



From the Farm



The Voice of Connecticut Agriculture

2011 Legislative Session Closes:

Session Reaps Benefits for State Farmers and Supporters of Agriculture

Connecticut has moved forward in the support of local farming and agriculture as a result of laws passed during the recently ended legislative session. Despite the uncertainties of budget cuts and external factors, many of the 2011 Legislative Priorities outlined by Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA) leadership were achieved in this session.

"We are extremely pleased with the very positive outcome of the legislative session," says CFBA Executive Director Henry Talmage. "The strong support for agriculture is an indication that the legislature understands the important role agriculture plays in the future success of our state."

"The CFBA worked closely with legislative leaders to help craft laws that help foster a positive business climate for agriculture, preserve our open spaces and give our state residents greater access to locally grown food products."

Some of the highlights of the legislative session include:

- The maintenance of vital funding for the state's 19 regional Agriscience & Technology programs (formally Vo-Ag) which will ensure the education of tomorrow's farmers.

- Funding of the state's Community Investment Act. In addition to maintaining the current distribution of funds for certain state and agricultural programs including those which help preserve farmland, elimination of the sunset provision secures the permanent funding for Connecticut's dairy farmers that

helps them maintain viability in case of low wholesale milk prices. The CIA also provides funds for soil and water conservation districts and boards.

- A change in the law to allow food vendors at farmers' markets to use one universal health department license for all towns, instead

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Connecticut Hosts Northeast Regional Farm Bureau Presidents & Administrators

Connecticut will be the host state for the Farm Bureau's Northeast Regional Farm Bureau Presidents & Administrators meeting July 18 through 20. Leaders from eleven of twelve states, from Maine to West Virginia, will travel to Mystic for a three-day series of organizational development meetings.

See "Meeting" on page 6

Agriculture and other CIA Partners Celebrate Six Years of Success Stories

State Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams hosted a press conference to mark a celebration of six years and more than 600 success stories attributed to the Community Investment Act (CIA). The press conference launched a two week display of 40 CIA success stories, featuring ten projects from each program that benefits from CIA funding including open space, agriculture viability including dairy support and farmland preservation, preservation of historic sites and creation of affordable housing programs and important municipal capital improvement projects.

In 2005, Public Act 228 was signed into law to further the goals of protecting and preserving the beauty and unique character of Connecticut for future generations. More than \$56 million in grants has been awarded using CIA dollars, funding more than



Hartford County Farm Bureau Member Becky Clark speaks at the Community Investment Act press conference about the impact of the CIA on her family's acquisition of Bushy Hill Orchards, and her appreciation of the work of the Department of Agriculture in supporting farmers. Listening to her remarks are (left to right) Senate President Pro Tempore Don Williams, Senator Edward Meyer, Senator Maynard, and Representative Bryan Hurlburt.

600 projects in 148 communities across the state.

Senator Williams, considered the father of the CIA, addressed a full

meeting room that included many CFBA members who traveled to Hartford to show their support for the CIA.

Senator Williams referred to the CIA as "a significant economic engine, not only preserving jobs, but creating new jobs. We wouldn't be celebrating 157 dairy farms saved if it weren't for the CIA. It helps connect people of the state

See "CIA" on page 5

The Mission of the Connecticut Farm Bureau is to elevate the stature of agriculture in our state. Through education, market promotion and legislative advocacy, we strive to increase farm income and to improve the quality of life not only for Connecticut farmers, but also for their consumers.

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CONNECTICUT FARM BUREAU

From the Executive Director...

I am very excited to serve as your next Executive Director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau. I come to CFBA after serving as Executive Director of The Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) for the past five years. During my time at CFT I had the opportunity to work with many agricultural, governmental and environmental leaders in the effort to promote farmland preservation. Through those relationships and my prior Farm Bureau experience, as well as the experience I gained by running my family's greenhouse and nursery business on Long Island, NY, I will now focus on the broader issues and challenges facing the business of agriculture here in Connecticut.



CFBA is the *Voice of Connecticut Agriculture* and I look forward to continue and expand on the good work that has been done in the past. Our state's agriculture is diverse and constantly changing, and CFBA needs to embrace diversity and change. The Connecticut Farm Bureau will work to assure that all aspects of Connecticut agriculture are welcome and well-represented within the organization. There will not always be agreement on all issues, but our system of policy development allows for that. The benefits of working together as a cohesive industry far outweighs any potential challenges. One of our goals is to increase membership among farmers and the best way to do that is to demonstrate value, relevance and effectiveness to the entire agricultural industry. You can help by asking your neighbors and associates to join if they are not currently Farm Bureau members.

Agriculture enjoys the ever-increasing support in of the non-farming public. It is difficult to pick up a weekend paper and not find an article or two about local food and the importance of local agriculture. We have long been working to remove barriers and encourage good legislation and policies to protect agriculture. As we look to the future we also need to engage and educate those outside of agriculture who are interested in the future of farming in our state. This is a unique opportunity to build loyal customers and advocates who are truly interested in the long-term success of Connecticut agriculture.

The core strength of Farm Bureau has always been its grassroots form of governance and policy development. It is one of the reasons Farm Bureau has enjoyed such a strong reputation over the years. I will continue on in the strong tradition of focusing on the issues affecting Connecticut agriculture subject to the policies of the association. As someone who served as a county Farm Bureau President in NY, I know that the ongoing success of CFBA is tied directly to the success of the individual county Farm Bureaus. I look forward to working with the state Board of Directors, CFBA staff and county leadership to help foster a spirit of cooperation and efficiency between CFBA and the counties to maximize the way your organization serves you.

CFBA has played a distinguished role as the *"Voice of Connecticut Agriculture"* since its inception in 1919 and the need for a strong Farm Bureau has never been higher. I am optimistic and excited about the future of CFBA and the impact we can have on the future of Connecticut agriculture by working together.

Henry N. Talmage
Henry N. Talmage

FROM THE FARM MASTHEAD

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New London 860-642-7811
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Windham 860-923-2710



CFBA Calendar

July:

CT Ag Education Foundation Golf Tournament • Trent Jones Course Lyman Orchards, Middlefield July 12, 8:30 a.m. • aimee@ctaef.org or 860-653-6447

Fairfield County Farm Bureau Picnic • Jones Family Winery Shelton • July 18, 6:30 p.m.

CFBA Young Farmers Chicken Barbeque • Pleasant View Cafe, Somers • July 23, 5-9 p.m. Tickets \$20/advance, \$25/door

Windham County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting Blackmer's Farm, 441 Quinebaug Rd. No. Grosvenordale • July 27, 12:30 860-923-2710

New London County Farm Bureau Annual Picnic • July 30, 5 p.m. 4-H Camp • 90 Kahn Rd., Franklin

Litchfield County Farm Bureau Farm Bureau Local Food & Farms Market • Bethlehem Fairgrounds, Rte. 61, Bethlehem • July 31 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Register by July 20 to exhibit: lcfb@sbcbglobal.net

August:

Tolland County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting August 4, 6 p.m.

Hartford County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting Southington • August 6

Middlesex County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting Running Brook Farms • 219 Rte. 80 Killingworth • August 10, 6 p.m.

New London County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting Location TBD • August 11

CFBA Young Farmers Award Application Deadline August 12, 4 p.m. • 860-765-1104

Hartford County Farm Bureau Farm Tour • Hastings Farm, Suffield August 13

PLEASE CHECK THE LATEST LISTINGS WWW.CFBA.ORG UNDER EVENTS

From "Session" on page 1

- of requiring individual licenses for individual towns. This will allow more variety at farmers' markets and give farmers access to additional revenue streams.
- Creation of an Agricultural Council for the state's Executive Branch, giving Connecticut's governor a way to receive direct input from those in the agricultural community on how to grow our state's \$3.5 billion agricultural sector.
- Increased sales opportunities for wineries by authorizing the sale of Connecticut wine at farmers' markets, and establishing a farmers' market wine permit.
- The creation of a state-run timber harvesting account that will pay for hiring of additional state foresters to oversee responsible timber harvesting on state forest lands.
- Permitting almost 14,000 acres of private Connecticut forest land under the 10 mil program to be taxed at the PA 490 rate instead

- of a substantially higher rate. This change will have a significant positive impact on the protection of forest land.
- The passage of language that allows state dairy farms to create and fund a Connecticut Milk Promotion Board to educate state residents about the importance of dairy products and their impact on our state's economy.
- New language that encourages towns to form Agricultural Commissions in order to highlight issues facing local farms and requiring municipalities to consider agriculture when amending their plans of conservation and development
- The defeat of proposals that would have severely restricted farming near state wetlands and prevented many farmers from having access to adequate supplies of water.
- Increased protection for farmers operating agricultural tractors on public roads by enacting penalties on operators of motor vehicles

who injure vulnerable users on a public way.

CFBA Government Relations Specialist Joan Nichols closely watched the developing regulations this season, updating members when extra support was needed. She cited the UCONN study conclusion about the agriculture industry's \$3.5 billion impact on Connecticut's economy. "Agriculture is the bright spot in Connecticut's economy, and this year's legislative session clearly recognized the value in protecting and supporting farming in the state of Connecticut. It was overall, a very positive and productive session for Connecticut agriculture".

Mrs. Nichols also acknowledged the impact of members' involvement in the testimony process. "For example, I thought dairy farmer Matt Peckham of Woodstock did an outstanding job in his

testimony before the Environment Committee for continued support of funding for the dairy industry and the CIA. He put a fresh face on the issue."

Bills that CFBA has watched closely which did not pass include prohibition of certain outdoor wood-burning furnaces, protection of certain natural vegetation near rivers and the inclusion of nurseries and greenhouses in farmland preservation programs.

"Agriculture is often not thought of as a driver in our state's economy but, in truth, it is," says Talmage. The Connecticut Farm Bureau wants to congratulate our state's legislators for their vision and support. Governor Malloy has made it clear that agriculture is one area where we can grow our economy and our legislature helped aid that mission with its actions in the 2011 legislative session."

From "CIA" on page 1

with locally grown products and provides a whole series of grants for entrepreneurs. The CIA enhances our daily life, and the life of our future generations."

The bipartisan support at the State Capitol was evident at the celebratory press conference. Rep. Roberta Willis commented, "Northwest Connecticut has really benefitted from the CIA. This is a lasting legacy for those of us who have supported this." Rep. Bryan Hurlburt spoke about the scope of the CIA, from rebuilding homes in Hartford to protecting farmland to eliminating the food deserts across the state with programs like community gardens in New Haven. Rep. Clark Chapin emphasized that "Taphe CIA is one example of parties across the aisle working at our best. I'm proud to be part of the discussions. The CIA has garnered universal support."

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Reviczky spoke specifically about what CIA funds within his department, including the Connecticut Grown program, agriculture viability grants, and farm transition grants to help farms diversify and increase production. CIA funds the farmland preservation program including three staff members within the Department of Agriculture plus acquisition funds for purchasing farm development rights.

Becky Clark of Clark Farms in Granby spoke as a representative of the agriculture segment. Her family was able to acquire the 70-acre Bushy Hill Orchard as a result of the CIA-funded Connecticut Farmland Preservation program in combination with the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection program and the Granby Land Trust contributing to purchase development rights. Mrs. Clark took the opportunity to express appreciation for the CIA funding that made their orchard purchase possible, but also lauded the work of the Department of Agriculture in supporting farms and farmers in so many ways.

In addition to Clark Farms, the exhibit at the Legislative Office building featured agriculture success stories from across the state including Futtner's Farm in East Hartford, Maple Lane Farm in Preston, Common Ground in New Haven, Freund's Farm in East Canaan, The Farmer's Cow in northeastern Connecticut, Wholesome Wave in Bridgeport, and Rowledge Pond Aquaculture in Newtown.

The framed CIA pieces focusing on agriculture, funded by American Farmland Trust and CFBA, are available at the CFBA office for county Farm Bureaus and other organizations to borrow for local exhibits and events. Please call 860-768-1103 for details.



As part of Farm Credit's long-term commitment of helping young individuals get started in farming, Farm Credit East initiated a program to support talented, hardworking individuals entering agriculture. This program is today known as FarmStart, LLP. Jonathan Eddy, owner of New Boston Beef LLC in North Grosvenordale, and a member of Windham County Farm Bureau, has been a FarmStart participant since 2008. "FarmStart provided the flexible cash flow I needed during lean months in order to start my business," said Jonathan. Today, New Boston Beef LLC raises hay and beef, supplying locally produced all-natural beef to consumers in its surrounding tristate area of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Now celebrating its fifth year, FarmStart has invested more than \$2.5 million to 65 participants, some of whom have graduated and moved on to traditional Farm Credit East loans.

Submitted by Kristie Schmitt, Farm Credit East, ACA

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At Fairfield County Farm Bureau's agriculture workshop at the Extension Center in Bethel, Dr. Martin Gent addresses a full house about greenhouse, hydroponic and high tunnel growing methods. Other speakers' topics included soil amendments, trends in livestock farming and fencing to secure livestock.

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From "Meeting" on page 1

The leaders will be joined by staff from the American Farm Bureau Federation, including President Bob Stallman and Richard Newpher, Executive Vice President as well as other representatives from the Washington office.

"We're pleased to be welcoming Farm Bureau leaders to our wonderful state," says Henry Tal-
mage, CFBA Executive Director. "We have so many critical issues to discuss, and we're hoping to take a very honest, informal approach to sharing solutions with other Farm Bureaus."

The group of 39 participants will also tour a few diversified Connecticut farming operations and UConn's Avery Point campus, and enjoy other social activities featuring Connecticut's local foods.

Welcome New Members 3/1/11 – 4/30/11

Fairfield:

Sherri Wilkens; Caro Marrero; Chuck Noonan; Chuck Noonan; Ernest H. Buggisch; Steven Soucar; Rafael Velez; Carolyn White; Paul Greggos; Jose Amaya; Marcel Vailant; Alan Legros; Bruce Heselton; Michael Rosenberg; Pauline Coore; Myles Golden; Robert Rivera; Mayling Chow; Opal Mooyin; Raquel Castro; Gina Lebron; Kara Lisa Lombardi; Fred Brutus; Mark Colella; Donna Drabek; Michaelle Merina; Jean Stetz-Puchalski; Pamela & Charles Cunningham; Elba Rivera; Mike G. Papa Artscape Organic Care, LLC.; Harold & Geraldine Mc Ewen, Mc Ewen Farms; Bernadine Krawczyk; Virginia Evitts; Louis Orlando; Thomas Sands; David Gore; Rita Hunter; Carol Kaelin; Ronald Holbert; Sherry Walsh; Tina Ciecimirski; Dina Cummings; Doris Walden; Lisa Procaccini; Gloria Chu; Timothy Meehan; Phillip Kidd; Stanley Klein; Marshall Greenspan; Michael & Cindy Grubisa; Margaret Feeney, Feeney Farm; Sean Smith; Gene Nazzaro; Gary Piscatelli; Petagaye Kinlock; Helena Adams

Hartford:

Maria Rosado; Darren Tucker; John Doyon; Rowena Lavoie; Blake Gronda; Johanna Tirado; Sonia Rodriguez; Camerson Werme; John Lipscome; Israel Torres; Providencia Dela Cruz-Jemenez; Richard Dulac; Jason Dougherty; John Burns; Mark & Deborah Cossette; Daphne Mc Coy; Pamela Michaud; Dave Cote; Emmett Durham; David Cronin; Rohan Bennett; Sharon Little; Frank Bill; Lynn Pronovost; Jessica Rodriguez; PhilipParenteau; Gary Oliveira; Stanley Merchant; Tonya King; Glenn Riccardi; Irene & Frank Kraft; Suzanne Sisson; Lynae Jones; Thavaraj Thiyagaraj; Dane Wallace; Marcey Grade; Katie Weinberg; Melissa Sartori; Frank Gresham;

Kyle Szeszakow; Gustave Brodeur; Aristides Vazquez; Orlando Byrdsong; Luis Andrew Almeida; Eileen Cormier; Carrie Woollard; James Watson; Robert F. Cohen; Aniran Mejia; John Nute; Sharita Stevenson; Mathew Boland; Robert F. Cohen; Lee Ann Marozas; Dorothy Davis; Kim Trudeau, North Central CT Chamber Of Commerce; Richard Merejo; Jason Philhower; Venkata Vejrappu; James & Rebecca Stremper; Robert Tomlinson; Saketha Holmes; Kenneth Voccola; Lilliam Maldonado; Jennifer Stanforth; Jacob Weiselfish

Litchfield:

Rabija Ahmetovic; John Snopkowski; Bruce & Rosemarie Wilkes; James Fox; Helen Bowers; Stewart & Leila Klein; Luke Turnquist; Molly M. & Jonathan Hidle, Wildfall Farm; Eric & Kristen Pontbriand; Nicole Bissonnette; Stephen Alexson, Alexson Farm; Joseph "Jed" Struckus, Exmoor Ponies Of North America; Matt Blasavage, Matt's Xmas Tree Farm; Delisse Locher; Christopher Gemino

Middlesex:

Jeff Halvorson; Shannon Crandall; Adam White; Katherine & Mark Focacci; Lisa Le Montangue; John Watts; David Short; Cathy Andresen Dragon's Lair Farm, LLC.; Daniel & Sandra Winkler; Steve Strong; Ed Manner, Arrigoni Farms; Michael Milano, Roast Meat Hill Farm; Shannon Hoadley; David Raczka

New Haven:

James Best; Ralph Zingarella; Jeanne Stracener; Marilyn Olsen; Lynette Tryjada; Margaret Walker; Shirley Clement; Robert Voss; Ellen Richardson; Mayda Paz; Ronald & Andrea Esposito; Karen Paquete; Christopher Wasik; Emmanuel Colon; James Muldoon; Lisa Matejek; Sal Delbuono; Raymond Kostka; Jan Krasnor; Audrey Thomas; Richard Burke;

James Afonso; Nelson Osorio; George Blees; James Rafferty; Balkaran & Eve Seeram; Theresa & Harland Mayo; Joseph Ventu-
arelle; Kathleen Mankus; Linda Kassheimer; Patricia Garguilo; Daniel Rucci; Armand Facchini; Richard & Susan Nolen-Hoeksem; Karen Petrosky; Peter Madonia; Frederick Hummel, Breezy Hill Farm; Linda Chretien; Deborah Donovan; Glenda Rivera; Christine Buckley; Vjolca Hysaj; Andrea & Dennis Bonazzoli; Salvatore Bonito; Donald Foyer Foyer Farms, LLC.; David & Veronica Winchell; Maryanne Hepler; Ludwig Pulaski; Steve Camire; Donato & Marisa Maisano; Everett Patten; Carol Orsene; Lawrence Lazaroff; Katrona Solimini; Donovin Gianfredi; Philip Suffredini; Damon Golia; Mayee & Vinh Tu; Richard Marnic; Ben Northrup; Arlene Hettrick; Kristie Kelley; Igor Ursini; Dominic Schettino; Henry Pena; Loren Marozas; Kimberly Riordan; Allison Hurley; Denise Vaughn-Hill; Minnie Bradley; Ivelisse Azorno; Thomas Duffy; Kevin Syombathy; Carolyn Smith; Benjamin Stiles, Ragland Farm

New London:

Philip Gaudette; Jerry Odell; Jeanamarie Brennan; Abbe & William Varas; Annette & Thomas Morin; Delbert & Annette Viall; Charles Rex; Carol Anderson; Cynthia Ramatowski; David Wasniewski

Tolland:

Laurie White; Terri Cocuzzo; Noelle Rosato; Diane & Arthur Wheelock; William Barnett; Claude Marshall; Mark Marschall; Robert J. Clements

Windham:

Laurie & David Cote; Gordon Adams; Joseph Lamonica; Kenneth Tramadeo

CFBA ADVOCATING FOR YOU...

In Your Town Hall

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association is dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut farms, and land use and regulation issues continue to be an area where land owners need assistance. The topics covered by the recent CFBA conference on Planning and Zoning issues repeat over and over throughout the state.

For example, Government Relations Specialist Joan Nichols received a hearty thank you, and helped CFBA gain a new full-time farmer membership from a non-farming landowner in Western Connecticut. This individual was able to get his PA 490 Open Space classification reinstated in his community as a direct result of CFBA's assistance, thereby saving him thousands in taxes. "I just wanted to provide you with an update and thank you for all the time you provided me. I will continue to be a



member of the CFBA. If there is any way I can be of assistance to you, your organization or others with PA 490 disputes, please do not hesitate to contact me."

MONROE

On April 7, Government Relations Specialist Joan Nichols traveled to the town of Monroe to do an hour-long presentation and answer questions on PA 490 before the Fairfield County Assessors' Association.

GREENWICH

Joan Nichols shared her expertise on PA 490 with a group of attorneys representing private forest land owners in Greenwich. The land owners were appealing their revised land use value tax assessment for PA 490 Forest Land at a hearing before the Greenwich Board of Assessment Appeals.

The Northeastern Loggers' Association (NELA) recently honored Joan Nichols, CFBA's Government Relations Specialist, as the recipient of its 2010 Outstanding Leadership in Industry Award. NELA President Jeff Durst presented the award at the Annual Loggers' Banquet in Bangor, ME in a ceremony attended by over 200 members of the Northeast's forest products industry. President Durst remarked, "It is a bit of a drive from the woods of Connecticut – so I'm not certain that news has reached this far north about Joan Nichols' reputation and long-time efforts on behalf of our industry. Needless to say, Joan is very well known and appreciated in the Nutmeg State." Mr. Durst acknowledged Mrs. Nichols' role in re-activating the Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association



"She knows the industry, she understands private forestland ownership, and she has a firm handle on the history that has brought us to where we are today," he said.

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CFBA Women's Leadership Committee Members Attend Baltimore Conference

The Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) sent three representatives to the National Women's Leadership Conference in Baltimore, MD, in April. Alyce Block, Sydney Mintz

and Debbi Tanner spent several incredible days there. We met women from all over the United States and learned that we share similar concerns, hopes and gratitude no matter where we come from or what we do on our farms. We attended many informative and inspiring seminars and hope to be able share what we learned with others in our state and region. We are currently working on getting information to bring some of the seminar ideas to our area. We would also like to thank our counties and the CFBA for their additional financial support that made our trip possible.

The WLC is looking for membership help on its next big project: the photo quilt. November is one crop harvest away. Now is the time to take those awesome pictures for the quilt. Members will select the favorites at the annual county and state meetings this fall so that you can take a chance on the raffle in 2012. All members are encouraged to start snapping those great photos now.

Submitted by Debbi Tanner, Chairman



Don't Forget to Keep Shooting Your Photos for the 2012 Photo Quilt Contest!

Photos will be accepted through October 21, 2011. Photos should be submitted to: Debbi Tanner 19 Purvis Rd. Brooklyn, CT 06234, or emailed to creamerybrookbison@sbcglobal.net



The Connecticut Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee hosted a workshop in East Windsor, "Prevent the Fighting. Get it in Writing," which included presentations by three estate planning professionals. The committee created door prizes and gift baskets for the speakers. During the luncheon, CFBA Government Relations Specialist Joan Nichols offered an update on the legislative session.

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statutes and definitions that relate to livestock and poultry and guidance on how municipalities should consider addressing regulations that pertain to livestock. Attorney Richard Roberts of Halloran & Sage LLP, provided an overview of land use regulation in Connecticut and Attorney Doug Dubitsky followed up with the details of submitting a planning and zoning application. Ben Howell, New England Field Representative with American Farmland Trust introduced AFT's soon to be released, Farmland Connections, a publication designed to provide guidance to municipalities, land trusts and producers on how to negotiate and administer farm lease agreements.

The afternoon program focused on providing support for agricultural viability in Connecticut communities. Philip Chester, town planner for the town of Lebanon, provided insight into the importance of incorporating agriculture into municipal plans of conservation and development. Cathy Osten, Sprague First Selectman and Diane Miller owner of Fairvue Farm in Woodstock offered advice in adopting optional municipal tax reductions programs for farmers. Steve Damon and Peter Westover

shared their experiences developing and working with agricultural commissions in Massachusetts. Jennifer Kaufman, Director of the AGvocate program, highlighted the success of her program working with producers and municipalities in northeastern Connecticut. Christopher Bourque, owner of Birch Pond Farm in Colchester shared his personal experience helping to enact a Right to Farm Ordinance in his community. CFBA Government Relations Specialist Joan Nichols wrapped up the program with a presentation on creating agriculturally friendly zoning regulations.

USDA Risk Management Agency, in cooperation with UCONN Cooperative Extension System, provided funding for the program. Contributing sponsorship was generously provided by The Farmers Cow, Halloran & Sage, LLP, CME Associates and Farm Credit East.

CFBA received very positive feedback on the conference topics. Handouts and power point presentations from the conference may be viewed by visiting www.cfba.org. Look for Resources on the menu bar, then click on Powerpoints.

A Growing Business on Connecticut Farms:

Direct Marketing

The Census of Agriculture provides information on the farms and market value of agricultural production sold directly to individuals for consumption.

Direct-to-consumer marketing of farm products includes sales at farmers' markets, farm stands/on farm sales, pick-your-own (PYO) operations, community supported agriculture (CSAs) operations and home delivery of farm products. The census figures on direct sales to consumers also includes catalog and internet sales.

The census data for 1997-2007 of farms and value of products sold directly to individuals for consumption are listed as follows:

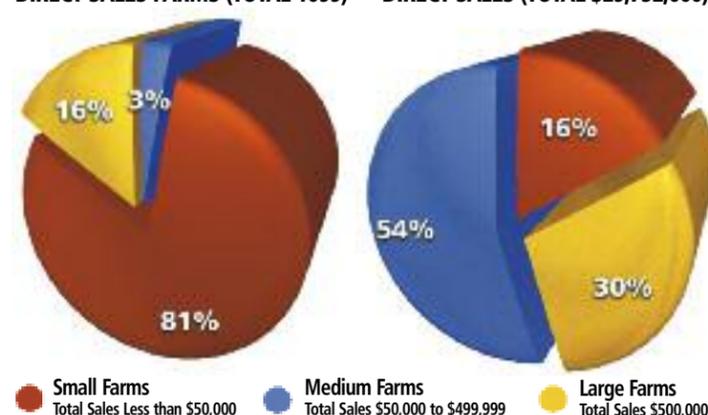
CENSUS YEAR	FARMS	% OF TOTAL FARMS	DIRECT SALES (\$1,000)	% OF TOTAL FARM SALES
1997	774	19.7	10,980	2.6
2002	853	20.4	17,108	3.6
2007	1,099	22.4	29,752	5.4

From 1997 to 2007, direct sales by farmers increased 171 percent and the number of farms selling directly to consumers increased 42 percent over this 10-year period.

According to the Census, 894 smaller CT farms primarily sell directly to consumers. Fewer large farms sell direct to consumers, but they account for the highest market value. The large volume of direct sales by these 26 farms may be attributable to a few dairy farms processing and selling milk directly to consumers.

In 2007 small farms accounted for 81 percent of farms that sold directly to consumers and 16 percent of direct sales market value to consumers.

DIRECT SALES FARMS (TOTAL 1099) DIRECT SALES (TOTAL \$29,752,000)



Submitted by: Bernard Dzielinski, Fairfield County

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Deadline August 12:

Young Farmer Awards Applications Available Online Or By Phone.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association selects a **Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award** winner based on effort in production agriculture and leadership. The ideal candidate is an individual/couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks.

CFBA also selects a **Young Farmer Excellence in Agriculture Award** winner. An opportunity for Young Farmers to earn recognition while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, applicants will be judged on their agricultural involvement, leadership and

participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations. The ideal candidate is an individual/couple not having the majority of their income subject to normal production risks.

Applicants must be CFBA members, involved with the Young Farmer program and be between the ages of 18-35. Winners of the 2012 Awards will be announced at the 2011 CFBA Annual Meeting and go on to compete nationally in Hawaii. Applications are due at the CFBA state office by 4:00 pm 8/12/11. Contact Ashley McCullough, 860-768-1104 or AshleyM@cfba.org.

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MEMBER SERVICES

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help many Farm Bureau members, simply by removing emotion from the conversation. We are specialists in the field of health insurance because that is the only thing we do. By taking the time to educate our clients and by presenting the facts in a clear manner, our clients

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ing many Farm Bureau members and reviewing their accounts over the past few years over the past few years. We have been successful at saving many of them money, time and stress and want to help you too.

Linda Gaetgens and Steve Repka are available to come out to meet with you to explain and review all of your medical insurance options. Contact us at any time with questions or concerns you may have. 1-800-827-4227, Linda (x421) Steve (x412).

Contributed by Steve Repka, eBenefits Group.



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*Members will receive a Cash Back rebate check after every 12 months of service for active accounts. Active accounts are defined as those (i) that are billing more than \$0 and (ii) for which Energy Plus has not received a request on behalf of the customer to discontinue (drop) their service. The Cash Back rebate will be 5% of the total annual kWh Generation Service Charges on your electricity bill per business account and 3% per residential account. A \$50 Activation Bonus check for business accounts or a \$25 Activation Bonus check for residential accounts will be mailed after 2 months of active service from Energy Plus.

**The Energy Plus rate for new customers as of May 2011 is approximately 10% below the generation rate posted by CL&P and UI. The posted rates are available online at www.cl-p.com under Rates and Tariffs and at www.uinet.com under Customer Care > Billing Rates. The Energy Plus rate is variable and therefore subject to change. Current and historical rates should not be taken as a guarantee of future rates and Energy Plus makes no warranty, express or implied, regarding future savings. Energy Plus reserves the right to modify or discontinue the program. This offer cannot be combined with other offers. Offer valid for Connecticut residents excluding areas not serviced by CL&P or UI. Offer not valid for government entities.

MEMBER SERVICES

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The new insurer built its reputation by focusing on the unique needs of American agriculture. Today, Nationwide Agribusiness serves

farms, ranches, commercial agribusinesses, and related operations across the country, and has grown to become

America's number-one insurer of farms and ag cooperatives.

As farming changed radically in recent decades, Nationwide Agribusiness has kept pace through innovation and by truly listening to its customers needs. Throughout, it has maintained a century-long tradition of trust and integrity, customer-first service, and industry leading specialization in ag-related safety training, claims handling, and risk solutions council.

FARM SPECIALIZATION

Nationwide Agribusiness Farm Certified agents are trained to understand the newest innovations and related risks in farm operations. They perform On Your Side® Farm Reviews to help customers achieve long-term business goals. Nationwide Agribusiness' industry-leading risk management specialists work with customers to help prevent losses before they occur, and to return farms to full operation when covered losses do occur. Nationwide Agribusiness also provides discounted rates on farm insurance for Connecticut Farm Bureau members.

Nationwide Agribusiness operates in 46 states. In addition to insuring grain elevators, feed mills, and dairy farms, the insurer serves food processors, sugar refineries, implement dealers, and ag-related businesses such as nurseries, greenhouses, and

related industries along the food, fuel, and fiber chains.

Nationwide Agribusiness supports the long-term viability of the ag industry through active sponsorship of many national and local agricultural and social services organizations in communities across the U.S. Nationwide, Nationwide Agribusiness and their employees provide ongoing support through the Nationwide Foundation for organizations such as National FFA, 4-H, American Farm Bureau Foundation, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, United Way and the American Red Cross.

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Endorsed By

The Voice of Connecticut Agriculture

CFBA Hosts 2nd Annual Statewide Conference:

How Planning and Zoning Impacts Connecticut Agriculture

Providing a favorable local regulatory climate for farms to diversify and prosper became the focal point for Connecticut Farm Bureau Association's second annual statewide forum. On March 31, 2011 more than 120 farmers, municipal leaders and planners joined Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA) at Maneeley's in South Windsor to learn how planning and zoning impacts Connecticut agriculture.

Joseph Bonelli, UCONN Associate Extension Educator kicked-off the morning program by asking agricul-

tural producers to think about how they manage risk in the farming enterprises and introduced the new UCONN Agricultural Business Guide. Connecticut Department of

New London County Farm Bureau member David Wasniewski of Colchester, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Reviczky, Sprague First Selectman Cathy Osten and Lebanon First Selectman Joyce Okonuk take a break during the conference. Commissioner Reviczky was one of the conference speakers, addressing state statutes on agriculture.



Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky highlighted the state statutes that pertain to agriculture and the department's role in implementing those statutes. The Commissioner made himself available during the remainder of the day to answer questions one-on-one from attendees. Dr. Bruce Sherman, Director of

the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Regulations and Inspections shared the state

See "Planning" on page 8



The Budney family of Four Winds Farm donated a plaque to the Town of Lebanon to honor landowners who permanently preserved their property for future generations. "I have always wished to see agriculture continue in Lebanon," says New London County Farm Bureau President Wayne Budney. "These landowners are taking the idea further by preserving their farms and forests forever." Lebanon Town Planner Phil Chester invited Agriculture Commissioner Steve Reviczky, Farm Bureau Executive Director Henry Talmage, town commission members and those being honored for preserving their land to the gathering.