



A section of the deer fence along the peach orchard.



Karen and Tom Scott, owners of Scott's Yankee Farmer.

AMA Program Helps Farm Implement Irrigation System – *Just in Time*



Installation of the irrigation mainline (irrigation water conveyance) in one of the cultivated vegetable fields.

Diversity is the name of the game at Scott's Yankee Farmer in East Lyme, Connecticut.

Owned and operated by Tom and Karen Scott, Scott's Yankee Farmer grows a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and berries, as well as annuals and cut flowers. The farm also has a corn maze and cider press (which is in operation during harvest in the fall). Produce is sold from a seasonal store at the farm.

With assistance from the AMA Program, the Scott's have converted 12 acres of vegetables one acre of berries, and two acres of orchard from "big guns" and overhead sprinklers to micro-irrigation. The conversion to drip has not only reduced the quantity of water used to irrigate the crops (especially important in a dry year such as this), it has saved the time previously spent moving pipes and irrigation equipment from field to field.

"This was the perfect season to realize the benefits of micro-

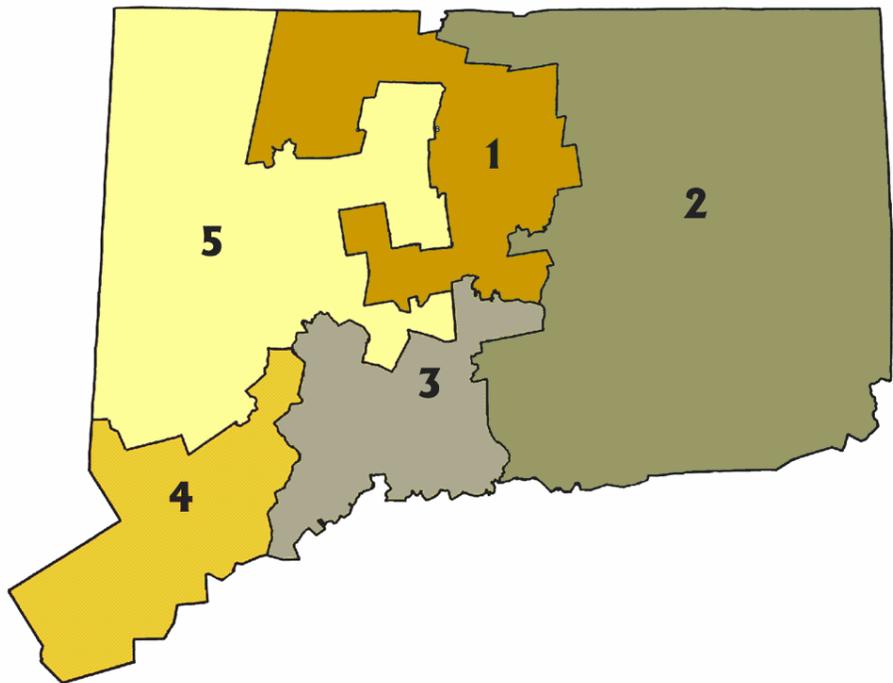
irrigation," remarked Karen Scott. "Because it was so dry, the system has probably paid for itself in this first season alone."

Another benefit of the system is the ability to fertilize crops through the drip system, putting the fertilizer right where it needs to be – saving both time and fertilizer costs.

The Scott's AMA contract also provided financial assistance for deer fencing (deer pressure has been an ongoing battle). Fencing can be expensive and this cost-share allowed Tom to finish the areas he had started on his own. "Good quality deer fencing is the only way to go," says Tom. "Deer pressure is so high around here; even with my crop damage deer permit I can't control them."

The Scott's will also be working on an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan with a consultant and the deer fencing will be an integral part, keeping one of the more destructive pests at bay.

Dollars and Contracts



Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2005		Cumulative Total (1997-2005)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$ 53,850.00	1	\$ 82,752.00	5
District 2	\$ 92,540.00	6	\$278,357.00	24
District 3	\$ 14,625.00	1	\$ 77,029.00	6
District 4	-	-	\$ 60,292.00	3
District 5	\$ 64,763.00	3	\$343,648.00	21
State Totals	\$225,778.00	11	\$842,077.00	59

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming. Additional information on AMA can be accessed online at www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama/ama.html.