

# Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Grant Proposal

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GC3 – Ag & Forestry Working Group  
Sept 1, 2022



# DoAg Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Agriculture is to **foster a healthy economic, environmental, and social climate for agriculture by developing, promoting, and regulating agricultural businesses; protecting agricultural and aquaculture resources; enforcing laws pertaining to domestic animals; and promoting an understanding** among the state's citizens of the diversity of Connecticut agriculture, **its cultural heritage and its contribution** to the state's economy.



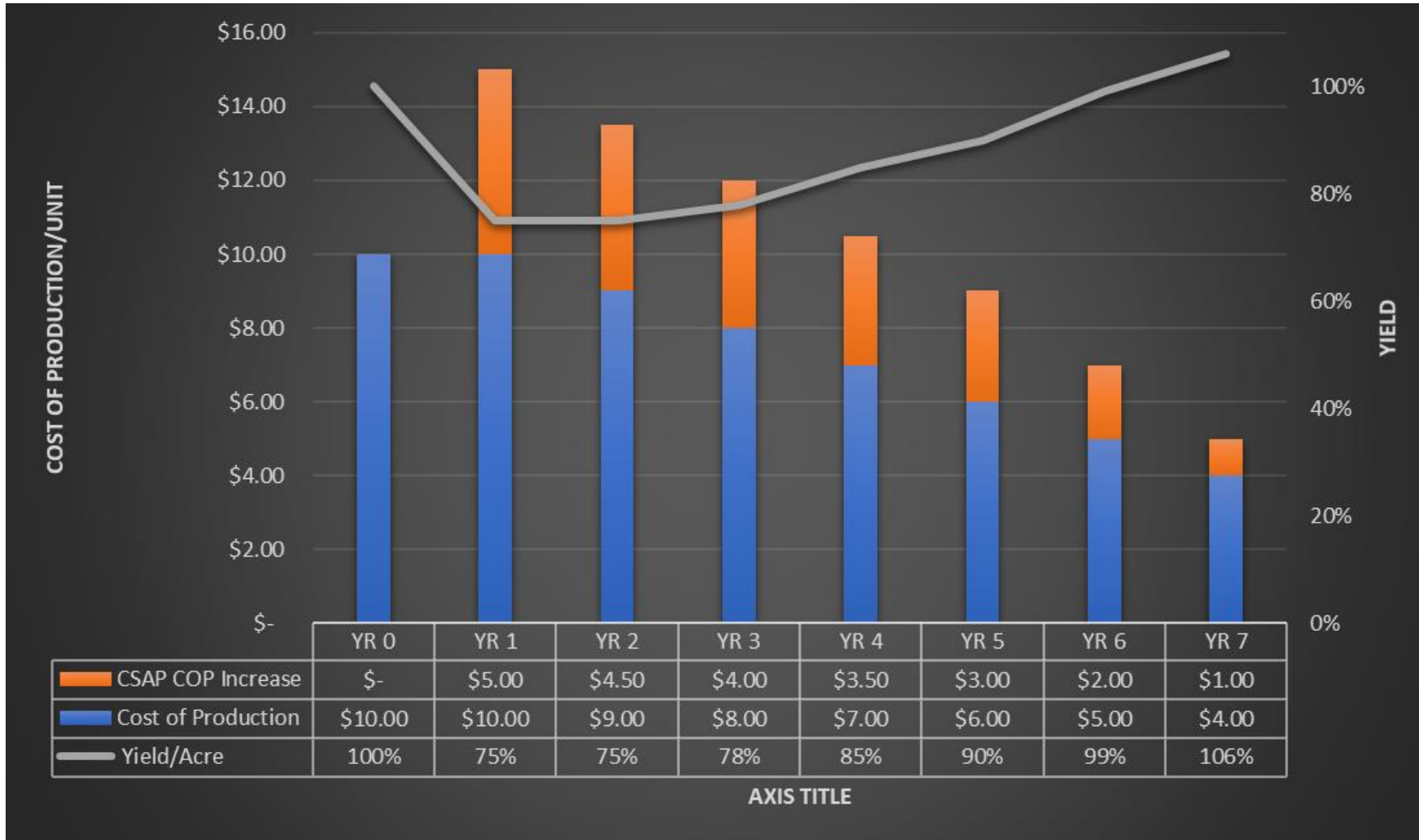
# State Budget Allocations

## Funding Components

- Climate Smart Farming
  - \$7,000,000 in unexpended balances (carry-forward) - Sec 12(70)
- Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Practices
  - \$7,000,000 in bond funds - Sec 314(c)(1)



# Cost of Production Considerations



# Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan (PA 22-118 Sec 145. Sect 22-6c(b) and 22-6d)

## Farm Considerations

- Lesser of \$20,000 or 50% of the project cost share for private land
  - Up to 90% for state/municipal lands
- Priority award consideration
- 50% cost advance to develop, implement, and comply with a plan
- Includes purchases of farm equipment
- New considerations
  - Urban farms and woodlots
  - Soil Health Improvements
  - Improvement of water sources



# Climate Smart Ag & Forestry – On Farm Concepts

## Technical Assistance

- Cover cropping
- Crop spacing & planting
- Biologic Controls / IPM implementation
- EQIP+ Programming?
- New Equipment

## Retrofit

- CEA Conversion of furnaces
- Drip/mechanized/Smart irrigation



# Climate Smart Ag & Forestry – On Farm Concepts

## Alternative Energy Production

- Co-use solar arrays
- Anaerobic digester support

## Reduced Use of Fossil Fuel Products

- Integration of plastic alternatives



# Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan (PA 22-118 Sec 145. Sect 22-6c)

Nonprofit, Soil & Water Conservation District,  
UCONN, Municipality Considerations

- Much broader scope than farm applications/awards
- No cap on max award to organization
- No cap on subaward grants
- No match requirements





# Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan (PA 22-118 Sec 145. Sect 22-6c)

Grants can be for the following:

- 1) Provide technical assistance,
- 2) distribute grant funding to producers,
- 3) coordinate training programs,
- 4) coordinate projects that pilot or demonstrate conservation practices,
- 5) create tools that help reduce barriers to accessing assistance for conservation practices on farms,
- 6) establish equipment-sharing programs, or
- 7) other activities that will increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices



# Climate Smart Ag & Forestry – Nonprofit Concepts

- Direct technical assistance to farms
- On farm pilot/demonstration projects
- Equipment sharing programs
- Market Offsets
  - Offset revenue losses from decreased yield, until yields recover
- “other activities that will increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices”



# Climate Smart Ag & Forestry – Nonprofit Grant Program Proposal

- \$1.5 million grant category
  - 2 awards
  - Statewide application(s)
  - 3-5 year projects – development, deploy, info gathering, revision
  - Admin costs allowable with majority of funds to program/project implementation
  - Larger projects, longer term technical assistance, market offsets, energy and water reduction
  - Larger operations
  - Regular reporting DoAg



# Climate Smart Ag & Forestry – Nonprofit Grant Program Proposal

- \$500,000 grant category
  - 4 awards
  - Regional applications
  - 1-3 year program timetable
  - Admin costs allowable with majority of funds to program/project implementation
  - Smaller farms and organizations
  - More 1-on-1 TA and direct assistance
  - Demonstration plots/projects that can be replicated
  - Regular reporting DoAg



# Timeline

Summer  
2022

- Grant Program Design

Sept  
2022

- Present to GC3 for feedback, comments

Oct  
2022

- Refine based on GC3 feedback

Oct/Nov  
2022

- Grant announcement, application portal opens

Q1  
2023

- Awards



Spring  
2023



- Refine if any legislative changes are needed

# Climate Smart Ag Unit

- Staff support will be necessary for this to be successful
- DoAg will be posting an Environmental Analyst 2 position to lead this effort
- Depending on funding, additional staff will be brought on to support this work



# USDA Climate Smart Conservation Activities

- [Soil Health](#) – Reducing emissions and enhancing soil carbon sequestration.
- [Improved Nitrogen Management](#) – Implementing the 4Rs of nitrogen management and reducing nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. The 4Rs are Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place.
- [Improved Livestock Waste Management Systems](#) – Reducing potent methane emissions from manure.



# USDA Climate Smart Conservation Activities (continued)

- [Enhanced Grazing Land Management](#) – Reducing emissions and building soil carbon stocks in grazing systems.
- [Improved Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat](#) – Building carbon stocks in perennial biomass and soils.
- [Restored Disturbed Lands](#) – Improving the quality of previously mined or degraded lands to increase soil and perennial biomass carbon stocks.





Questions,  
Comments,  
Feedback

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