

# Grants: Not as “FAR” away as you may think!

**Finding**  
**Applying**  
**Receiving**

---

JAIME L. SMITH  
MARKETING & INSPECTION REP II  
BUREAU OF AG DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
860-713-2559  
[JAIME.SMITH@CT.GOV](mailto:JAIME.SMITH@CT.GOV)



**Myth:**

There aren't grants out there



**Fact:**

There are!

**Myth:**

They're impossible to get



**Fact:**

They're VERY competitive

**Myth:**

The granting process takes a long time



**Fact:**

The granting process takes a long time

**Myth:**

You have to hire a grant writer



**Fact:**

Most you do not

**Fact: If you don't apply you sure won't be awarded!**



## Farm Transition Grant

<b>Open to:</b>	Farmers, Farmer Cooperatives
<b>Max award:</b>	\$49,999
<b>Match:</b>	50/50 with cash
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Community Investment Act
<b>Goal:</b>	Projects that expand, diversify or transition farms into new markets
<b>Term:</b>	1 year to complete the project
<b>Payment:</b>	<b>Reimbursement program</b> – project must be complete prior to receipt of grant funds
<b>Evaluation:</b>	Competitive; based on a project plan evaluated by an internal review panel
<b>Program Status:</b>	Active. Guidance released at year end with an annual deadline in February
<b>Contact:</b>	Jaime L. Smith <a href="mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov">Jaime.Smith@ct.gov</a> 860-713-2559





**Gilson's Greenhouse \$5,050**



**Hrubiec Farm \$4,250**



**Sub Edge Farm \$6,347**



**Fair Weather Acres \$19,000**



**Creamery Brook Bison  
\$16,000**



**Four Root Farm: \$14,575**



**Savino Vineyards  
\$13,350**





Blue Hills Orchard, \$45,000

Mountain Dairy  
\$40,000



House of Hayes \$40,000



Stella Mar Oyster  
Co \$40,000



Gresczyk Farms \$49,999



Pleasant View Farms,  
\$49,000



DeFrancesco & Sons \$49,999

## Farmland Restoration Grant

- Open to:** Farmers and Municipalities
- Max award:** \$20,000 per year
- Match:** 50% cash or in-kind (farmers), 10% cash or in kind (municipalities)
- Funding Source:** Bond funds
- Goal:** Increase the State's resource base for food and fiber production agriculture focusing primarily on prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan
- Term:** One year to complete the project
- Payment:** **Reimbursement program** – Affidavit of Completion must be submitted prior to receipt of grant funds
- Evaluation:** Awards are first-come, first-served basis to those that meet the qualifications
- Program Status:** Active. No specific deadline, apply anytime
- Contact:** Lance Shannon [Lance.Shannon@ct.gov](mailto:Lance.Shannon@ct.gov) or 860-713-2531





**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**Wintonbury Land Trust, Windsor**

## Organic Cost Share Recertification Grant

<b>Open to:</b>	USDA certified organic farmers and processors
<b>Max award:</b>	\$750
<b>Match:</b>	75%/25% with cash
<b>Funding Source:</b>	USDA National Organic Program
<b>Goal:</b>	Help off set the cost for annual USDA organic certification for organic farmers and processors
<b>Term:</b>	Annually
<b>Payment:</b>	<b>Reimbursement program</b> – certification must be complete prior to receipt of grant funds
<b>Evaluation:</b>	Awards are on a first-come, first-served basis to those that meet the qualifications
<b>Program Status:</b>	Active. Applicants are solicited in August with an October 30 <sup>th</sup> deadline annually
<b>Contact:</b>	Jaime L. Smith <a href="mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov">Jaime.Smith@ct.gov</a> 860-713-2559



## Grant opportunities available to farmers

DECD [www.CT.gov/ECD](http://www.CT.gov/ECD)

Small Business Express Program

NRCS, [www.ct.nrsc.usda.gov](http://www.ct.nrsc.usda.gov)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP)

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMAP)

FSA, [www.fsa.usda.gov/ct](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ct)

Disaster Assistance

Loan Programs

Bridges to Opportunities

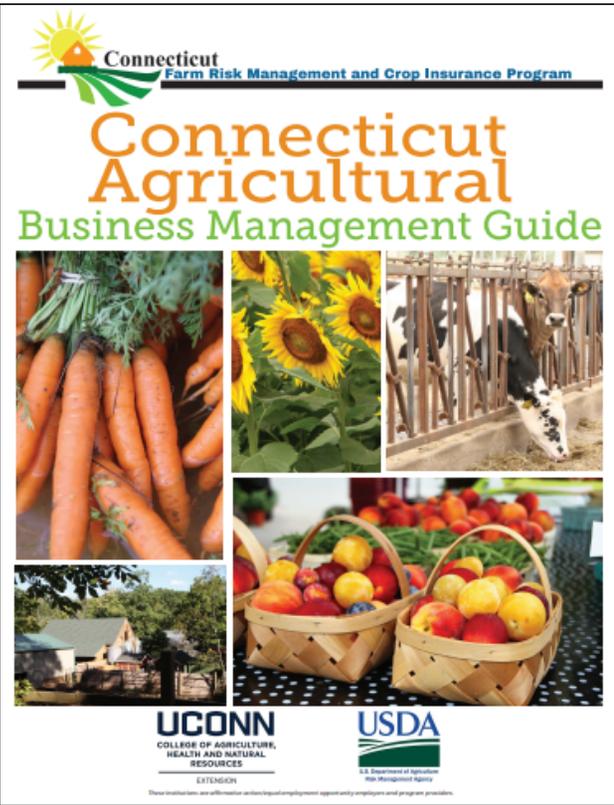
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)

Value Added Producer Grants

NORTHEAST SARE, [www.nesare.org](http://www.nesare.org)

Farmer Grants





# Business Plan



## Grant resources available to farmers

### CT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER: [www.ctsbdc.com](http://www.ctsbdc.com)

The Connecticut Small Business Development Center provides no-cost advising assistance to both prospective and existing business owners to help them start or grow their business.

### CT SCORE: <https://greaterhartford.score.org/>

Free mentoring for small business

### CORNELL SMALL FARMS PROGRAM/NE BEGINNING FARMERS PROGRAM:

<http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/>

Planning to Stay In Business (Bf 202) Course

### USDA NEW FARMERS PROGRAM <https://newfarmers.usda.gov>

### FARM CREDIT EAST [www.farmcrediteast.com](http://www.farmcrediteast.com)

FarmStart

Young, Beginning, Small and Veteran farmers Incentive Program

GenerationNext

Grant Writing



## What makes a good application: The Dos and Don'ts

***Don't***

**Make your project fit into the purpose of the grant.**

**DO**

**Apply for grant programs that your project fits into.**

***Don't***

**Guess at the budget.**

**DO**

**Get estimates and  
quotes for a factual  
budget.**

***Don't***

**Skip blanks or sections of the application.**

**DO**

**Fill out the application in its entirety.**

***Don't***

**Make up your own  
rules.**

**DO**

**Follow the rules  
provided in the  
guidelines.**

***Don't***

**Be vague about your project.**

**DO**

**Be specific about the project details and outcomes.**

# DO

**Share how the project, or project outcomes, have a greater impact beyond the farm.**

# DO

**Reinforce to the reviewers that you can accomplish the project on time and within budget per the scope.**

**Farm Viability Grant**

**Specialty Crop Block Grant**

**Market Development and Consumer Outreach Programs**

**Farm to Wholesale**

**Connecticut Grown Signage Program**

**Point of Purchase Materials**

**Connecticut Building at the Big E**

**CT Grown Store**

**Website Listing**

**Food Export Assistance**

**Connecticut Grown Costume Rental Program**



# Questions?

Jaime L. Smith

Marketing & Inspection Rep II

Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation

CT Department of Agriculture

[Jaime.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov)

