

# BOLTON

GOURMAVIAN FARMS LLC



## THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT

AGRICULTURE & DAIRY

\$15,700

## SUCCESS STORIES



With the passage of the Farms, Food & Jobs bill in 2010, new markets were opened to Connecticut poultry producers. The law permitted farmers to sell their own locally grown and processed birds directly to restaurants. GourmAvian Farms of Bolton, with more than 45 years of farm experience, is one of the farms that has taken full advantage of that new market.

The farm raises select “Old World” breeds of birds, and does a strong business selling live broilers, roasters and chicks, But it also discovered that demand for heritage, free-range and free-roam birds for restaurants, butcher shops, farmers’ markets and other specialty markets is strong. The farm found chefs were eager to buy fresh heritage chicken locally raised. Distributing as many as 350 processed birds each week from one corner of the state to the other soon became a challenge, however.

Utilizing a modest Farm Transition Grant of \$15,700 awarded by the Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act (CIA), the farm was able to purchase a box unit with a cooler to mount on the back of a truck purchased by the farm as its in-kind portion of the grant. This cooling unit ensures that the poultry can be transported under optimal temperature conditions. GourmAvian’s poultry sales revenue has grown more than 60% in the past year.



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PA 05-228

PA 09 –3

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The 2005 Community Investment Act implements the goals of the State of Connecticut to protect and preserve the beauty and unique character of the state for future generations through a designated funding stream. Funds from the Community Investment Act are used to save farms, preserve historic places and open space, and create affordable housing.

The Community Investment Act has helped to sustain the character and strengthen the economy of nearly every town and city in Connecticut.