

Title:	To help beginner farmers in CT scale up their farm enterprises through new farm management training and access to technical expertise		
Sponsoring Agency	NIFA	Project Status	COMPLETE
Funding Source	Non Formula	Reporting Frequency	Annual
Accession No.	229467	Grants.gov No.	GRANT11011182
Project No.	CONS-2012-00718	Proposal No.	2012-00718
Project Start Date	09/01/2012	Project End Date	08/31/2015
Reporting Period Start Date	09/01/2012	Reporting Period End Date	08/31/2015
Submitted By	Lynn Grabowski	Date Submitted to NIFA	12/08/2015

Program Code: BFRDP

Program Name: Beginning Farmer and Rancher

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{NO DATA ENTERED}

Non-Technical Summary

The landscape for beginner farmers in Connecticut is challenging in terms of farmland access, yet ideal in terms of potential markets for direct sales. For the long-term viability of new farm businesses, some will need to get beyond a small-scale direct retail business model by scaling up to do a mix of retail and possibly wholesale business. One year ago, a group of new farmers joined together to create the New CT Farmer Alliance, which is helping new farmers meet each other, share information and ideas, and develop a statewide resource list. At their first annual summit in Feb 2011 with 40 attendees, 92% of registrants responded ?yes? to the question: ?Do you have a plan to expand/diversify from your current situation? In an effort to create new programs and support structures that will help beginning famers scale up from small enterprises into viable farm businesses, the following challenges must be overcome: Challenge #1 - Sustainable & Viable Farming on Larger Acreage - As new and beginning farmers expand their operations from 1-2 acres to 5-15 acres, the application of sustainable land use and production methods becomes more critical and challenging. What may have worked on 1-2 acres may not be practical or economical on 15 acres. Challenge #2 - Farm Management Skills - New farmers need to quickly overcome knowledge gaps about pre-production planning (soil testing, crop planning, cover crops, contracting), farm infrastructure (equipment purchase & maintenance, irrigation projects, greenhouse construction, washing facilities, parking needs), and non-production management (marketing, labor management, access to credit, enterprise record keeping, accounting, taxes, insurance, and legal organization) in order to make the mental shift from part-time to full time farming. Challenge #3 - Access to Farmland - In order to scale up beyond a backyard operation, beginning farmers will need skills to evaluate parcels and explore leasing opportunities to increase their acreage under cultivation. The outcomes of this project will be: Change in knowledge - New training resources will augment skills among beginning farmers in pre-production planning, farm infrastructure, and non-production management. A conference will establish credibility around the newly created training tools and resources. Change in action - Through a whole farm planning approach 10 beginning farmers will acquire and apply knowledge in production and farm business management that will enable them to scale up their businesses. Through an outreach program focused on farmland seeking, evaluation, and leasing, beginning farmers will secure farmland with one-on-one support from a land use/conservation specialist. Change in conditions - All participants in this program will emerge with an enriched appreciation of people?s skills and the reality beginning farmers face that will inform everyone?s future work.

Accomplishments

Major goals of the project

The goal of this project is to enable Connecticut's beginner farmers to evolve from small-scale farm enterprises into viable farm businesses. Training and technical assistance that is currently in deficit for Connecticut's beginner farmers in regards to sustainable agriculture practices, farm management, and farmland access will be strategically augmented through this program. The objectives of this project are: Objective 1 - Through a whole farm planning program, 10 beginning farmers will scale-up their business model so that their average gross sales will increase from \$15,000-\$30,000 to \$50,000-\$200,000. Objective 2 - New curriculum, training, and e-tools will be developed for beginning farmers and service providers focused on the 3 core areas of pre-production planning, farm infrastructure, and non-production farm management. Objective 3 - One-on-one technical assistance will be available to beginning farmers to facilitate farmland access (farmland seeking + farmland evaluation + farmland leasing), while outreach presentations will be made to decision-makers and landowners on farmland leasing, resulting in 250 acres of farmland placed under stable lease arrangements with beginning farmers for sustainable agriculture use. Objective 4 - A Scaling-Up Conference will expose 65 beginning farmers to support services and training required for transitioning from part-time to full-time farming, while 30 agriculture stakeholders and service providers will have an unprecedented opportunity to meet and network with beginning growers in Connecticut.

What was accomplished under these goals?

Regardless of experience or training, the biggest obstacle to getting started as a farmer in Connecticut is accessing farmland. New farmers struggle to find stable farmland tenure to begin operating and later to expand. The time and energy spent on farmland seeking can slow down business growth, discourage investment, and hinder the process of building a strong customer base. When a beginning farmer (BF) finally acquires or leases their own farmland, their next challenge is shifting from apprentice or farm employee to full time farm business owner. As an owner, BFs must quickly overcome knowledge gaps in pre-production planning, infrastructure decision making, and business management -- responsibilities that are generally left in the hands of farm business owners and only improve with years of practice. UConn Extension's 'Scaling Up' Project focused on helping BFs secure stable access to farmland and increase farm management knowledge and skills in order to scale up their operations beyond a small CSA or farm stand. Over the three year period, the project worked intensively with 11 BFs to adopt sustainable production techniques and implement conservation plans, trained 221 individuals in decision-making skills related to equipment and infrastructure, provided one-on-one assistance to 45 farmland seekers and farmland owners interested in leasing, and educated 600+ individuals in farm-friendly leasing principles. UConn Extension educators became more familiar with the profile of new farmers and their gaps in knowledge. Small-scale, diversified farming operations that feed Connecticut families were strengthened by agriculture service providers that can locate, educate, and effectively serve BFs.

Objective 1 - Whole Farm Planning Program

1.1) Major Activities Completed: 11 farm businesses selected and targeted for extensive one-on-one consultation and farm visits over two seasons each.

1.2) Data: Educator Team members submitted "field notes" every two weeks to capture data on their visits to farmers in the Whole Farm Planning program. One-on-one consulting on focused on production and planning (IPM, cover cropping, soil and land assessment) as well as farm management issues (budgets, business entity planning, and applications for farmland restoration funding). At the end of the growing season, Whole Farm Planning clients were surveyed to measure the impact that the Educator Team field visits had on their farming knowledge, farm viability, and access to funding opportunities.

1.3) Summary:

- 100% of clients reported a positive change in knowledge about farming practices and systems. This included new knowledge about IPM, cover cropping, irrigation, farm budgets, business planning, and land conservation practices.
- 45% of clients (5 of 11) reported increased income. Collectively, the total increased income is estimated at \$50,000 - \$75,000
- 54% of clients (6 of 11) reported new access to funding opportunities as a result of participation. The program helped clients successfully secure over \$450,000 in grants/loans.

1.4) Key outcomes: The Educator Team had a unique opportunity to provide trans-disciplinary support to farmers, which was well suited to the diversity of farm operations in the program. The goal of increasing farmer income within one or two seasons was harder to achieve than anticipated. In some cases the goal of stabilizing income was more important to clients than scaling up their business. Fortunately, the opportunity to introduce farmers to previously unknown funding opportunities has been far greater than anticipated. In particular, six farmers benefitted from the program's Land Use/Conservation Specialist assistance in applying for funds through the state's Farmland Restoration Grant Program.

Objective 2 - Farm Management Trainings

2.1) Major Activities Completed: 8 new farm management trainings were completed. Based on input from the Advisory Team (assembled in 2013) and feedback on a beginner farmer survey, the farm management trainings focused heavily on infrastructure decision-making.

2.2) Data: At each training an evaluation was conducted to measure 1) participant change in knowledge about concepts before and after the training; and 2) change in practices before and planned to use after the training.

2.3) Summary: 221 individuals participate in these trainings (includes 178 farmers, 15 presenters, 28 service providers).

2.4) Key outcomes: Evaluations of the eight workshops yielded a 85-90% positive shift in knowledge to either 'moderate' or 'considerable' level, and a 60%-80% positive shift in willingness to use new practices to either 'moderate' or 'considerable' after attending. Trainings by experts who were also farmers received highest marks.

Objective 3 - Farmland ConneCTions

3.1) Major Activities Completed:

- 45+ farmers and landowners receive one-on-one assistance with evaluating farm properties and developing farm-friendly leases
- 600+ audience for outreach about farm-friendly leasing principles (includes prospective farmers, land trusts, and non-farming landowners)
- A Landowner's Guide To Leasing Farmland - printed 550 copies
- Equity in Farmland Leasing Forum - July 23, 2015 - 25 attendees

3.2) Data: Participants in one-on-one outreach provided feedback via follow-up survey tool.

3.3) Summary: As a direct result of this one-on-one service, 22 farm-friendly leases were achieved and 1 client purchased a farm.

3.4) Key outcomes: Beginning farmers and landowners alike have found reliable expertise of our Land Use/Conservation specialist to be vital in moving from conceptual discussion to real lease transactions. Most of these arrangements require several months of back-and-forth communication and meetings to arrive at a lease that meets the needs of both parties.

Objective 4 - Conference

4.1) Major Activities Completed:

- Event planning team: Jiff Martin, UConn Extension Scaling Up Project, Bryan Hurlburt - State Director of USDA/FSA and his designee Sarah Woodward; Lisa Coverdale - State Conservationist of USDA/NRCS and her designee Abbie Cadman, Cameron Weimar - Farmland Preservation Program Director of CT Dept. of Agriculture, Joseph Listro, farmer at Urban Oaks and representing New CT Farmer Alliance, Stephanie Berluti of CT NOFA, Henry Talmage(ED) and Margaret Chatey of CT Farm Bureau Association, Joe Bonelli and Kip Kolesinskas representing UConn Extension & Scaling Up program.

- **How To Grow A Farm Video Project** - 8 farmers who exemplify successful decision-making were profiled for 6-8 minute videos to be showcased at the Conference.

- **The Build Your Network, Grow Our Future Conference** was held, Dec 9, 2014. 140 Attendees (125 farmers, 15 service providers). Featured presenters: Jody Bolluyt, Roxbury Farm, Kinderhook, NY; Dave Liker, Gorman Farm, Laurel, MD; Laura McKinney, Riverbank Farm, Roxbury. Highlights:

- Introducing New Farmer Bucket List
- Panel of experienced farmers explain which service providers have helped them get started
- Review most relevant financing and risk management opportunities
- Premiere screening of 4 short videos about new farm businesses in Connecticut that are succeeding
- Two breakout sessions led by innovative and successful farmers
- Lunch featuring CT-Grown ingredients

4.2) Data Collected: Participants provided feedback via follow-up survey tool.

4.3) Summary: 55% of evaluations rated the event 'Excellent', and 45% rated the event 'good'. Attendees felt it was informative, enjoyed the networking time, and valued most the presentations by experienced farmers.

4.4) Key outcomes: Attendees had new awareness about the journey to scale up a farm business (from presenters and videos), the planning committee developed new trust and willingness to collaborate on future events/trainings for BFs, and the service providers were more likely to make consistent recommendations to BFs thanks to their commitment to using the New Farmer Bucket List.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

One-on-One Consulting

Eero Ruuttila - Sustainable Agriculture Specialist - project hire

Kip Kolesinskas - Land Use and Conservation Specialist (including leasing) - project hire

Dr. Jude Boucher - UConn Extension Commercial Vegetable Crops Integrated Pest Management

Leanne Pundt - UConn Extension Greenhouse Integrated Pest Management Educator

Mary Concklin - UConn Extension Fruit Crops Integrated Pest Management Educator

Joseph Bonelli - UConn Extension Extension Educator in Risk Management & Farm Business Planning

One-on-One Consulting events & field visits for farmers (Year 1, Year 2, Year 3) = Total

Educator Team - (6,5,0) = 11

Sustainable Agriculture Specialist - (28, 27, 17) = 72

Commercial Vegetable IPM Educator - (42, 10*, 37) = 89

Fruit IPM Educator - (9, 11, 6) = 26

Land Use/Conservation Specialist - (15, 17, 15) = 47

Greenhouse IPM Educator - (5, 8, 2) = 15

Farm Business Planning Educator - (5, 5, 4) = 14

*J. Boucher had an injury in year 2 of project and was unable to conduct many field visits.

Additional One-on-One consulting

1. Southbury Farms - team members advised CT Dept. of Agriculture regarding transformation of newly protected 800+ acre property into incubator farm site (field visit + planning meetings)
2. Gifts of Love (501c3) - team members advised on viability of farm business model and hiring new farm manager for incubator program at Community Farm of Simsbury (field visit + presentation to board + phone consultations)
3. Maple Wood Company - team members advised business owners regarding a farm property acquired in Easton where they plan to grow food for institutional food service for clients and are interested in hiring a new farmer to manage the farm (field visit + planning meeting)
4. Ridgefield Acres [potential farm] Ridgefield - advice on getting started.
5. Bishop Farm, Cheshire - evaluation of farm property w/suggestions for potential crops, farm tractors & implements.
- 6 Autumn Oak Farm Tolland - farmsite evaluation w/eye towards scaling up vegetable crop production infrastructure
7. Urban Oaks Farm, New Britain - evaluation of extreme farm debt & cash flow problems with hope for a viable farm future.
8. Orlando Landscaping, Scotland - evaluation of undeveloped farm property (120 acres) w/suggestions for farm enterprises, farm buildings, irrigation design and farm tractor/implement purchases.
9. Cheshire Land Trust - site visit, lease and assistance on application to CT State Restoration Grant Program
10. Colebrook - site visit to a non-farming landowner, lease info and assistance
11. Shelton Land Trust - site visit, lease info and assistance
12. Weantinoge Land Trust - site visits to several of their farm properties for lease

Scaling Up Workshops

1. **Twilight Talk on Pasture Management** with Troy Bishopp (aka Grass Whisperer) at The Hickories Farm - October 17, 2013. Total Attendees = 25 This includes 22 farmers (13 farming less than 10 years) + 1 presenter (farmer) + 2 agriculture service providers (UConn Extension).
2. **Tractor & Farm Equipment Workshop** at Riverbank Farm - October 24, 2013. Total Attendees = 10 This includes 7 farmers (all farming less than 10 years) + 1 presenter (farmer) + 2 agriculture service providers (UConn Extension).
3. **Engineering Storage Facilities for Winter Vegetable Crops** - February 20, 2014. Total Attendees = 24 This includes 17 farmers (13 farming less than 10 years) + 3 presenters (3 farmers) + 4 agriculture service providers (FSA, UMass Extension, UConn Extension) - note: this event targeted farmers from CT and MA.
4. **Design Fundamentals for Conserving Energy & Building Structural Integrity into Greenhouses & High Tunnels** - February 27, 2014. Total Attendees = 21 This includes 15 farmers (10 farming less than 10 years) + 3 presenters (2 farmers) + 3 agriculture service providers (NRCS, UConn Extension).
5. **A Primer to Building a Farm-Scale Irrigation System** - August 18, 2014. Total Attendees = 27. This includes 18 farmers (14 farming less than 10 years) + 1 presenter + 8 agriculture service providers (NRCS, UConn Extension).
6. **Twilight Talks on Pasture Management** - Sept 17-18, 2014. Total Attendees = 30. This includes 28 farmers (15 farming less than 10 years) + 1 presenter + 1 agriculture service provider (UConn Extension).
7. **Tractor Operation, Safety & Basic Maintenance** - October 16-17, 2014. Total Attendees = 14. This includes 10 farmers (all farming less than 10 years) + 1 presenter + 3 agriculture service providers (UConn Extension, UConn Plant Science Research Farm Manager)
8. **Safe & Effective Use of Organic Pesticides** - February 19, 2015. Total Attendees = 70. This includes 61 farmers (25 farming less than 10 years) + 4 presenters + 5 agriculture service providers (UConn Extension, CT Dept. of Agriculture, CT Agriculture Experiment Station, NRCS).

Additional Training Events Facilitated for BFs:

1. **New England Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference** - December 17-19, 2014. UConn Extension sponsored 5 beginning farmers to attend this important regional event (all clients in the Whole Farm Planning Program).
2. **Build Your Network, Grow Our Future Conference:** UConn Extension led a steering committee to develop this pilot networking event for new farmers and service providers - February 19, 2014. Total attendees: 72. This includes 40 beginning farmers + 32 agriculture service providers (USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, CT Dept. of Agriculture, CT Farm Bureau Association, New CT Farmer Alliance, CT NOFA)
3. **Collaborations for Agriculture Profitability** - March 18, 2014. UConn Extension sponsored 5 beginning farmers to attend this one-time training event held on UConn campus.

Additional Training Presentations Made by Team Members on behalf of Scaling Up Project for BFs

On cover cropping and sustainable soil management by Sustainable Agriculture Specialist:

- CT Vegetable and Fruit Growers Winter Meeting (Jan 2013, 235 people)
- CT NOFA Winter Conference (Mar 2013, 18 people)
- NOFA Summer Farm Workshop Series, Simsbury, CT (Aug 2013, 15 people)
- Getting Started in Organic (Jan 2014; 62 people)

- CT Fruit & Vegetable Conference (Jan 2014, 247 people)
- CT NOFA Winter Conference (Mar 2014; 18 people)
- UConn Winter Workshop Series on Vegetable Crop Diseases (Feb 2015, 10 people)

On farmland leasing by Land Use/Conservation Specialist:

- Getting Started in Organics (Jan 2013; 65 people)
- CT Agvocate Conference (Feb 2013; 65 people)
- CT NOFA Winter Conference (Mar 2013; 26 people)
- CT Land Conservation Council Conf. (Mar 2013; 50 people)
- Planning Your Lands Future (July 2013; 39 people)
- Farmland Access & Availability Forum (Oct 2013, 85 people)
- Getting Started in Organic (Jan 2014; 62 people)
- CT Agvocate Conference (Mar 2014, 84 people)
- CT NOFA Winter Conference (Mar 2014, 22 people)
- CT Land Conservation Conference (Mar 2014, 22 people)
- CT Land Conservation Options Workshops, in partnership with American Farmland Trust and CT Farmland Trust - 260

people

How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

UConn Extension developed a website portal for all of its programming for new and beginning farmers. The Scaling Up Project is the centerpiece of the new website: newfarms.extension.uconn.edu. All project workshop materials, videos, photos, leasing resources, as well as information about the Whole Farm Planning clients are assembled here. The website has been shared widely via UConn Extension communication channels. The Scaling Up project has given UConn Extension an opportunity to partner closely with New CT Farmer Alliance, CT Farm Bureau Association, and CT NOFA to ensure reliable dissemination of all beginner farmer trainings and resources.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

{Nothing to report}

Participants

Actual FTE's for this Reporting Period

Role	Non-Students or faculty	Students with Staffing Roles			Computed Total by Role
		Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	
Scientist	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	1.1	0	0	0	1.1
Technical	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Computed Total	1.1	0	0	0	1.1

Student Count by Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code

{NO DATA ENTERED}

Target Audience

Target Audience for Activity #1 - Whole Farm Planning - This activity focused on developing whole farm planning skills through intensive technical assistance from a team of Extension Educators with 11 new and beginning farmers. The farmers were selected from a competitive pool of applicants. The 11 farm business owners had 1 to 8 years of experience and have tenure or ownership of farmland. As in the first year of this activity, we set minimum eligibility for this program at no less than \$15,000 gross sales. Our group of 11 included 6 farm business owners that started the Whole Farm Planning program in January 2013, plus 5 farm business owners that were added in January 2014. The 11 farm businesses included 3 married farming couples, 3 women sole proprietors, 3 male sole proprietors, and 2 community farm managers (one male and one female). Total land managed by these clients is 408 acres (111 owned and 297 leased). Gross sales ranged from \$15,000 to

\$150,000.

Program Year #2 clients (2013-2015)

1. Sara Bliersch, Daffodil Hill Growers, IPM growing practices
2. Rodger & Isabelle Phillips, SubEdge Farm, organic growing practices
3. Maggie Saska, Community Farm of Simsbury, organic growing practices
4. Byron Graham & Carolyn Canfield, Meetinghouse Farm, organic growing practices
5. Earl Skokan, Stillwater Farm, organic growing practices

Program Year #1 clients (2012 - 2014)

1. Charlotte Ross & Jonathan Janeway, Sweet Acre Farm, organic growing practices
2. Max & Kerry Taylor, Provider Farm, organic growing practices
3. Steve Sheldon, Sheldon Farm, IPM growing practices
4. Steve Munno, Massaro Community Farm, USDA Certified Organic
5. Dina Brewster, The Hickories, USDA Certified Organic
6. Allyson Angelini, Full Heart Farm, organic growing practices

Target Audience for Activity #2 - Farm Management Trainings - This activity focused on the development and implementation of

new trainings geared toward farmers that had established farm businesses but had knowledge gaps related to infrastructure decision-making and systems. All of these new workshops were broadly offered to all new and beginning farmers in CT. We also partnered on three conferences in an effort to encourage attendance by beginning farmers in CT and increase awareness of new resources for beginning farmers. The trainings were promoted through our own UConn Extension announcements, as well as through our partners at New CT Farmer Alliance, USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, CT Farm Bureau Association, CT NOFA, and CT Dept. of Agriculture. Although we targeted new and beginning farmers, these events were open to all farm operators regardless of experience.

Target Audience for Activity #3 - Farmland ConneCTions - This activity focused on farmland access training and services. Over the course of the entire grant period we worked one-on-one and through workshops with farmland seekers and individuals interested in leasing to new farmers. This activity also targeted non-farming landowners, such as land trusts, who received training in how/why to lease farmland to new and beginning farmers.

Target Audience for Activity #4 - Conference/Videos - This activity featured a capstone project conference for new and beginning farmers, as well as key service providers, held December 9, 2014. The conference was designed to attract new and beginning farmers interested in networking with each other and key agriculture service providers, and focused on a the topic of how to scale up a farm business.

Products

{Nothing to report}

Other Products

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Paul Trubey of Beltane Farm in Lebanon, CT.

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Steven Munno of Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, CT

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Dina Brewster of The Hickories in Ridgefield, CT

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Stacia and Fred Monahan of Stone Gardens Farm in Shelton, CT

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring David Blyn and Laura McKinney of Riverbank Farm in Roxbury, CT

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Bill Stuart of Stuart Farm in Bridgewater, CT

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Max and Kerry Taylor of Provider Farm in Salem, CT

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

How To Grow A Farm - featuring Charlotte Ross and Jonathan Janeway of Sweet Acre Farm in Lebanon, CT

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Scaling Up - Powerpoint by Dave Gorman of Gorman Farms, MD, presented at Build Your Network Grow Our Future Conference 12/9/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Strategically Growing Your Farm Enterprise - Powerpoint by Judy Bolloyt of Roxbury Farms, NY, presented at Build Your Network Grow Our Future Conference 12/9/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Design Fundamentals for Greenhouse & High Tunnels - Collection of workshop materials and presentations assembled by John Bartok, retired professor from University of Connecticut, prepared for workshop on 2/27/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Tips to Aid Construction of Greenhouses and Tunnels - Powerpoint by Ed Person of Ledgewood Farm of

Moultonborough, NH, presented at workshop on 2/27/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Maintaining Quality of Winter Vegetables in Storage - Powerpoint by Ruth Hazzard of UMass Extension, presented at workshop on 2/20/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Low Cost Food Storage Technology: Energy Savings and Produce Storage Quality - Powerpoint by Ben Weil and Luke Moody of UMass Extension, presented at workshop on 2/20/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Engineering Storage Facilities for Winter Vegetable Crops - Goranson Farm - presented by Jan Goranson of Goranson Farm in Dresden, ME, presented at workshop on 2/20/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Engineering Storage Facilities for Winter Vegetable Crops - Tangerini Spring Street Farm - presented by Laura Tangerini of Tangerini Farm in Millis, MA presented at workshop on 2/20/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Farm Scale Irrigation Systems - six fact sheets assembled by Eero Ruuttila of UConn Extension and Trevor Hardy of Brookdale Fruit Farm & Irrigation Supplies in Hollis, NH

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Pasture Management - 3 fact sheets assembled by Troy Bishopp (aka the 'Grass Whisperer') of Bishopp Family Farm in Deansboro, NY

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Crop Management Practices for Reducing the Use of OMRI Listed Organic Pesticides - Powerpoint by Eero Ruuttila of UConn Extension, presented at workshop on 2/19/15

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Safe and Effective Use of Organic Pesticides - Powerpoint by Lisa McKeag of UMass Extension, presented at workshop on 2/19/15

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Tractor Operation, Safety and Maintenance - collection of worksheets assembled by Shane LaBrake of Accokeek, MD, used for two day training on 10/16/14-10/17/14

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

New Website created and curated by UConn Extension for beginning farmers - <http://newfarms.extension.uconn.edu/>

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Improving Access to Farmland in Connecticut - Webinar, recorded August 2015. Featuring Kip Kolesinskas and Rachel Murray (Land for Good).

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

A Landowner's Guide to Leasing Land for Farming (short version), published jointly with Land For Good.

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

A Landowner's Guide to Leasing Land for Farming (long version), published jointly with Land For Good.

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

3 Farmland Leasing Case Studies (available at <http://newfarms.extension.uconn.edu/farmland/>)

Changes/Problems

Overall, the project was an excellent learning experience for UConn Extension as it rises to meet the need of BFs in our state. The only challenges encountered during the grant period that led to program changes were:

1. In Year 1, the design and implementation of an Advisory Committee did not work as well as planned. It was challenging to get real consensus about training priorities for BFs, perhaps because many of the members were not BFs themselves. As a result, an electronic survey of BFs was conducted as well to help identify training priorities. The combined result was used to determine which new trainings would be developed (see Scaling Up Workshops above).

2. In Year 2, the Commercial Vegetable IPM Specialist had an injury, necessitating his consulting work to a more limited interaction by phone. A temporary IPM vegetable extension educator was engaged to help visit clients in the Whole Farm Planning activity.

3. The time and effort required to produce 8 videos was larger than anticipated. The videos were completed, but at a cost of spending additional consulting time in the field with BFs for the Sustainable Agriculture Specialist.

4. The need for an agriculture engineer to assist BFs was not as urgent as expected in the original proposal. Funds for this purpose were not required.