CT Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
Climate Smart Agriculture Equipment Sharing Hub Application

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The Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (CT RC&D) is pleased to offer Climate Smart Agriculture Equipment Sharing Hubs funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Grant established by the Community Investment Act (C.G.S. Sec. 22-26k). A portion of the grant funds have been used to implement and support 4 Equipment Sharing Hubs. One Hub in each of the following locations: the CT River Valley, Northeastern CT, and Northwestern CT, providing access to farmers operating within those regions. The fourth Hub is accessible to Farmer Veterans. This project will provide access to climate smart equipment for three years (2024-2027) while fostering collaborative education in geographically diverse areas.

CT RC&D's Equipment Sharing Hubs will enable climate smart agriculture practices on farms across Connecticut. The climate smart practices (identified by USDA NRCS) will encourage and/or enable soil health practices including, but not limited to, planting of cover crops, conservation crop rotation, conservation tillage (no-till/low till), mulching, composting, nutrient management, improved grazing and pasture, and land management in agricultural operations. Implementation of this project will enable more agricultural producers the opportunity to cooperatively use equipment, develop a network for information sharing, and implement climate smart practices on their farms, thereby increasing soil health without individually buying each of the equipment aides on their own.

CT RC&D is currently accepting additional applications from farms interested in participating in the equipment hubs by being an Equipment Hub User. Equipment Hub Hosts have been selected for each geographic area served by this project from the initial sign-up period. Farms in the geographic area can participate as Equipment Hub Users by scheduling equipment through an online calendar reservation system. Equipment Hub Hosts and Users are responsible for supplying trained staff to use each piece of equipment reserved for use on their farm. Farm Equipment Users are responsible for legally transporting the equipment to and from the Equipment Hub Host farm. All farms participating will be responsible for ensuring equipment is cleaned, maintained, and kept in good working order, and tracking hours of use on provided data collection sheets.

Farms will not receive any direct payments through participation in this Climate Smart Equipment Sharing Hub program. The benefit of this project is access to equipment for improving soil health on the farm. Each participating farm will be required to provide in-kind time to assist with monitoring the results of equipment used on their farm for the duration of the project.

Applicant Information

Farm Name

First Name / Last Name *(the legal owner of the farm company)*

Email

Phone

Address (*the physical location of the farm)*

Mailing Address (*if mailing address is different from above physical address, please include address in entirety here:*

Contact Name *(if different than owner)*

Contact Title and Affiliation (*if different than owner)*

Type of Farm Operation *(Ex: Greenhouse, Nursery, Livestock, Dairy, Beef, Field Crops, Other)*

Years in Operation

Are you a historically underserved producer? *(please select all that apply)*

- BIPOC producers
- Veteran
- New and beginning farmers (farming for 1-3 years)
- Anyone in a protected class
- Anyone who speaks English as a second language
- No, I do not identify as a historically underserved producer

Farm Certifications:

Total Farm Acres:

Acres in Production:

Acreage currently in no-till and/or cover crop:

Please describe your current soil health practices (check all that apply):

-No Till

-Low-Till

-Cover Cropping

-Crop Rotation

-Rotational Grazing

-Composting

-Other

Are you currently enrolled in any USDA NRCS EQIP programs?

Yes or No

If yes, please describe

Please describe your goals for adapting your current farming methods to a more climate smart approach:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please check off which CSAG Equipment Sharing Hub you would like to participate in: *please only select one*

VETERAN HUB

Mobile Unit

- 14' V Nose Enclosed Trailer for Mobile Unit
- BCS 853 Tractor
- Flail Mower attachment
- Compost/manure spreader attachment
- Chipper attachment
- Super Duty Brush Mower attachment

Compost Mobile Unit (Separate Application Required for use)

Post Hole Digger Auger

Post Pounder

Shaver Post Driver HD8 with base plate mount

Northeast CT Hub

2 Shank Subsoiler

20' Trailer for corn planter/roller crimper

No Till Seed Drill Great Plains

2 Row no-till corn planter with roller crimper

Kirkwood spreader 3 Ton KS65

CT River Valley Hub

Mobile Unit

- 14' V Nose Enclosed Trailer for Mobile Unit
- BCS 853 Tractor

Flail Mower attachment

Roller Crimper attachment

Drop Seeder attachment

Power Harrow attachment

Compost/Manure Spreader attachment

Esch No-Till Drill – 5605

Beavertail Trailer for Seed Drill transport

No-Till Transplanter – Model 1000

12' Trailer for Transplanter transport

I & J – 5’ Roller Crimper – 3-point hitch

12' Trailer for Roller crimper transport

NW CT Hub

Mobil Unit

14' V Nose Enclosed Trailer for Mobile Unit

BCS 853 Tractor

Compost/Manure Spreader attachment

Chipper/Shredder attachment

Drop Seeder attachment

Super Duty Brush Mower attachment

Hand tools

Zilli Hand-Held “Jab”-type Vegetable

20' Trailer for Seed Drill and Roller Crimper

Esch 5605 Seed Drill

6' Roller Crimper I&J 3-point hitch

Flail Mower Tractor Attachment for tractor

Jang Seeder

Bed Rake

Bed Rake accessory - row marker

Compost Tea Kit

(Mobile Unit- *is protected and lockable, towable by truck in an enclosed trailer. Providing access to a BCS tractor, and a variety of no-till/ or low-till/climate smart attachments, along with hand tools for ease of use to transport from farm to farm. Each Hub has a slightly different configuration of attachments)*

Equipment Hub User

Do you agree to utilize an online calendar reservation system to request/reserve equipment?

Do you acknowledge that you are responsible for legal transport of all equipment reserved from the Equipment Hub Host farm to your farm and back?

Do you agree to clean and return all equipment in the same working order as it was at the time of pick up?

Equipment Hub Users will be responsible for legal transport of all equipment reserved from the Equipment Hub Host farm to the Equipment Hub User's farm and back. All equipment must be cleaned and returned in the same working order as it was at the time of pick up.

An online calendar will be used by Equipment Hub Hosts and Equipment Hub Users within each Hub to reserve equipment pieces for specific dates.

Disclaimer and Signature

I agree, as part of my participation in the CT RC&D equipment sharing program, to have a pre- and post-equipment implementation soil testing conducted. Based on equipment type used I also agree to have biomass testing conducted. All soil testing fees will be covered by CT RC&D and may include staff from partnering organizations to conduct site visits to the farm for the purpose of sample collections.
Initial: _____

I understand that as part of my participation, I agree to track and monitor usage results during the project 2024-2027.
Initial: _____

I certify that my answers are true and complete within this application form to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that CT RC&D is receiving grant funds from the CT Department of Agriculture to provide access to climate smart equipment to eligible applicants on a rotating basis during the project period of 2024-2027.

Photos of my site will be taken and used within the final report and may be used for educational purposes during workshop presentations and/or for promotional purposes by CT RC&D. As a participant in this Equipment Sharing Hub, I also agree to allow CT RC&D and CT Department of Agriculture staff to conduct site visits during the project period to see the implementation of the equipment in use and results. This may also include being asked to host an educational workshop for the benefit of other Connecticut producers to see the equipment being used as a learning opportunity.

Name:

Affiliation:

Signature:

Date:

After applications are received, they will be reviewed and approved to participate in one of the CT RC&D's Climate Smart Equipment Hubs in the order in which they were received. At that time the farm will be expected to enter into a contract with CT RC&D for the remainder of the duration of the project and provide proof of insurance coverage as outlined in the contract. If you have any questions or need assistance with applying for this opportunity, please contact Sarah Layton at slayton@ctrcd.org or contact the CT RC&D office at 860-345-3977.