



WORKING LANDS ALLIANCE

A Project of American Farmland Trust

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2015 Policy Priorities

1. Increase pace of statewide farmland protection efforts and ensure that maximum state and federal dollars are spent to preserve CT's farmland
 - Protect the integrity of Community Investment Act funding and ensure funds remain dedicated to core programs, per legislative intent
 - Maintain \$10 million in lump sum bond funding per year for each of the next two fiscal years for both the CT Farmland Preservation Program and the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program
 - Advocate for adequate resources and creative strategies to effectively implement the Department of Agriculture's farmland protection programs and to steward protected farms
 - Work with Governor's office and Department of Agriculture to exercise authority granted by legislature to permanently protect farmland parcels in the Department's custody
 - Work with NRCS and Congressional delegation to ensure that Agricultural Land Easements Program receives appropriate share of national Agricultural Conservation Easement Program funding
 - Advocate for effective implementation and continuation of CT Community Farms Preservation Program
 - Work in coordination with CT Land Conservation Council and other partners to eliminate 70% rule that caps total federal and state funding on conservation projects
2. Identify means to expand farmland access and affordability and educate policymakers about agricultural viability issues
 - Explore tax incentives and other policy tools as a means to expand farmland access and affordability
 - Work with CT Department of Agriculture and other partners to update and enhance statewide farm linking, listing and matching efforts
 - Educate policymakers about key findings from 2012 Census of Agriculture regarding economic viability for CT farms