



CONNECTICUT FARMLAND T R U S T

PRESERVING WORKING LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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Spring 2011 Newsletter

Preserving Family Farms Across Connecticut

Farming in Connecticut is often a family affair. Many of Connecticut's farms have been farmed by the same families for generations. Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) has recently helped five farming families to preserve their agricultural history and ensure that the land that they, their parents, and their grandparents have cared for will continue to be productive farmland for generations to come.

Mindel Farm, Lebanon • Mindel Farm was purchased by the Mindel family in 1956, though these 30 acres have been continuously farmed for over 100 years. The family produced hay and had a small dairy and subsistence farm on the property. Farmer Saul Mindel also worked at the CT Department of Transportation and only took vacations when it was time to bring in the hay. He milked his cows by hand and his wife won numerous awards at the Lebanon town fair for her canning and other specialties grown in the family's large garden.

Saul Mindel passed away in 2010. His daughter Maxine Mindel worked with CFT to ensure that her family's land will be farmland forever. Right before preservation, Maxine said, "It has been a long journey, but with the support of my



Photo courtesy of Connecticut Farmland Trust.

An iconic red barn stands amid apple trees on Mindel Farm.

siblings, and [CFT's Director of Conservation] Elisabeth Moore's encouragement and ongoing phone contact, we are seeing this to fruition." She went on to share some of her personal memories of her family's farm:

Watching a calf being born, marveling at the 3-inch long eyelashes and first steps on wobbly legs.

Drinking milk from our own cows.

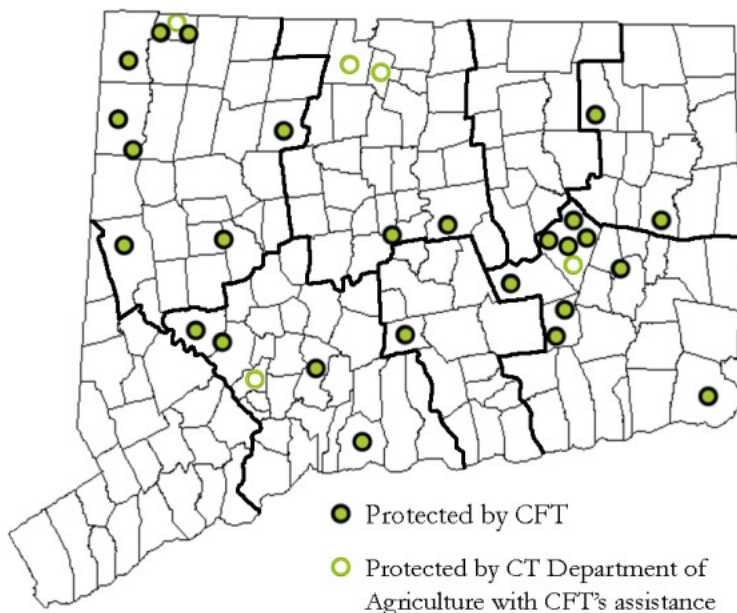
Marveling at my father who could take in hay from sun-up to sun-down and never seem to tire.

Eating fresh-picked sweet corn all summer - and being told I HAD to eat the other less enticing vegetables, too.

Learning the impact of nature, the seasons, and the weather on crops and our lives.

"I know that future stewards of the property will build their own memories from the richness of this farmland," said Mindel.

Connecticut Farmland Trust preserved Mindel Farm in March 2011.



A Message From CFT's President

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude for a job well done that I inform you that Henry Talmage will be leaving Connecticut Farmland Trust to become the Executive Director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau. While we conduct a search for a replacement, CFT Board Secretary Dawn C. Adiletta, will serve as Interim Executive Director.

We look forward to working with Henry in his new capacity at Connecticut Farm Bureau. We thank him for all of his efforts on behalf of CFT and wish him good luck in his new position.

Nick Moore, President



Photo by John Columbus.

From left to right - Nick Moore, Fern Berman, Jacques Pépin, Henry Talmage, and Faith Middleton at the *Celebration of Connecticut Farms*.

Dawn C. Adiletta - Interim Executive Director



Dawn C. Adiletta at the Celebration of Connecticut Farms.

Adiletta has worked in the museum field for more than 30 years — she was the Curator at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, CT — and currently operates an independent historical research company. Her numerous publications include *Unfolding History: Quilts from New England Collections*, (2006) and *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Women's Suffrage and the First Vote*, 2005. She is a contributing editor to Connecticut Explored, a Connecticut history magazine. She lives in Woodstock, CT with her husband Joseph.

Dawn C. Adiletta will be taking a leave of absence from the Board of Directors of Connecticut Farmland Trust to fill the role of CFT's Interim Executive Director until a new Executive Director is selected.

Adiletta has been a member of the Board of Directors of CFT since 2008. She is Chair of the Woodstock Open Space Land Acquisition and Farmland Preservation Committee, serves as one of four town moderators for the town of Woodstock, and was a 2007 recipient of the Farmland Preservation Pathfinder Award.

A Special Thank You

Connecticut Farmland Trust would like to offer a very special thank you to our legal team at Murtha Cullina LLP. The knowledge, expertise, and dedication that they provide are invaluable to our mission of preserving working lands for future generations.

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Preserving Family Farms *continued*

Photo by Connecticut Farmland Trust.



Daisy, a Scottish Highland, is a resident of Slate Farm in Lebanon

Slate Farm, Lebanon • Slate Farm has been owned by the same family for 10 generations and includes the original 1730 farmhouse. It is also adjacent to the Lebanon Town Green. The current owners, Jon and Donna Slate, use the land for hay production and as a home for their cows, Josephine and Daisy. Mr. Slate says, “I don’t want to see any more houses or development on this land. I want to keep it in the family and keep it farming.” The 34-acre farm was preserved by CFT in March 2011.

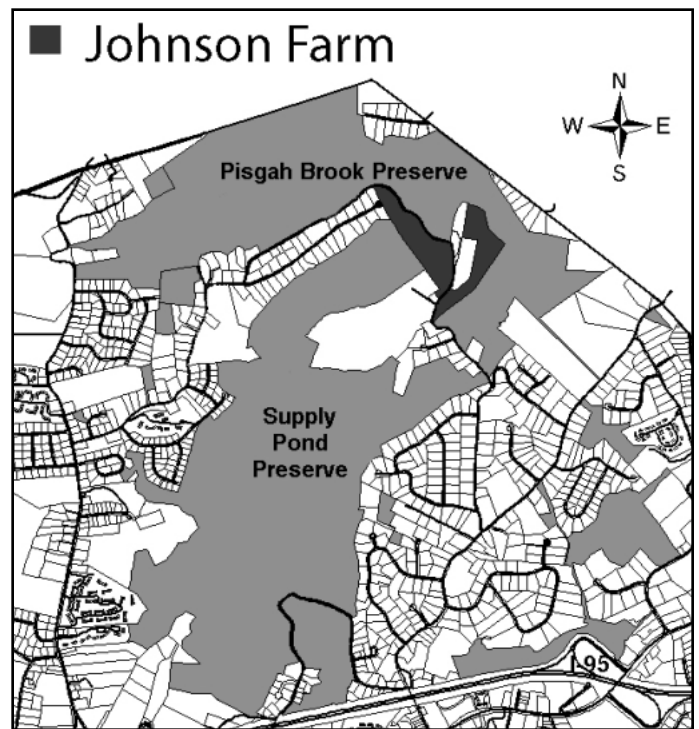
Dutcher Hill Farm, North Canaan • Dutcher Hill Farm has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. The land has produced vegetables, corn, and hay, and has supported cattle and horses. “The farm was given to my grandfather by his mother,” Lucia Reynolds remembers. “My mother was born on the farm and we lived there when my father was in the service during WWII. I remember my grandfather had this big draft horse that he used to plow the fields.”

Several family members still own houses near the farm, which is currently being leased as support land for Ford’s Farm, an East Canaan dairy. Dutcher Hill Farm was preserved by CFT in December 2010.

Cyr Farm, Lebanon • Cyr Farm is adjacent to the Lebanon Town Green Historic District and other protected town land. These 57 acres have been in the family since Mr. Cyr, whose lifelong dream was to own a farm, purchased the land 44 years ago. In that time, they have raised Hereford cattle and sheep and have grown hay, corn, and grain. The land was preserved in the fall of 2010 and is currently being leased by a neighboring family dairy farm.

Johnson Farm, Branford • Branford Land Trust, the Town of Branford, and Connecticut Farmland Trust will jointly hold an agricultural conservation easement on 37 acres of Johnson Farm. Agricultural conservation easements prohibit residential and industrial development, but may allow for construction of agricultural structures on designated areas of the land. This easement on Johnson Farm was purchased through contributions from the Town of Branford’s Open Space Acquisition Fund and General fund, Branford Land Trust, and Connecticut Farmland Trust through a grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Johnson Farm was preserved by CFT in March 2011.

This land has been farmed by the Johnson family for over 90 years. In the past, the family grew a variety of fruits and vegetables and raised dairy cows, chickens, and horses. Currently, one of the owners harvests hay from the land to support her dairy farm in North Branford. The farm’s milk is processed by Guida’s Dairy and provides locally produced milk and other dairy products to Branford and surrounding communities.



The map above shows how Johnson Farm connects two Branford preserves.

Map courtesy of Branford Land Trust.

Established in 2002, CFT holds agricultural conservation easements that protect 2,096 acres of farmland on 26 farms around the state, has assisted partners in the preservation of 789 additional acres, and serves as a leading resource on conserving Connecticut’s working farmland.

Farms Preserved by CFT

Scaglia Fruit Farm, Glastonbury • 16.5 acres in 2002 *

Barnes Farm, New Hartford • 194.94 acres in 2003

Random Farm, Ashford • 212.3 acres in 2004

Hollow Brook Farm, North Canaan • 196.24 acres in 2004

Phillips Farm, Southbury • 20 acres in 2004 **

Cold Spring Brook Farm, Berlin & Rocky Hill
40.9 acres in 2004 *

Humphrey Evergreen Farms, Hamden • 5 acres in 2004
and 13.85 acres in 2005 *

Lovdal Farm, Southbury • 36 acres in 2005 **

On the Hill Farm, Salem • 22 acres in 2005 and 53.9
acres in 2006

Stone Wall Dairy Farm, Cornwall • 19.8 acres in 2007 *

Osuch Farm, Watertown & Bethlehem • 39.9 acres in
2007 **

Rocklawn Farms, Canterbury • 189 acres in 2007

Stoney Hedge Farm, Lebanon • 22 acres in 2007

Grassy Hill Farm, Falls Village • 38 acres in 2007

Cato Corner Farm, Colchester • 75 acres in 2008 *

Hunt Hill Farm, New Milford • 40 acres in 2008 **

Marvel & Mitchell Farms, Salem • 206 acres in 2009

Wisneske Farm, Norwich & Franklin • 181 acres in 2009

Vanishing Geese Farm, Durham • 43 acres in 2009

Little Pond Farm, Stonington • 96 acres in 2010

Wike Brothers Farm, Sharon • 144 acres in 2010 *

Cyr Farm, Lebanon • 57 acres in 2010

Dutcher Hill Farm, North Canaan • 33 acres in 2010

Johnson Farm, Branford • 37 acres in 2011

Mindel Farm, Lebanon • 30 acres in 2011

Slate Farm, Lebanon • 33 acres in 2011

* *Farm stands open to the public*

** *Walking trails open to the public*

Check Out These Events That Support CFT

Dinners at the Farm is once again hosting their popular farm dinners held right in the very fields from which the evening's menu is sourced. Plus, each of the dinners are a benefit and we are honored to be among this year's beneficiaries.

A portion of each and every Dinner will benefit Connecticut Farmland Trust and the other beneficiaries. You can attend any one of the Dinners and support CFT.

The Dinner schedule and locations are:

Barberry Hill Farm, Madison

July 7, 8, 9, 10

July 14, 15, 16, 17

White Gate Farm, East Lyme

August 11, 12, 13, 14

August 18, 19, 20

For more information and to buy tickets visit:

DinnersAtTheFarm.com



Culinary Showdown *Connecticut vs. Rhode Island*

The Jonathan Edwards Winery Culinary ShowDown will be held on Sunday May 15th at Jonathan Edwards Winery in Stonington. Five of the best restaurants in Connecticut and five from Rhode Island will each prepare a small signature dish for attendees highlighting produce from a local farm in their state.

CFT will receive \$1,000 if one of the CT restaurants takes first prize and \$500 for second prize. The show down will run from 6:00-8:30 pm and is \$50 per person. For more information visit: JEdwardsWinery.com



JONATHAN EDWARDS
WINERY

2011 *Celebration of Connecticut Farms*

Save the date!

The 11th Annual *Celebration of Connecticut Farms* will take place on Sunday, September 11 at Jones Family Farms in Shelton. Returning as honorary chairpersons of the *Celebration* are Tony Award winning actress Christine Baranski, WNPR's Two Time Peabody Award winner Faith Middleton, and celebrity TV chef and author Jacques Pépin.

Photo courtesy of John Columbus.



Honorary chairpersons of the 2011 Celebration of Connecticut Farms, Christine Baranski, Faith Middleton, and Jacques Pépin.

Guests of the *Celebration of Connecticut Farms* will enjoy spectacular dishes featuring ingredients from over 50 farms across the state and prepared by chefs from 24 of Connecticut's best restaurants including: Metro Bis in Simsbury, It's Only Natural in Middletown, The Dressing Room in Westport, The Suburban in Branford, Polytechnic ON20 in Hartford, and many more. Attendees can also enjoy wine from 10 Connecticut wineries and vineyards and beer from Connecticut breweries. Musical entertainment will be provided once again by the band, Bone Dry.

For over 150 years, the Jones family has been working the lands on their farm in Shelton. Today this 400-acre farm offers one of the finest harvest-your-own picking experiences in the state. Generation after generation of farm guests visit the farm each year — not only to savor the unbelievable flavor of delicious berries, to sample award-winning wine, or to find the perfect Christmas tree — but to enjoy time with their family while experiencing the rustic beauty of Jones Family Farms.

Jamie Jones, who represents the sixth generation of the Jones family to farm their land, said this about his family hosting the *Celebration*, “The Jones family is truly honored and excited to be hosting the 2011 *Celebration of Connecticut Farms*. After hosting the inaugural event in 2001, it is wonderful to see the growth of the *Celebration* and the increased interest in having our state's valuable farmlands permanently preserved through the Connecticut Farmland Trust. Nothing could make our family prouder.”



Jones Family Farms in Shelton produces Christmas trees, berries, pumpkins, grapes that supply the farm's winery, and much more. You can learn more about the farm and their products at JonesFamilyFarms.com

Beginning in May, you can purchase tickets and sponsorships to the 2010 *Celebration of Connecticut Farms* on our website! Or, as always, you can request an invitation, which provides you with purchase information and further details about the event.

Sponsorship is the only sure way to reserve a ticket to the event!

Tickets to the *Celebration* are \$150 each (with \$75 of that being tax-deductible). To purchase tickets or request an invitation, visit CelebrationofCTFarms.org, or call our office at 860-247-0202.



Photo courtesy of Jones Family Farms.

We look forward to seeing you at Jones Family Farms!

We acknowledge and remember those who died on September 11, 2001.

