



163-acre Hillyland Farm: planted vineyard on hillside

Hillyland Farm, Scotland, CT contains 163 acres preserved by the State through the Farmland Preservation Program, with assistance from the federal Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program. A picturesque family farm, its cropland is in dairy support with a newly planted vineyard. A changing climate presents an opportunity for grape growers.

Young Farm, Woodstock, CT (below) contains 184 acres in dairy support opposite the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Dexter and Nancy Young sold the development rights at a generous bargain sale to the State who protected this farm through the Farmland Preservation Program, with assistance from the federal Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program.

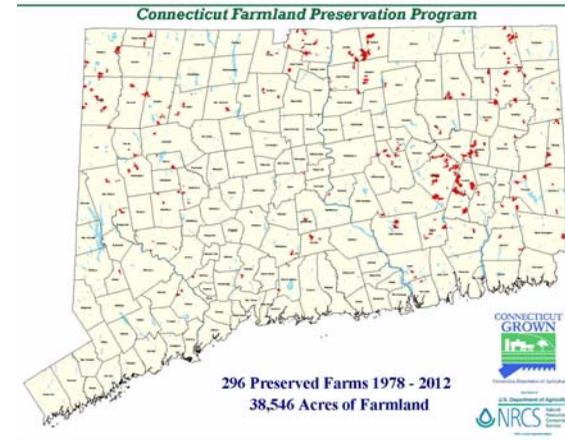


184-acre Young Farm: corn field supporting family's dairy operation

PDR farms protected in last five 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
2012	5	610	4,165,574

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. Since inception of the Program through 2012, development rights have been acquired, or are under contract for acquisition, to **296 farms** totaling **38,546 acres** by the State with help of the agricultural community, private & public partner organizations. The pilot of the new Community Farms Preservation Program is in full swing with nine of 13 applications being considered for the pilot and 23 towns having entered joint state-town cooperative agreements. Furthermore, 63 applications on 800± acres were received for the new Farmland Restoration Program, first offered in February 2012.



PDR farms approved in Program by County

County	# Farms	Acres
Fairfield	3	293
Hartford	40	4,125
Litchfield	64	7,779
Middlesex	10	1,434
New Haven	9	738
New London	74	10,737
Tolland	35	4,199
Windham	69	8,753

Some farms extend across county lines so are counted twice in the # of farms column. Figures are approximate, some subject to final surveys.

CT Department of Agriculture
Farmland Preservation
Program
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106



Phone: 860-713-2511
Fax: 860-713-2598
www.ctgrown.gov

CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM



133-acre March Farm, Bethlehem

March Farm, Bethlehem, CT

A fourth-generation family farm located in the Town of Bethlehem, Litchfield County, contains 133 acres of farmland protected by the State through the Farmland Preservation Program. An orchard, small fruit, vegetables and greenhouse tomatoes are grown. A busy on-site farm store, bakery and cider processing support direct retail sales of their harvest and value-added products. March Farm is a destination for families seeking amenities beyond a great shopping experience—recreational trails, scenic vistas, and play areas for the children.

2012 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.



Young Farm, Woodstock below; March Farm, Bethlehem above

Farmland Preservation Program



80-acre Harris Farm, New Milford: joint state-town project

Highlights of 2012

Farmland Preservation Program

Preserved five farms comprised of 610 acres located in five towns, including one joint state-town project with the Town of New Milford.

Protected three dairy support farms, including one with an emerging grape vineyard, a fruit & vegetable farm, including orchards and small fruits, and a hay and vegetable farm.

Received a bargain sale of development rights to 184 acres in Woodstock through the generosity of Dexter and Nancy Young.

Entered a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service for federal cost share dollars via the Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program in the amount of \$4,094,327.

Photos by Henry, McDermott, Hunter, Bartos and CT DoAg.

Highlights continued & new program reports



Harris farm, New Milford: corn & vegetables

Community Farms Preservation Program

Received 13 applications, nine of which are being considered for the pilot of the CFPP. 23 towns entered cooperative agreements with the State of CT to prepare for joint projects to purchase development rights.

Farmland Restoration Program

At the Governor's initiative, \$5 million authorized by the State Bond Commission in January 2012 to increase the farm resource base. Received 63 applications on 800± acres for draining improvements for orchards, stumping to increase pasture, and clearing invasive plant species from fields. Total request in 2012: \$800,080.



133-acre March Farm, Bethlehem: greenhouses, farm store

Funding Status

State funding: Lump sums of \$5 million each were authorized in March and October of 2012, for a total of \$10 million for the preservation of agricultural lands. These funds, along with funding through the Community Investment Act, were used to acquire development rights to five farms at a cost to the State of \$3,867,452. Another 17 farms and 1,710 acres are under contract to close for nearly \$8.3 million.

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 2012, a cooperative agreement was signed for \$4,094,327 million in FRPP matching funds to acquire development rights to CT farms that meet specific federal requirements.

Local Partners: The Town of New Milford provided \$298,122 in 2012 to acquire development rights jointly with the State to the 80-acre Harris Farm, a family farm that produces pumpkins and hay and serves as a destination for schoolchildren throughout the region. To date, the Farmland Preservation Program participated in joint state-town projects to preserve 33 farms comprised of 3,138 acres with 11 towns. With the introduction of the Community Farms Preservation Program, the number of towns that are positioned to work with the State on joint projects to preserve farmland has more than doubled to 23 towns.



50-acre Tanner Farm, Warren: previously Yale University