



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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Governor's Council for Agricultural Development Issues First Report

Fifteen-member, farmer-based group makes recommendations to grow Connecticut agriculture

(HARTFORD, CONN.) Today Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky announced that the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development has presented its [first annual report](#) to Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

The report (available at www.CTGrown.gov/GovernorsCouncil) summarizes the council's first year of work on its strategic plan for the state's \$3.5 billion agricultural industry, *Grow Connecticut Farms*, and includes seven recommendations to further develop, diversify, and promote agriculture in the state.

"Agriculture is an important economic driver in Connecticut," said Governor Malloy. "Our farms are part of our heritage, and they are the source of great growth potential in our future. This report will help us make smart investments in the state's agriculture sector and bolster efforts to get CT Grown produce into more homes and schools. Over the next several weeks I will visit farms, farmer's markets, and other agricultural sites across the state—I look forward to working with the Council and our farmers to make Connecticut a stronger, more competitive state."

The council, whose 15 members are predominantly commercial farmers themselves, gathered input from several hundred other Connecticut producers and agricultural stakeholders during 2012 in the development of the recommendations.

"This report is the product of feedback from several hundred people working in agriculture today," explained Commissioner Reviczky, "and represents their views on ways to strengthen agriculture, create jobs, and increase the industry's economic activity beyond its current \$3.5 billion level. These are steps the council is ready to begin now, as it continues to identify additional opportunities to grow Connecticut farms and agriculture."

The council is organizing 12 working groups to begin addressing the recommendations and to establish additional priorities that surface in the process. It will issue a second report at the end of 2013.

The Governor's Council for Agricultural Development was reshaped by [Public Act 11-189](#), which streamlined membership and tasked the council with making recommendations to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture on ways to increase the percentage of food dollars consumers spend on Connecticut Grown fresh produce and farm products, and on the development, diversification, and promotion of agricultural products, programs, and enterprises in the state. Members are appointed by Governor Malloy and legislative leadership and represent agricultural production, processing, education, sales, and marketing, along with an agricultural trade organization and the greenhouse/nursery sector.

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