



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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## **Commissioner Reviczky Announces More than \$1 Million In Matching Agriculture Viability Grant Awards**

*Investments designed to strengthen job base and support agriculture*

(HARTFORD, CONN.) Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky today announced state investments in agriculture as part of an ongoing grant program that will expand and advance Connecticut's agricultural economy.

Sixteen agricultural producers, thirteen non-profit agricultural organizations, and seven municipalities from throughout the state have been awarded Connecticut Agriculture Viability Grants, designed to strengthen Connecticut's agricultural job base and to support and promote agriculture in the state. (A complete list of grant awardees and their projects is included at the end of this release.)

"Our state has a rich agricultural history, and these grants will bolster how we protect and preserve that heritage, while at the same time help us to find the best ways to expand the market for Connecticut grown products," said Governor Malloy. "Creating jobs and opportunity in the agricultural sector is in keeping with our past, and will prepare us for a strong future."

The grantees will have up to one year to complete the project, according to the terms of their contract. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis and a match must be supplied by the applicant. The Department of Agriculture's share of the budget is capped at \$49,999 in matching funds.

Funding is not limited to producers. Non-profit organizations and municipalities also are eligible and may use the grants for town or regional planning purposes, as long as agricultural components are involved.

"Agriculture plays a significant role in Connecticut's economy and has a total impact of up to \$3.5 billion," said Commissioner Reviczky. "Farms tend to be long-lived businesses that don't pick up and move easily. These grants are smart investments in projects that will continue to strengthen the state's economy for many years to come."

The Agricultural Viability Grants are made available through Public Act 05-228, *An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation*. This landmark legislation serves to protect and preserve Connecticut for future generations by providing funding for municipal open space grants, farm viability and preservation, historic preservation, and new and existing affordable housing programs, along with new infrastructure to support and promote agriculture in the state.

The funding is generated through a \$40 fee collected by town/city clerks for the recording of all documents into municipal land records. Documents subject to this fee include deeds, mortgages, mechanics' liens, judgment liens, notices of lease, releases of mortgages and liens, name change certificates, notices of variances, and condominium declarations.

The Department of Agriculture plans to open up the grant application period again in the late fall. For more information on these grants, please visit [www.ct.gov/doag/](http://www.ct.gov/doag/) (Click on “Programs and Services” then “Agriculture Viability Grants.”)

## **2012 Agriculture Viability Grants Awarded**

### **Farm Transition Grants (Producers)**

**Total Grants: \$466,611, Project Value: \$1,094,896**

Butler Farm, Pine Meadow (New Hartford); Contact: Jeremiah Butler  
To double the size of its greenhouse in order to begin production of lettuce  
Grant: \$20,000, Project Value: \$40,000

Devon Point Farm, Woodstock; Contact: Patty & Erick Taylor  
CSA and grass raised beef farm. Will allow for new access road to allow for bus traffic and construction of toilet facilities for compliance standards for GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) and GHP (Good Handling Practices)  
Grant: \$49,999, Project Value: \$105,721

George Hall Farm, Simsbury; Contact: George Hall  
To construct new barn roof and chicken coop to increase production of their CSA  
Grant: \$16,562, Project Value: \$33,125

Gourmavian Farms, Bolton; Contact: Gary Proctor  
Mobile refrigeration transportation system for fresh poultry and shell eggs  
Grant: \$15,700, Project Value: \$31,700

Hastings Farm, Suffield; Contact: Megan Hastings  
Dairy barn and milk room renovations  
Grant: \$49,999, Project Value: \$108,678

The Hickories Farm, Ridgefield; Contact: Blandina Brewster  
Construction of new livestock handling system  
Grant \$2,999, Project Value \$6,352

Hickory Hill Orchards, Cheshire; Contact: Fred Kudish  
Improvements to orchard and apple storage facility  
Grant: \$25,000, Project Value \$54,322

Jewett City Greenhouses, Jewett City; Contact: Louis Demicco  
Energy efficiency improvements to greenhouses, replacing glass and vents  
Grant: \$37,045, Project Value: \$74,090

Longmeadow Farm, West Cornwall; Contact: Thomas Levine  
Construction of a chicken house for meat birds  
Grant: \$9,153, Project Value: \$18,306

Mountaintop Mushrooms, Waterbury; Contact: Gregg Wershoven  
To expand indoor mushroom growing facility to increase retail sales of exotic mushrooms  
Grant \$49,999, Project Value \$100,000

Pramer Oyster Company, Norwalk; Contact: Tim Pramer  
Expand and diversify shellfish operations in Norwalk  
Grant: \$25,000, Project Value: \$153,000

Prides Corner Farms, Lebanon; Contact: Mark Sellew  
Shade/heat retention system for their propagation greenhouse  
Grant: \$18,692, Project Value: \$37,384

Sharon Pheasant Farm, Sharon; Contact: Robert Wilbur  
Rebuilding of seven pheasant pens  
Grant: \$46,091, Project Value: 92,182

Stone Acres Farm, Stonington; Contact: Rodger Phillips  
CSA Greenhouse construction, deer fencing and tractor attachments for vegetables  
Grant: \$11,433, Project Value: \$22,866

Sunnyside Farm, Voluntown; Contact: Joan Gileau  
Purchase of tractor and loader for increased efficiency in field crops  
Grant: \$38,940, Project Value: \$77,880

Thorncrest Farm, Goshen; Contact: Clint & Kim Thorn  
Construction of milk house creamery for cheesemaking  
Grant: \$49,999, Project Value: \$139,290

**Farm Viability Grants (Municipalities and Non-Profits)**  
**Total Grants: \$468,490, Project Value: \$1,056,947**

Town of Bethany  
For promotion of farmers' market  
Grant: \$950, Project Value: \$1,900

Town of Bozrah  
For promotion of farmers' market  
Grant: \$2,205, Project Value: \$4,410

(Nonprofit) Cheshire Land Trust; Contact: David Schrumm  
A working farm for replacement of main barn in order to pack and ship produce and storage  
Grant: \$40,000, Project Value: \$108,264

(Nonprofit) City Seed, New Haven; Contact: Nicole Berube  
Unified marketing strategy for New Haven farmers' markets  
Grant: \$7,100, Project Value: \$13,680

Town of Colchester  
Develop a community services cost report and ag awareness project  
Grant: \$17,300, Project Value: \$34,978

(Nonprofit) Common Ground, New Haven; Contact: Melissa Spear  
A FoodCorps project focusing on five municipalities to improve school food environments  
Grant: \$49,070, Project Value: \$84,024

(Nonprofit) Coventry Regional Farmers Market; Contact: Winter Caplanson  
New site development for Coventry Farmers' Market  
Grant: \$49,999, Project Value: \$130,109

(Nonprofit) CT Agricultural Education Foundation, Windsor; Contact: Joan Nichols  
Emergency preparedness planning for ag producers  
Grant: \$15,000, Project Value: \$25,000

(Nonprofit) CT Farmland Trust, Hartford; Contact: James Gooch  
A municipally focused acceleration of Agricultural Conservation  
Grant: \$25,000, Project Value: \$50,000

(Nonprofit) Eastern CT Resource Conservation & Development Area, Vernon; Contact: John Guskowski  
A pilot study for a value chain partnership for local meat in Connecticut  
Grant: \$37,500, Project Value: \$67,100

(Nonprofit) Friends of Ambler Farm, Wilton; Contact: Kevin Meehan  
Purchase of reverse osmosis machine to increase maple syrup production  
Grant: \$2,890, Project Value: \$5,780

Town of Haddam  
Higganum Village Farmers' Market promotion  
Grant: \$4,500, Project Value: \$9,000

(Nonprofit) Hartford Food System, Hartford; Contact: Martha Page  
For construction of greenhouse to support CSA  
Grant: \$14,615, Project Value: \$20,461

(Nonprofit) Holcomb Farm, West Granby; Contact: Sam Hammer  
New irrigation system for vegetable fields  
Grant: \$29,805, Project Value: \$49,675

(Nonprofit) Knox Park Foundation, Hartford; Contact: Barbara Naugle  
Establish a new community garden  
Grant: \$29,757, Project Value: \$149,550

(Nonprofit) North Central Conservation District, Vernon; Contact: David Askew  
Administer an ag restoration grant program for farmers  
Grant: \$49,999, Project Value: \$83,331

Town of Southbury  
Farmers' market promotions  
Grant: \$2,500, Project Value: \$5,000

Town of Sprague  
Farmland and open space preservation  
Grant: \$25,000, Project Value: \$50,000

(Nonprofit) Town of Westport, Harbor Watch; Contact: Dick Harris  
Tracking and ID'ing storm drain contamination of shellfish waters  
Grant: \$38,000, Project Value: \$119,185

(Nonprofit) Wind Hill Community Farm & Learning Center, Glastonbury; Contact: Barbara Wagner  
Expansion of CSA and educational programming  
Grant: \$27,300, Project Value: \$45,500

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