
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Agriculture/Soils Working Group
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date:6/25/2020

Meeting Time:7 PM

Meeting Location: Remote
Location

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Bryan Hurlburt (Chair)	Connecticut Department of Agriculture		Yes
Dina Brewster	CT NOFA		Yes
Indrajeet Chaubey	University of Connecticut		Yes
Amanda Fargo-Johnson	CT Resource Conservation and Development		Yes
Amanda Freund	Freunds Family Farm		Yes
Chelsea Gazillo	Working Lands Alliance		Yes
Kip Kolesinska			Yes
Linda Kowalski	The Kowalski Group		Yes
Abigail Maynard	Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station		Yes
Thomas Morgart	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service		Yes
Joan Nichols	Connecticut Farm Bureau		Yes
Charlotte Ross	Sweet Acre Farm		
Lilian Ruiz	CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation		Yes
Denise Savageau	CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation		

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Kayleigh Royston		DOAG	Yes
Holly Lalime		DEEP	Yes
Rick Jacobson		DEEP	
Members of the Public			
Emily Cole			
Latha Swarmy			
Seth Bahler			

GC3 NAME OF WORKING GROUP

Meeting Date

Alex Carpenter			
Bonnie Burr			
Danielle Whitcomb			
Kimberly Stoner			
Robert Futh			
Kyle McAuliffe			
Shuresh Ghimire			

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt welcomed the committee and thanked our presenter, Emily Cole of American Farmland Trust and our farmer panelists, Seth Bahler, John Huffman, and Alex Carpenter for taking the time to come to the group.

Commissioner Hurlburt then discussed the status of our working group report. Each member of the committee has received an outline of the report and have been asked to send feedback. Members of the committee have been identified to take lead on compiling sections of the report, those people are: (Kip Kolesinska- Farming/Conservation Practices, Bonnie Burr- Innovation/Technology, Chelsea Gazillo- Market Opportunities, Joan Nichols- Land Use/Planning Tools, Lilian Ruiz- Soils, Amanda Fargo-Johnson- Energy).

With the next meeting on June 29, the goal is to have a first draft of the report for working group review for the July 8 meeting.

If you have not received a copy of the draft outline, please contact Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov

Agenda Item(s)

Farming/Land Use Practices Presentation

Emily Cole, American Farmland Trust

- [Presentation Link](#).

Farmer Panel

Seth Bahler, [Oakridge Dairy](#), Ellington, CT

John Huffman, [Oakridge Dairy](#)- no till, cover crops

Oak Ridge Dairy has been participating in no-till since 2013 with an emphasis on soil health.

- They are currently at nearly 100% no till ground.
- They have seen their yields grow from 21 tons in 2014 of no till and to 22.8 tons in 2019.
- They have been able to see a 2% growth in organic matter in one of their fields over a ten-year span, creating one of their highest yield fields.
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Alex Carpenter, [Assawaga Farm](#) - Putnam, CT

¾ Acre, no till farm which grows 150 varieties of vegetables.

- They use organic practices which means using natural processes and materials to grow their crops while promoting ecological balance and preserving biodiversity.
- What have your observations been with weed management and insect prevention?
 - They spend a very short amount of time removing weeds by hand but do not typically have weeds on their land. With the exception of root crops, crops are cut at soil level which continue to feed the soil and allows the next transplant to benefit from the established system.

Public comments

NOTE: *Identify if slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*