

MINUTES OF February 18, 2026 AGRIBUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING  
AT East Lyme High School, East Lyme, CT

Members present: Mark Christensen, Terri Yuhas, Tom Yuhas, Jan Schenk Grosskopf

Meeting opened at 7:01 pm.

Delegations – Nancy Kalal

November Minutes – Accepted 3-0

January Minutes – Accepted 3-0

Agriculture Education

Winter Lecture Series

- Potential Ideas for Winter 25/26
  - Food and Water
  - Paul Colburn from Ct DEEP who spoke on Bears can also speak on other wildlife if requested such as Bobcat, Fisher, and Coyotes
- Completed or Scheduled Winter Seminar Series
  - Bears – completed – Well attended with 45 attendees
  - Food and Water
    - Protecting our Water Resources - Scheduled 2pm Saturday Mar 7<sup>th</sup> - Register at East Lyme Public Library Events site
    - Ground Water Sustainability – Scheduled 2pm Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> - Register at East Lyme Public Library Events site

Additional Items/Reports

- Connecticut PA 490 Recommended Land Use Values and Best Practices rolled back to 2020 values. A Working Group is being convened at the state level to review process for land use valuation under PA 490. Connecticut Farm Bureau is involved as well as one of the Ct Service Foresters.
- UConn Urban Agriculture Program – Signups for 9-week training Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – April 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 630-830pm online with hands on field experience opportunity – cost of \$200.00. Contact [Jaqueline.kowalski@uconn.edu](mailto:Jaqueline.kowalski@uconn.edu)
- USDA Announced Second FY26 signup for Conservation Programs in CT. It's the second signup ranking date by 20Mar2026. Contact NRCS.USDA.GOV/CT or your local USDA Service Center. The second signup allows farmers to participate in the following programs:
  - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Agricultural Land Easements
  - ACEP Wetlands Reserve Easement Program
  - Conservation Stewardship Program

- The USDA NRCS also encourages Ct farmers and forestland owners to participate in the new Regenerative Pilot Program (CSP). Contact [NRCS.USDA.GOV/CT](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ct) or your local USDA Service Center.

2026 Town of East Lyme 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration – Agriculture Sub-committee to begin thinking about potential programs

Reports –

Tractor/Truck Show will be held June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Samuel Smith Farmstead.

Dirty Blue Shirts Living History Program Cooking Demonstration Aug 15<sup>th</sup> at the Samuel Smith Farmstead.

End of Harvest Celebration Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at the Samuel Smith Farmstead.

Bills that can affect agriculture – email alerts sent by Connecticut Farm Bureau.

Potentially review, track, add testimony based on timelines and/or contact your representatives

Senate Bill 146

House Bill 5155

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn accepted 3-0. The Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next Meeting: March 18th, 2026 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Yuhas

Secretary, East Lyme Agribusiness sub-committee