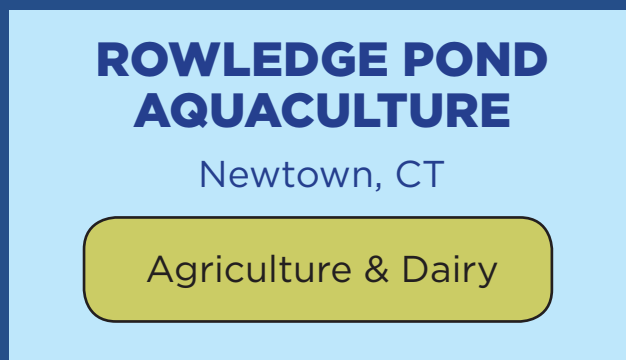


NEWTOWN

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No.
318



Mention farming in Connecticut and you probably picture rolling fields of corn, farmers' markets, or dairy farms. You probably don't picture fish. But Connecticut's aquaculture industry is growing and can't keep up with demand.

Rowledge Pond Aquaculture in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown has been raising trout and other freshwater fish since 1953 and is the state's oldest privately owned hatchery. Now in its third generation of family ownership, the farm supplies thousands of fish each year to fish and game clubs, lake associations, private pond owners and to Connecticut's Butcher's Best markets for consumer consumption.

The farm also supplies the trophy trout at the Cabella's store in East Hartford and to diversify has a growing market supplying fish for medical research.

Like all aquaculture farms in Connecticut, Rowledge Pond's biggest challenge is meeting its freshwater supply needs. Through a \$23,000 grant from the **CT Dept. of Agriculture's Agriculture Viability Grant Program**, which is funded by the **Community Investment Act**, the farm was able to install an \$80,000 gravel pack well, which allows the farm to capture shallow groundwater that sits 15 to 20 feet below the surface. This well system, combined with their recirculating system, allows the farm to improve the quality of water in its culture tanks, use less water, and better control fish health and nutrient flow.



Rowledge Pond's gravel pack well system builds a foundation that will allow the farm to continue to grow its aquaculture business, create local jobs, enhance the local economy, and provide Connecticut residents with a local source for fresh fish.

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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.