



**Connecticut Department of Agriculture Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group
Access to Secure Land Tenure**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 25, 2022
11:00AM-12:00PM

Was held virtually

Meeting Recording Here: [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Dropbox](#)

Members Present: Dominick Grant, Anwar Ahmad, Zania Johnson,
Members Absent: Latha Swamy, Shawn Sims, Richard Myers, Ashley Stallworth, Chelsea Gazillo
Public Present: None
DoAg Staff: Holly Lalime, Cyrena Thibodeau

1. **Welcome and Call to Order-** Meeting was called to order by Dominick Grant at 11:05AM
2. **New Business:** Making information more accessible on how to purchase and/or protect land in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas
 - There is currently a lack of tools and mechanisms or at least knowledge of the tools and mechanisms that are available to BIPOC producers
 - Websites like CTFarmlink or NE Farmland Finder aren't well known to urban growers – there also aren't many (if any) urban/peri urban properties on these sites – there's a need to meet people where they are and connect with the correct resources and groups to make these sites and resources more known and accessible (Southern New England Farmers of Color has a course on accessing farmland).
 - It's hard to know if some of the older farmland profiles on CTFarmlink are still active.
 - Is it possible to engage the realtor community?
 - How can we connect with foreclosed and vacant lots in cities? We need more programs like Hartford's Love Your Block grant.
 - Town owned foreclosed infrastructure related to schools could be turned into Ag Education Centers. The centers could tie in with the school district for education, food resources, etc. Things to think about – what types of
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properties are available? Is there a maintenance or liability concern with these properties? (lead, asbestos – other safety concerns?)

- Hartford Land Bank – some of the vacant lots/properties have been turned over to this land bank – would be good to have a conversation with the director of the Hartford Land Bank.
- DEEP has a remediation/brownfields program – what about DoAg's Farmland Restoration Program?

3. **Next Steps-** There will be a final summary/wrap up meeting in early to mid-September.
4. **Public Comment-** No public comment.
5. **Adjourn-** Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 PM by Dominick Grant.
Respectfully submitted, Holly Lalime, Env. Analyst, July 27, 2022.