia Farm, Enfield

Farmland Preservation Program



Myers Farm, Ellington

Highlights of 2013

Five farms were preserved: four comprising 345 acres and the Southbury Training School site at 825 acres.

Three of the agreements were joint state-town projects that preserved hay and corn farms in Columbia, Ellington, and Suffield. The fourth is a vegetable and tobacco farm in Enfield.

Plans are being developed for agricultural leasing of the Southbury Training School farm, which Cmsr. Reviczky considers the "crown jewel" of state agricultural properties.

Now under lease to a local dairy farmer who grows hay and corn and pastures cows, the land will be made available through an open, competitive bid process to farmers interested in dairy, pasture, hay, vegetable, fruit, maple, honey and other production.

Other partners in the project include the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, the Working Lands Alliance, Connecticut Farm Bureau and the Southbury Land Trust.

New Program Reports



Southbury Training School Farm

Community Farms Preservation Program

In 2013, 19 applications were received, two of which are under contract for the purchase of development rights through this pilot program. 25 towns entered cooperative agreements with the state to prepare for joint projects to purchase development rights. Joint state-town offers were made on an additional three farms, another farm offer was awaiting town approval, and a final farm configuration was in negotiation.

Farmland Restoration Program

A 2012 initiative by Gov. Malloy, the program was authorized to spend \$5 million to increase acreage in active production through methods like stone removal, tree-stumping and clearing invasive plant species from fields. To date, 95 applications have been received to restore more than 1,100 acres to cropland and pasture.



Myers Farm, Ellington

Funding Status

State Funding: Lump sum funding of \$10 million for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 was authorized by the legislature. Along with the Community Investment Act, these funds have acquired development rights to 1,170 acres, with another 60 farms and 6,100 acres under negotiation for 2014.

Like-Kind Exchange: Tax Section 1031: When proceeds from the sale of an easement on a property is reinvested into another like-kind property, the capital-gains tax can be deferred.

There are two time restrictions on the exchange: The seller has 45 days after the sale to identify the new like-kind property and the new like-kind property must be purchased within 180 days of the first sale. For more information please visit: www.irs.gov

Local Partners: During 2013 the towns of Ellington, Suffield, and Columbia contributed funds along with Connecticut Farmland Trust to acquire development rights jointly with the state for three projects totaling 242 acres. To date, the Farmland Preservation Program participated in joint state-town projects to preserve 36 farms comprising 3,380 acres in 11 towns.

With the introduction of the Community Farms Preservation Program, the number of towns that are positioned to work with the state on joint projects to preserve farmland has more than doubled to 25.



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