



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 860-713-2503 Fax: 860-713-2516  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Linda Piotrowicz  
[Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov](mailto:Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov) or 860-713-2558

### **CT Agriculture Commissioner Invites Residents to Participate in CT Grown Challenge August 2 - 8**

**Hartford, CT** – To help celebrate National Farmers’ Market Week, August 2 - 8, 2009, CT Commissioner of Agriculture F. Philip Prelli invites residents of the state to join him in participating in the first official CT Grown Challenge.

“For one week, I challenge every resident to eat at least one CT Grown item each day,” Commissioner Prelli said. “I am committing to purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables, personally, but encourage consumers to seek out CT Grown meats, cheeses, milk, honey, maple syrup, jams and jellies, and specialty foods as well. With so many options to choose from, it is easy to find something CT Grown suited to just about every taste bud.”

The CT Grown Challenge is part of a larger Eat Local Challenge involving state Departments of Agriculture throughout the country, spearheaded by Secretary Roger Allbee in Vermont. Each participating state’s challenge varies in the specifics, but all share the common theme of promoting fresh, healthy foods and instilling community-wide appreciation of local farmers and their products.

Commissioner Prelli applauded Secretary Allbee’s commitment and was eager to accept his invitation to other states to set up their own challenges. “Here in Connecticut, we share Vermont’s vision and support of local farms and food. We feel that our residents are equally as

committed to local agriculture and challenge them to demonstrate their support by participating in this event.”

The CT Department of Agriculture’s Marketing Department has many resources to assist residents accepting the CT Grown Challenge. The Department publishes a whole family of brochures that list CT Grown producers by product type and location. All of the brochures are available electronically at [www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov) (click on “Publications” at the left of the page).

**CONNECTICUT GROWN** - The Local Flavor

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