

# SOLID GROUND NEWSLETTER

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## Online Vegetable Production Course

Back by popular demand: UConn Extension's Vegetable Production Certificate Course for farmers with 0-3 years of experience! Build foundational knowledge and practical skills as it relates to growing health food, building a farm business, and becoming part of Connecticut's local food system.

Participants will also have access to: technical assistance from UConn Extension staff, access to resources and tools to support your learning, and a network overview of CT agriculture.

This course is fully online making it easy to learn from anywhere and at your own pace. The course will open in late January 2026, and certificates will be available for all students that complete the course by April 2026.

Course cost: \$149

Registration will close Tuesday, January 20th, 2026.

Group registration is available. To enroll multiple students, or with any questions on this course, please contact [Nicole.Davidow@uconn.edu](mailto:Nicole.Davidow@uconn.edu)

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

## BUSINESS OF FARMING

Our popular hybrid Business of Farming class is back! This course is designed for farmers who have 0 – 3 years of experience operating a farm business, but it is open to anyone! The course will also provide information on marketing, branding, financial management, filing taxes, legal business formation, crop and liability insurance, local town and state regulations plus helpful resources from the state, USDA and local farm organizations. By the end, everyone should of a Business Plan that we have helped you create.

[Join the Class](#)

# JANUARY FARM TASKS: TAX PREP

## FARMER 2 FARMER!

The Farmer to Farmer Conference is Connecticut's statewide gathering created by farmers for farmers.

Join 150+ growers, aspiring farmers, and allies for a full day of peer learning, practical workshops, honest conversation, and community-building. Our 2026 conference will include 12 breakout sessions, a seed swap, buffet lunch, and more.

Expect a welcoming environment, practical knowledge you can use right away, yummy food, and candid farmer-to-farmer conversations that make this event special. Come ready to learn, connect, and recharge for the year ahead.

[Sign up HERE](#)

## SOLID GROUND Upcoming Events

### [Business of Farming](#)

Virtual and In person classes  
on Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19

### **Ag Mechanics: Tool Sharpening I & II**

[Jan 31, from 9:30-12:30](#)

[Feb 21, from 9:30- 12:30](#)

Rockville High School

### [Climate Smart Adaptations Strategies Class](#)

Online and asynchronous  
Start Date: February 4

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

Taxes don't have to be a mystery—especially for farmers. With the right knowledge and preparation, you can tackle tax season with confidence and accuracy. Start by understanding the key definitions of “farm,” “farming,” and “farmer” under the tax code. [This article from Utah State University Extension](#) breaks down these terms so you know exactly where you stand when filing your taxes.

Once you've mastered the basics, dive into [this great article from University of New Hampshire Extension](#) “Taxation for Beginning Farmers.” A few critical reminders include:

- Factor in self-employment tax
- If farming with a spouse, decide how you'll file
- Know your options for filing extensions
- Keep accurate records
- File information returns when required
- Understand your state tax obligations based on gross sales

Timing matters too. For example, if you skip estimated tax payments in January, you may need to file your federal return and pay all taxes by early March. Though dated last year, [this article from Iowa State University](#), can help you understand the filing deadline for farmers.

And remember—when in doubt, consult a professional. Whether it's reviewing your work or handling the entire process, an accountant can save you time and stress.

Tax compliance may feel complex, but it's essential for keeping your farm business strong and sustainable. With the right resources and planning, you can manage it just fine.

Best of luck this tax season and happy Farming-  
The Solid Ground Team

## Upcoming:

### Partner Events

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

[Online Vegetable Production Course: Jan 20](#), Virtual Course to be completed before April 2026

[Farmer 2 Farmer Conference](#): Jan 24, Lite Box, Hartford - 9:30AM to 4:30PM

[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

[Aging Strong Body Mechanics Retreat](#): Feb 3, 4, & 5, Virtual - 12PM-1:30PM

[Small Business Setup and Taxes](#): Feb 5, Virtual - 12PM to 1PM

[Connecticut Soil Health Symposium](#): Feb 10, Meriden Public Library - 10:30AM to 4PM

[Building Skills to Manage Conflict on the Farm](#): Feb 11, virtual- 2:30PM-4PM

[Data Driven Farmers Markets](#): Feb 11, Virtual - 1PM to 2:30PM

[Exploring H-2A](#): Feb 12, Virtual - 12PM to 1PM

[Farm Property Insurance](#): Feb 19, Virtual - 12PM to 1PM

[Farmers and Lending Law](#): Feb 26, Virtual - 12PM to 1PM

[USDA NAD Appeals: What Farmers and Orgs Need to Know](#): Mar 5, Virtual - 12PM to 1PM

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

[Developing Strong Systems for Communication, Feedback, and Decision Making](#): Mar 12, virtual- 2PM-3:30PM

### Grants

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

We know that if you are certified organic, you have a lot to do with certifiers to make sure you're getting everything correct. This includes much of the marketing that includes the USDA logo. Now there's this new beautiful logo that CT Department of Ag has put together (above) and you may not know how to integrate this into your marketing plan.

That's what our FREE one-on-one TA, Dave Tschiegg (Farmer and Marketing professional), is here to help with. Whether it's sending batches of new marketing material to baystate to get it approved for you, or helping you learn how to use the new state logo in a way that helps your business, he's able to help.

Working with UConn Extension and CT Dept of Ag, the hope is that it takes the pressure off you, and it helps people see the hard work you've done to get certified. Dave can also 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](#)

# FARM FINANCES VIDEO SERIES

## Video Highlight

Join Farm Credit East's Director of Knowledge Exchange, Chris Laughton as he goes over 3 basic Financial Statements that every Farm Business should be aware of and can utilize to help them understand and grow their business. The four videos will give a basic intro, a look at balance sheets, Income Statement and Cash Flow Budget

[View the Videos here](#)

# Connecticut Soil Health Symposium

February 10, 2026

American Farmland Trust and Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development (CT RC&D) invite you to participate in a farmer-to-farmer Soil Health Symposium to learn and share about innovative soil health practices on livestock and vegetable farms.

The program will feature concurrent farmer-led workshop tracks and roundtable sessions for livestock and vegetable farmers, exploring innovative and effective practices for accelerating soil health gains.

Vegetable, Flowers & Specialty Crops Track topics will include: cover crop successions for residue building and weed management, multispecies cover crop mixes, using cover crops for living mulches, no- and low-till cover crop termination methods, and farm-hacked equipment for planting into living mulch systems.

Livestock Track topics will include: high and low tech hacks for facilitating prescribed grazing on the farm, grazing in silvopasture systems, using bale grazing to support soil health and prescribed grazing goals, and planning and implementing a successful pasture reseeding.

*February 10, 10:30am - 4pm  
Meriden Public Library, 105 Miller St, Meriden, CT 06450  
Lunch is provided. This event is free for farmers. We ask that service providers pay \$25 to cover the cost of lunch.*

[Sign up Here](#)

*For questions surrounding this newsletter,  
please reach out to [rebecca.toms@uconn.edu](mailto:rebecca.toms@uconn.edu)*

## Vote in your FSA County Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has mailed ballots for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee elections to eligible farmers and ranchers across the country. To be counted, ballots must be returned to the Southeastern FSA office or postmarked by Feb. 2, 2026.

Each committee is comprised of three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms.

Newly elected committee members will take office March 2, 2026. County Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recovery, safety-net, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other FSA program delivery issues.

[Find Out More](#)

## 2025 Local Food Count

The Local Food Count is part of the New England Feeding New England initiative, which aims to strengthen the region's food system and increase local food sourcing. Data collection is open through April 30, 2026, and the information gathered will help identify current purchasing patterns and opportunities to expand local procurement. This is a regional effort to measure how much food is sourced locally by schools, hospitals, dining services and other organizations.

[Join the Count](#)