

State Agriculture Commissioner F. Philip Prelli said that the majority of the acreage preserved is considered prime farmland. In many cases, the state attempts to preserve land contiguous or clustered near other farmland to create a viable farming community.

“Connecticut farmers are resourceful, innovative and have survived because they have the ability to adapt to the changing times,” Commissioner Prelli said. “Agriculture contributes more than \$2 billion to our state’s economy. Our small state continues to have a huge impact on many of the commodities grown in the Northeast. We have some of the top producing poultry farms in the nation and our orchard crops and greenhouse plant industry are consistent leaders in the New England.”

The Governor and Commissioner noted that farmland preservation also results in many environmental benefits by conserving key wildlife habitat and providing flood control in certain areas.

“There are also so many intangibles. It is what we feel as much as what we see when take a peaceful drive through the Connecticut countryside,” Governor Rell said. “The historic stone walls that cross through fields and forests remind us of Connecticut’s rich agricultural past – one certainly worth preserving for future generations. We must honor that past and safeguard our future.”