

# How Your Town Can Support New & Beginning Farmers: Understanding Challenges, Finding Resources



**Thursday, November 21, 2013**  
**6:30 to 9 pm**  
**Canterbury Community Center**  
1 Municipal Drive  
Canterbury, CT

Join us on Thursday, November 21, 2013 for a FREE workshop to learn about some of these issues, sponsored by the AGvocate program.

## **This workshop will cover:**

- A report and presentation from Eero Ruuttila, UConn Sustainable Farming Specialist, on the "Scaling Up" project for Connecticut Beginning Farmers. Eero will also discuss his experience as an Incubator Farm Coordinator for the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project in Massachusetts.
- A presentation by Maggie Saska, Garden Manager, and Mitchel Colgan, Incubator Farmer/Owner of Colgan Farm, on the Incubator Farmer Program at the Community Farm of Simsbury and how a municipality cooperates with a nonprofit agency to make land available to train new and beginning farmers.
- Brief presentation of financial resources available for New and Beginning Farmers from USDA-Farm Service Agency and Farm Credit East
- Networking and Updates from Agriculture Commissions – Make sure your Town is represented!

**Share Ideas, Gather Resources**  
**Thursday, November 21, 2013**  
**FREE Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Workshop will run from 7 to 9 p.m.**

Meeting space is limited - please contact John Guskowski, AGvocate Program Director, at 860-455-8251 or [AGvocate@outlook.com](mailto:AGvocate@outlook.com) to reserve your space.

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## Workshop Agenda

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| <b>6:30 p.m.</b>        | <b>Registration &amp; Light Refreshments</b>   |
| <b>6:45 - 7:20 p.m.</b> | <b>Agriculture Commission Networking and Updates</b>   |
| <b>7:20 - 8:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Beginning Farmer &amp; Rancher "Scaling Up" Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Eero Ruuttila, UConn Sustainable Agricultural Specialist</b></li></ul>   |
| <b>8:00 - 8:10 p.m.</b> | <b>Refreshment Break</b>   |
| <b>8:10 - 8:25 p.m.</b> | <b>Beginning Farmer Funding Resources from USDA and Farm Credit East</b>   |
| <b>8:25 - 8:55 p.m.</b> | <b>Simsbury Community Farm "Incubator Program"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Maggie Saska, Program Manager, Simsbury Community Farm</b></li><li>- <b>Mitchel Colgan, Incubator Farmer at Simsbury Community Farm &amp; Owner of Colgan Farm</b></li></ul> |
| <b>8:55 - 9:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Announcements and Adjournment</b>   |

## **About the AGvocate Program**

The AGvocate Program promotes farm-friendly community policies and regulations in Eastern Connecticut, and is the liaison between agricultural producers and local communities. The Program is managed by the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (RC&D) in cooperation with a Steering Committee comprised of members from The Last Green Valley (TLGV), participating communities, agricultural businesses, and many federal, state, and nonprofit agencies and organizations. This Project was funded in part by matching funds from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act, 05-228.

For more contact John Guskowski, AGvocate Program Manager at 860-455-8251 or [AGvocate@outlook.com](mailto:AGvocate@outlook.com).