

THE TRUST'S PARTNERS IN FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Connecticut is home to several organizations that work on farmland preservation. Each organization has its own niche. The descriptions below provide an introduction to some of our private and public partners and their specializations.

Connecticut Farmland Trust: statewide, private preservation

The mission of the Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) is to permanently protect Connecticut's working farmland. CFT is the only private, statewide non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting Connecticut's farmland. CFT's experienced staff provides technical assistance and outreach to agricultural landowners interested in farmland preservation. CFT is equipped to negotiate and hold agricultural conservation easements and provide innovative, flexible, and timely solutions to farm owners across the state. Through partnerships with towns, local land trusts, conservation organizations, individual donors, and state and federal agencies, CFT is able to leverage public and private funds and to provide landowners with conservation options that might not otherwise exist.

Contact: Executive Director Henry Talmage, 860-247-0202, hntalmage@ctfarmland.org
Website: www.ctfarmland.org

Working Lands Alliance: state public policy

The Working Lands Alliance (WLA) is a broad-based coalition of over 130 groups joined together in an effort to halt the loss of Connecticut's remaining farmland. CFT is a key member of the WLA coalition, along with farmers, conservation organizations, anti-hunger groups, and others. WLA is focused on public policy and is especially concerned with promotion of legislation that encourages protection of farmland and farm viability across the state. WLA is now a project of the American Farmland Trust.

Contact: Project Director Jiff Martin, 860-683-4230, jmartin@farmland.org
Website: www.workinglandsalliance.org

American Farmland Trust: national scope, municipal outreach

The American Farmland Trust (AFT) is the only nationwide, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting agricultural resources. AFT's mission is to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. Connecticut Farmland Trust and the American Farmland Trust are not affiliated, although the two organizations work closely together. AFT works with federal, state, and local leaders and communities to develop legislation and implement policies that both keep farmers on their land and protect natural resources. In Connecticut, AFT is concentrating on providing municipal education and outreach on local programs and land use strategies that promote farmland preservation.

Contact: Jiff Martin, 860-683-4230, jmartin@farmland.org
Website: www.farmland.org

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1978 and has preserved the majority of the protected farmland in Connecticut. This program has used state funds to preserve over 30,000 acres.

Contact: Program Manager Jay Dippel, 860-713-2511, joseph.dippel@po.state.ct.us
Website: www.ct.gov/doag

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides federal funding to purchase agricultural conservation easements in Connecticut.

Contact: FRPP Manager Kip Kolesinkas, 860-871-4047, kip.kolesinkas@ct.usda.gov
Website: www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov