

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Priorities

DoAg Priority Areas for Core Services:

- Support an environment that grows Connecticut farms and jobs
- Ensure adequate resources are dedicated to food safety, public health, child and senior nutrition, and disease prevention and control
- Educate before and while carrying out regulatory functions
- Permanently protect Connecticut's prime and important farmland soils through the acquisition of development rights and meaningful stewardship of protected farms
- Administer Agriculture's grant portfolio with a particular focus on food safety, farm infrastructure resiliency, agricultural diversity, value added agriculture, farmland restoration, environmental assistance, Connecticut Grown marketing and overall farm viability
- Properly manage state-owned farmlands including shellfish beds and natural spawning public beds.

DoAg Management Strategies

DoAg's strategies to manage with limited resources:

- Oversee bureau budgets and operations, including overtime, to minimize expenditures wherever practical and possible
- Limit hiring to refills of critical positions aligning with agency priorities including the use of durational employees to carry out critical seasonal functions including farmers' market and shoreline inspections, and outreach
- LEAN regulatory functions including use of technology and remote access to streamline inspections and reporting
- Evaluate opportunities to enhance state revenue related to use of the State's real property
- Cross train appropriate regulatory staff to better prepare for responses to animal/public health incidents
- Leverage state investments in farmland preservation with those of federal, local and private partners