



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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Governor Rell Announces \$200,000 for Farm Reinvestment Grants

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that \$200,000 in grants to help Connecticut farmers make long-term improvements to their operations is expected to be approved when the State Bond Commission meets July 13.

The grant is awarded through the state Department of Agriculture's Farm Reinvestment Grant Program, which helps farmers expand or improve their operations as part of a 10-year business plan. Matching grants of up to \$40,000 are awarded to farmers who have sound long-range programs and will complete the project within one year.

"Keeping agriculture viable in Connecticut is something we absolutely must do. We cannot afford to lose a \$2 billion industry that affects every single household in this state," Governor Rell said. "This grant program underscores our commitment to preserving open space and the quality of life it creates all of us – now and for our children and grandchildren."

The grant awards provide seed money for projects that enhance existing agricultural operations. These projects improve the farms' operations cash flow, create new jobs, and expand municipal grand lists. Approved projects have included farm expansion through the greenhouse construction, new dairy facilities, cheese production facilities, commercial kitchens, wine processing and fruit and vegetable packing facilities.

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