

Connecticut



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Connecticut families.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

The New England Governors’ Association sees regional farm-to-institution opportunities as a critical component of efforts to protect farmland. Major regional institutions like hospitals, prisons, and schools that source food products from local farmers can help develop a sustainable regional food system. The Association has received support from USDA to advance farm-to-institution programs and strengthen this regional food system.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Connecticut, USDA has invested in 286 local food projects, helping to develop food hubs, small-scale processing, farmers markets and other market opportunities in local food.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$310.7 million** to **Connecticut’s** economy.

The President’s Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **3,996 Connecticut families** purchase or repair homes.



SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **46 rural businesses in Connecticut thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms.

Rural manufacturing supports 9,992 jobs in Connecticut. USDA has invested **nearly \$100,000** to help rural manufacturers in **Connecticut** increase production and capacity.



WATER

USDA has invested **\$111.8 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and

wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Connecticut families** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.