



Farm – Based Education in Connecticut

**Dr. Kimberly Stoner, The Connecticut Agricultural
Experiment Station, New Haven**

There is a substantial body of research showing that direct exposure to nature is important to the normal development of children, and to the emotional and physical health of children and adults (For a recent popular summary, see *The Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, 2nd edition, 2008.) Farm-based education allows people of all ages to go beyond learning about and observing nature to working actively with nature to produce one of the necessities for human life – good food. The programs below give people of all ages, from pre-school to adults, opportunities to participate in the most fundamental aspect of human culture – working with soil, plants, animals, and other people in feeding ourselves.

Farms with Educational Programs

Bloomfield

4-H Education Center at Auer Farm

158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002

860-242-7144

info@auerfarm.org

www.auerfarm.org

Auer Farm offers year-round educational programs for students pre-K through high school based on the Connecticut State Department of Education Preschool Benchmarks and Core Science Curriculum Framework. Auer Farm also offers summer, weekend, and public educational programs.

Canton

Wild Carrot Farm

Mark Palladino

541 Albany Turnpike

PO Box 418, Canton, CT 06019

farmermark@wildcarrotfarm.com

www.wildcarrotfarm.com

Wild Carrot Farm offers farm tours to school groups, and the farmers also visit schools to make educational presentations.

Cornwall Bridge

Local Farm

860-672-0229

farmer@rlocalfarm.com

www.rlocalfarm.com/familycow

Local Farm offers workshops throughout the year on the care and keeping of a family cow. You can try your hand at milking, learn about finding, feeding, housing, fencing, breeding, and caring for your cow, and make butter, soft cheese and ice cream.

Falls Village

Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center

116 Johnson Road

Falls Village, CT 06031

860- 824-5991

Info@isabellafreedman.org

www.isabellafreedman.org

The Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center hosts the Teva Learning Center each fall, drawing students from Jewish day schools, synagogues, and Hebrew schools throughout the region. The Retreat Center also sponsors ADAMAH: The Jewish Environmental Fellowship, a three month leadership training program for Jewish young adults (20-29), who combine work on the 4-acre organic farm with study and spiritual practice. In addition, the Retreat Center offers “Workshops in and of the farm.”

Franklin

Blue Slope Country Museum, Inc.

138 Blue Hill Road, Franklin, CT 06254

860-642-6413

museum@blueslope.com

www.blueslope.com

Blue Slope has a collection on a working dairy farm of historical agricultural tools from 200 years of farming. Pre-K – 12th grade customized school programs by appointment, and seasonal family events, including “Fall Festival Tyme,” and summer and Advent activities.

Guilford

Dudley Farm

2351 Durham Rd, Guilford, CT 06437

info@dudleyfarm.com

www.dudleyfarm.com

Dudley Farm has a restored farmhouse, barns and equipment, and presents farming as it was in New England in the late 19th century. Open for tours and events.

Hartford

Grow Hartford (Hartford Food System)

Hartford Food System

191 Franklin Avenue

Hartford, CT 06114

860-296-9325

www.hartfordfood.org

Grow Hartford operates three urban agriculture sites in Hartford's Frog Hollow and Behind the Rocks neighborhoods. In 2007 the project produced 3,694 pounds of fresh produce, all of which was distributed to city residents. Grow Hartford's summer program for at-risk youth focuses on sustainable agriculture education, leadership and work skills, and community action. Youth also prepare a community lunch for over 100 local residents. Hundreds of young people and families visit the Grow Hartford farm each season to volunteer or participate in lessons about sustainable agriculture and leadership.

Madison

Bauer Park

261 Copse Road, Madison

Contact via the Madison Beach & Recreation Dept., 8 Campus Drive, Madison CT 06443
203-245-5623

www.madisonct.org/bauerpark.html

The Park includes a farm museum with historical items, demonstration gardens, a tree nursery, plots of chestnut trees used for research, community gardens, and both outdoor and indoor classroom facilities. School groups visit the park for nature study, and local naturalists lead walks for the public on weekends.

New London

F.R.E.S.H. New London

c/o Gemma Moran/United Way

Box 429, 374 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320

860-444-8050, ext. 14

artlerner@hotmail.com

www.freshnewlondon.org

FRESH's youth programs aim to do three things: encourage leadership, build skills, and teach critical thinking. Youth participants learn the skills of sustainable agriculture at a one-acre farm site at the Waterford Country School. FRESH also has a "Drop-In Growing Garden" in collaboration with the Drop-In Learning Center, which provides summer and after-school learning opportunities. FRESH also has urban gardens in partnership with the New London Homeless Coalition and demonstration and community gardens.

New Milford

The Sullivan Farm

140 Park Lane (Rt. 202), New Milford

860-354-0047

new.milford.youth@snet.net

www.youthagency.org

Run by the Youth Agency, Sullivan Farm offers educational and vocational programming for area youth, and produces organic vegetables, honey, jams, pickles, berries, maple syrup, and hay. The Learn and Grow program offers farm tours and activities for classes of elementary school children.

Simsbury

Flamig Farm

7 Shingle Mill Road, West Simsbury, Connecticut 06092

(860) 658-5070

flamigfarm@yahoo.com

www.flamigfarm.com

Flamig Farm has school tours and summer farm adventure camp for ages 5-13.

Stamford

Stamford Museum and Nature Center's Heckscher Farm

39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford CT 06903

203-322-1646

info@stamfordmuseum.org

www.stamfordmuseum.org

The farm is open to school programs every weekday during the school year. In addition, there is a Junior Curator program that gives children from 10-14 the opportunity to learn about and volunteer on a real farm, with a focus on animal care and handling.

Stonington

Terra Firma Farm

330 Al Harvey Road, Stonington, Connecticut 06378

860-535-8171

info@terrafirmafarm.org

www.terrafirmafarm.org

Terra Firma offers educational programs on a working farm for all ages from 3 and up. There are pre-school programs, school tours, after-school and vacation programs, and summer programs, including the "Helping Harvesters Camp" for teenagers 13-15, who garden, prepare and serve food at a local soup kitchen, and care for the farm's animals. The farm also hosts a full-time kindergarten.

Storrs

University of Connecticut Animal Science Department

www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/barntours.htm

The UConn Animal Barns are open to school groups and to the public for self-guided tours every day from 10 am to 4 pm. Visitors can see dairy and beef cattle, sheep, and horses. The poultry barns are closed to the public. Visitors can see the dairy cows being milked every day at 1 pm and fed at 9:30 am and 4:30 pm at the Kellogg Dairy Center. There is a brochure, "Follow the Animal Trail," for school groups and families with young children.

Voluntown

Voluntown Peace Trust

539 Beach Pond Road, Voluntown, CT 06384

860-376-9970

info@voluntownpeacetrust.org

www.voluntownpeacetrust.org

The mission of the Voluntown Peace Trust is to provide education in social change and sustainable living. Among their programs is a summer camp for children from the North End of Hartford.

West Granby

Holcomb Farm Learning Center

113 Simsbury Road, West Granby, CT 06090

860-844-8616

www.holcombfarm.com

The Holcomb Farm Learning Center, on a 322 acre farm, runs the innovative “Link and Learn” program, where K–6 students from rural, suburban, and urban environments come together to gain an appreciation of science and culture. The Learning Center also has programs in environmental science and the arts for school groups; summer, after-school and vacation programs, and has a nature center and trails open for visits daily.

West Hartford

Westmoor Park

119 Flagg Road, West Hartford, CT 06117

Phone: (860) 561-8260

Fax: (860) 236-3815

Park Naturalist, Douglas Jackson: Douglas@westhartford.org

www.west-hartford.com/TownServices/TownDepartments/LeisureServices/RecreationFacilities/westmoorpark/westmoorpark1.htm

Westmoor Park is a 162 acre environmental education facility with a demonstration farm and gardens. Pre-school and elementary programs, summer programs for pre-school through teens, weekend and evening programs for families.

West Redding

New Pond Farm

Box 116, 101 Marchant Road, West Redding, CT 06896

203-938-2117

Program Director, Kristen Allore

Kristen@NewPondFarm.org

www.newpondfarm.org

New Pond Farm offers a residential summer camp to inner city children from 8-12 from Norwalk, Bridgeport, and Danbury, and day camp to local children, based on their 102 acre farm. They also offer field trips for school and scouting groups.

Wilton

Ambler Farm

257 Hurlbutt Street, Wilton, CT 06897

Info-ambler@amblerfarm.org

www.amblerfarm.org

The historic 22 acre Ambler Farm offers programs for school groups, a summer program, and a farm apprenticeship program. It also offers special events for families.

Windsor

Northwest Park

Friends of Northwest Park, Inc. 145 Lang Road, P.O. Box 773, Windsor, CT 06095
(860) 285-1886

info@northwestpark.org

www.northwestpark.org

Northwest Park hosts school and scout groups and has a summer nature camp.

Schools with Farms and Gardens

High Schools

Agricultural Science and Technology Program

Connecticut has a state-funded system of 19 vocational agriculture schools, each of which draws on students from surrounding towns. Vocational Agriculture students are required to have a Supervised Agricultural Experience on a farm or in another real-world setting.

Bloomfield

Harris AgriScience & Technology Center

Huckleberry Lane

Bloomfield, CT 06002

(860) 286-2630

Fax (860) 242-0331

www.blmfld.org/page.cfm?p=688

The Harris AgriScience & Technology Center participates in the Bloomfield Schools Farm-to-School Program, BSF2S, a collaboration between the three departments of Agriscience, Culinary Arts and Foodservice. The Agriscience Students start the vegetable seedlings in their on-site greenhouses, when ready to be moved outside the students plant the seedlings in one of the twenty raised beds at the Harris Agriscience Center. The students raise Tilapia to be served as part of the lunch program and use the fish tanks for Aquaponics to grow herbs and lettuce greens. The animal science students raise chickens for eggs. In addition, the Harris AgriScience & Technology Center is currently hosting a semester-long seminar program called “The Power of Agriculture,” open to the public.

Bridgeport Aquaculture

60 St. Stephens Rd.

Bridgeport, CT 06605

(203) 576-7608

Fax (203) 576-7064

<http://bridgeport.ct.schoolwebpages.com/education/school/school.php?sectiondetailid=2734>

Region 1 (Falls Village)

Housatonic Valley Reg. High School Regional School District 1
Falls Village, CT 06031
(860) 824-5123Ext. 4
Fax (860) 824-1085

Glastonbury

330 Hubbard St.
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 652-7227
Fax (860) 652-7267

Killingly

Killingly High School
79 Westfield Ave.
Danielson, CT 06239-0210
(860) 779-6676
Fax (860) 774-6474

Lebanon

Lyman Memorial High School
917 Exeter Rd.
Lebanon, CT 06249
(860) 642-7759
Fax (860) 642-3521

Ledyard

Ledyard High School
24 Gallup Hill Rd.
Ledyard, CT 06339
(860) 464-9600 x4
Fax (860) 464-1990

Middletown

370 Huntington Hill Ave.
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 704-4599
Fax (860) 347-9916

New Haven

The Sound School
60 South Water St.
New Haven, CT 06519
(203) 946-6937
Fax (203) 946-6874

www.soundschool.com

Rockville

Rockville High School
70 Loveland Hill Rd.
Vernon, CT 06066
(860) 870-6197
Fax (860) 870-6314

Southington

Southington High School
720 Pleasant St.
Southington, CT 06489
(860) 628-3229 x352
Fax (860) 628-3397

Stamford

Westhill High School
125 Roxbury Rd.
Stamford, CT 06902
(203) 977-4974
Fax (203) 977-5065

Region 19 (Storrs)

E.O. Smith High School
1235 Storrs Rd.
Storrs, CT 06268
(860) 487-0528
Fax (860) 429-0085

Suffield

1060 Sheldon Street
West Suffield, CT 06093
(860) 668-3817
Fax (860) 668-8178

Trumbull

Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center
536 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611-2052
Agriscience Office: 203-452-4200
Fax (203) 452-4211

<http://www.trumbullps.org/th/ag/index.htm>

Wallingford

Lyman Hall High School
70 Pond Hill Rd.
Wallingford, CT 06492-2254
(203) 294-5382
Fax (203) 294-5353

Region 6 (Warren, Morris, Goshen)

Wamogo High School
98 Wamogo Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759
(860) 567-6649
Fax (860) 576-7428

Region 7 (Winsted)

Northwestern
Northwestern Regional High School
100 Battistoni Dr.
Winsted, CT 06098
(860) 379-9013 379-8525
Fax (860) 738-0646

Region 14 (Woodbury)

Nonnewaug Regional High School
5 Minortown Rd.
Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 266-4038
Fax (203) 260-3570

Locally operated and funded

CT Junior Republic

Route 63, Box 161
Litchfield, CT 06759
(860) 567-9423

Nathan Hale-Ray High School

15 School Drive
Moodus, CT 06469
(860) 873-5065

For more information on the Vocational Agriculture System,
contact Greg Kane, consultant:
Connecticut Department of Education
Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction
165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 713-6756

Fax (860) 713-7018

Gregory.Kane@ct.gov

Other High Schools

New Haven

Common Ground

High School, Urban Farm, and Environmental Education Center

358 Springside Avenue, New Haven 06515

203-389-0823

nhep@nhep.com

www.nhep.com

In addition to a charter high school of 150 students, Common Ground also runs after-school programs for ages 6-14, school vacation programs for ages 6-12, and summer programs for ages 4-13. Open Farm events are offered to the wider community.

Colleges and Universities

University of Connecticut

AgriHusky EcoGarden Club

UConn Plant Science Department

1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4067, Storrs, CT 06269

UConnecogardenclub@yahoo.com

Wesleyan

Long Lane Farm

Long Lane Farm started with a student seminar in 2004, and continues to be powered by student energy, commitment, digging, tilling and planting. Students involved with Long Lane still meet weekly to talk about farm planning and issues around food security, but now also have regular potlucks and make jam, pickles and tomato sauce. The farmers have worked develop a relationship with the Middletown community through events at the farm such as Harvest Festivals and May Day celebrations in the fall and spring with lots of kids and families, student bands, a may day pole, apple pies, pumpkin painting and harvesting. It has donated food to the St. Vincent De Paul Place Soup Kitchen, sold veggies to Its Only Natural Market in town, and generally worked to explore and embody the spirit of local, organic foods, sustainability, community-orientation and fun. The farm is always open, with a chalkboard on the side of the shed listing all of the tasks for the week

Yale

Yale Sustainable Food Project

309 Edwards Street

New Haven, CT 06511-8261203-432-2084

www.yale.edu/sustainablefood
sustainablefoodproject@yale.edu

203-432-2084

The Sustainable Food Project directs a sustainable dining program at Yale, manages an organic farm on campus, and runs diverse programs that support exploration and academic inquiry related to food and agriculture. The Yale Farm operates in all 4 seasons (growing leafy greens in a greenhouse in winter) with volunteers throughout the school year and interns in the summer. As a result of the Yale Sustainable Food project, there has been a proliferation of courses in food and agriculture, there is now an undergraduate concentration in Sustainable Agriculture, and there are frequent speakers and events on campus.

Organizations to Promote Agricultural Education for Youth

Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation

www.ctaef.org

Sponsor of Farm City, an agricultural educational program, involving 1,200 students and adults in 2007, that travels for three days each year to a different farm, and Ag in the Classroom.

Each year Farm City, an educational, agricultural program, travels to a different working farm in Connecticut. At Farm City, local school children participate in hands-on activities that teach them about different aspects of farming and local agriculture.

Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators

www.caaeonline.org

Association of teachers at Vocational Agriculture Schools

Connecticut FFA

www.ctffa.org/

Milton Natusch , coordinator
218 Riley Mountain Rd
Coventry, CT 06238
(860) 742-7474

Connecticut 4-H Program

www.4-h.uconn.edu/

4-H is open to any youth ages 7-19 years old. There is no charge to become a member. Interested youth should contact their local Extension Center. A 4-H member selects a project for detailed study, keeps records, performs a community service project, and makes a public presentation.

Project Food, Land, & People

www.foodlandpeople.org

Sue Quincy
Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
Kellogg Environmental Center
P.O. Box 435
Derby, CT 06418
phone: (203) 734-2513; fax: (203) 922-7833
susan.quincy@po.state.ct.us

Regional

Farm Based Education Association

Minute Man National Historical Park
174 Liberty Street
Concord, MA 01742
978.318.7827

info@farmbasededucation.org

www.farmbasededucation.org

The mission of the Farm Based Education Association is to inspire, nurture and promote farm based education. The FBEA hosts a network-based website, publishes quarterly newsletters, hosts local and regional workshops, field days and farm tours, and facilitates an Educational Farm Symposium every other year.

Statewide Agricultural Education Programs for Adults

Connecticut Master Gardener Program

Leslie A. Alexander, State Master Gardener & Education Program Coordinator
UConn's Home and Garden Education Center, 1380 Storrs Rd. Unit 4115, Storrs, CT
06269
860-486-6343

Leslie.Alexander@uconn.edu

www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener

The Master Gardener Program is an educational outreach program of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. Master Gardeners complete a 16-week course, followed by 30 hours of internship in a local extension office, and 30 hours of community service.

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA)

PO Box 164 • Stevenson, CT 06491
203-888-5146

ctnofa@ctnofa.org

www.ctnofa.org

CT NOFA offers an annual farm tour, and many educational conferences each year, including Getting Started in Organic Farming, the Community Farming Conference, and

Cultivating an Organic Connecticut, which includes a wide range of workshops on agriculture, food, and land care.

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station – Lockwood Farm

890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518-2361

203-974-8618

www.ct.gov/CAES

Lockwood Farm is the experimental farm of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The farm is open every business day during working hours, and there are occasional outdoor meetings of agricultural organizations, such as the Connecticut Beekeepers Association. There is a bird and butterfly garden, with a plant list. Plant Science Day, an open house for all of the scientists at the Experiment Station to present their research, is held each year, on the first Wednesday in August.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

775 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095-2322

860-768-1100

info@cfba.org

www.cfba.org

Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm families united to find solutions for concerns facing production agriculture in our counties, state and nation. Among their programs is the Young Farmer program, a leadership development program for farmers ages 18-35.

Project Food, Land, & People

www.foodlandpeople.org

Sue Quincy

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection

Kellogg Environmental Center

P.O. Box 435

Derby, CT 06418

phone: (203) 734-2513; fax: (203) 922-7833

susan.quincy@po.state.ct.us

Project Food, Land, & People is the state affiliate of a national program that provides resources to teachers and students on the relationships of agriculture, environment, and human beings.

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