



PRESERVING WORKING LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

From the CFT Board President

Dear Friends,

With the unprecedented changes over the last several months and the difficulties facing many of us, please know that the Board and staff of Connecticut Farmland Trust hope you and your family are safe and healthy. The challenges of this moment remind us how important connections to each other are and how much we depend on one another, including the farm families here in Connecticut whose work is truly essential.

As incoming President, I am so heartened by the generosity of our supporters and friends especially in these sobering times. You believe in our mission and know that farmland preservation is as important now as ever. Thanks to your investment in our work, CFT protected a record six family farms in 2019. We also celebrated an important milestone — the protection of our 50th farm — at a joyful event at Bristol's Farm last summer!

Looking ahead, our team is embarking on a Strategic Conservation Plan, which will guide CFT's work in the coming years. We look forward to sharing news of the progress on this effort and the countless family farms we're currently working to protect. There will be many farmland protection successes to come this year and beyond, and we can't wait to celebrate those in person when we are able.

I would also like to thank fellow board member Dawn Adiletta for her outstanding service as President the past two years. Dawn led us through some of the most productive years in CFT's history and is a true champion of farmland conservation. We are sad to see two longtime board members step down — Jack Haller and Mike Fotos. Their contributions over a combined 27 years leave the organization in sound fiscal shape and positioned for continued successes in the years to come. Finally, we are thrilled Jiff Martin and Joan Nichols joined our Board in 2019, both of whom are deeply knowledgeable and passionate about Connecticut agriculture and farmland protection.

With our attentions focused on home, let me conclude by saying a warm thank you for being part of the CFT family. Your generous support allows us to face the challenges that lie ahead, and to carry on the important work of protecting Connecticut's farmland for generations to come. Thank you again for supporting CFT!

Best,

Lisa Bassani

President, Board of Directors



2019 Protected Farm Highlights



Anonymous Farm, Hartford County

Land: 147 Acres

Partner: CT Department of Agriculture

Located in the fertile Connecticut River Valley, the highly productive farm contains nearly 100% prime agricultural soils. Leased to a local farmer for tobacco and Christmas tree production, the farm is part of a growing block of protected farmland. The owners of the farm chose to protect it with two separate easements, so they have the flexibility to give each of their two children a portion of the family's farm. The family wishes to keep their farm name anonymous.



Bristol's Farm, Canton

Land: 27 Acres

Partners: CT Department of Agriculture, Town of Canton, and Canton Land Conservation Trust

Bristol's Farm has been farmed by the Bristol family since 1888. By the late 1990s, the iconic farm was owned by 16 family members who could not agree on the farm's future. When fifth-generation farmer Josh Bristol returned to run the farm's popular fruit and vegetable operation several years ago, the family decided it was time to pursue permanently protecting the farm.

Located in the fertile Connecticut River Valley, the farm's 27 acres of productive fields have some of the best agricultural soils in the state, which made the property a high preservation priority for CFT and its local and state partners. The CT Department of Agriculture and CFT collaborated to protect the farm through the Community Farms Preservation Program, which conserves smaller, food producing farms. In addition to primary funding from the state, the farm's preservation was made possible by contributions from the Town of Canton, Canton Land Conservation Trust, and CFT's Acquisition Fund.

"When you're a farmer and you understand how rich the soils are in Connecticut, it boggles your mind how they developed the whole Connecticut River Valley," said John Forker, one of the owners of Bristol's Farm. "I just want to see the farmland preserved."



Johnson Farm, Washington

Land: 51.6 Acres

Partner: Steep Rock Association

The historic Johnson Farm was purchased by Walter Johnson in 1940, and the family ran it as a dairy farm until 1973. The family leased the property to local farmers for cattle until 2006, when Walter's son, Eliot Johnson, began his farm operation on the land. The property will continue to be farmed by Eliot, who now grows hay and raises grass-fed beef. The farm was purchased from the Johnson family by Steep Rock Association. CFT will hold the conservation easement on the farm in perpetuity.



McCall Farm, Lebanon

Land: 75 Acres

Partners: Town of Lebanon and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

"I hate to see it every time another tract of housing goes up on what was once a farm and I'd hate to see my property wind up with houses on it," said Scott McCall, who owns the 75-acre farm with his wife, Catherine. The McCall family ran a dairy operation on the farm for many years, and now Scott raises Scottish Highland cattle and hay. The couple protected their farm, which has been in the McCall family for over 300 years, to honor its history and for their two children and future generations.



PHOTO: JUDY ANDERSON

Strong Farm Pastures, Vernon

Land: 51 Acres

Partners: CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Town of Vernon, and Northern CT Land Trust

After five years of work involving CFT, local farmland preservation activists, public agencies, and other partners, the pastures of the iconic Strong Farm in the center of Vernon were permanently protected this year. One of only three heritage farms left in Vernon, the farm – which had long been eyed by developers – was a high priority for preservation in the community for years.

In a unique, three-part real estate deal, seven passionate town residents combined \$1 million from their personal savings to buy 51 acres of pastureland from the Strong family in 2015 and then sold the fields to CFT in September 2019. CFT protected the fields with conservation easements and then transferred ownership of the preserved land less than one month later to the nonprofit organization Strong Family Farm, Inc. to expand its popular agricultural education center for schools and local families. The nonprofit, which is independent of the Strong family, continues to operate the land as a farm, leasing the fields to two local farmers.

CFT purchased the farm with funding from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bafflin Foundation, Northern Connecticut Land Trust, CFT's Farmland Acquisition Fund, the Town of Vernon's open space fund, and more than 450 individuals who donated \$49,721.

"CFT's willingness to assume temporary ownership (of the farm) was key to making this project happen. We simply could not have done this project without CFT."

— Ann Letendre, Chair of Vernon's Open Space Task Force.



Wraight Farm, Ellington

Land: 37 Acres

John and Gloria Wraight donated a conservation easement on their 37-acre Ellington farm, which has been in John's family for 60 plus years. The conservation-minded couple, who also protected an abutting woodland property, had watched the area develop and wanted to ensure the farm's prime hay fields and pastureland would always be available for future generations. Since the farm was conserved, CFT has helped the Wraights enroll in the CT FarmLink program to market their property to the next farm buyer. The CT FarmLink program, which CFT administers, is a clearinghouse where farmers can connect to sell, buy, and lease land.

Who Helped Protect Family Farms in 2019

A Gracious Thank You to CFT's Supporters

Foundations

Alexander Host Foundation
Anonymous
Anonymous (2)
Anonymous (3)
DFA Cares Foundation
Echo Valley Foundation
Enid Storm Dwyer Foundation
Farm Aid
Funny Money Fund
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Silver Mountain Foundation
for the Arts
The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven
The Connecticut Community
Foundation
The Findlay Family Foundation
The Jane and William Curran
Foundation
The Northwest Connecticut
Community Foundation
The Stewart and Constance
Greenfield Foundation
The Thompson Family
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Individuals

Barbara Abraham
Dawn C. and Joseph Adiletta
Heather Allen
Rich and Sandy Allen
Anne Alvord
Nancy Anderson
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Anonymous
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Land Easement Donor

John and Gloria Wraight

Companies and Organizations

AmazonSmile Foundation
 Bethlehem Grange #121
 Blue Cross Blue Shield Matching Gift Program
 Castle Hill Farm
 Cherry Brook Garden Club
 Cheshire Grange #23
 Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.
 Country Carpenters, Inc.
 Eastern Connecticut Pomona
 Fairfield Garden Club
 Farm Credit East
 Farm Credit East Cares
 Futtner's Family Farm
 The Garlic Farm
 GE Foundation Matching Gift Program
 Gilbertie's Herb Gardens Inc.
 Glastonbury Grange #26
 Greens Farms Garden Club
 Harney & Sons Fine Tea
 The Hartford Insurance Matching Gift Program
 Hemlock Grange #182 P of H
 IBM Corporation/Matching Grants Program
 John Deere
 Jones Family Farms, LLC
 Lyme Grange #147
 MassMutual Matching Gift Program
 Max Restaurant Group
 Mountain Laurel Pomona Patrons of Husbandry
 North Stonington Grange #138
 Oxford Grange No. 194
 Pachaug Grange #96
 Southbury Land Trust, Inc.
 Steep Rock Association, Inc.
 Taghannuck Grange #100
 U. S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Mgmt.
 United Health Group
 United Technologies Matching Gifts
 The Vanilla Bean Cafe, Inc.
 Vernon Grange #52 P of H
 Wiggins and Dana
 Winter Brook Farm

We apologize for any omissions or mistakes.



CFT Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
Unrestricted.....	\$ 459,115	\$ 599,245
Acquisition.....	685,159	850,685
Stewardship.....	339,175	305,982
Endowment.....	32,907	27,158
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	1,516,356	1,783,070
Other Current Assets.....	114,139	22,525
Total Current Assets.....	1,630,495	1,805,595
Noncurrent Assets		
Equipment net of Depreciation.....	5,173	643
Total Noncurrent Assets.....	5,173	643
Total Assets.....	\$1,635,668	\$1,806,238
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.....	\$ 4,725	\$ 6,885
Total Current Liabilities.....	4,725	6,885
Net Assets		
Unrestricted:		
For Current Operations.....	620,501	661,748
Board Designated for Acquisition.....	24,000	24,000
Temporarily Restricted.....	953,535	1,086,447
Permanently Restricted.....	32,907	27,158
Total Net Assets.....	1,630,943	1,799,353
Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....	\$1,635,668	\$1,806,238

CFT Statement of Activities

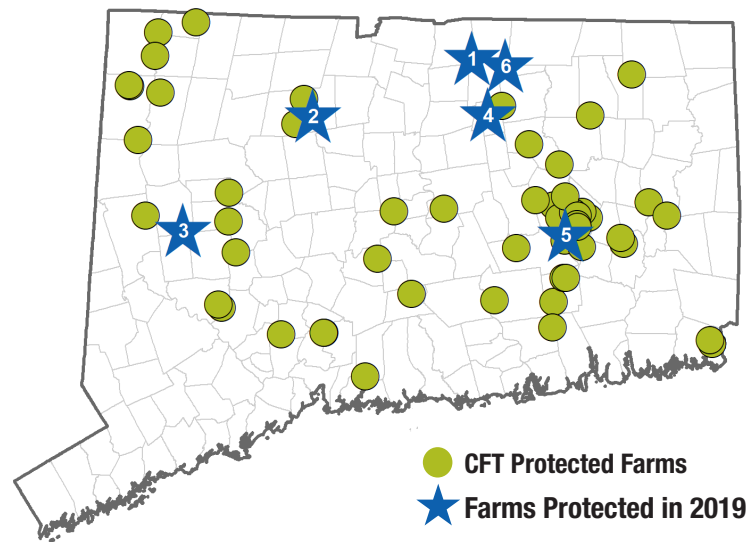
For the year ended December 31, 2019

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Support and Revenue				
Contributions.....	\$ 294,456*	\$ 590,089	\$ —	\$ 884,545
Special Events (net).....	(8,687)	—	—	(8,687)
State Contracts.....	77,249	—	—	77,249
Interest.....	4,155	12,205	610	16,970
Other Income.....	347	—	—	347
Net assets released from restrictions.....	730,067	(730,067)	—	—
Total Revenue.....	1,097,587	(127,773)	610	970,424
Expenditures				
Program Services.....	955,466	—	—	955,466
Fundraising and Development.....	146,547	—	—	146,547
Management and General.....	36,821	—	—	36,821
Total Expenditures.....	1,138,834	—	—	1,138,834
Change in Net Assets.....	\$ (41,247)*	\$(127,773)	\$610	\$(168,410)

*A foundation grant in excess of \$50,000 was anticipated in the Fall of 2019 but not received until early 2020.



The Protected Farms of 2019



1. Anonymous Farm, Hartford County

147 acres

2. Bristol's Farm, Canton

27 acres

3. Johnson Farm, Washington

51.6 acres

4. Strong Farm Pastures, Vernon

51 acres

5. McCall Farm, Lebanon

75 acres

6. Wraith Farm, Ellington

37 acres



CFT-Protected Farms

- Farms that have farm stands or sell directly to the public. Please visit ctfarmland.org to learn more.

Hartford County

- Cold Spring Brook Farm, *Berlin*
- Bristol's Farm, *Canton*
- Walnut Ledge Farm, *Glastonbury*
- Anonymous Farm, *Hartford County*

Litchfield County

- Grassy Hill Farm, *Canaan*
- Calf and Clover Creamery, *Cornwall*
- West Cooley Farm, *Cornwall*
- Farnham Farm, *Morris*
- Barnes Farm, *New Hartford*
- Butler Farm, *New Hartford*
- Hunt Hill Farm, *New Milford*
- Dutcher Hill Farm, *North Canaan*
- Hollow Brook Farm, *North Canaan*
- Wike Brothers Farm, *Sharon*
- Johnson Farm, *Washington*
- Calabrese Farm, *Watertown*
- Osuch Farm, *Watertown and Bethlehem*

Middlesex County

- Vanishing Geese Farm, *Durham*
- Ballek Farm, *East Haddam*

New Haven County

- Cherry Tree Farm, *Bethany*
- Maple Tree Farm, *Branford*
- Humphrey Evergreen Farms, *Hamden*
- Bilger Farm, *Meriden*
- Lovdal Farm, *Southbury*
- Phillips Farm, *Southbury*

New London County

- Cato Corner Farm, *Colchester*
- Arons Farm, *Lebanon*
- Beltane Farm, *Lebanon*
- Cushman Farm, *Lebanon*
- Leone Farm, *Lebanon*
- McCall Farm, *Lebanon*
- McCaw Farm, *Lebanon*
- Scooter Hill Farm, *Lebanon*
- Skaats Farm, *Lebanon*
- Slate Farm, *Lebanon*
- Stoneboat Farm, *Lebanon*

Stoney Hedge Farm, Lebanon

Wayland Farm, Lebanon

Williams Farm, Lebanon

Pheasant Farm, Lisbon and Canterbury

- Long Table Farm, *Lyme*
- Wisneske Farm, *Norwich*
- Mitchell and Marvel Farms, *Salem*
- On the Hill Farm, *Salem*
- Little Pond Farm, *Stonington*
- McGuire Farm, *Stonington*

Tolland County

Szegda Farm, Columbia

Digiulio Farm, Coventry

Reynolds Farm, Coventry

Wraith Farm, Ellington

Gunther Farm, Vernon

Strong Farm Pastures, Vernon

Windham County

Paradise Farm, Ashford

Rocklawn Farms, Canterbury

Wilbur Farm, Woodstock



Farms Protected 2002-2019

"Keeping land in farms helps to establish a local, sustainable food system, supports our economy, and contributes to improving the quality of land, air and water. Our goal is to make working lands available to Connecticut farmers for the indefinite future."

— Elisabeth Moore
Executive Director

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