



402-acre Knowlton Farm, Ashford

Knowlton Farm, Ashford, CT

Knowlton Farm is an active dairy in northeastern Connecticut operated by Thomas Knowlton and his son, James. This historic family farm was preserved through a partnership of the State of Connecticut, Town of Ashford & U.S. Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service. The preserved farm contains approximately 231 acres of prime, statewide and locally important farmland soils surrounding Knowlton Pond and near land and trails of the Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust.

Knowlton and Grindrod Farm (see below) are two active dairy farms, preserved in 2011 by the Farmland Preservation Program. In addition, five other farms preserved grow crops that support Connecticut's dairy industry.

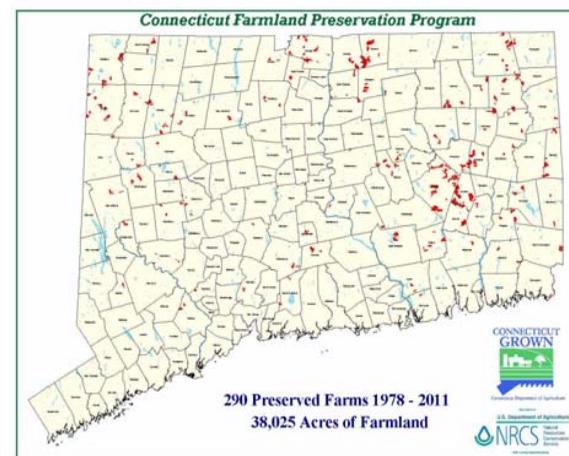


87-acre Mary Del Farm (Grindrod), Sharon

PDR farms protected in last four years

	Farms	Acres	Cost \$
2008	7	675	3,785,198
2009	10	1,370	7,179,659
2010	15	1,228	6,955,585
2011	16	1,969	11,922,061

The Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program purchases development rights to qualified farms to preserve prime and statewide important farmland soils. The collective goal for the State is to preserve 130,000 acres of farmland, with 85,000 in cropland. In the past four years, development rights to 48 farms comprised of 5,242 acres were negotiated and acquired for \$29,842,503. Since inception of the Program through 2011, development rights have been acquired, or are under contract for acquisition, on **290 farms** totaling **38,025 acres** by the State with help of the agricultural community and private & public partner organizations. In December 2011, the Commissioner of Agriculture announced a pilot of the Community Farms Preservation Program, a new program created by state statute to allow for preservation of small farms that contribute to local economic activity and have local support.



PDR farms approved in Program by County

County	# Farms	Acres
Fairfield	3	293
Hartford	40	4,125
Litchfield	64	7,780
Middlesex	10	1,434
New Haven	9	739
New London	74	10,738
Tolland	35	4,198
Windham	69	8,771

Some farms extend across county lines.

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CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM



92-acre Davenport Farm, New Milford

Davenport Farm, New Milford, CT

Located in an agricultural cluster of farms and adjacent to land of the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust on Ridge Road in New Milford, the 92-acre Davenport Farm produces vegetables, corn silage and flowers. Portions are leased to local farmers to supply farm markets, provide dairy support, and surplus for the local food pantry. The State and Town of New Milford jointly purchased development rights for \$10,824 per acre with funding in part by the federal USDA-NRCS Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program.

2011 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

DANNEL P. MALLOY, GOVERNOR
STEVEN K. REVICZKY, COMMISSIONER
JOSEPH J. DIPPEL, DIRECTOR

Objective and Benefits

Landowners who participate in the Program:

- ~ do so voluntarily
- ~ are compensated for the development rights
- ~ continue to own & manage the farm
- ~ continue to pay local property taxes
- ~ can reinvest proceeds in the farm and apply for farm viability grants
- ~ can sell or lease the farm
- ~ maintain CT's agricultural heritage
- ~ conserve wildlife habitat & scenic vistas
- ~ foster local food security and a farmland economy
- ~ leave a legacy for their families and future farmers

The main objective of the Farmland Preservation Program is to secure a food and fiber producing land resource base, consisting primarily of prime and statewide important farmland soils, for the future of agriculture in Connecticut.

This land base will enable CT to produce at least 50% of its fluid milk needs and 70% of its in-season fresh fruits and vegetables. In-state production ensures local availability of fresh farm products, reduced energy costs on transportation, and jobs in agriculture, an important part of the State's economy.



Farmland Preservation Program



70-acre Scantic Valley Farm (Hutton-Barrett), Somers

Highlights of 2011

- ~ preserved 16 farms comprised of 1,969 acres located in 11 towns and five counties
- ~ protected two dairies, seven farms supporting the beef & livestock industry, and a Christmas tree farm
- ~ protected four farms in vegetable and/or fruit production, and two in tobacco
- ~ received gift of development rights to 60 acres of a farm in Woodbury through the generosity of Richard & Peggy Ann Kuss
- ~ participated in eight joint State-Town projects located in Ashford, Suffield, New Milford, and Pomfret
- ~ entered a cooperative agreement with the U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation Service for federal cost share dollars for PDR to qualified farms through the Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program in the amount of \$5,973,353.

Highlights of 2011 continued



56-acre Brick Kiln Farm (Masters), Lebanon

- ~ issued a press release announcing \$2 million in Community Investment Act funding would be designated for a pilot of the new Community Farms Preservation Program and encouraged towns to become eligible to participate
- ~ increased total acreage and number of farms preserved on an annual basis over prior years
- ~ achieved the milestone of preserving over 38,000 acres



331-acre Allen Hill Farm (Langevin), Brooklyn

Funding Status

State funding: Lump sums of \$5 million each were authorized in March and August of 2011, for a total of \$10 million. State bond funding provides money to leverage federal, municipal and private dollars for farmland preservation. These funds, along with funding through the Community Investment Act, were used to acquire development rights to 16 farms at a cost of \$11,922,061.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program:

Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), this program provides federal cost-sharing funds for farmland preservation. In 2011, a cooperative agreement was signed for \$5,973,353 million in FRPP matching funds to acquire development rights on CT farms that meet specific federal requirements.

Local Partners: Towns provided \$1,305,542 in funding in 2011 to assist the State in the protection of eight farms important to local communities. The partnering towns included two farms with Town of Ashford (284 acres), four farms in Town of Suffield (244 acres), a 92-acre farm in Town of New Milford, and a 98-acre farm in Town of Pomfret. Additional cooperative municipal projects are pending with the towns of Ellington, Columbia, Lebanon, Coventry, and New Milford. The Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc. is also a contributing partner on some pending projects. In the December 2011 announcement of the pilot of the Community Farms Preservation Program, the Department encouraged towns to enter cooperative agreements with the State for the joint purchase of development rights on agricultural lands.



79-acre Leahey Farm, Suffield (and above)