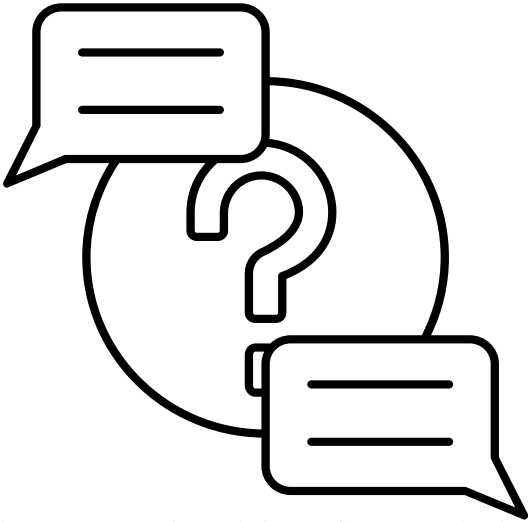


SOLID GROUND NEWSLETTER



Free Consultations

We haven't talked about it in awhile, but we wanted to remind you of the **FREE** consultations on a variety of topics that the Solid Ground program and our partners offer. This includes:

- Fruit and Veg Production
- Soil Health
- Diversified Livestock Production
- Urban Farming
- Branding and Marketing
- Certified Organic Marketing
- Selling to Schools
- Farm Viability
- Business Development
- Financial Readiness
- And more!

These consultations can be over the phone, over a video call, or in person—all depending on your need and how we can best support you. Each consultant has a bio that helps you understand if they are the best person to fit your needs. So sign up! No question, no need is too small and all of the consultants are happy to help!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

[Free Consultations](#)

[Farm Managers Summit](#)

[December Farm Tasks](#)

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Coming back again for our third year, it's the Solid Ground Farm Manager's Summit! Created for farmers that are running their own farm operation and have a couple years of experience, this year's conference will provide workshops on crew management, farming with partners, Farm Viability, managing your office, farm policy, and so much more. This is a great opportunity to come together with other farm owners, or managers, and learn together to make our farm businesses stronger!

[Sign up to Attend!](#)



YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER!

CT Dept. of Agriculture is encouraging women farmers in our state to participate in this survey being conducted by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). The content gathered from these will be used to highlight and honor the contributions of women in Ag across NASDA's platforms.

Please share as many stories and as much information as you would like — there is no need to complete every question.

To guide your responses, the International Year of the Woman Farmers focuses on four pillars:

- Education and training
- Access to credit
- Access to land
- Access to information and technology

[Fill Out the Survey](#)

SOLID GROUND

Upcoming Events

[Accessing Grant Funding for Your Farm](#)

Dec 19 at 8:30AM-12PM
Farmington Extension Office

[Farm Managers Summit](#)

Jan 14 at 9PM- 4PM, Chrysalis Center, Hartford

[Climate Smart Adaptations Strategies Class](#)

Online and asynchronous
Start Date: February 4

To see all 2025-2026 events [find our calender here](#)

DECEMBER FARM TASKS: PAPERWORK

Not a farmers favorite topic, but important nonetheless. We are farmers first, but we are ALSO, small businesses, and a business means...paperwork.

There are a couple things that you should consider this time of year. Obviously the most pressing is balancing the books- getting your expenses and income cleared up earlier so you can:

- know if you should make any purchases before the years end
- see if you need to fit in any last minute marketing to boost sales
- make account payments before year's end
- and of course, generally start having your taxes in mind.

To see more information and learn a little more about year end finances, see this webinar from [Farmers.gov here](#).

Other paperwork/computer work may not be as pressing, but as we enter the "slow" season, it's a good opportunity to take any extra time you might have to dive deeper into those things you've been putting off. For example- do you have a farm number? If not, you should sign up for one because it:

- Gives access to USDA Loans and Funding
- Makes you eligible for Grants and Cost-Share Programs (including EQIP, CSP, high tunnel programs, irrigation support, and conservation programs).
- Connects you to Disaster Relief and Emergency Support
- Creates an Official Farm Record (A farm number helps document acreage, production, and participation in USDA programs).
- Establishes Credibility: proves that you are a legitimate farming operation!

Young Farmers put together an article highlighting the importance of this (that this list is taken from), and we encourage you to [read the whole article here](#).

Good luck on finishing up the end of the year- both with farm work *and* all the paperwork we need to consider. And of course, if you're overwhelmed by all of this, consider taking our **Business of Farming course this January (sign-ups coming soon!)**

Happy Farming-

The Solid Ground Team



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Upcoming:

Partner Events

[Tax Management Tools Before and After Year End](#): Dec 11, Virtual: 3PM to 4:30PM

[NCTFA Vegetable and Annual Fruit Variety Discussion](#): Dec 11, Virtual: 4PM to 5:30PM

[Growing for Our Region: Northeast Organic Farming Symposium](#): Dec. 16-17, Virtual- 9AM to 4PM

[CT Fruit and Veg Conference](#): Jan 8, UConn Storrs- 8:45AM to 3:15PM

[Farm Succession and Transfer Planning](#): Jan 8, 15, 22, & 29, online from Land For Good- 11AM to 1PM

[Meeting of the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers' Association](#): Jan 9, Northhampton MA- 9AM to 3:15PM

[FVHD Food Insecurity Summit](#): Jan 14, Avon Senior Center- 9AM to 1PM

[Women Farmers Aging Strong Body Mechanics Workshop](#): Jan 20-22, Virtual- 12PM-1:30PM

[Workshop: Marketing Tips for Selling at a Farmers Market](#): Jan 28, Virtual - 1PM to 2:30PM

[Regenerative Ag Weekend](#): Jan 31-Feb 1, Westerly Armory, RI- 8am to 5pm each day

[Southeast New England Ag Conference & Trade Show](#): Feb 1, Bristol Aggie High School, MA- 8:30AM to 4:30PM

[CT NOFA Winter Conference](#): Mar 7, Wesleyan University- All day

Grants

[CT DOAG Farm Transition Grant](#): DUE JAN 12

[Sky High Farm Grants](#): DUE JAN 20



If you're one of those farmers that have done the work to become certified organic, you know it's a process that requires extra attention to detail, a lot of record keeping, and even some changes to your business planning. What isn't included in all of this extra work? How to get the word out so you can benefit from all you've done!

CT NOFA, UConn Extension's Solid Ground program, and CT Dept. of Ag want to help with this. They want to support certified farmers by giving them better tools to market their organic certification.

One of the ways they're doing this is offering FREE one-on-one TA time with marketing professional (and Farmer), Dave Tschiegg. He can review your business' marketing materials and advise you on how to better advertise your certified organic status. It takes the pressure off you, and it helps people see the hard work you've done to get certified. Dave can help with your website, your farmstand set up, signage, where to market, and more.

If you're a certified organic farmer, sign up today while this FREE opportunity lasts!

[Find Out More](#)



Video Highlight

CT NOFA has been offering the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) for a couple years now and it has helped farmers immensely to move into the process to become certified organic. We interviewed 2 farms about the process, and how it's benefitted them, and wanted to share it with you! For more info about TOPP, and to sign up as a mentor or mentee visit the [NOFA website](#)

[View the Videos here](#)





NCTFA's Farmer to Farmer Conference

January 24, 2026

Join the New CT Farmer's Alliance at their Farmer to Farmer Conference on Jan 24! Workshops, peer groups, seed swap & more—led by farmers, for farmers!

Sat Jan 24, 2026
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Lite Box, 06106

At this event, farmers lead the way—because who better to learn from than fellow farmers? Dive into workshops and discussions led by Connecticut farmers and get to know your community better.

Not only is this information-packed conference at a sliding scale but we've got you covered with a complimentary buffet lunch! Don't forget to bring your extra seeds for an epic seed swap.

Breakouts include: High Tunnel Soil Health, Forest Products, Cut Flower IPM, Rotational Chicken Grazing, Intro to Planning and Zoning and more!

Peer to Peer Talks will include: Work-Life Balance, Aspiring Farmers, Urban Farmers, and other!

This year is bigger than ever, and as always the best part is YOU and the magical farmer connections.

[Sign up Here](#)



BE SAFE Animal Health Checklists

The One Health Program at UConn has started a new initiative to help folks consider animal health. They've named it as "BE SAFE" (standing for Biossecurity Education to Safeguard Animals at Fairs and Events).

Even if you are not attending events with your livestock, their checklists for animal health, including 10 different animals, can help livestock farmers be aware of what to look for when trying to be more cognizant of their animals well-being.

To find your animal, and the checklist for their health, click on the link below and scroll to the end of the page to see the checklist.

[Animal Health Checklist](#)

For questions surrounding this newsletter, please reach out to rebecca.toms@uconn.edu