

Financial Assistance for CT Farmers

Main sources used, summarized in chart below:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education: <http://www.nesare.org/>

CT Dept of Ag. Programs, Services, and Grant Opportunities: <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1366&q=258948&doagNav=|>

Online info already organized in charts:

Searchable list of current USDA grants: <http://www.grants.gov/search-grants.html?fundingCategories%3DAG%7CAgriculture>

PDF list of FDA farm loans: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/farmInchart_current.pdf

(Found on main page: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>)

PDF list of loans for new farmers (<10 yrs experience): https://newfarmers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/new-farmers-loans_2.pdf

PDF list of financial aid for new farmers (<10 yrs experience): https://newfarmers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/new-farmers-financing_0.pdf

(Found on main page: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>)

Farmland protection programs (some of these are in my chart below):

http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/farmland_preservation_/aft_conservation_options_for_ct_farmland-lo-06-2015.pdf

Other available on-line sources (not included in spreadsheet)

<http://ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-database/knowledge/FoodHubResourceGuide.pdf> (Pages 35-70 have Possible Funding Opportunities)

http://www.sare.org/content/download/864/7092/building_sust_farms.pdf?inlinedownload=1

<http://www.grantwatch.com/grant-search.php?serach=advanced&keyword=agriculture> (this is an online resource you pay for)

http://www.growingnewfarmers.org/main/for_new_farmers/resources_by_topic/farm_finances/

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/>

Government Grants:

Name	Type of Funding	Amount	Deadline	Details	Link
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Grant (2-10 yrs)	\$450K max	rolling	<p>Financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural production or forestry operation • Have control of the land for life of contract • In compliance with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions of the Farm Bill • Adjusted Gross Income less than \$1 million 	<p>http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs142p2_011038</p> <p>Brochure: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1257499&ext=pdf</p>
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Grant (5 yrs)	\$200K max from 2014-2018	rolling	<p>Helps producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Payments earned through high performance.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced • Have control of the land for life of contract • Have at least two priority resource concerns and agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract 	<p>http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/financial/csp/?cid=nrcs142p2_011030</p> <p>Brochure: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1257497&ext=pdf</p>
Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)	Grant (up to 10 yrs)	\$50K max/yr	Rolling first batch due Nov 2015	<p>Provides cost share assistance to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u></p>	<p>http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/financial/?cid=nrcs142p2_011027</p> <p>Brochure:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land on which agricultural products, livestock, or forest-related products are produced and where risk may be mitigated by diversifying the operation or adding conservation practices that support soil erosion control, integrated pest management and organic farming Have control of the land for life contract Adjusted Gross Income less than \$900,000 	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1257493&ext=.pdf
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Grant / easement	\$17.5 million total	July 2015	<p>Provides easements for financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.</p> <p><u>Types:</u> permanent (100% of easement value), 30yr (50-75%), and term (50-75%).</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land 	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1249593 Brochure: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1257506&ext=.pdf
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	Grant / easement			<p>Helps restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private lands through easements and financial assistance. Promotes recovery of endangered or threatened species, improves plant and animal biodiversity and enhances carbon sequestration.</p> <p><u>Types:</u> 10-year restoration agreements and 30-year or permanent easements for specific conservation actions.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately owned. Proof of ownership or operator (tenant) must provide written concurrence from landowner of tenancy for the period of the HFRP restoration agreement 	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/easements/forests/?cid=stelprdb1253155 Brochure: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1257504&ext=.pdf
Regional	No-cost	\$370	Pre-	Partners participating in RCPP use their local	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps

Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	partnership (duration up to 5 yrs)	million (national)	proposal applications July 2015	knowledge and networks to undertake conservation projects by joining with agricultural producers to restore or sustain natural resources such as: clean and abundant water; healthy, productive soils; enhanced wildlife and pollinator habitat	/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=stelprdb1249616 Brochure: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1252536&ext=pdf 2015 CT selections: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd376207
SARE Farmer Grant	Grant (paid as reimbursement)	\$15K max (About \$250K total NE)	Nov 2015 for spring 2016 (online application opened Oct 1)	For commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, marketing initiative, or other technique. Projects should seek results other farmers can use and must have the potential to add to knowledge about effective sustainable practices. Projects should be technically sound and explore ways to boost profits, improve farm stewardship, or have a positive impact on the environment and the farm community. <u>Eligibility:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm owner or manager, not necessarily full-time • A technical advisor must be involved in the project 	http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Farmer-Grant Brochure: http://www.nesare.org/content/download/76109/1299737/Farmer_grant_one_page_2015.pdf?inlinedownload=1 Recent funded projects: http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Sample-Grants/Farmer-Grants (the 2015 page is blank, but other years have info on the projects)
SARE Partnership Grant	Grant	\$15K max (About \$300K total NE)	Oct 2015 for spring 2016	Allow agricultural agencies, organizations, businesses, or local governments to work in cooperation with farmers to explore topics in sustainable production, marketing, and economic development. The goal is to build	http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Partnership-Grant Brochure: http://www.nesare.org/content

				<p>knowledge farmers can use, encourage the understanding and widespread use of sustainable techniques, and strengthen working partnerships with farmers.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in agricultural research or outreach in an organization like coop, NRCS, DOAG, college/university, agricultural or community nonprofit, agricultural consulting business, or serve on a governmental board/commission dealing with area farmer issues. Projects must take place on farms or directly involve farm businesses. 	<p>t/download/76108/1299730/Partnership_one-pager_2015.pdf?inlinedownload=1</p> <p>Recent funded projects: http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Sample-Grants/Partnership-Grants</p>
Environmental Assistance Program (EAP)	Grant	Up to 75% of project cost		Reimbursement for part of the costs that qualify under the EAP in order to maintain compliance with Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection approved agricultural waste management plan. Funds must be used for capital improvement and grants are subject to fund availability.	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=398986
Farm Reinvestment Grant	Grant (paid as reimbursement)	\$40K max	TBD for 2016. Was April 2013 and 2014, but Nov 2015	Provides matching funds (50%) to CT farms to expand, diversify, and improve existing working farms through projects with a lifespan of 10 years or more.	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&Q=398988&PM=1
Farm Transition Grant	Grant (paid as reimbursement)	\$49,999 max	March 2016. Forms available Dec. 31, 2015	Provides matching funds (50%) to CT farms to strengthen the economic viability of CT farmers and agricultural cooperatives.	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=419410
Farm Viability	Grant	\$49,999	Nov 2016	Provides matching funds (60%) and is open to	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/v

Grant	(paid as reimbursement)	max		municipalities, regional planning organizations, association of municipalities, and 501 c(3) agricultural non-profits for projects which implement local land use or agricultural regulations, farmland protection strategies, provide educational workshops for farmers, fund advertising for local or regional agriculture, establish local farmers' markets, et al.	iew.asp?a=3260&q=419408
Farmland Restoration Program	Grant (paid as reimbursement)	\$20K max (\$5M total CT)		Voluntary program with a main objective of increasing food and fiber production agriculture in CT. FLRP focuses on prime and important farmland soils. Priorities: Human food production; livestock, livestock feed and livestock support	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=498322&PM=1 Details: http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/farmland_preservation/About_the_flrp_02-02-12.pdf
Farmland Preservation Program				Goal of preserving 130,000 acres, with 85,000 acres of cropland. May pay up to 100% of the appraised value of the agricultural conservation easement, up to \$20,000 per acre. Average price paid by the state is \$6,993 per acre.	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=399016#programoverview
Organic Certification Cost Share Grant Program	Grant (paid as reimbursement)	\$750 max	September	Reimbursement of 75% of certification cost for CT's Certified Organic Growers & Processors. <u>Eligibility:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the Certification Certificate from an accredited certifier • A copy of the financial form showing the cost of the certification 	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3243&q=465932
PA 09-229 Milk Producer (Dairy Sustainability) Grant	Grant			Quarterly grant payments, calculated using an formula relating the minimum sustainable monthly cost of production, the "Federal pay price" and your monthly production. <u>Eligibility:</u>	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1366&q=445230 Details: http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/inspection_regulation/milk

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed to produce milk for pasteurization • Energy audit 	producer_grant_package.pdf
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)	Grant	\$75K max	2016 info available after Feb 1, 2016 For 2015: Concept due Mar; application April.	For projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops: fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops. Projects may not start before grant approval. <u>Eligibility:</u> Commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits. (Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners.)	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3243&q=451174 Details: http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/marketing_files/2015/concept_paper_guidelines_2015.pdf
The Dairy Farm Reinforcement Program	Loan	\$25K-\$100K		Helps the dairy industry reverse recent financial losses by providing loans to offset federal price controls and high energy costs. Terms:10 yrs, 3%, first 2 years deferred – Interest only. \$2500 fee. <u>Eligibility:</u> licensed dairy farmers in CT.	http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=417304 Details: http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/marketing_files/dairy_farm_reinforcement_loan_program_outline.pdf
Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)	Grant	\$15K-\$100K	May 2015	Promotes direct-to-consumer activities. There is no match requirement or grant sub-type for FMPP.	http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp Details: http://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FMPP2015GrantApplication.pdf
Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)	Grant	\$5K-\$100K	May 2015	Promotes intermediary supply chain activities. There are two grant sub-types under LFPP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning grants from \$5K to \$25K • Implementation grants from \$25K to \$100K Grants require a 25% match.	http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp Details: http://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2015LFPRequestforApplications.pdf
National Organic Certification	Grant (paid as	Approx. \$58.8K	April 2015	Helps defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification. Only available	http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/ocsp

Cost Share Program (NOCCSP)	reimbursement)	CT; \$10.3M total		in 16 states.	
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Organic Certification Cost Share Program	Grant (1 yr) (paid as reimbursement)	Approx. \$24K CT; \$900K total (national)	April 2015	Helps defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification.	http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/occsp
Good Ag Practices (GAP)/Good Handling Practices (GHP)	Grant (paid as reimbursement)	\$500 max		Reimbursement for farmers/processors that have successfully passed a GAP/GHP audit to verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored as safely as possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards. Pays 50% of the cost of the audit.	http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp

Not currently offered:

Farm State Assistance For Enhancements (SAFE) Grant <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1366&Q=559564>

Connecticut Grown Joint Venture Grant Program <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=430390>

They did not specify when/if these would be offered again.

Other potential sources of financing: Not farmer-specific

Name	Type of Funding	Amount	Deadline	Details	Link
varied	Grants / loans	varies		Small businesses – fewer than 100 employees *Priority given to economic-based industries	Small business resource center: http://www.sbcc.com/resources.html Women's Business Development Council http://www.ctwbdc.org/Financial-Assistance-C71.aspx
SARE Professional Development Grants	Grant (1-4 yrs)	\$30-150K	Pre-proposal June 30, 2015, full proposal Oct. 15	Funds outcome-based projects that train Cooperative Extension educators and other agricultural service providers in sustainable techniques and concepts. Projects must be directed toward increasing the skill and understanding of these service providers.	http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Professional-Development-Grant
SARE Research and Education Grants	Grant (2-4 yrs)	\$30-200K	Pre-proposal June 30, 2015, full proposal Oct. 15	Funds outcome-based projects offering research, education, and demonstration projects that benefit farmers and explore new sustainable farm practices. Farmers, extension staff, and other stakeholders should be involved in planning project content.	http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Research-and-Education-Grant
SARE Graduate Student Grants	Grant (up to 2 yrs)	Up to \$15K	May 2015	This grant is for graduate students who are researching topics in sustainable agriculture that will serve the interests of farmers and agricultural service providers-- extension staff, NRCDC personnel, and others in the agricultural community.	http://www.nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Graduate-Student-Grant

Foundations & Nonprofits

Ben & Jerry's Foundation, www.benandjerrysfoundation.org/what-we-do, National Grassroots Grant Program

Cedar Tree Foundation, cedartreefound.org, Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Education, Environmental Health

Claneil, www.claneilfoundation.org, Community Grants, Special Project Fund

Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation, www.cehcf.org/env_health.html, Environment and Health (Priority to CA organizations)

First Nations Development Institute, www.firstnations.org, Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI)

GRACE Communications Foundation, gracelinks.com, Sustainable, Community-Based Food Production and Distribution

Kresge, www.kresge.org/programs, Community Development, Environment, and Health

Organic Valley's Farmers Advocating for Organics (FAFO) Fund, organicvalley.coop/about-us/donations/fafo-fund

Schmidt Family Foundation, theschmidt.org, Environment; sustainable development; 11th hour project

Surdna Foundation, www.surdna.org, Sustainable Environments, Reducing Greenhouse gasses, creating green businesses

The 1772 Foundation, www.1772foundation.org, Revolving funds for endangered properties, African-American history

W.K. Kellogg Foundation, wkkf.org/what-we-support/healthy-kids.aspx, Improve food systems in communities and schools

Wholesome Wave Foundation, wholesomewave.org/hfci, Food Hubs

Other Farm Funding Resources:

New England Small Farm Institute:

http://www.growingnewfarmers.org/main/for_new_farmers/resources_by_topic/farm_finances/

Tax Guide and Access to Credit

Farm Credit East:

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/>

Several products and services for farmers