



Farm Recovery & Support Block Grant – Industry Update

February 13, 2026

Since our last update in November 2025, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) has been continuing agreement negotiations with USDA Farm Service Agency.

On January 6, 2026, CT DoAg received a 90-day pre-award cost approval letter from USDA. While USDA has not released any funds to date to Connecticut, this pre-award approval enabled CT DoAg to pursue contracting with a third-party for development of program parameters and administration of the grant program.

On January 20, 2026, CT DoAg executed a Statement of Work to contract with SHI International Corp., who is working with Submittable Holdings, Inc. and CohnReznick Advisory LLC., to complete the work plan development and submit to USDA Farm Service Agency for review and approval by March. It is anticipated that the USDA review and response process will take at least 4-6 weeks, or approximately through mid-April. Phase 2, which includes creation of the online application portal and deployment of the grant application, can only begin once USDA approves the work plan. CT DoAg has not received any of the funds allocated to the state and funds will only be released by USDA on a reimbursement basis following approval of work plan and execution of agreement.

Upcoming Program Phases

Phase 2: Application Design & Setup

- The buildout of framework and systems, including the online application, development of policies, workflows and SOPs, configuration and testing of technology, and conducting staff training and orientation.

Phase 3: Program Launch & Payments

- The application period will open for submissions, applications will be reviewed and approved, and payments issued.

Farmer Input

It is very important that the program design works for farmers who experienced losses in 2023 and 2024. In addition to regularly engaging partner organizations, CT DoAg has convened a group of farmers and industry representatives to seek feedback on the program design and implementation.

CT DoAg continues to meet weekly with the other New England state departments of agriculture to share program progress and any questions or issues USDA is raising with their program. CT DoAg is also meeting with USDA Farm Service Agency on a regular cadence.

Stay Connected

We will share updates as new information becomes available. Please visit our [Disaster Relief webpage](#) and direct questions to AGR.disaster@ct.gov.

Thank you for your continued patience and partnership as we work to deliver meaningful relief to Connecticut's agricultural community.