

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Session A – Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)

Recommended Action: Commission a study for the feasibility of a Connecticut Agricultural COOP/ Processing Center.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution **Infrastructure** Consumer Education/Training **Marketing** Input Costs **Labor** Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution **Ag./Food Infrastructure** Consumer Education/Training **Marketing** Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security **Ag. Resources/Investments** Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory **Research** Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 1/1/13

End Date: 12/31/13

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Survey of parties able to contribute

Financial:

Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DoAg, DCP, DPH, USDA Farm Service Agency, CT Farm Bureau

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Farmer looking to expand production and marketing

Who Will Be Better Off?

Connecticut farmers and consumers

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured? The ability to implement the recommended action.

What Is the Unit of Measurement? Profitability for producers.

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement? TBD

What Is the Target Change in Measurement? CT agricultural producer growth, both new producers who benefit and current producer growth.

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Annually

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Session A – Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)

Recommended Action: Increase DOT gross & axle weight limits to 100,000 lbs.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution **Infrastructure** Consumer Education/Training Marketing **Input Costs** Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution **Ag./Food Infrastructure** Consumer Education/Training Marketing **Ag. Business Env.**

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. **Legislative** **Regulatory** Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 1/1/13

End Date:

Other Milestones: Limit raised

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Writing & promoting the bill. Financial: Evaluation of loss in subsidy dollars Other (specify):

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprotis; etc.):

DOT, Public Safety, DMV, MTAC, Fuel Lobby, any bulk industry

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

All businesses who use, consume or sell products in the State of Connecticut.

Who Will Be Better Off? Connecticut consumers and producers.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured? Reduction in production and distribution costs for farms.

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Annually

What Is the Unit of Measurement? \$ saved

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

What Is the Target Change in Measurement? unknown

Independent case study on distribution costs.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Session A – Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)

Recommended Action: Cooperative gathering/ networking – development of a live internet based system for procurement of CT grown products, expansion of the FTC program

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: ASAP

End Date:

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Building on FTC program

Financial: little

Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

Producer associations, DoAg, DCP, USDA Farm Service Agency, CT Farm Bureau

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Retailers, restaurants, institutions

Who Will Be Better Off? Producers who will have access to more markets, food coops, consumers have more options.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured? Amount of locally grown purchased.

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Quarterly

What Is the Unit of Measurement? \$ of sales

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement? Current sales

What Is the Target Change in Measurement? unknown

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Session A – Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)

Recommended Action: State should create a program that certifies CT producers/farms for GAP/HACCP.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: ASAP

End Date:

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: yes

Financial: yes

Other (specify): IT (applications)

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DoAg, DCP, DPH, USDA Farm Service Agency, CT Farm Bureau, UCONN

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

All users and producers.

Who Will Be Better Off? All users and producers.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured? Participation, increased dollars

What Is the Unit of Measurement? Number of participants, beginning/ending dollars – cost vs. profit

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement? Current, future enrollment

What Is the Target Change in Measurement? 100%

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Annually

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Session A – Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)

Recommended Action: Review/ modify existing procurement statutes (e.g., 4a-51) for State run/ K-12 to ensure a percentage of CT Grown products is purchased.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: ASAP

End Date:

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: yes

Financial: yes

Other (specify): IT

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

Producer associations, DAS, DoAg, USDA Farm Service Agency, CT Farm Bureau, other non-profits

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

All CT residents, producers

Who Will Be Better Off?

Everyone

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured? Participation

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement? Existing documentation

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Annually

What Is the Unit of Measurement? Increase in CT Grown usage by institutions, state contracts

What Is the Target Change in Measurement? 5% by 2020

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Session A – Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)

Recommended Action: Create a pilot program (see diagram on next page) for a Farm-to-Institutional local food pilot that connects producers, aggregator, and consumers, and is economically viable, reliable and replicable. We would look at creating a regional institutional local food pilot which, after testing and adjustments, will be replicable in other regions.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): Beta-Test/Pilot

Timeframe to Implement: 2 years

Start Date: Spring 2013

End Date: Spring 2015

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Producers, aggregator, institutions

Financial: Consultant, facilitator support

Other (specify): Processing, distribution

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DoAg, Department of Education, DPH, municipalities, USDA

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Institutions, producers, aggregator

Who Will Be Better Off?

Producers sell more or more systemized, creates aggregator business, customers at institutions

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured? Local food

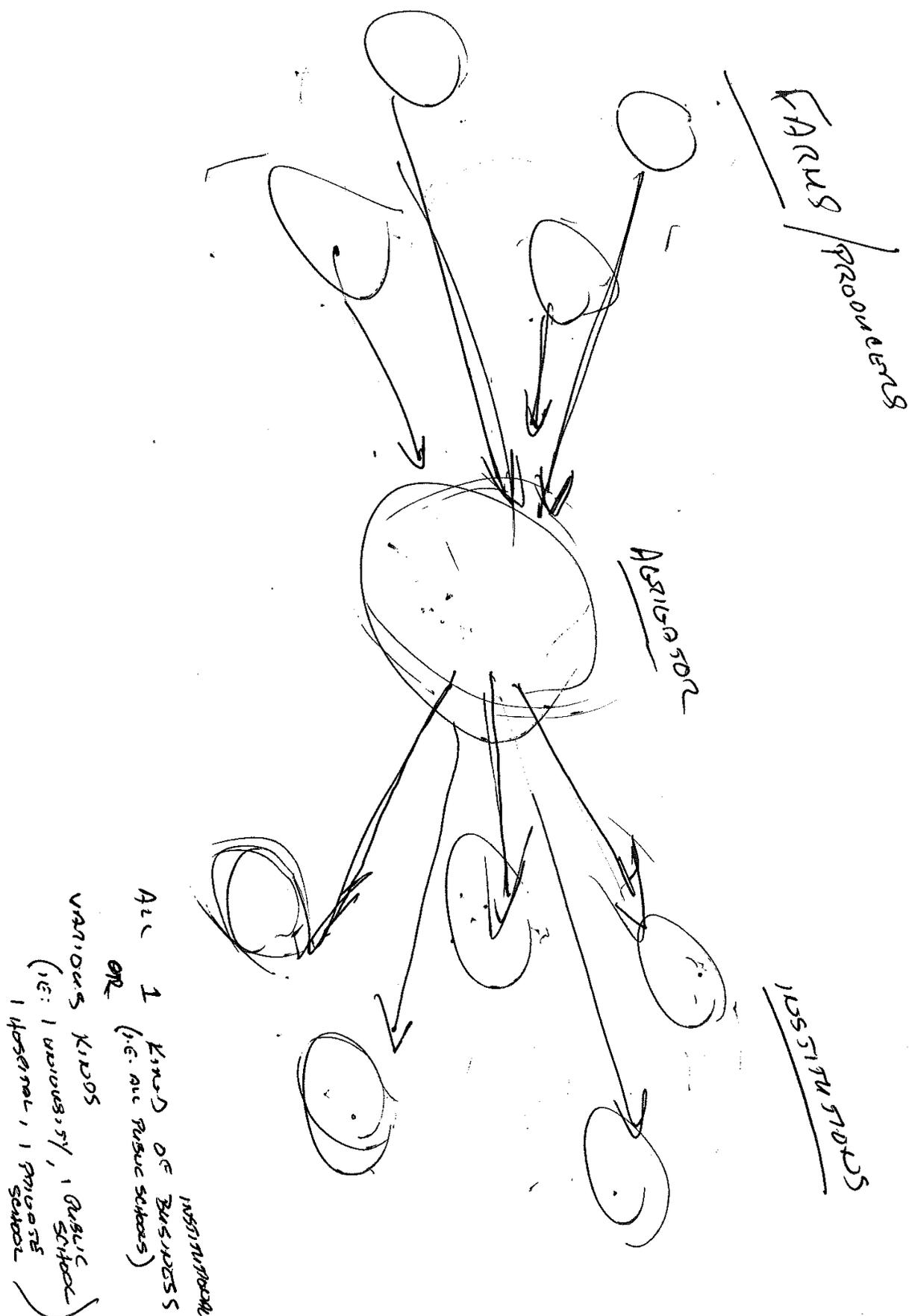
What Is the Unit of Measurement? Pounds, dollars, percent of local food

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement? Ask each institution to share current level of CT Grown

What Is the Target Change in Measurement? Same as Gov. Council, 5% by 2020

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Annual, after first and second year

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
(Session A - Farm-to-Institution Channels and Infrastructure)



Session A Brainstorming Notes

1. Farm to Institution
 - Obstacles
 - a. Policy – federal & state
 - b. Contracts
 - c. Energy
 - d. Infrastructure cost
 - e. Competition – size a factor
 - f. Quality – incentives, both farms and wholesalers
2. Ideas
 - Transportation
 - a. Trucking limitations/benefits
 - b. Weight limits
 - Energy & Electricity
 - Inheritance/Estate taxes
3. Infrastructure
4. State owned land access
5. Education
 - a. K-12
 - b. FFA
 - c. CES
6. Labor – internships
7. Procurement
 - a. Skills & Training
8. Infrastructure
 - a. Processing facilities
 - b. Grow CT agriculture
 - c. Slaughter facility
 - d. Reduce processing costs
 - e. Competitive production/ processing costs
9. State purchasing
10. Low interest loan program
 - a. Program/grants
 - b. Element of forgiveness for job creation
11. School systems
 - a. Cafeterias
 - b. Kitchens
 - c. Multi-use
12. Education
 - a. Price vs. value
 - b. Competitiveness
 - c. Marketing value of local
 - d. Selling the story of CT farms
 - e. Marketing IPM concept
 - f. Education of the public
 - g. Marketing & branding
 - h. Educate farmers
 - i. GMPs
 - ii. Require quality programs
 - iii. Certification training
 - iv. New & existing programs
 - v. Regional programs
 - i. Public education of food safety – local
 - j. Problems
 - i. Over regulation
 - ii. Training
 - iii. Communication to farmers about training
13. GAP
 - a. Difficult on small farms
 - b. Costly for CT farms
 - c. Consumer education

14. Supply issues
15. Food safety
 - a. Tracking
 - b. Huge farm costs
 - c. RI GAP certified
 - d. Networking – farmer, processor, distributor
16. Infrastructure Gap
 - a. Quantify quality product
 - b. Value of CT Grown
17. Institutions
 - a. Create demand for local product
 - b. Educate institutions
 - c. Buyers shift to local product
 - d. Pilot program/group for local
 - e. Aggregation of local product
18. Driving Price vs. Value
 - a. Perceived quality/value
 - b. FTC
 - c. Food hub – what is it, functions of it?
 - d. Seasons of CT products
 - e. Food Hub
 - i. Aggregation facility
 - ii. Distribution
 - iii. Education
 - iv. Technology & processing
 - v. Marketing
19. Processing – Kitchens
 - a. Schools – distribution
 - b. Ease for buyers
 - c. Promotional materials for schools
 - d. Milk – local is a better product
 - e. \$ to promote local
 - f. Nursery – plants around institutions
 - g. Institutions as a facility funding source
20. Institutions
 - a. UCONN – contract states local grown purchase order limit of \$10,000, raise ceiling price
 - b. Modify purchasing procedures
 - c. COOP Gathering/Network/Food Hub
 - d. COOP represent value of CT Grown
 - e. Marketing & Promotion – “Made in CT”
21. Institutional Procurement
 - a. Communication & education
 - b. Producer/ wholesaler equity
 - c. Definition of CT Grown vs. local or regional
22. Recommendation Groupings
 - a. Legislative & Policy
 - i. Incentives
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Estate taxes
 - iv. Procurement
 - b. Education
 - i. Producers and consumers
 - ii. Training – institutional and private, producers
 - c. Communication
 - i. Institution to farm
 - ii. Institution to legislature
 - d. Processing & Distribution
 - i. Incentives
 - e. Food Safety
 - i. Food hubs & regional networks
 - ii. Private vs. government
 - iii. Pilot program, aggregation of product

Final Recommendations Priorities Summary for Session A (by General Subject)

General Subject Area	Specific Topic	Priority Score
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Trucking limitations/weight limits	5
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Energy & Electricity	2
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Inheritance/ estate taxes	2
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	State owned lands	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	State procurement	4
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Regulation of processing	0
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Loan/grant programs/forgiveness for job creation	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Over regulation	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Education incentives	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Labor	0
Education	Certification & training programs	0
Education	New & existing programs	0
Education	Reg. programs	0
Education	Public education & safety	0
Education	GAP related programs	1
Education	Food safety	8
Education	Institutional demand for local product – price vs. value	1
Education	Communication to farms about training	0
Education	Institutional education	0
Education	Marketing	0
Education	Estate taxes	0
Education	Training & labor	1
Communication	Institution to farm	0
Communication	Price vs. value	0
Communication	Institutional	0
Communication	Marketing – farm to institution	2
Communication	Consumer	0
Communication	Food hub	0
Communication	COOP – networking	0
Communication	Procurement	3
Communication	Producer/wholesaler equity	0
Communication	CT Grown/regional	0
Processing & Distribution	Incentives	0
Processing & Distribution	Seasonal nature	0
Processing & Distribution	Multi-use of kitchens	1
Processing & Distribution	Procurement	6
Processing & Distribution	Facilities	2
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Private vs. Gvt.	4
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Pilot program – aggregation of local product	9
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Seasons of CT products	0
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	COOP gathering/network	6
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Producer/wholesaler equity	2
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Reducing processing costs	0
Marketing – Inst./Educational	Promotional materials to schools	0
Marketing – Inst./Educational	\$ to promote local	2
Marketing – Inst./Educational	Institutions as a funding source	0
Marketing - Consumer	\$ to promote local	0
Marketing - Consumer	Definition of CT Grown	0
Marketing - Consumer	School systems	1

Final Recommendations Priorities Summary for Session A (by score)

General Subject Area	Specific Topic	Priority Score
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Pilot program – aggregation of local product	9
Education	Food safety	8
Processing & Distribution	Procurement	6
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	COOP gathering/network	6
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Trucking limitations/weight limits	5
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	State procurement	4
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Private vs. Gvt.	4
Communication	Procurement	3
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Energy & Electricity	2
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Inheritance/ estate taxes	2
Communication	Marketing – farm to institution	2
Processing & Distribution	Facilities	2
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Producer/wholesaler equity	2
Marketing – Inst./Educational	\$ to promote local	2
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	State owned lands	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Loan/grant programs/forgiveness for job creation	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Over regulation	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Education incentives	1
Education	GAP related programs	1
Education	Institutional demand for local product – price vs. value	1
Education	Training & labor	1
Processing & Distribution	Multi-use of kitchens	1
Marketing - Consumer	School systems	1
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Regulation of processing	0
Legislative/Policy/Incentives	Labor	0
Education	Certification & training programs	0
Education	New & existing programs	0
Education	Reg. programs	0
Education	Public education & safety	0
Education	Communication to farms about training	0
Education	Institutional education	0
Education	Marketing	0
Education	Estate taxes	0
Communication	Institution to farm	0
Communication	Price vs. value	0
Communication	Institutional	0
Communication	Consumer	0
Communication	Food hub	0
Communication	COOP – networking	0
Communication	Producer/wholesaler equity	0
Communication	CT Grown/regional	0
Processing & Distribution	Incentives	0
Processing & Distribution	Seasonal nature	0
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Seasons of CT products	0
Food Hubs & Regional Networks	Reducing processing costs	0
Marketing – Inst./Educational	Promotional materials to schools	0
Marketing – Inst./Educational	Institutions as a funding source	0
Marketing - Consumer	\$ to promote local	0
Marketing - Consumer	Definition of CT Grown	0

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Hold 3 "on farm" legislative picnics/forums which includes a tour, food and educational presentations for the legislators and their families.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.
Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 1/1/13

End Date: 12/31/13

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: 3 host farms

Financial: \$6,000.00 (\$2k each)

Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

All listed above, and legislature.

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

All listed above, and legislature.

Who Will Be Better Off?

Farmers, processors, retailers, food service providers, and consumers.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

3 meetings held

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

of meetings

of legislators in attendance

of legislative actions taken

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

0 meetings

Current number of legislative actions

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

3 meetings

of legislative actions taken to support ag agendas

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

annually

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Professional Branding of the CT Grown that results in a professional campaign

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No. 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): outside marketing firm

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: July 2013

End Date:

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Marketing steering group

Financial: \$15 Million Other

(specify): _____

Same amount as Tourism got 2011-2012

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DECD, and a working group from GCAD

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Everyone who profits from the CT Ag industry.

Who Will Be Better Off?

Farmer, consumer, job creation, tourism industry, the economy

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

(blank)

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

UConn Ag Economics will develop measurements

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

(blank)

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

increase in sales of CT Grown from 1% to 2%

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

(blank)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Establish, Restore Expand and Refurbish land and related structures for use as a school and or community garden by Establishing CT School and Community Gardens Mini Grants (retrofitting the existing DEEP program Urban Greens and Community Gardens Initiative)

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

~~No 1~~ (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

~~No. 2~~ (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): Adjust the CIA statute
See note in "other"

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: legislative session End Date: Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Financial: (specify): _____ max grant each \$5,000.00 _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DEEP , DPH, Ag Experiment Station, UConn Cooperative Extension- Master Gardener Program

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Students using school gardens, low income households who rely on gardening in Community Gardens

Who Will Be Better Off?

Gardeners
Farmers who will have a stronger consumer base.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?
Sq. ft under cultivation in school and community gardens
of gardeners; # of gardens; # of participation in gardens

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?
increase in gardens, gardening residents,
increase in consumption of local food
of lbs of school garden food in school cafeteria

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?
annual

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Create an Agriculture Education Matching Program under the Agric. Viability Grants at CT Dept of Agriculture. Grant must be used to educate public about the benefits of CT Grown.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.
Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer

Admin.

Legislative

Regulatory

Research

Other (specify):

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: ASAP End Date: permanent Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human:

Financial:

(specify): \$500,000.00

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

CT Dept of Ag- selection of grant recipients will include SDE and CT Ag Education Foundation

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Farmers, community farms/municipalities, non -profits, schools.

Who Will Be Better Off?

local education agencies- public will have access to more and better ag education programs.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

of Grants awarded, # of residents benefit from grant-funded education programs

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

(blank)

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

- more consumers interested in buying CT Grown
- More investment in agric. Education
- Leverage other resources for agric. Education
- Supporting entrepreneurial activities
- More educated consumer (maybe measured through a short 5 question questionnaire).

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

annual

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Create a Full Time Employee for Agriculture Education Coordinator for State of CT 1) leading design and strategy to educate within CORE curriculum and 2) coordinate ag education efforts in CT.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Educate new consumers!

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. ? Legislative ? Regulatory Research Other (specify):

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: ASAP End Date: permanent position Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Financial: (specify): _____ \$500,000.00 _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

CT Dept of Ag and SDE –perhaps a CT DoAg position with an MOU with SDE for supervisory; DPH, Ag in the Classroom and UConn.

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Local education agencies.

Who Will Be Better Off?

local education agencies, non profits currently working on these initiatives, students, communities, farmers, faculty, educators, food service directors, parents.

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

TA provided

of incidents of CORE curriculum adaptations made.

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

?

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

Questions on CMT related to agric.education

of school participating in state led imitative

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

student knowledge

student willingness to buy locally grown

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

annual

Session B: Brainstorming Ideas for this group

(ideas in bold were suggested more than once)

- 1 Need to understand how large stores work
- 2 Marketing Bureau at DOAG now is limited in size
- 3 Awareness of CT Grown in classrooms – not there now
- 4 **Define Consumer**
- 5 A lot of farms are in border towns – so relate to other states
- 6 Quality and price are key
- 7 In marketing need to move from Maps to Aps
- 8 **Branding is key – we have to make a CT brand**
- 9 People care about freshness
- 10 People don't know "CT Grown"
- 11 Need new farmer education
- 12 What is current shopping behavior of consumers
- 13 Farmers markets are not enough
- 14 **We are reactionary not proactive**
- 15 Consumers don't know enough about the economic value of Ag to the state
- 16 No time to cook
- 17 **People do want local**
- 18 Sourcing CT protein for schools is difficult – costs 3 times as much
- 19 Tourism department of the state has defined their market
- 20 There is an expanded face of the uses of food benefits such as SNAP
- 21 What do we know about supply and demand? Is the current supply being used?
- 22 Ag in the classroom program is run by volunteers – no funding
- 23 Need school grants for ag education
- 24 Link school ed programs to marketing at tech schools, vo-ag schools, charter schools
- 25 **State needs to commit more to marketing at a professional level – look at Vermont model**
- 26 **Quality/consistency of food is critical**
- 27 Change the model for consumer shopping
- 28 Need education about the difference between CT Grown and other food
- 29 **Why buy CT Grown? Understanding the economics of this**
- 30 Aggressive promotion on how to use CT Grown products
- 31 **Jobs and econ. Development sells the Ag message to the Legislature- identifying the multiplier effect and econ benefit of ag to the economy, We need hard numbers to show this**
- 32 Positive impact of ag across the state
- 33 Nutrition education is key
- 34 Churches are part of the market
- 35 Fund ag in the classroom programs
- 36 Increase ways to use SNAP and WIC benefits at farmers markets
- 37 **Legislative issues – i.e. where can we sell wine? Need to educate legislators**
- 38 New immigrants do understand fresh and local food and how to use it
- 39 Customers do understand value of local seafood
- 40 Meet people where they are in terms of using prepared and frozen foods
- 41 Understand who are the customers
- 42 Educate health care providers about value of locally grown
- 43 Engage school food service workers in promoting fresh and local
- 44 **Define consumers at all levels of income**
- 45 Need curriculum development and training for teachers
- 46 Use phones and aps to educate – use social media – that's how to reach young people especially
- 47 SNAP/WIC families – identify ways to get them to buy CT Grown
- 48 **What is the market for CT Grown? Define the market**
- 49 Do we want to promote CT Grown in large retailers? Yes, have to in order to reach our goals
- 50 Tell the Ct Grown story
- 51 Increase awareness of farms as destinations
- 52 Education as tourism issue
- 53 Have to target each school district individually – decisions made locally
- 54 Change marketing model – go beyond DOAG and increase interagency actions

Session B: Brainstorming Ideas to refer to other work groups

How to monitor locally grown	Regulation
Define Local	Regulation
There are many USDA regulations about whether schools can require local	Farm to institution
Cost of food is a major issue for schools	Farm to institution
What is capacity to produce? Can we grow enough? Are farmers selling out of their product?	
What are price points for sales?	
Need adequate workforce	Production
CT needs cooperative light processing capacity	Infrastructure
Need state financial incentives for farmers and the ag industry	Production
What are the rules for CT grown	Regulation
Look at regulations that are prohibiting growth – i.e. egg handling regs	regulation
How to increase supply – can CT do this?	Production
Do CT farmers want to be bigger?	Production
CT farmers want to be profitable	Production
Purchasing RFPs from the state – cost is key for local schools and state to give preference to CT Grown	
Need frozen food option – copacking capacity	Infrastructure
Schools need more funding for locally grown	Farm to institution
Processing is key for food to schools – streamline processing to reduce costs to schools	Farm to institution
Look at state and local purchasing contracts	Regulation
Need distribution network for local foods	

Session B: Notes leading to the Recommendations

Marketing

- Branding
 - People want local
 - Why CT Grown
 - Tell the CT story
- Change Model for consumer shopping
- Develop apps
- Define local
- Quality Freshness Consistency
- Define CT Grown
- Define consumer and market to:
 - Church
 - Interagency
 - Schools
 - Tourism (include farms as destination)
 - All economic levels
 - WIC, DSNAP
 - School cafeteria
 - Large stores/wholesalers
 - Healthcare providers
 - Immigrants
- Meet people where they are:
 - Time to cook
 - Current shopping behavior
- State Commitment to Marketing

Education

Schools

- Fund ag in school – all schools
- Awareness of CT Ag in Classroom
- Nutrition education
- Link schools to marketing
- Grants for education
- Assist school in curriculum development

Consumer

- Understand value of ag economics
- Difference between CT and Others (ugly tomato)

Legislature

- Local elected officials
- Boards of Ed

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Develop more on-farm energy generation opportunities and uses through partnerships, programs, incentives, and attractive financing tools.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: NOW End Date: 2015 Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: X Financial: X Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DEEP, DoAG, CEFIA, CEEF, CFBA, Rural Development, municipalities, EPA, utilities, PURA, CT Siting Council

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Producers, consumers, municipalities, neighbors

Who Will Be Better Off?

Farmers, grid system, energy dependency

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?
Energy costs

What Is the Unit of Measurement?
kw hours, dollars spent on energy

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?
Existing use and cost

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?
20% reduction in energy use, generation & cost

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Increase allowable truck weights from gvw 80K to 100K to make it consistent with surrounding states.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 2013

End Date: 2015

Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: X

Financial:

Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DoAG, ConnDOT, General Assembly – Congressional Delegation, CFBA, Governor, all producer groups, trucking associations, COST, CCM

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Municipalities, retailers, food distributors, consumers, commercial haulers

Who Will Be Better Off?

Producers, haulers, consumers

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

of truck loads/unit of product, cost of transportation

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

truck loads, dollars

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

Existing loads/unit, existing cost of transportation

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

25% less truckloads traveling state & local roads

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken? Annually

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Re-develop H-2A Program.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.
Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 2012 End Date: Forever Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: New laws-getting rid of old law Financial: Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DoAG, Dept of Labor – federal and state, CFBA, elected officials, USDA, Congress

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

All farmers, CT consumers

Who Will Be Better Off?

Both CT farmers & workers/all

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?
Growth in hiring/retaining employees, employment levels

What Is the Unit of Measurement?
legal vs. illegal workers, employment levels

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?
0.4% in workforce

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?
annually

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Conduct workforce development to promote worker readiness and agricultural apprenticeship, including development of guest worker program.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.

Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 2012 End Date: Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: Instructors Financial: Farmers' time Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Del.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprotis; etc.):

DoAG, Dept of Labor, USDA-FSA, municipalities, Dept of Education, University system

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

CT farmers, consumers, educational institutions

Who Will Be Better Off?

Everyone

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

Student education/achievement, Job Placement

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

Educational commencement

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

Semester(s)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Fully fund and strengthen the Department of Agriculture to sustain and grow CT agriculture and provide a strategic point person for agricultural producers, promote coordination/communication amongst state regulatory agencies, and educate farmers.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor **Regulatory Env.**

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution **Ag./Food Infrastructure** Consumer Education/Training **Marketing** **Ag. Business Env.**
Planning/Coordination Research **Food Security** **Ag. Resources/Investments** **Producer Education/Training**

Type of Recommendation:

Producer **Admin.** Legislative **Regulatory** Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 2013 End Date: Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: X Financial: X Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprotis; etc.):

All of the above

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

All farmers, all consumers

Who Will Be Better Off?

More opportunity for locally grown, small business, less interstate transportation, healthier food, jobs

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

Length of permitting time and cost, farmer satisfaction

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

Existing permitting time & satisfaction level

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

Multi-agency lean permitting event

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Earmark state & federal funding to develop a food science program & facility at UConn (Food Innovation Center including a better processing control program).

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.
Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: 2013 End Date: none Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: X Financial: X Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprots; etc.):

UConn, DPH, DCP, DoAg, DOE, USDA, General Assembly, CFBA

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?
CT consumers, CT farmers, food retailers

Who Will Be Better Off?

Everyone interested in local food

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?
Increase in farm income from added value

What Is the Unit of Measurement?
\$\$ in farm income

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?
Not currently in CT

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?
CT program

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommended Action:

Create a regulatory environment that promotes energy diversification, efficiency, and resiliency for agriculture.

Which Charge(s) of the Council Does It Support?

No 1 (consumer \$ spent on CT Grown)

No. 2 (development, diversification, and promotion)

Topic(s):

Farm-to-Institution Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Input Costs Labor Regulatory Env.

Associated Council Working Group(s):

Farm-to-Institution Ag./Food Infrastructure Consumer Education/Training Marketing Ag. Business Env.
Planning/Coordination Research Food Security Ag. Resources/Investments Producer Education/Training

Type of Recommendation:

Producer Admin. Legislative Regulatory Research Other (specify): _____

Timeframe to Implement:

Start Date: NOW End Date: 2015 Other Milestones:

Resources Required to Implement:

Human: X Financial: X Other (specify): _____

Agencies and Organizations Involved:

(Producer associations; CT Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Public Health, Energy & Env. Protection, Labor, Revenue Services; USDA Farm Service Agency, Resource Conservation, Rural Devel.; Municipalities; CT Farm Bureau Assoc.; other nonprofits; etc.):

DEEP, DoAG, Feds, Governor, USDA-Farm Energy Program, CEFIA, CEEF, utilities – rural development, municipalities

Who Else Will Be Affected (all or specific CT farmers, all or specific CT consumers, food distributors/retailers, etc.)?

Producers, consumers

Who Will Be Better Off?

Everyone

How Will Success Be Measured?

What Will Be Measured?

Energy usage, independence, costs of production

What Is the Baseline/Starting Measurement?

Existing use and cost

How Often Will Measurements Be Taken?

What Is the Unit of Measurement?

kw hours

What Is the Target Change in Measurement?

SESSION C Brainstorming Notes

INPUT COSTS

Energy –

*Work with DEEP Energy Bureau re: renewables initiative, energy purchases & efficiencies, incentives/financing for alternative energy, immediate need to provide input to Comprehensive Energy Strategy by deadline of December 2012

Educate Ag industry re: available clean technology measures used in European agri (Netherlands, Germany), technical assistance to producers to educate on energy efficiency options

*Partnerships to use energy generation byproducts for heat, electricity, organic matter; create regulatory environment for diversification of energy & cost reductions; change law to allow anaerobic digestion on farms, qualify for LREC & ZREC, net metering barriers, clean wood renewable fuel/biomass, access to natural gas for greenhouses, co-generation, conservation first, DoAg/DEEP/Industry work to address all of the above, including energy efficiency

Labor-

Raw Materials-

Parts, machinery

Land-

Easement restrictions (state/federal) on open space property should be loosened to allow for ag use

Use state-owned land for ag production; develop ag incubators on state land

Transportation-

*Increase truck weights to 100,000 gvwt; federal/state restrictions; safety of liquid loads, i.e. milk

Maximize transportation infrastructure working with Conn DOT, rail freight & ports, link with agri input sources & distribution, study just completed, 30% of feed from outside of CT

Taxes-

Create local option to allow for exemption for horses; study to get accurate info on taxes generated on horses

Encourage more towns to adopt optional tax legislation for Ag exemptions through existing state enabling legislation

Study estate tax structure as it relates to Ag, study/promote/engage/develop state policy dealing with inheritance taxes

State funding to towns & encourage property tax reform

Cost of compliance-

Streamline permitting for wood burning

LABOR

*Demand immigration & guest worker reform; H2A foreign labor guest worker program 10 months needs to be completely revamped/redeveloped; DoAg to lead, and USDA also needed to lead

Minimum wage in CT is higher than other states; uniform to improve competitiveness, first time worker rate

Need more youth to change actuarial tables re: workers comp; workers comp costs increased 13-21%; maintain workers comp reforms & reject expansion

Health insurance costs high; increase insurance pools, expand size of group to New England wide

Study/form task force to increase ag workforce housing; zoning, schools, land use regs; work with municipalities to allow for affordable housing

Work with DOT re: transportation of workers from areas of high unemployment, affordable housing

*review what is in place first, then develop Ag apprenticeship program for workers, new farmers, young

*Promote workforce development (licenses, CDL, mechanical skills); middle management needed, skills are specialized, community college programs

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Streamline permitting, improve communication from agencies, educate permittees/producers about what they need to do for permitting, reduce producer confusion

Review what is or is not regulated; evaluate & then streamline; create what is needed & eliminate what is not needed

Consistent enforcement needed, 169 towns with own officials; train local regulators/town commissions (1,500 people); educate local officials of state roles

Educate elected officials

Consider regulation of agricultural uses at state level

*Cooperation/communication among state agencies, encourage DEEP & DoAg to work together; look for models from other states, carrot vs. stick; DoAg lead communication between agencies regarding regulations/process, serve as ombudsman; encourage spirit of helpfulness

*Fund & strengthen DoAg so it can accomplish above (staff, financial resources, technology)

State develop model farm-friendly local land use regs

*Develop food innovation center, test kitchens, better processing school at UConn