Here is a list of resources to help you advocate for agriculture in your community. Links have been provided to on-line publications, additional resources and websites.

**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association Resources:**

Here is where find the following information for download or to print:

https://cfba.org/advocacy-toolkit/

- All of the fact sheets in this publication.
- An abridged version of the tool kit designed for students.
- A recording of a webinar providing guidance and training on how to use the tool kit.
- A statewide database of Connecticut municipalities that offer the municipal optional tax reduction programs for farms.*
- A statewide database of Connecticut municipalities that have adopted agricultural commissions, local Right to Farm ordinances and other initiatives to support local agriculture.*

*It is advisable to consult with your local tax assessor or town planner for updated information presented on these databases. If your town is not listed on these databases consult with your local assessor or town planner for initiatives your town has taken to support local agriculture.

**Federal Agencies:**

**USDA Service Centers** are designed to be a single location where customers can access the services provided by the **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**, and the **Rural Development (RD)** agencies. Here is a link to all of the Connecticut county offices. On this page are also links to FSA, NRCS and RD:

http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?service=page/CountyMap&state=CT&stateName=Connecticut&stateCode=09

**USDA Service Centers in Connecticut:**

Danielson Service Center 71 Westcott Rd. Danielson, CT 06239  
Phone: (860) 779-0557   FAX (855) 946-3967

Hamden Service Center 51 Mill Pond Rd. Hamden, CT 06514  
Phone: (203) 287-8038   FAX (855) 947-1611

Norwich Service Center 238 W Town St. Norwich, CT 06360-2111  
Phone: (860) 859-5218   FAX (855) 946-3967
2 Resources (continued)

Torrington Service Center 1185 New Litchfield St. Torrington, CT 06790-6017
Phone: (860) 626-8258   FAX (855) 946-3967

Wallingford Service Center 97 Barnes Rd Wallingford, CT 06492-1885
Phone: (203) 269-6665   FAX: (203) 294-9741

Windsor Service Center 100 Northfield Dr. Fl. 4 Windsor, CT 06095-4730
Phone: (860) 688-7725   FAX (855) 947-1611

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers www.usace.army.mil
U.S. Department of Agriculture www.usda.gov
  • USDA Farm Service Agency www.fsa.usda.gov
  • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov
  • USDA Rural Development www.rd.usda.gov
U.S. Department of Labor www.dol.gov
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
U.S. Food and Drug Administration www.fda.gov
U.S. Small Business Administration www.sba.gov

State Agencies:

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)
www.ct.gov/caes   Phone: (203) 974-8500
The mission of the CAES is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAG)
www.ct.gov/doag   Phone: (860) 713-2500
State agricultural grants, farmland preservation, farm product marketing, farm processed foods, selling at farmers’ markets, CT Grown, agricultural laws, permits and regulations.

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)
www.ct.gov/dcp   Phone: (860) 713-6100
DCP can provide advice on acidified and non-acidified food processing, packaging and labeling. They also have oversight of commercial bakeries.

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
www.ct.gov/ecd   Phone: (860) 270-8000
DECD is the state’s lead agency for the development and implementation of policies, strategies and programs that support business growth and innovation. The department offers a wide range of programs and services to help companies prosper in Connecticut including financing, tax credits and incentives, technical assistance and small business assistance.
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
www.ct.gov/deep Phone: (860) 424-3000
Laws, regulations and permits related to energy, public utilities, environmental quality and natural resources including pesticide application, water diversion, inland/wetland regulations, water resources, composting and more.

Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL)
www.ctdol.state.ct.us/ Phone: (860) 263-6000
Labor laws and regulations.

Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH)
www.ct.gov/dph Phone: (860) 509-8000
DPH can provide resources and advice on water testing, proper food processing, food handling tips, food-borne illnesses and links to local health departments.

Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)
www.ct.gov/opm Phone: (860) 418-6200
OPM implements state policy and budget, provides municipal support, interagency coordination, state Plan of Conservation and Development.

Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS)
www.ct.gov/drs Phone: (860) 297-5962
Laws, regulations and permits related to the collection of state taxes including sales and use tax, fuel tax, excise tax and Farmers Tax Exemption permits.

Connecticut General Assembly (CAG)
www.cga.ct.gov
Browse and/or search all state statutes; track legislation, agendas and public hearings; contact your legislators; contact legislative committees; contact House and Senate leadership; information on the legislative session.

Education:

Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation (CTAEF)
http://ctaef.org/
The Mission of the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is to seek and administer funds for the benefit of programs that promote Connecticut agriculture through education. Sponsors of Ag in the Classroom.

Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators
www.caaeonline.org
An association representing Connecticut agricultural educators instructing in the agriscience centers.

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
www.nesare.org Phone: (802) 656-0471 CT Coordinator: (860) 875-3331
SARE offers competitive grants to projects that explore and address key issues affecting the sustainability and future economic viability of agriculture.
4 Resources (continued)

University of Connecticut [www.uconn.edu](http://www.uconn.edu)

- Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) [www.clear.uconn.edu](http://www.clear.uconn.edu)
  Provides information and assistance to land use decision makers and other audiences in support of better land use decisions, healthier natural resources, and more resilient communities. Online mapping and resources on Connecticut’s changing landscape.

- Environmental Conditions Online (CT ECO) [www.cteco.uconn.edu](http://www.cteco.uconn.edu)
  CT ECO includes a variety of online maps and tools for viewing Connecticut’s environmental and natural resources such as protected open space, farmland soils, wetland soils, aquifer protection areas, water quality classifications, and drainage basins. Each can be viewed separately or in conjunction with other environmental and natural resource information. In addition, CT ECO includes several sets of high resolution orthophotography.

- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) [www.nemo.uconn.edu](http://www.nemo.uconn.edu)
  NEMO was created to provide information, education and assistance to local land use boards and commissions on how they can accommodate growth while protecting their natural resources and community character.

University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System
[www.extension.uconn.edu](http://www.extension.uconn.edu)  Phone: (860) 486-9228
Provides a variety of services in plant and animal agriculture. Here you will find links to the various programs, county offices and a directory of over one hundred education specialists.

- Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program
  [www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu](http://www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu)
  Farm risk management planning, farm business planning, farm estate and transition planning, farm labor laws and regulations, agricultural marketing, crop insurance fact sheets and examples.

Organizations:

AGvocate Program
[http://agvocate.org/partners-resources](http://agvocate.org/partners-resources)
The AGvocate Program provides Northeast Connecticut Towns technical assistance to initiate Agriculture Commissions; review and implement tax reduction options; plan for farmland protection, encourage buy local opportunities, explore methods to promote local farms; include agriculture in town plans; and pass right-to-farm ordinances.

American Farmland Trust
[www.farmlandinfo.org](http://www.farmlandinfo.org)  Connecticut office phone: (860) 683-4230
A clearinghouse for information about farmland protection, stewardship and Cost of Community Services studies.

Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers
[www.caa.com](http://www.caa.com)
Professional membership association open to all State of Connecticut public officials who are engaged in the administration of property assessments, including assessors, employees of assessors’ offices and board of assessment appeals members. Website includes links to frequently used local tax filing forms such as Personal Property Declarations, M28 Exemption for Farm Machinery, PA 490 filing forms and more.
Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions  
www.caciwc.org  
Provides education and information to the volunteers and staff that carry out the responsibilities of Connecticut’s municipal Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions.

Connecticut Conservation Districts  
www.conservect.org  
Five conservation districts lend technical services and education about resource conservation to municipalities and citizens.

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities  
www.ccm-ct.org  
Statewide association of towns and cities.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association  
www.cfba.org  
Phone: (860) 768-1100  
Click “Advocacy” to download Local Advocacy Toolkit materials from this guide. Click “Resources” for information on emergency preparedness for farmers; information on processing acidified foods and jellies; farm to grocery information for farmers; information for new and beginning farmers; and more. Click PA 490 on the home page for the PA 490 Guide and related filing forms.

Connecticut Farmland Trust  
www.ctfarmland.org  
Phone: (860) 247-0202  
Private statewide land trust dedicated to the protection of family farms.

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.  
(Previously Eastern CT RC&D and King’s Mark RC&D)  
www.ctrcd.org  
Phone: (860) 373-7408  
Helps communities protect natural and agricultural resources while strengthening the local economy.

Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association  
http://www.ctnofa.org/  
Phone: (203) 308-2584  
On-line resource for organic food, farming, gardening and land care in Connecticut.

Land for Good  
www.landforgood.org  
Phone: (603) 357-1600  
Provides guidance to help farmers, landowners and communities navigate the complex challenges of land access, tenure and transfer. On-line resource for farm seekers and information on farmland leasing.

The Last Green Valley  
http://thelastgreenvalley.org/  
Phone: (860) 774-3300  
The Last Green Valley is the 35-town National Heritage Corridor in eastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts. It’s also a member supported, non-profit stewardship organization. The Last Green Valley hosts a page The Last Green Valley’s AgInfo website for agricultural businesses: http://aginfotlgv.org/

Working Lands Alliance (WLA)  
www.workinglandsalliance.org  
Phone: (860) 683-4230
6 Resources (continued)
A project of American Farmland Trust, WLA is a broad-based, statewide coalition working together to preserve Connecticut’s most-precious resource, its farmland.

Publications:

- Advocating for Connecticut Agriculture in Local Communities
  A Tool Kit for Connecticut Farmers
  www.cfba.org/ctfarmbureauadvocacytoolkit.htm#
  Practical guidance and downloadable fact sheets on initiatives to support local agriculture.

- Connecticut Agricultural Business Management Guide
  www.canr.uconn.edu/cea/frm
  A must-read comprehensive guide for any farm business owner. Provides guidance on setting up a farm business and the various laws and regulations pertaining to owning a farm business in Connecticut.

- Connecticut State and Federal Agricultural Organizations
  A comprehensive directory of state and federal agricultural organizations and contact information.

- Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland
  www.doagfarm.preservation
  Describes options and programs for protecting farmland.

- Farmland ConneCTions
  www.farmland.org/connecticut
  A guide for Connecticut towns, institutions and land trusts interested in leasing farmland.

- Guidance and Recommendations for Connecticut Municipalities
  Zoning Regulations and Ordinances for Livestock

- New Farmer Bucket List Key Resources for New and Beginning Farms in Connecticut
  Technical resources and tips for new and beginning farmers.

  www.ctplanningforagriculture.com
  Guide and website to help Connecticut municipalities plan for the sustainability of Connecticut agriculture. Here you will find additional resources and publications to assist you in planning for the future of Connecticut agriculture.