Farms Under Threat: The State of the States mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The spatial analysis identified the extent, diversity, and quality of each state’s agricultural land—and where this land has been converted to both urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) land uses.

**Connecticut**

**RELATIVE CONVERSION THREAT**

HIGH

Connecticut scored among the top states for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.

**RELATIVE POLICY RESPONSE**

HIGH

Connecticut scored among the top states for policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land.

**HOW IS THIS STATE DOING?**

Connecticut is in a green box because its policy response is aligned with its conversion threat, relative to other states. Learn more at www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2001-2016**

Conversion of non-federal farmland to UHD and LDR land uses from 2001-2016. The threat to working farms and ranches is pervasive, often claiming the most productive, versatile, and resilient lands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conversion of agricultural land to UHD and LDR land uses</th>
<th>Farmland* that is: Above state median PVR**</th>
<th>Below state median PVR</th>
<th>*Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.</th>
<th>**Our productivity, versatility, and resiliency (PVR) index helps identify high-quality agricultural land (see page 2).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**Farmland**

Urban areas
Federal, forest, and other lands

How is this state doing?

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**American Farmland Trust**
Connecticut’s farmland and ranchland was converted to:

- **Urban and highly developed (UHD)** land use, including commercial, industrial, and moderate-to-high-density residential areas.
- **Low-density residential (LDR)** land use, where scattered large lot development fragments the agricultural land base and limits production, marketing, and management options for the working farms and ranches that remain.

**Development Threatens Connecticut’s Agricultural Land**

From 2001-2016, 23,000 acres of agricultural land were developed or compromised.

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**What's at stake?**

- 347,100 acres of agricultural land remain
- CROPLAND: 113,200 acres
- PASTURELAND: 63,000 acres
- WOODLAND: 171,000 acres

- $580.1 million earned from cash receipts in 2017:
  - $66.9 million from local food
  - $248.4 million from agricultural exports

- 23,000 acres were converted—enough land to generate $38 million in annual revenue

- Connecticut’s top 3 agricultural products:
  - Nursery and Greenhouse: $298.4 million
  - Milk and Dairy: $81.0 million
  - Vegetables: $40.6 million

- 9,800 producers and 12,600 farm laborers on 5,500 farms

- 3 times as many producers over 65 as under 35 years old

**Conversion Affected All Types of Agricultural Land**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROPLAND</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASTURELAND</td>
<td>6,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOODLAND</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Connecticut’s Best Agricultural Land is Under Threat**

We used our unique **PVR index**, which quantifies the productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land, to identify:

1. **Connecticut’s best land**, which has PVR values above the state median, and
2. **Nationally Significant land**, which is the country’s best land for long-term production of food and other crops. 52% of Connecticut’s agricultural land, or 180,600 acres, falls in this category.

Protecting high-PVR land is critical for the long-term sustainability of agriculture, yet from 2001-2016:

- 11,400 acres of Connecticut’s best land were converted to UHD and LDR uses.
- 11,500 acres of Connecticut’s Nationally Significant land were converted.

*These two categories overlap and the same land may be included in both.*