

YOUTH SUCCESS

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"It allowed me to expand outside of our family operation and establish my own business. A few years later it was a way for me to distinguish myself in college applications. Running a farm in Fairfield County is pretty unique in itself, but a 16 year old running their own swine operation is even more different and the USDA loan program made it possible," says Matilda.

"It has allowed me to run my own farm within our family farm. I'm very proud of the fact that I have happy customers that come back every Thanksgiving for their turkeys," says Margaret.



Matilda and Margaret Brady

Margaret is the youngest student member of the Connecticut Farm Bureau and hopes to be a part of the Trumbull High School's Agriscience & Biotechnology program in the fall. Matilda attended the same program at Trumbull High School and is now an Army Cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

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Youth Loans

**How Do You Grow Respect,
Responsibility, and
Resourcefulness?**

**The Farm Service Agency's
(FSA) Youth Loan Program
provides financial assistance
and business planning to
help youths get a start on
their futures, while ensuring
the future of family farms.**



Orion Newall-Vuillemot

FARM SERVICE AGENCY Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to youth in communities who want to start learning the business of agriculture.

The Youth Loan Program is designed to provide start-up funds to establish and operating income-producing projects of modest size in connection with participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar agriculturally focused organizations.

Each project is designed to be part of an organized and supervised work program. Youths plan and operate their projects with the help of an adult or project advisor. The project should provide the youth with practical business and educational experience and produce sufficient income to repay the loan.

Each year many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process.



The maximum loan limit is \$5,000.

Many youths add to their college funds from the proceeds of their youth projects.

Orion Newall-Vuillemot at one of his maple tree taps.



Matilda Brady, Youth Loan recipient with Bryan Hurlburt, CT State Executive Director.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A YOUTH LOAN?

To qualify for a loan, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident;
- Be at least 10 years old, but not yet 21

You should also be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project with guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

The project advisor recommends the project and the loan, and agrees to provide adequate adult supervision. These loans may be used to finance nearly any agriculturally based, income-producing project. Some common projects include:

- Starting a livestock operation with pigs for sale or chickens for egg sales.
- Growing fruits or vegetables for a farmstand
- Raising tilapia for school sales.
- Purchasing an evaporator to produce maple syrup.

YOUTH SUCCESS

The Future of Connecticut Agriculture

The future of Connecticut agriculture are our younger generation of farmers. Want to see the future of Connecticut Agriculture? Head to Easton and visit the Shaggy Coos Farm. The Brady girls, 18-year old Matilda and 14-year old Margaret, are a great place to start.

They each took out an FSA loan to start their own pig and turkey operation respectively.

At the age of 7, Matilda was first exposed to farming while at summer camp at Zenko's Family Farm. Having cared for horses, rabbits, pigs, and goats, she discovered her love for agriculture. Starting at the age of 4, Margaret enjoyed taking care of chickens and helping with the barn chores at Snow's Farm during their family visits.

The Youth Loan has helped both girls understand and learn the business side of farming. While they both assisted with the family farm, they got to understand, first hand, what was required to run a successful operation, including planning their finances and developing a marketing plan.

When asked how the Youth Loan has attributed to their own personal success, they responded:

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