



## A grateful thank you...

***I am so honored to work alongside you in helping farm families permanently protect their land.***

What we do here at Connecticut Farmland Trust is only possible when we are supported by generous friends—like you—who care deeply about the well-being of their communities and neighbors.

I know from personal experience how intensely emotional and gratifying the decision is to protect one's own land. I made that decision for my family's property in Northwest Ohio, where I grew up. It wasn't easy to get my whole family on board, but I consider it one of my greatest accomplishments.

**You should feel proud of your accomplishments, too.**

Because of you, CFT has the staff, resources, and funding we need to work tirelessly to preserve and protect today's farmland for our future—over 60 farms and nearly 5,000 acres to date!

You enable us to connect exiting farmers with farmers seeking land to begin or expand their operations; to identify threatened farms and opportunities to protect them; to form crucial partnerships with the farm owners and community organizations who, together, ensure the stewardship of the land forever.

**This is no small feat. And you are a huge part of it.**



**DID YOU KNOW?**

***93% of CFT farms produce food***

**I know your heart will be warmed as you read through this impact report that celebrates you and all the work you have helped CFT accomplish thanks to your generous gifts!**

On behalf of all the hardworking farmers, the fertile farmland, and the communities that benefit from your commitment to CFT, ***thank you!***



**Elisabeth Moore**  
*Executive Director*

# You helped make it happen: a celebration of farmers!



(left to right)  
Chelsea Gazillo,  
Lesley Schurmann,  
Kip Kolesinskas  
and Peter Cooper

(left to right) Julie  
North Chelminski and  
Elisabeth Moore, CFT  
Executive Director



Farm families,  
shown holding  
their CFT-tradition  
apple crisp, who  
protected their  
land with CFT

Charlotte and  
Caroline Kearns



It's been a long year and a half—so a day of fun, food, and music was in order! What was the occasion, you ask?

Normally, CFT celebrates with each farm family when the process of protecting their land is finalized. With a homemade pie of their choice—a longstanding CFT tradition!—we sit back and acknowledge how grateful we are that another piece of land is permanently protected and for your help in saving it.

Due to the pandemic, this treasured tradition was halted. So, on September 19th, **CFT hosted “A Sunday of Sundaes and Sunflowers” at Castle Hill Farm in Newtown, which was recently protected by CFT with your generous support.** This event was our opportunity to gather farm families who protected their land over the last 18 months with our donors, project partners, and board members and collectively honor these incredible achievements!

Farmers got the chance to interact and share what inspired them to protect their land while enjoying local ice cream from Ferris Acres Creamery, Castle Hill Farm's corn maze, and live bluegrass music from Restless Mountain.

**We felt you right there with us!** *In every smile, every handshake—even every bite of ice cream!—our attendees expressed their gratitude for you. You ensured that, even during a pandemic, CFT could work nonstop in our fight to protect Connecticut farmland. You are crucial to providing food security for our communities, keeping local economies growing, and ensuring there is productive farmland for the next generation.*

## THANK YOU!





# Prospect Farm: How you preserved a family's legacy!

**Prospect Farm in Woodstock is more than just land—for the Chattelle family, it is the source of treasured family memories, traditions, and a stronghold of their family's dreams.**

Loretta Chattelle's parents, Virginia and Normand, bought the 13-acre farm in 1978, and grew vegetables and raised chickens, pigs, turkeys, geese, and ducks. They raised their seven children there, and their grandchildren grew up learning to care for the animals and exploring the farm. Prospect Farm is important not only to the family, but to the Woodstock community as a source of local food and for its open, rolling fields.

When Virginia and Normand passed away several years apart, land developers began pressuring Loretta and her siblings about selling Prospect Farm. They knew they wanted

to honor their parents and keep the family farm in farming but weren't sure how to protect it.

***Thanks to your support of Connecticut Farmland Trust, the Chattelle family protected Prospect Farm—and their family legacy—from being lost forever.***

As a small farm, the Chattelles' family farm didn't qualify for preservation through other land trusts. With your generous involvement, CFT protects small farms like Prospect Farm so that farmland is available for everyone—especially the young, beginning farmers who are the future of agriculture in Connecticut.

By donating an easement on their farm, not only was the land protected from development, but Loretta's

niece, Sarah, was able to buy the farm. **That's right—you helped make Prospect Farm a three-generation family tradition.**

Sarah is now carrying on her grandparents' legacy. "It's a beautiful piece of land," she says. "It's a piece of Woodstock history, and a special place for my family. My grandparents always wanted to protect their farm."

**Without you, families like the Chattelles are often unable to navigate the complex process of protecting their farmland. Your support of CFT helps *real people, right here* in our communities preserve their history and the future of agriculture in Connecticut.**



Two generations of the Chattelle family

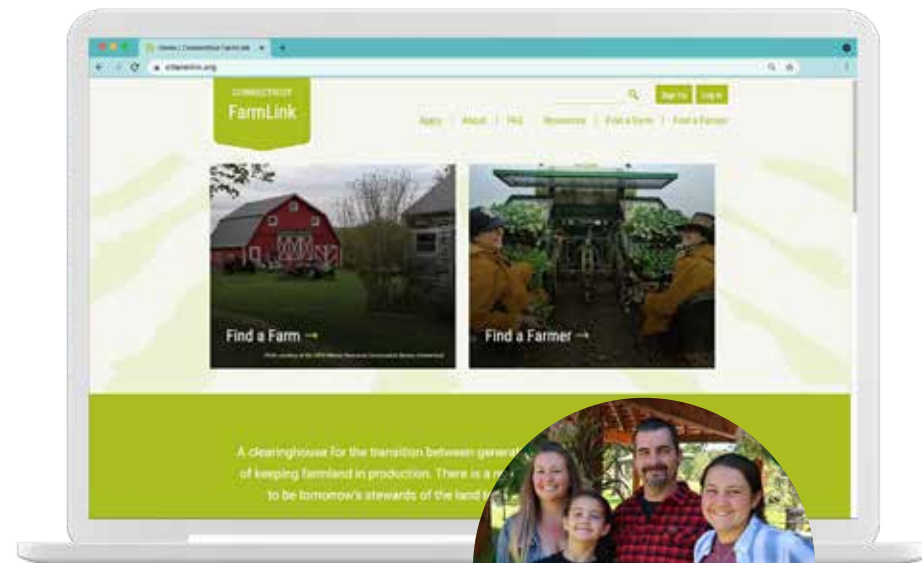
# Your impact on the future: protected farms stay in farming!

When you help CFT protect farmland, it isn't just for one generation—it's forever!

That's why, with support from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and donors like you, CFT is able to offer Connecticut FarmLink, a website that helps farm owners market available farmland to an audience of new and existing farmers.

**Because of your generosity, CT FarmLink was there for Ray Johnson** of Johnson Angus Ranch in Durham. Ray raises Angus beef cattle on the farm, admiring the high-quality food they provide to the community. With an ever-expanding herd, Ray knew he'd need additional farmland for hay and pasture, but worried about where to find it. Meanwhile, the perfect, protected farm was waiting for him on CT FarmLink. ***In so many cases, the right hands for the land are out there—sometimes people just aren't sure where to look.***

A resource like CT FarmLink ensures that farmers who are just starting or expanding their farms have access to purchasing or leasing farmland



and that exiting farmers have a safe market in which to sell it.

The Boniewski Farm in Middletown was owned by the Chiaravallo-Rockwell family, who had inherited the land from their uncle Stanley. While they leased the farm to a dairy farmer in the meantime, they longed for the land to be preserved so a farmer could own it.

The family listed the Boniewski Farm on CT FarmLink where it caught Ray Johnson's eye. After meeting and talking, Ray and the Chiaravallo-Rockwell family came to a deal, and just like that, another piece of protected farmland remains safely in farming and is used to help produce the food we eat and enjoy the land we love.

**Ray's story is just one example of how important protecting farmland is for the future of agriculture—and the impact you have on ensuring Connecticut farmland stays in farming.**



**Ray Johnson  
and his family.**

We can't live without the land that grows our food. Once it has been turned into a parking lot, a store, or a housing development, it's gone forever.

Local feed stores, hardware stores, tractor supply stores, and veterinarians depend on farmers to boost the economy. Your own family depends on the vegetables, fruits, meats, and dairy products farmers produce for your table. Our ecosystems, wildlife, and water depend on well-stewarded, open land to thrive.

**As you can see, your gift to CFT has a ripple effect that touches so many lives. CT FarmLink and CFT are vital to the growth and continuation of our agricultural communities. Farming is key to our future and CFT simply couldn't protect our future without your kind generosity. Thank you.**

