

EAST HARTFORD

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No.
423



FUTTNER'S FARM

East Hartford, CT

Agriculture & Dairy



Running a successful family farm in Connecticut is extremely difficult as farmers face a short growing season, high property taxes and pressure from development. For **Futtner's Family Farm** in East Hartford, a third-generation family farm with roots to the early 1900s, the challenges have been compounded by the fact that their farm is in one of the state's most densely populated urban areas.

When the Futtner's Farm first started, it was like many Connecticut River Valley farms growing tobacco. By the 1950s the family diversified by planting vegetables and by the 1960s, opened a roadside stand to meet demand for local vegetables. In 2010 the farm again transitioned to meet consumer demand and created a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), which allows local residents to purchase seasonal shares of the farm's harvest.



Extending the growing season is a key to the success of the CSA and the future vitality of the farm. To accomplish this, plans were drawn up for the construction of a new greenhouse for tomatoes. The greenhouse construction would have been impossible for the family to afford on its own, but through a matching grant of \$13,165 in 2009 from the **CT Dept. of Agriculture's Agriculture Viability Grant Program**, which is funded by the **Community Investment Act (CIA)**, construction was able to commence.

By early 2010 the greenhouse was completed and the first crop of tomatoes was planted while the snow still lay on the ground. With significant new revenue being generated by the tomato greenhouse, Futtner's Farm hopes to provide **local jobs and local produce** for area markets and keep farmland open and working in East Hartford.

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The Community Investment Act, enacted in 2005, stimulates private investment to protect our natural, agricultural, and historic resources, and to assist affordable housing. CIA funds come from a surcharge on real estate document recording fees. They are then invested in agriculture viability, dairy farm support, historic preservation, open space, farmland, affordable housing, Local Capital Improvement Projects and Town Clerk records management.