

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
**OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER**



Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager

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April 21, 2014

Ms. Nancy Ferlow  
State Resource Conservationist  
344 Merrow Road, Suite A  
Tolland, CT 06084

RE: CIG proposal - Building a Stable Farmland Base in Connecticut's Eastern Uplands

Dear Ms. Ferlow,

I am writing in support of UConn Extension's request for funding through the Conservation Innovation Grants program to lead an 18-month project from fall 2014 to spring 2016 to build a landowner network and culture in the sub-region of Connecticut's Eastern Uplands that encourages stable farmland tenure, conservation and restoration.

The Town of Mansfield is committed to supporting a viable agricultural economy in our Town and in the region. This commitment is demonstrated by the Town's recently completed Agricultural Strategy where the following goals were identified through a robust community engagement strategy:

- Identify private land and land trust parcels that can be leased for agricultural use;
- Identify land (public, private, and land trust) that could be used or restored for agricultural use; and
- Support and promote environmentally sensitive farming practices.

These goals are currently being incorporated into our Plan of Conservation and Development.

In support of this proposal, the Town of Mansfield hereby commits a total of \$3,800 of in-kind match to this proposal. This includes an estimated 72 hours of the Town of Mansfield's Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator's professional time at a rate \$50.00 per hour as well as \$200 for two mailings at a value of \$100 each.

The Town of Mansfield looks forward to serving in an advisory capacity on this project's activities.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Hart  
Town Manager