

# Connecticut Department of Agriculture

## **Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Preparedness Grant (RRP)**

### ***Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Guidelines***

#### ***Pilot Year***

***Application Deadline:  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00pm***



**Ned Lamont, Governor  
Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner**

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
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**Important Dates:**

**Applications must be received by:**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Please review the “Submission Process” section of this document for additional detail on submission requirements.**

**Applications will not be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on January 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Questions can be directed to Eileen Underwood: [Eileen.Underwood@ct.gov](mailto:Eileen.Underwood@ct.gov)**

**Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Preparedness Grant Overview Webinar:**

A virtual workshop will be held on **Wednesday December 13, 2023, from 1:00-2:30p.m., via Webex**, for those interested in applying for the RRP Grant. This workshop will include an overview of the grant program, application components, and submission process.

[Click here to register for the virtual workshop.](#)

The Grant Overview workshop will be recorded and posted on the RRP Grant website for those who cannot attend the live session.

**Virtual Office Hours:**

Virtual office hours will be held on **Wednesday, January 10, 2023, from 1:00-2:30p.m., via Webex**, to give applicants a chance to drop in and out and ask questions.

[Click here to access the virtual office hours.](#)

**Questions about the workshops can be directed to Eileen Underwood at [Eileen.Underwood@ct.gov](mailto:Eileen.Underwood@ct.gov)**

## **Grant Description**

The Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Preparedness Grant (RRP) provides matching funds to Connecticut farmers, nonprofits and municipalities to support investments that increase the long term climate resiliency of farming operations and decrease farm vulnerability to extreme weather events. This will be implemented pursuant to a comprehensive **Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan (FRCR Plan)** applicable to the agricultural producer's entire farm.

This program is different than the previously offered Farmland Restoration Grant with goals and priorities as outlined in this guidance.

Funds can be used for capital investments including equipment and to implement farming practices that will have a multi-year or cumulative effect on the climate resiliency of the land or farming operation so long as the purchases or practices are pursuant to a FRCR Plan approved by DOAG.

Applicants are applying to participate in the 2024 granting cycle. Applicants must choose to submit under Group A or Group B. Group A is open to eligible farmers who identify as BIPOC, new/beginning (1-3 years of production), and/or veteran farmers and can receive a maximum award of \$50,000 to implement a FRCR Plan. Group B is open to all eligible farmers, including BIPOC, new/beginning, and/or veteran farmers, and can receive a maximum award of \$100,000. You may submit only one application to one group. Please refer to the Evaluation Criteria section to aid you in choosing your application group.

Awardees will be provided technical advice and assistance by a soil scientist or other advisor assigned and paid for by DOAG in the development of their FRCR Plan. Once a FRCR Plan is approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, grantees may initially request up to \$50,000 or \$100,000 (depending on the group for which the application is submitted) to implement their FRCR Plan. To learn more about climate resilient farming practices visit the [NRCS Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities List](#).

Funding for the RRP Grant is made possible by Connecticut General Statutes 22-6c. The RRP Grant and any awards are subject to the requirements and provisions of state funding.

This round of funding is not in response to any specific climate event.

## **Eligible Applicants**

The following entities are eligible to apply for the RRP Grant:

1. Agricultural producers, who are owners or tenants of an existing agribusiness within the State of Connecticut with at least one year of production experience.
2. Nonprofit organizations directly involved in production agriculture.

Eligible applicants can apply to either Group A or Group B as appropriate.

Producers operating on land leased from municipalities, land trusts, or nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

Producers must be registered with the Connecticut Secretary of State if they operate as a separate business entity in the State of Connecticut (this excludes sole proprietorships and general partnerships). If the producer is established as a business entity with the Secretary of State, the producer must obtain or be applying to obtain a Farmer's Tax Exemption Permit. Farms should be a business in good standing with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAG), State, and Federal requirements. Nonprofit organizations must be registered with the Connecticut Secretary of State and provide a copy of the federal IRS exemption letter.

Open awards, past awards, project completion and outcomes will be considered in the evaluation of the 2024 award application.

## **Process**

The Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Preparedness Grant is a new program with a process to obtain funding for long-term improvement practices for Connecticut agricultural producers. Awardees will receive technical assistance and guidance from experienced soil scientists.

- Step 1: Apply to participate under Group A or Group B.
- Step 2: Notice of award.
- Step 3: Execution of grant agreement. Estimate six (6) months to develop, submit, and receive plan approval.
- Step 4: Grantee works with DOAG assigned soil scientist to develop a FRCR Plan **or** update an existing FRCR Plan. DoAg directly funds this work as a part of the award. Estimate six (6) months to develop, submit, and receive plan approval.
- Step 5: Submit FRCR Plan to DOAG for review and approval.
- Step 6: A farm-specific scope of work and budget to implement the approved FRCR Plan is done in cooperation with DOAG. A 50% advance of the grant funds may be provided to the grantee.
- Step 7: Amend the previously executed grant agreement to reflect the work to be completed as a result of the FRCR Plan. The timeframe for project work is not to exceed 18 months.

## **Eligible Project Areas**

Plans should address a specific problem, interest, or need and have a multi-year impact on the farming operation.

Priority will be given to regenerative agricultural practices that restore lands into active agricultural production while also increasing climate resiliency and decreasing farm vulnerability to extreme weather events. Priority areas include:

1. Practices that increase soil health and organic matter biodiversity
2. Practices that improve water management
3. Practices that reduce risk and build resiliency against extreme weather events

Awardees must work with a soil scientist in the development of a **Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan (FRCR Plan)**, and baseline data collected to track measurable project impacts.

Climate smart practices are identified here by the [USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#). Practices not specified by USDA NRCS will be considered if the needs, data, and reporting to justify the practice(s) are reflected in the proposed plan.

Anticipated project areas to be addressed by a FRCR Plan include:

1. Soil Health and Organic Matter Biodiversity
  - a. Improving soil structure for increased infiltration and water holding capacity through soil amendments, reducing soil compaction, integrated pest management, integrating cover crops, nutrient management and/or increasing soil biomass
2. Water Management
  - a. Riparian land management, improving water runoff patterns, rainwater collection and/or addressing water quality and coastal acidification impacts to natural resources including shellfish, crustaceans, and fish
3. Forest Management
  - a. Developing and implementing forest management plans
  - b. Agroforestry and silvopasture practices
4. Enhanced Grazing Land Management
  - a. Rotational high stock density grazing
  - b. Converting cropland to pasture and rotational grazing
  - c. Improved Livestock Waste Management Systems
5. Capital Improvements and Purchases
  - a. Rainwater harvesting systems
  - b. Composting systems
  - c. Hydroponics/aquaponics systems
  - d. Wells
  - e. Fencing

## **Match Requirement, Expenses & Payments**

All eligible expenses funded by any RRP Grant program must advance farming and agriculture, as defined by [Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-1\(g\)](#).

Per state statute, matching project funds are required by the applicant. The match may be provided through cash or in-kind services. The cash match requirement may be self-financed, bank-financed, or provided through other grants or sponsorships such as but not limited to federal or foundation grants. If other grant funds provide the necessary match requirement, the applicant must disclose the grantor/funder, the grant name, and amount awarded.

### *Match Requirements and Examples:*

There is a **90/10 match requirement**. 90% of project expenses may be grant funded, 10% of total project expenses should be covered by the applicant as match funding to the award. *For example: With a \$10,000 project: Up to \$9,000 of the project may be covered by an award and at least \$1,000 of the total project costs must be covered by the farmer.*

For in-kind match requirements using volunteer hours for a component of the required match funds, please reference the [Independent Sectors](#) information on the volunteer cost per hour. These estimated hours must be accounted for with a monetary amount in the budget towards the match requirement.

### *Expenses:*

The following expenses **may not be used as a match** and will **not be funded by this grant**:

- Any expense incurred prior to contract execution
- Land acquisition/mortgages
- Cost of borrowing (points and other fees)
- Any portion of expense for which the applicant barter/pays a contractor in merchandise or service in lieu of cash
- Routine business expenses (example: equipment maintenance)
- Disposable supplies (office, farm, otherwise) unrelated to the project
- Legal expenses related to litigation
- Indirect or contingency costs of any percentage
- Land remediation expenses
- Projects conducted on brownfields or contaminated lands
- Purchase of general-purpose equipment
- Lobbying

The following **expenses are an acceptable match** if these directly and meaningfully support the proposed project:

- Employee salaries/payroll paid to execute the project
- Attorneys' fees (not related to litigation)
- Consumable or disposable supplies (example: gas, oil)

See Eligible Project Areas for examples of **eligible expenses** for grant funded projects.

To be eligible for payment, expenses must be in the FRCR plan and must be in a project budget approved by DOAG and accepted in writing as outlined below.

### *Payment*

After a FRCR plan is approved by DOAG, grantee will submit a proposed budget to implement the plan in the format attached including quotes for goods and services and outlining matching funds. The budget is not approved until accepted by both DOAG and grantee in an amended grant agreement signed by duly authorized representatives of DOAG and the grantee.

Upon execution of the approved budget, grantee may request a 50% disbursement of awarded grant funds. The remaining funds shall not be paid to the grantee until the project is complete to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Agriculture. All project expenses must be paid for by the grantee, and documentation must be submitted to the Department before the final payment is processed. Funds may only be paid directly to the individual or organization who is the awardee and listed on the grant contract. Incomplete projects will not be fully reimbursed.

Once awards are made no additional funds will be awarded, even if a project's costs increase. Only expenses in the budget and spent during the contract period shall be reimbursed. If project expenses are less than originally budgeted, only the amount actually spent shall be reimbursed. For example, if a project costs \$8,000 at the time of completion instead of an original budget of \$10,000, a prorated amount of \$7,200 will be paid for the completed work (accounting for the 10% match of the project costs). The remaining \$2,800 will be returned to the grant pool for future awards. It is important to note that the match fund amount applies as indicated above, whether the project is completed on or under budget.

### **Project Duration & Post Award Requirements**

Projects must be **completed within 24 months** of contract execution. Contract and project extensions are not allowed. **Applicants should be prepared for an anticipated contract start date in late April or early May 2024.**

Upon the contract start date, DOAG will assign a soil scientist to work with the awardee to develop a Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan (FRCR Plan). Awardees cannot begin work on their project until a FRCR Plan is completed and approved by DOAG and a contract amendment is fully executed.

The FRCR Plan will also incorporate wetlands and National Diversity Database (NDDDB) reviews of the relevant farmland. Further, all municipal, state and/or federal approvals required for the work must be obtained prior to the start of work and any fees associated with those approvals must be paid after the contract start date to be eligible for payment/reimbursement with grant funds.



Applicants of awarded projects will be responsible for the following:

1. Signing an agreement with the State of Connecticut
2. Providing a Certificate of Insurance holding the state harmless or listing the state as an additional insured on the grantee's liability insurance policy
3. Executing the contract within the contractual time frame
4. Working with the assigned soil scientist to develop the Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Plan
5. Submitting a SOW and Project Budget for approval by DOAG upon completion and approval of a FRCR Plan.
6. Amending the executed contract to reflect the incorporation of the SOW and project budget.
7. Meeting with the assigned soil scientist for a final walk through of the completed project area.
8. Submitting a final project report in the required format per the executed contract
9. Submitting a final financial report itemizing actual expenses. Copies of invoices and proof of payment must be submitted with the payment request at the conclusion of the project
10. Other requirements as outlined in the State of Connecticut contract

Upon receiving an award, awardees will receive guidance on necessary contract requirements from the DOAG program coordinator. The contract process moves quickly, and applicants should be prepared to review agreements and complete all needed forms within the time frames provided by DOAG to ensure projects start on time.

By receiving the Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Preparedness Grant, awardees agree to use their best effort to ensure that land improvements that result from this award shall be used for agricultural purposes for at least five (5) years or the duration of the lease (if a lease is applicable).

## **Submission Process**

All RRP Grant applications are required to be submitted through a Cognito application which can be accessed through the grant webpage.

Applicants should consider applying well in advance of the grant deadline, as DOAG will not accept applications submitted late, even if technical issues prevented the applicant from submitting on time. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the online submission process prior to the deadline and to communicate timely with DOAG if there are accessibility issues or other concerns.

## **Application Requirements**

A complete application includes:

1. **Your current land use and the future vision for your land.** Describe your current use of the project area. Identify up to three (3) proposed projects or areas of interest. These are the activities that will increase the climate resiliency of your farmland. These projects can be applied to either land currently in use on your farm or land you wish to restore into agricultural

production. Provide a detailed description but be aware that actual project activities may change after working with a Soil Scientist on your FRCR Plan. Describe your goals and the expected impact you are looking to achieve, i.e. additional acreage in production, reduced water usage, improved drainage or runoff patterns, or improved organic matter biodiversity.

2. **Demonstrate your current commitment to climate smart agricultural practices.**
  - a. Tell us about your farm's current climate smart practices.
  - b. List workshops, trainings, certifications, or classes.
  - c. Estimate the value of investments you have already made in climate smart practices.
3. **Aerial maps of the project area.** Please include on this map a detailed sketch of the project, identifying what you hope to have done to the land. *The aerial maps can be obtained from Google maps or USDA, (please see page 12 for an example map and sketch)*
4. **Farmland Classification Soil(s) map of project area**, showing prime, statewide important, and locally important soils *These can be obtained from NRCS or online at the [Web Soil Survey](#) (please see page 12 for an example Farmland Classification Soils Map [and an instruction guide for using Web Soil Survey](#))*
5. **Pictures of the project area as it currently exists**, prior to the project being completed.
6. If applicable – an approval letter from the easement holder for approval of the project. *A template for the approval letter can be found on the Farmland Restoration Grant webpage at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).*
7. If applicable – A statement from the landowner for approval of the project for projects on rented or leased land. *A template for the approval letter can be found on the Farmland Restoration Grant webpage at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).*
8. If applicable – an approved copy of an NRCS Conservation Plan or Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.

## **Evaluation Criteria and Process**

Only complete applications, as described above and submitted timely, will be evaluated by a review panel.

Applications should clearly present the farm's level of interest in the incorporation of climate smart agriculture and resiliency practices and may include conceptual drawings.

All applications to the RRP Grant (Group A and Group B) shall be evaluated based on:

1. **Outcome and impact of the project.** Has the applicant identified an outcome and impact as a result of the project?
2. **The type of production practices used.** Are [USDA Climate Smart](#) practices and resources being used by the applicant?
3. **Who is farming the land?\*** Award priority will be to applicants that identify as a limited resource or socially disadvantaged producer, which includes BIPOC, veteran, and new and beginning farmers.
4. **The soil composition of the project area.** Does the project area contain prime, important, or locally important farmland soils?

Group A will also be evaluated based on:

1. **Business impact.** How will this grant impact the viability of your farming operation?

Group B will also be evaluated based on:

1. **Existing conservation easement or application under consideration.** Does the land where the project is taking place have a conservation easement or an easement application in process?
2. **What the land is going to be used for.** Is the land going to be used for the production of human food, animal feed, or livestock grazing?

\*Priority will be given to projects which support historically underserved farmers, including but not limited to:

- a. BIPOC producers
- b. Veterans
- c. New and beginning farmers (farming for 1-3 years)
- d. Anyone in a protected class
- e. Anyone that speaks English as a second language

**The grant application and additional information can be found on DOAG's [Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Preparedness webpage](#)**

**Applications must be received by:  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Questions can be directed to Eileen Underwood: [Eileen.Underwood@ct.gov](mailto:Eileen.Underwood@ct.gov)**

# Example Site Plan/Drawing

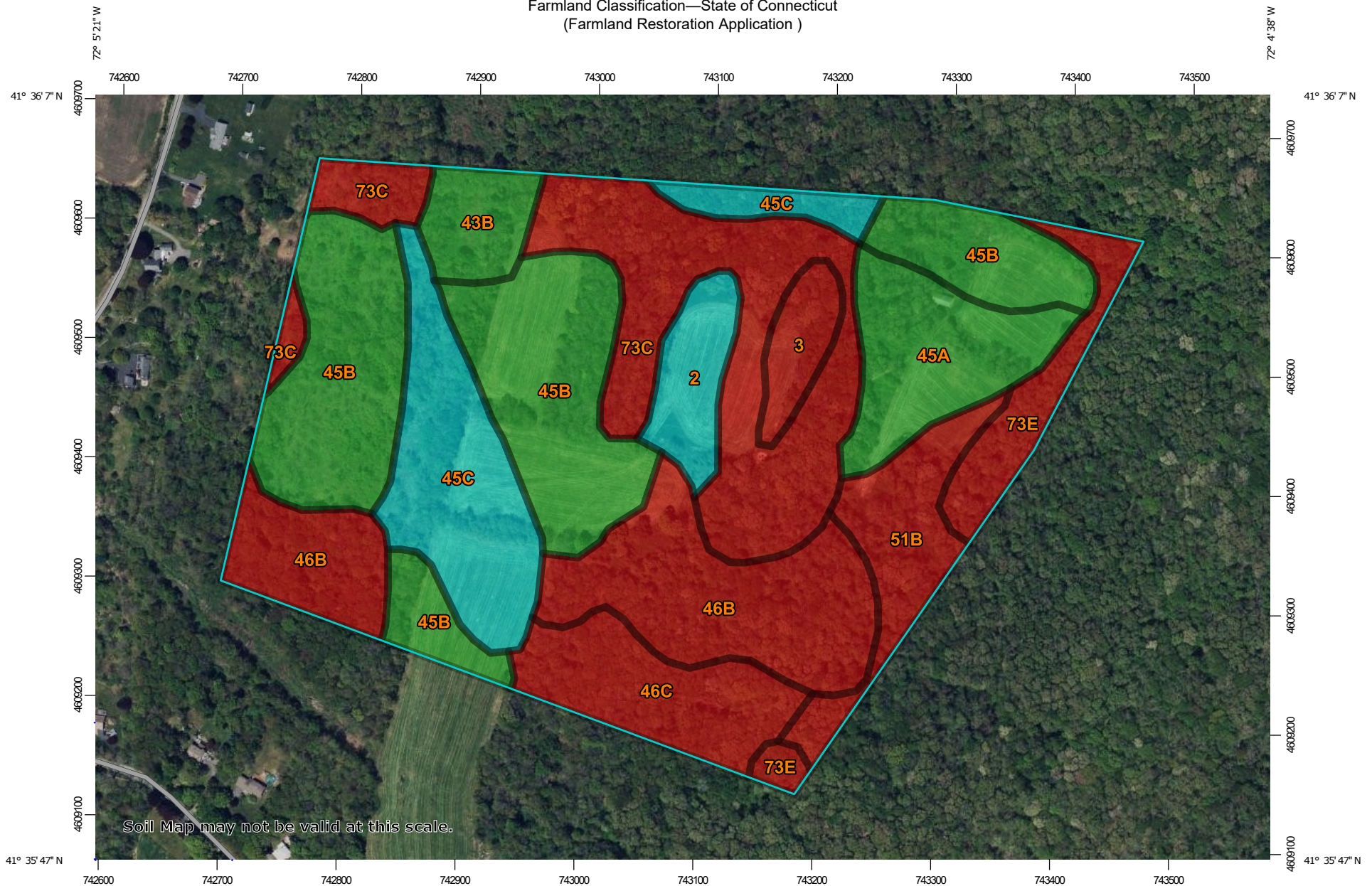
Clear approx. 10 acres  
for hay and pasture

Clear hedgerow

Install three strand electric  
fencing for cattle (approx  
2,800 LF of fence)

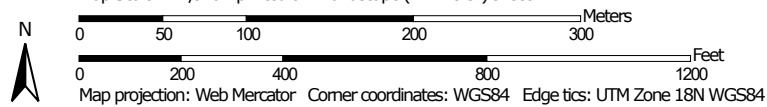


Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut  
(Farmland Restoration Application)



Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.


Map Scale: 1:4,520 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut  
(Farmland Restoration Application )









**MAP LEGEND**








**Area of Interest (AOI)**






 Area of Interest (AOI)







**Soils**



**Soil Rating Polygons**

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season









-  Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60

-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough
-  Farmland of local importance
-  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Not rated or not available






















**Soil Rating Lines**

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut  
(Farmland Restoration Application )

	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of unique importance		Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
	Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	<b>Soil Rating Points</b>			Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Not prime farmland		Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
	Farmland of statewide importance		Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed		Prime farmland if drained		Farmland of statewide importance
	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Farmland of local importance		Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
	Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season				Farmland of local importance, if irrigated		Prime farmland if irrigated		Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated						Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut  
(Farmland Restoration Application )

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough</li> <li> Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed</li> <li> Farmland of local importance</li> <li> Farmland of local importance, if irrigated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Farmland of unique importance</li> <li> Not rated or not available</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Streams and Canals</li> </ul> <p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Rails</li> <li> Interstate Highways</li> <li> US Routes</li> <li> Major Roads</li> <li> Local Roads</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Aerial Photography</li> </ul>	<p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12,000.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</p> <p>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p> </div> <p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</p> <p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</p> <p>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p> <p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</p> <p>Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut Survey Area Data: Version 21, Sep 7, 2021</p> <p>Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</p> <p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Data not available.</p> <p>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</p>
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## Farmland Classification

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	2.3	3.3%
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland	1.5	2.2%
43B	Rainbow silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	2.0	3.0%
45A	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	4.8	7.0%
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	17.1	25.1%
45C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	7.3	10.8%
46B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	10.2	15.1%
46C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	4.5	6.6%
51B	Sutton fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	3.8	5.6%
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland	11.5	17.0%
73E	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland	2.9	4.3%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>67.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

## Web Soil Survey: Soils Information Needed for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland Restoration Program Application

Information provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Farmland Restoration Program Application must include:

- Soils Map
- Acres of Prime Farmland soils, Statewide Important Farmland soils, and Locally Important Farmland soils.

Applicants will be able to get this information from the digital **Soil Survey of the State of Connecticut**, (dated July 15, 2005, or later). This *official* soil survey for the state is accessed via the internet; it is not published in a book. The eight published county soil survey reports (or any information from the reports or derived from them) are not to be used.

### To get a soil map

**NOTE:** You must have pop-ups enabled on your web browser to use some of the functions of the web soil survey.

1. Go to the web soil survey homepage and *click on the green Start WSS button*.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

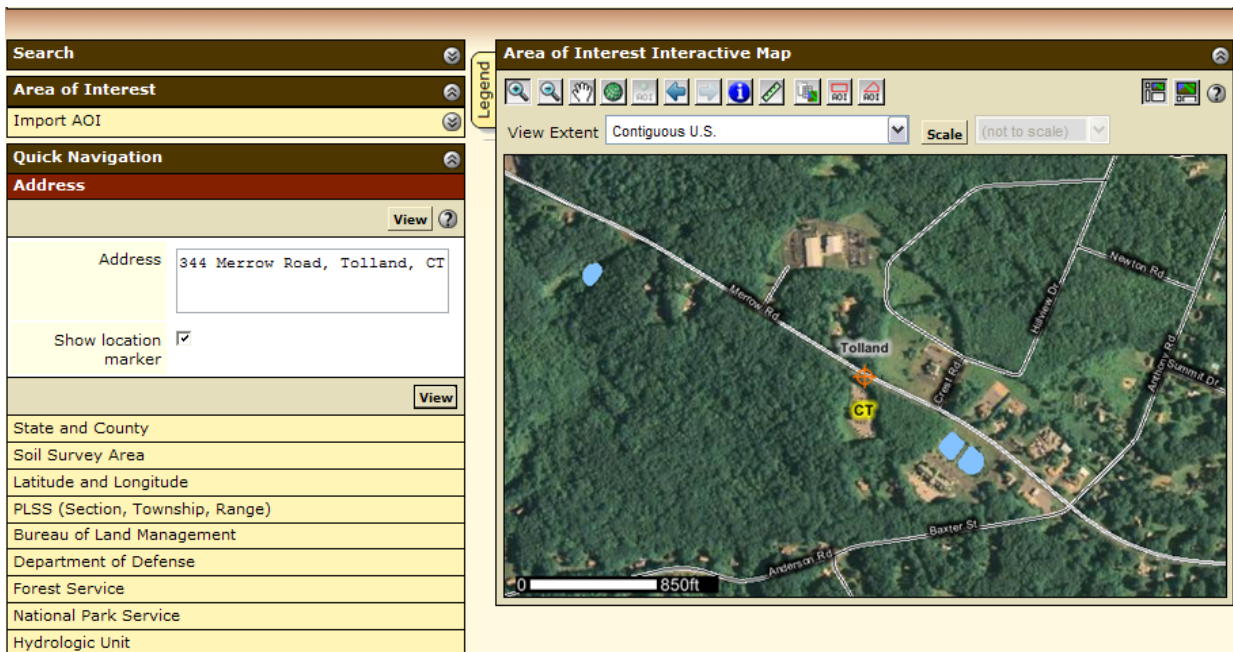


The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey homepage. At the top, there is a banner with the USDA logo and the text "Web Soil Survey". Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About Soils", "Help", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a "START WSS" button and a "Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)" section. The "Welcome" section includes a photo of people working in a field and text describing the service. A "Four Basic Steps" section is visible, with the first step being "1. Define..." and a sub-section for "Area of Interest (AOI)". On the right side, there are two boxes: "I Want To..." with links to "Start Web Soil Survey (WSS)", "Know the requirements for running Web Soil Survey", "Know the Web Soil Survey hours of operation", and "Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data"; and "Announcements/Events" with links to "Web Soil Survey 2.3 has been released!" and "Web Soil Survey Release History". A search bar and a "Browse by Subject" menu are located on the left side.

- Next, you need to navigate to your **Area of Interest**. The easiest way is to *type in the street address*, but you can also *click on the county and zoom in* on the map until you locate your site. *Click view*.

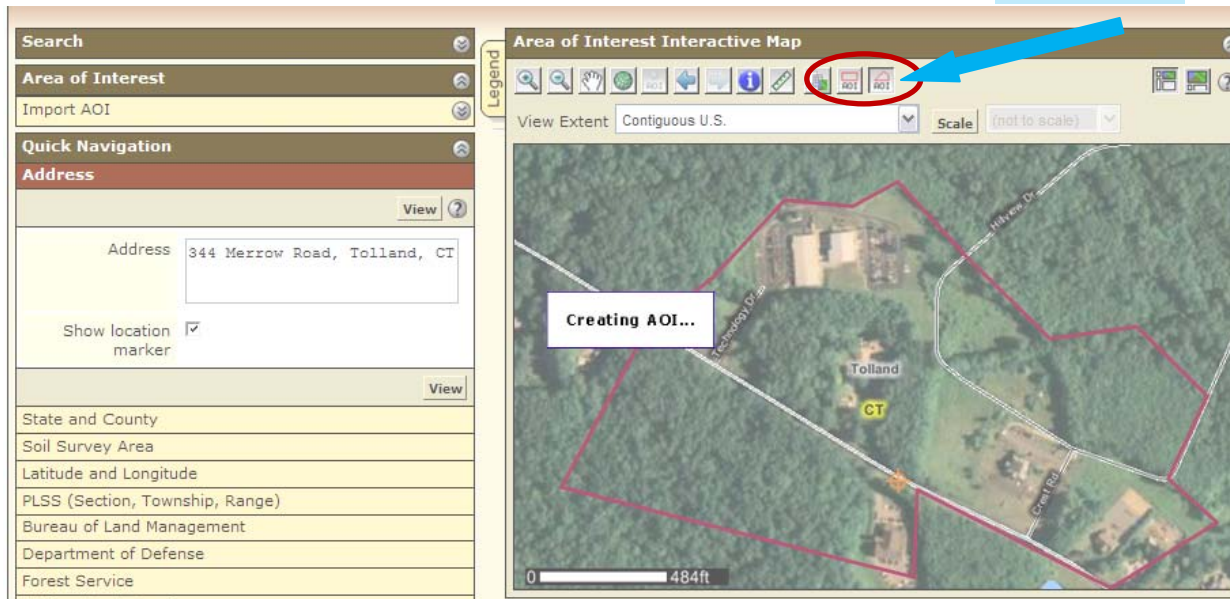


- A map is displayed.

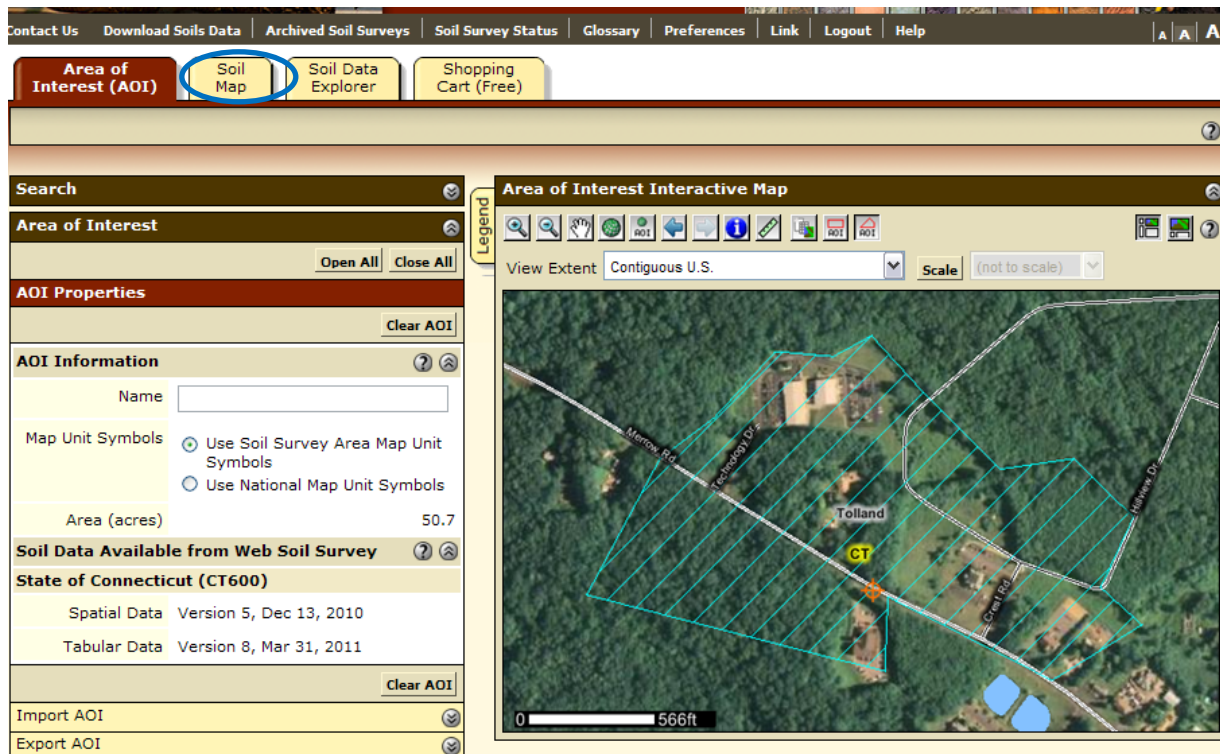


- Click one of the **AOI buttons** and *drag* to outline the boundaries of your area of interest. The **left AOI button** will create a rectangle. The **right AOI button** will allow you to click around an irregularly shaped property (*double click* when you get back to your starting point).

AOI buttons



- Your **AOI (Area of Interest)** has been created. (This AOI is 50.7 acres.)



- Click on the **Soil Map Tab** (see picture above) and the **soil map legend**, and acres of each map unit will be displayed.

SDA United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey

Contact Us Download Soils Data Archived Soil Surveys Soil Survey Status Glossary Preferences Link Logout Help

Area of Interest (AOI) **Soil Map** Soil Data Explorer Shopping Cart (Free)

Printable Version Add to Shopping Cart

Search

Map Unit Legend

State of Connecticut (CT600)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	4.1	8.1%
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	11.4	22.4%
46B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	4.3	8.5%
61C	Canton and Charlton soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very	1.1	2.1%

Soil Map

7. Create the printable version of the map by clicking on "Printable Version" (see above picture). You will get a pop-up document containing the soil map and map legend. You can save or print this file. You will need to refer to the soil map, map unit legend, and acres in AOI when you determine the extent of locally important farmland soils.
8. To make a map showing prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance: Click on the **Soil Data Explorer Tab**. (The following picture is what will show up after you click.)

SDA United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey

Contact Us Download Soils Data Archived Soil Surveys **Soil Survey Status** Glossary Preferences Link Logout Help

Area of Interest (AOI) Soil Map **Soil Data Explorer** Shopping Cart (Free)

View Soil Information By Use: All Uses Printable Version Add to Shopping Cart

Intro to Soils **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use** Soil Properties and Qualities Ecological Site Assessment Soil Reports

Search

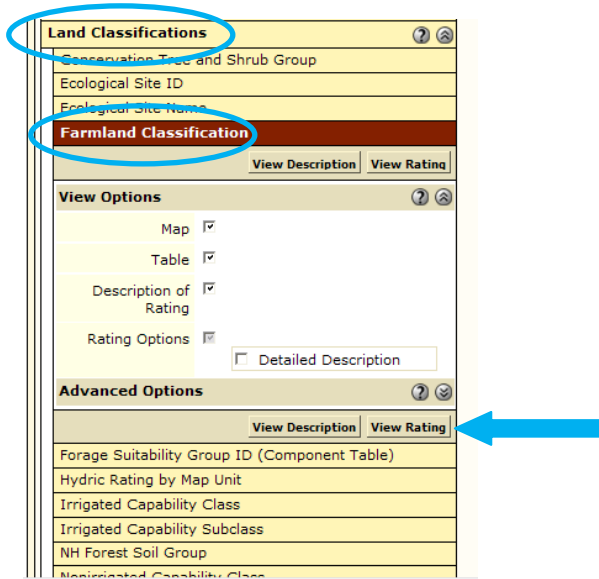
Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings

Open All Close All

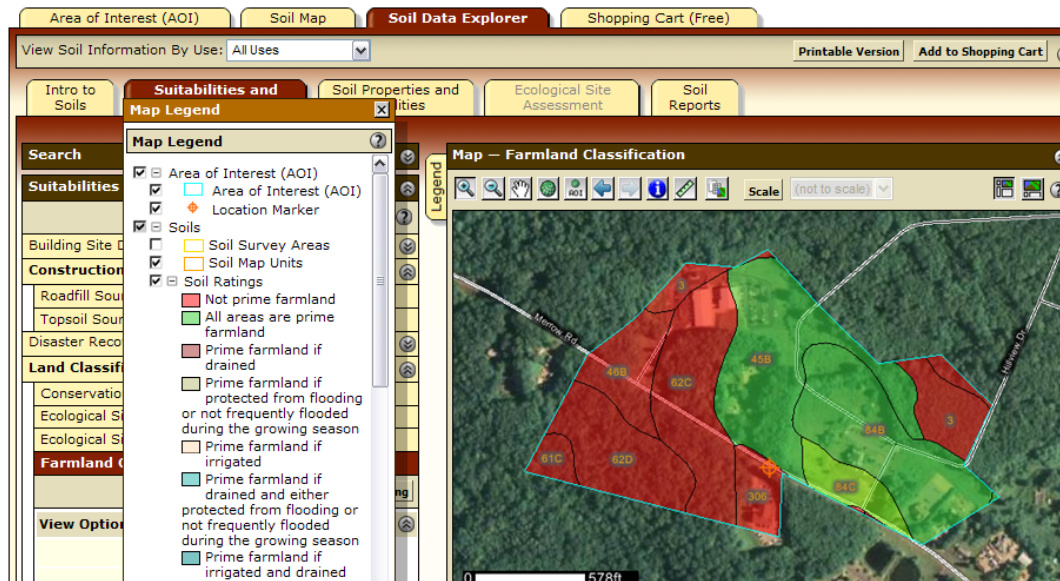
- Building Site Development
- Construction Materials
- Disaster Recovery Planning
- Land Classifications**
- Land Management
- Military Operations
- Sanitary Facilities
- Vegetative Productivity
- Waste Management
- Water Management

Soil Map

9. Click on **Land Classifications** (see picture above).
10. Then, click on **Farmland Classification** and then **view rating**.



11. Map and table are displayed: (You can save or print this map, or just tally the acres that are prime or important farmland soils)



Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	Not prime farmland	4.1	8.1%
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	11.4	22.4%
46B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	4.3	8.5%
61C	Canton and Charlton	Not prime farmland	1.1	2.1%

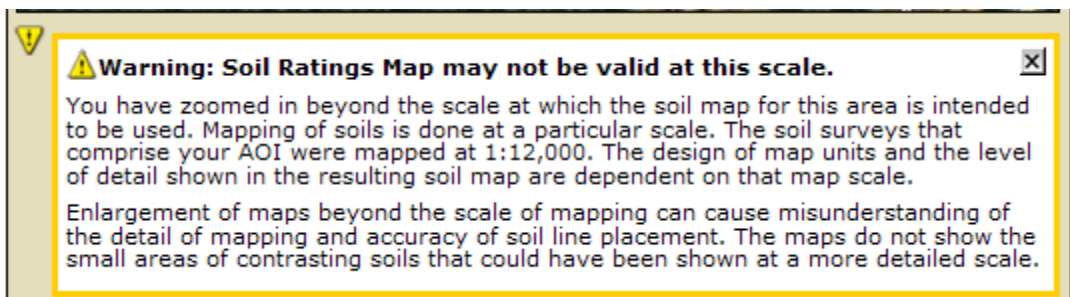
← Part of the table that is displayed below the map.

**To find out the acres of Locally Important Farmland Soils:** Go to the following website to see if your town is listed as having officially designated locally important farmland soils.

[www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/local\\_important\\_farmland.html](http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/local_important_farmland.html)

If your town is listed, compare the soil map unit symbols on the official list with the map unit symbols on the soils map you made in Step 7 (the soils for your restoration area). Add up the number of acres of in your restoration area that are locally important soils.

**A general comment about using web soil survey:** This message may show up on the map pages of the web soil survey when you are zoomed into a site. The web soil survey soil map and information is to be submitted with your application to the Farmland Restoration Program (whether or not you see this message displayed).



Should you experience problems with the Web Soil Survey, *click* **Contact Us** in the upper left corner of the website.