



Update on Farm Recovery & Support Block Grant Proposal & Agreement

July 25, 2025

As shared in the June 6, 2025, update, Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) chose to **develop and administer a state-specific crop loss program** for weather related losses in 2023 and 2024 through the \$220M provided for the eligible states in the American Relief Act.

CT DoAg remains committed to providing a flexible, inclusive, and farmer-centered recovery approach which meets the needs of the diversity of CT farmers, including small and medium-sized producers who have traditionally not participated in other national USDA programs.

The decision to administer our own program, which will be more equitable and offer a higher recovery rate, means that CT farmers are ineligible to participate in the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program.

Recent Developments

On July 22, 2025, CT DoAg submitted our grant program proposal, including a request for funding, to USDA for review. We are now in negotiations with USDA, finalizing the program design, work plan, and budget.

Next Steps

We now await:

- USDA's final **allocation of funds** to Connecticut.
- Approval from USDA on **the program design** submitted by Connecticut Department of Agriculture.
- Execution of a **contract** to formalize the agreement and begin implementation.

Based on recent conversations with USDA, CT DoAg estimates that the scope of work and agreement will be finalized in September. Following that we aim to open an application period in Fall 2025. We will announce details about the required paperwork and documentation as soon as program details are approved and continue communication that information through partners and listservs.

Background

The Farm Recovery and Support Block Grant was created as part of the American Relief Act of 2025 to address weather-related losses in 2023 and 2024. Congress allocated \$220 million to New England states, Alaska, and Hawaii to support farmers—particularly those growing specialty crops or operating diversified, uninsured, or underinsured farms.

The grant funding was intended to complement traditional disaster relief programs and ensure that farmers who are often overlooked by national programs could access recovery assistance aligned with their needs. These funds are intended to provide assistance for necessary expenses related to crop, timber, and livestock losses, including on-farm infrastructure, resulting from weather events in 2023 or 2024 that a State, in its sole discretion, determines warrants such relief.

Stay Informed

We understand that producers and stakeholders have many questions. We will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available. For additional resources, visit our [Disaster Relief webpage](#) or contact us directly at AGR.disaster@ct.gov.

We appreciate your patience and partnership as we work to ensure fair and effective disaster relief for all Connecticut farmers.