

# Update on Farm Recovery & Support Block Grant Funding Allocation

August 15, 2025

Today, August 15, 2025, USDA officials notified Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt that Connecticut will receive approximately \$53 million, or 63.5%, of the \$82,333,383 that was requested of the \$220 million available through the American Relief Act to eligible states for weather related losses in 2023 and 2024. CT DoAg will utilize these funds to develop and administer a state-specific crop loss program for impacted producers.

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.

We are continuing to work with USDA officials to receive approval on program design, work plan, and budget.

### **Next Steps**

### We now await:

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

CT DoAg anticipates 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 communicating 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.

# 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 <u>Disaster Relief webpage</u> or <u>mailto:</u>contact us directly at <u>AGR.disaster@ct.gov</u>.

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