Promoting Agricultural Viability in Farm-Friendly Towns





American Farmland Trust

Saving the Land that Sustains Us

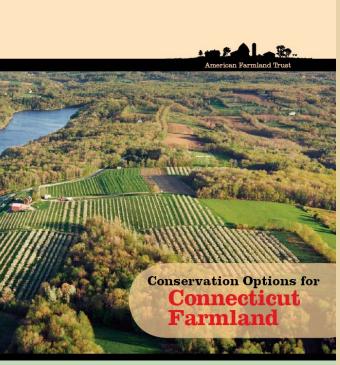
American Farmland Trust



Working Lands Alliance A Project of American Farmland Trust

www.workinglandsalliance.org

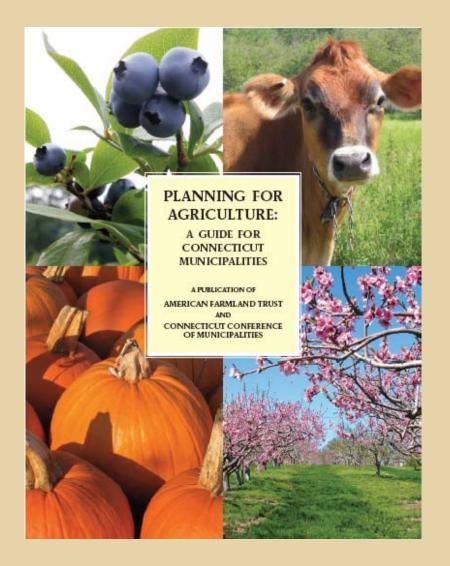




A Guide for Landowners, Land Trusts & Municipalities



Planning for Agriculture



American Farmland Trust SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

Planning for Agriculture

PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURE { a guide for connecticut municipalities }



www.ctplanningforagriculture.com

American Farmland Trust

Saving the Land that Sustains Us

Agricultural Commissions

- What is an Ag Com?
- What does an Ag Com do?
- Who serves on an Ag Com?





Agricultural Commissions

SAMPLE Ag Com Ordinances: www.ctplanningforagriculture.com

ESTABLISHED: By Ordinance adopted June 22, 2009

CHARGE/DUTIES: The Agriculture Commission shall be an advisory board to the Board of Selectmen with the following charges and duties:

- A. Information
- **B.** Education
- **C. Conflict Resolution**
- **D. Economic Opportunities**

ELECTED/APPOINTED: Appointed by the Board of Selectmen

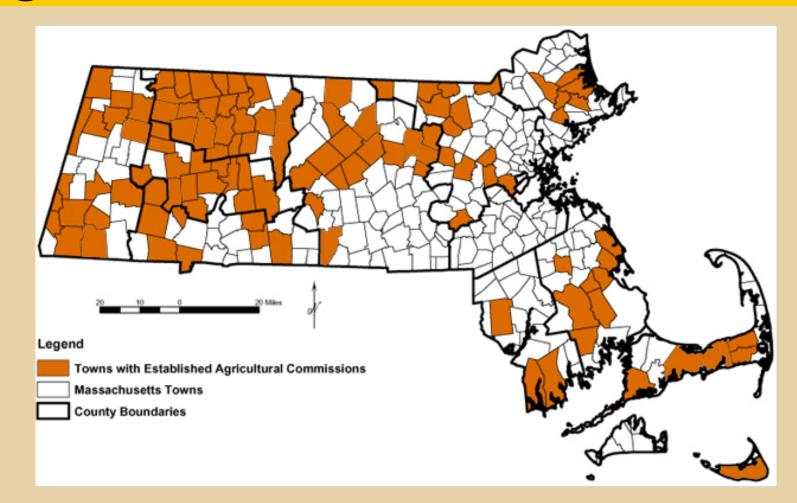
MEMBERSHIP: The Agricultural Commission will consist of 5 members and 3 alternates.

LENGTH OF TERM: Staggered 3-year terms,



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Agricultural Commissions



For more information about MA Ag Coms, visit:

www.massagcom.org



Now What?

- Once an Ag Com is formed, then what?
- What is needed in your community?
- Time to do many things
- Keep your momentum







Listening Sessions and Surveys

North Stonington Survey

- 53 surveys returned

- Range of questions from succession plans of farmer to marketing methods

- Focus on issues/concerns

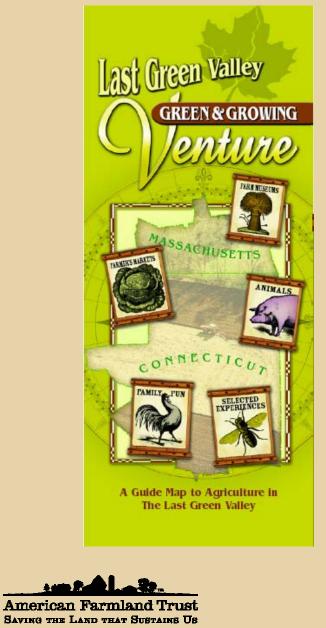
Information Sessions

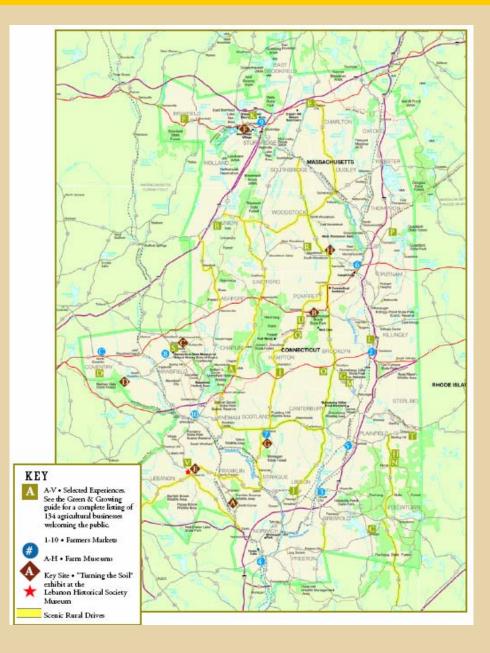
- Student interest in agriculture
- Farm energy
- Farm conservation options

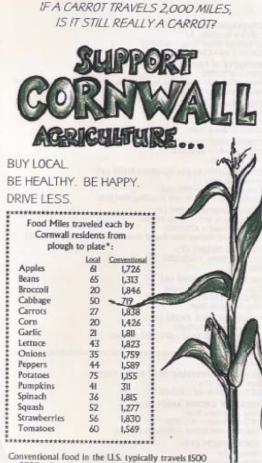




SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US







to 2000 miles. And at any given meal, we will have ingredients from at least 5 different countries,

Local food will travel on average just 56 miles.-

*Based on Leonold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 2005





STONE WALL DAIRY FARM (14) Chris Hopkins

332 Kent Road - 672-0261 Raw milk, pork, roasting chickens, eggs.

MAPLE HILL FARM (15) Richard and Gall Dolan 12 Cherry Hill Road – 672-0173 Hay & Belgian horses. Call head.

RIDGWAY FAMILY FARM (17)

Gordon & Jayne Ridgway H2 Town Street - 672-0279 Seasonal vegetables available at farm stand, far'n markets, Kent Village Green Sturdays 9 am - 12 pm, May-Oct. NOFA/CT Certified Organic. CSA Summer vegetable shares available. Maple syrup.

SCOVILLE FARM (18) Fred & Steven Scoville Town Street – 672-6149 Beef

STEVENS' FARM STAND (19) Larry & Jason Stevens 176 Cream Hill Road - 672-3455 or 672-6065 Sweet corn and more.

ENCHANTED FORESTRY, LLC (21) Tim Lock 672-6557 Tony Lock 672-6771 Certified Forest Practitioners. Conscientious timber harvesting, forest landscaping, excavation services.

HEDDEN FOREST PRODUCTS (22) Steve Hedden

87 Cream Hill Road - 672-2023 Custom sawing, maple syrup.

HURLBURT FARM & FORESTRY, LCC (23) Bill Hurlburt For Road – 672-6725 Certified forest practitioner. Logging services.

MEAD RUN FARM (24) Willis & Phil Ocain 31 Hurlburt Place - 672-6419 Sawmill, bark mulch, sawdust, wood chips.

NEW ENGLAND NAVAL TIMBERS (25) Charles Besozzi 50 Dudleytown Road - 693-8425

L.M. FORESTRY, LLC (26) Larry Stevens, Certified Forester 176 Cream Hill Road - 672-6065





Woodstock's open space provides clean water and air, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and a special quality of life. At the same, time, open space places minimal demands on public resources. Supporting Woodstock farmers and others in agricultural enterprises helps them stars, and benefits the community. Woodstock's farme, and dairy farms in particular, consist of extensive acreage in open space. We can help maintain the rural nature of the town, and the availability of locally grown products by purchasing Woodstock Grown items, including fruits, vegetables, cider, Christmas trees, greenhouse and nursery products, corn silege and hay.

There are about 82 farmer's markets in CT. To request a brochure that lists addresses, days and hours, by county, send a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope to CT DAG, Farmer's Market Brochure, 165 Capitol Avenue, Nartford CT 06106, or see the <u>CT Dappertment of Apriculture website</u>. You can also get a brochure listing Pick Your Own locations at <u>www.CTGrown.gov</u> (click on publications at the top of the page.) Check out the new Riverfront Pavilion Farmer's Market on 18 Kannedy Drive in Putnam, CT.

Below is a list of some of the Woodstock farm-related businesses and products they sell. All Woodstock phone numbers have a (850) area code. If you would like to be included on this list or change something, please contact the webmaster. Please note that the presence of any link on this site does not constitute an endorsement, favoring, or approval of the site or any specific commercial product, commodity or service by the Town of Woodstock.

Jump to: Christmas Trees and Seasonal Greenery, Dairy Products, Eggs, Hay, Honey, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Maple Syrup, Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Wineries, and Fiber/Yann

Christmas Trees and Seasonal Greenery

- Krushefsky's Tree Farm
 1719 Route 171, Woodstock Valley, 933-0330
 Christmas trees, garden accessories
- Breton Tree Farm Route 171 in West Woodstock, 974-9103? Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands
- Mary's Christmas Shop at the Blacksmith Shop Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, 928-6807. Open November and December Christmas trees, wreaths, roping, sprays, locally made jams and jellies Toruk Kenel Targe Fuerther.
- Troll Knoll Tree Farm Joy Road, Woodstock, 974-0108 Christmas trees, wreaths, boughs, raspberries and blueberries
 Sprucedale Gardens
- Sprucedale Gardens
 Rte 171 & East Quasset Rd, South Woodstock, 974-0045
 Live and cut Christmas Trees



Hay

- Long Meadow Farm 140 Perrin Rd., Woodstock, 974-0014
- Hay, tourists welcome
 Moheda Farm
- 30 New Sweden Road, Woodstock, 974-2443, Email: collinsmmjs@charter.net Baled Hay

Honey

- Adams Apiaries, LLC 11 Brickyard Rd., Woodstock, 974-0758
- Native pollen and honey at Sweet Evalina's and Morse's Farm Stand Norman's Sugarhouse 387 County Road, Woodstock, 974-1235. Email: <u>r.norman@snet.net</u> Noney - also see Maple Syrup

Maple Syrup

- Boies Burdock Farm 98 Ojala Rd., Woodstock, 974-1805
- Maple Syrup
- Norman's Sugarhouse

387 County Road, Woodstock, 974-1235. Fax: 974-0496. Email: r.norman@snet.net Maple syrup year round. Wholesale and retail. Maple candy and maple cream available. Maple sugaring equipment and supplies. Visitors welcome - please call ahead.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Gardner Farms

Red Head Hill Rd., Woodstock, 974-0767 Old fashioned apples, pears, peaches, blueberries

- High Spring Orchard
- 47 Dividend Rd., Woodstock, 928-2469
 PYO peaches, apples, blueberries, organic vegetables
 Troll Knoll Farm (still in operation?)
- 471 Joy Road, Woodstock Raspberries, blueberries
- Woodstock Farms

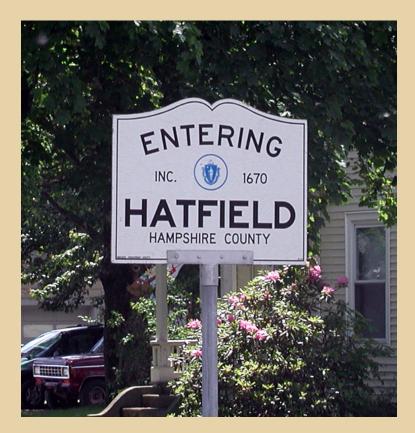
Corner of Senexet and Roseland Park Roads, Woodstock, 928-3291. Closed Sundays. Seasonal first Saturday in April - Octcober, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Vegetables, flowering plants, strawberries, hay, vegetable stand • Woodstock Orchards

Woodstock (Woodstock Hill), PO Box 113, Woodstock, 06281-0113, 928-2225. Pick your own blueberries (July 15-Sept.1), apples (Sept.2-Oct.19). Retail farm stand open Aug.1-May. Mon-Sat, 8 a.m. to noon; Thursday 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Apples, peaches, pears, plums, blueberries, vegetables, pumpkins, apple cider, honey, maple syrup, jams.

- jellies, Vermont cheese, tomatoes, summer squash, zucchini, cucumbers.
- Woodstock Hill Preserves Brickyard Road, 928-7708 Fresh preserves including specialty and organic fruits and wine jelly
- Wrenhaven Farm
 99 West Quasset Road, Woodstock 974-2473
 Self-service farm stand open 7 days a week
 Organic vegetables, herbs, sheep, wool

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Education

Clearing house of information for farmers

- NRCS federal conservation programs (EQIP, FRPP)
- FSA programs/loans
- CT Farm Energy Program (E CT RC&D)
- CT Dept of Ag programs (grants, buy local, farmland protection)







Buy local produce. It's

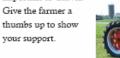
healthier for us and we are lucky to have it. Stop at Carver's farmers' market and at local roadside stands. Buy local produce at the grocery store, too – if you don't see it, ask for it.

When you buy local, you support farm families and preserve the agricultural character of Carver. Remember we can't have farms without farmers.



Be a good neighbor. Farmers work seven days a week, dawn to dusk and sometimes later. If you're planning a backyard event, talk with your farmer neighbor about timing of farm operations. Farmers have families too and are understanding and can be accommodating.

3 Give a thumbs up for farm traffic. If you get behind a tractor on the road, understand that they are not meant for speed. Be patient and share the road. Remember that farm machinery is a necessary part of a serious business that's important to Carver.





Know that farmers use best management practices. The state requires

farmers to be trained, licensed and current in proper pesticide use and storage. Farmers are decreasing pesticide use and improving water management whenever possible to reduce costs and labor and to keep their crops and the environment healthy. Acre for acre, farmers use less chemicals on cropland than homeowners use to keep lawns green and weed-free and homes clean.

5 Respect farmers'

that farms are private property, so respect posted signs and gates. A farm can look like a nice place to go for a walk, hike or ride but there can be hazards associated with a farm operation. For your safety, gain permission from the farmer first. The farmer cares about your protection, too.

Support farms. Did you know that Carver is a "right-to-farm" town? Farming success is dependent upon the weather, markets, and land prices. It is also dependent on the farmer's ability to use generally accepted farming practices without hindrance. Carver's right-to-farm by-law affirms our farmers' right to manage their farms using best management practices. If you have a concern about a farm practice, contact the Carver

Agricultural Commission

7 Understand that farming is a business.

While farmers are responsible for being good neighbors, they must also be good farmers.

Noise, dust, and odors are all part of a farming business. Get to know your farming neighbors and their farm practices.

R Learn how agriculture benefits Carver. Farms

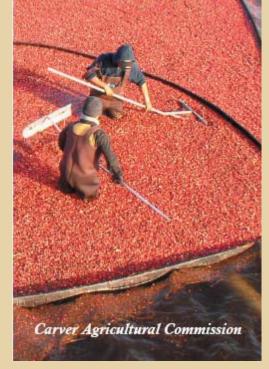
provide a stable tax base at very low cost. For each dollar that a farm is taxed, it requires a fraction of that in town services. Not only do farms provide our town's character, but they also keep our taxes down. For more information, check out the Carver Agricultural Commission's website.

Communicate. Meet and talk with your farmer neighbor before and after you have a problem. Remember that it's in both your interests to be good neighbors. When you have an issue and work out a solution, stay in touch with each other. If you have a conflict that cannot be resolved through communication, please contact the Carver Agricultural Commission.

10 volunteer. Carver's agricultural commission can always use volunteers with varied skills to support efforts to promote agriculture and protect our town's rural character.

Living Near a Farm

How to become a farmer's friend in 10 easy steps.



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griculture provides Carver's rural character

What attracts people to Carver? No doubt it's the town's beauty, history, peacefulness and overall quality of life. Agriculture is an integral part of Carver's rural character and rich history.

Agriculture has a significant impact on Carver's economy. In fact, the number one industry in Carver is cranberries.



In the 1940s, Carver produced more cranberries than any other town in the world. It still produces over 20 percent of the cranberries grown in Massachusetts, more than any other town.

Other agriculture in Carver includes small acreage operations producing greenhouse and nursery products, vegetables, fruits and forage crops. Carver is unlike other rural Massachusetts communities, with its concentration of agriculture in one commodity: cranberries.

Some 12,500 acres of land in Carver – or about half of the town's total area – are associated with agriculture, consisting of cranberry bogs, other productive farmland, related buffer land, reservoirs and wooded uplands. Cranberry production accounts for 93 percent of the agricultural land in Carver.

Benefits of agriculture are economic

Often overlooked as an economic engine, agricultural production in Carver contributes more than \$55 million annually to our economy. Of the \$23.65 million of estimated gross revenues generated on Carver's farms, 57 percent is reinvested locally. This reinvestment takes the form of wages to nearly 570 full and part time employees and expenditures on fuel, supplies, equipment services, and creating jobs at processing facilities and other businesses. These funds turn over multiple times in our community keeping the economy going.

Economic benefits of agriculture

Gross farm revenue	\$23,646,710
Funds spent locally	\$10,322,377
Gross wages paid	\$3,177,052

source: First Pioneer Farm Credit

Agricultural land helps to keep Carver's tax rates down. For each dollar in tax revenue that farmland generates, farms use only 31 cents in town services. That's compared to residential land which uses \$1.14 for every tax dollar paid.

Cost of community services	For each \$1 in tax revenue
Agricultural land	.31
Commercial/industrial land	.38
Residential land	1.14

source: Town of Carver Master Plan, 2001

arver agriculture is viable but needs community support

An influx in residential development is rapidly replacing our agricultural landscape and threatening family farm businesses. While the development potential of cranberry bogs is limited by state wetlands regulations, much of the upland owned by cranberry growers is developable.

Proactive planning is critical to managing the loss of farmers and farmland. Increases in residential land usage means higher land values and greater potential for complaints from non-farming neighbors. On the other hand, the residential community offers greater opportunity for retail sales.

High prices in the early 1990s resulted in significant growth in the state's cranberry industry. A precipitous price drop later in that decade caused severe economic stress. Today, cranberry growers and other farmers are adapting to economic trends to remain viable.

Did you know that the average Carver farmer is 52 years old and that half of Carver's farms have a successor and expect to be in business for over twenty more years?

Carver's agricultural businesses support the community by contributing to the economy, conserving land, and retaining open space and rural character. Learn what you can do to support Carver's agriculture.

Farms in our community

The value and benefits of Carver agriculture.





Section



What Would Farmland Preservation Do?

 Reduce the rate of disappearance of farmland in New Milford

 Ensure survival of local farmlands for agricultural use

Provide positive tax benefits—working farms can generate more in local tax revenue than they cost in municipal services

 Help limit residential sprawl, which burdens town services and schools

Provide a local source of fresh, healthy produce that does not have to be shipped from great distances or from blended or unknown origins

 Allow opportunities for New Milford school children to visit working farms

Preserve barns and silos, farmhouses, meadows, stone walls and rolling viewsheds

 Afford survival of wildlife corridors for birds and animals

 Offer opportunities for agro-tourism, a fast-growing Connecticut travel industry segment

Strengthen the link with New Milford's rich agricultural heritage as our town celebrates its Tri-centennial birthday

New Milford's Agricultural History

New Milford was a farming settlement before the American Revolution. Beginning in the first quarter of the 18th century, the rich alluvial and limestone-based soils of the Still River Valley and the East and West Aspetuck valleys provided the basis of a long period of agricultural prosperity.

Tobacco farming was particularly important in the 19th century. Although it ultimately declined, dairy and produce farming remained strong well into the first half of the 20th century.

Today, most of our town's farms have disappeared. The New Milford Farmland Preservation Committee hopes that the rate of loss can be reduced and that farming can be strengthened.

However, as new technology meant fewer farms were needed, as US cities grew and rural populations migrated into urban centers, and as US agriculture industrialized and shifted westward, farming in New Milford, as in many New England towns, began to shrink.

By the early 1900's, some farms had been acquired and transformed into summer homes. By the mid-20th century, many of New Milford's remaining farms and large tracts of land were being sold and subdivided, a trend that accelerated as the 21st century approached. The town's relatively lower housing prices continue to attract families employed in the expanding metropolitan areas to the south.

In 1990-almost 20 years ago-less than 2700 acres of New Milford's agricultural lands still remained in cultivation, employing less than one percent of the population.*

*Historic data provided by the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials www.hvceo.org

Strategies for Preserving our Town's Farmland

- Raise residents' awareness of the importance of saving farms
- Support the town and local farmers in obtaining grants from State and Federal funding programs.
- Help farmers access the professional expertise and private resources that may allow them, if interested, to preserve all or part of their farms
- Encourage the town and regional land trusts to make available preserved lands for agricultural use beyond simple having
- Promote efforts by land use commissions to create more farm-friendly regulations
- Support the Economic Development Commission in identifying and recruiting investors interested in funding specialty farming ventures
- Persuade residents to buy and eat local by enhancing the success of the New Milford Farmers Market and the New Milford Hospital's Plough to Plate initiative

It's not too late. We are still surrounded by living evidence of New Milford's agricultural heritage and its promise for our future. You can help us carry out our mission.



Stone wall ruins at Rosie's Dairy Farm provide a view of our town's agricultural heritage New Milford Farmland Preservation Committee

New Milford Farmland Preservation



Fort Hill Farm, a local New Millord Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) ocoperative

Before it's too late...



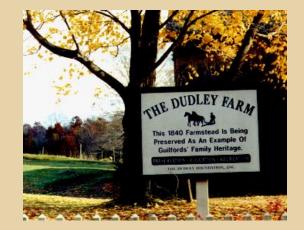
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

Planning for Farmland Preservation

Guilford Ag Com

- Inventory creation of dynamic maps
- "Locally Important" soils
- Scoring sheet
- Methods for preservation
- Outreach to land trust







*** Planning for Farmland Preservation**

Guilford Farmland Preservation Ranking Sheet							
Factors to Consider	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	Multiplier	Score		
Percent Prime or Statewide Important Farmland Soils	<33%	34-66%	>65%	x 2 =			
Size of Parcel	<10 acres	10-50 acres	>50 acres	x 2 =			
Potential Use / Terrain (wetlands, forest, hills)	Low Potential		High Potential	x 2 =			
Development Pressure / Adjacent Property	Low Pressure		High Pressure	x 2 =			
Proximity to Agricultural Land and/or Protected Land (farmland, open space)	Distant	Near	Adjacent	x 2 =			
Eligibility for State and/or Federal Farmland Protection Funding	0 Programs	1 Program	>1 Program	x 2 =			
Current Use	Abandoned land		Active agriculture / managed land	x 1 =			
Resources Available to Farmer (structures, house, irrigation)	None	Few	Several	x 1 =			
View from Town Roads	Slight		Significant	x 1 =			
Co-occurrence of Other Resources (natural, cultural, historical)	None	Slight	Significant	x 1 =			
Total Score (out of 48 possible)							



Planning for Farmland Preservation

New Milford Farmland Preservation Committee:

"Strategic Action Plan," 2007



American Farmland Trust Saving the Land that Sustains Us

NEW MILFORD FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a significant part of New Milford's heritage and can become a vital part of our town's future. For all of us, preservation of those few remaining farmlands within our town borders has acquired a heightened sense of urgency. This, in 2006, New Milford Mayor Pat Murphy established the New Milford Farmland Preservation Committee, charging it with assisting the town in identifying and implementing strategies for acquiring and protecting farmlands.

Through establishment of the Farmland Preservation Committee, our Town is signaling its conviction that a proactive and systematic approach to acquiring and protecting its few remaining farmlands needs to be implemented urgently. This Strategic Action Plan 2007, developed by the Committee members, represents its short-term road map for getting a long-term effort underway to help the Town achieve that goal.

2.0 MISSION STATEMENT

Assist the Town of New Milford in protecting and preserving farmland for future use.

3.0 THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING FARMLAND

Preservation of farmland in New Milford would ...

- ensure survival of farmlands for agricultural use, thus contributing to our local economy
- provide positive tax benefits—working farms can generate more in local tax revenue than they cost in municipal services
- help limit residential sprawl, which burdens town services and schools
- provide a local source of fresh, healthy produce that is not mass-produced, shipped at added expense from great distances or blended from different sources or unidentified origins
- offer opportunities for agro-tourism, a fast-growing Connecticut travel industry segment
- preserve barns and silos, farmhouses, meadows, stone walls and rolling viewsheds, among semi-rural New Milford's most attractive features
- afford survival of wildlife corridors for birds and animals
- strengthen the link with New Milford's rich agricultural heritage as our town celebrates its TriCentennial birthday

Planning for Farmland Preservation

Designation of Locally Important Farmland Soils

More info: <u>www.ctplanningforagriculture.com</u>



American Farmland Trust Saving the Land that Sustains Us

TOWN OF NEW MILFORD



Town Hall 10 Main Street New Milford, Connecticut 06776 Telephone (860) 355-6010 • Fax (860) 355-6002

Office of Patricia Murphy, Mayor

November 18, 2008

Doug Zehner, State Conservationist USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service 344 Merrow Road, Suite A Tolland CT, 06084-3917

Re: Designation of Locally Important Farmland Soils

Dear Mr. Zehner:

The Town of New Milford is requesting that the Natural Resources Conservation Service identify Locally Important Farmland Soils in our town.

We established a Farmland Preservation Committee in 2006. The Committee has inventoried the town's remaining farmland and prioritized five initial farms, part of an approximate 1,000-acre chain of contiguous farmland, for preservation. The farms have been mapped using GIS, including the prime and important farmland soils.

The Farmland Preservation Committee assisted one of the local landowners, identified as one of the priority farms, in submitting their farm for the State of Connecticut's purchase of development rights program. Kathleen Johnson visited that farm and prepared a soils report as part of that application.

We feel this additional tool offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service will aide us in our planning efforts as we seek to permanently protect these farms; ensuring they remain as working farms to the betterment of the community.

If you need further information regarding my request or if would like more information on our Farmland Preservation activities to date, feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerel Patricia Murph

cc: Curt Chapin, Chairman, Farmland Preservation Committee Chairman

Resources Available

CT Department of Agriculture

- General: 860-713-2500
- Municipal: Ron Olsen: 860-713-2550

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- General: 860-871-4011
- Farm Bill programs: Kip Kolesinskas: 860-871-4047

CT Farm Bureau

- General: 860-768-1100



Resources Available

More resources: www.ctplanningforagriculture.com

Resource	Focus	Training & Education	Technical Resources	Funding & Grants
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association http://www.cfba.org/ (860) 298-4400	Member association	Х	Х	
Connecticut Farm Service Agency U.S. Department of Agriculture www.fsa.usda.gov/ct/ct.htm (860) 871-2944	Credit, loan, disaster, and a variety of farm commodity programs	х	х	Х
Connecticut Farmland Trust http://www.ctfarmland.org/ (860) 247-0202	Farmland preservation	х	Х	Х
Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association http://www.flowersplantsinct.com/cgga/ cggaindex.htm (203) 261-9067	Greenhouse grower trade association	Х	Х	
Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) USDA/Nonprofit Partnership http://www.easternrcd-ct.org/ http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rc&d/ rc&d_in_connecticut.html (860) 774-0224 x4 or (203) 284-3663		Х	Х	



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American Farmland Trust <u>www.farmland.org</u> <u>www.workinglandsalliance.org</u>

Ben Bowell New England Field Rep. 860-683-4230 bbowell@farmland.org

