



WATERBURY

MOUNTAINTOP MUSHROOMS LLC

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT

AGRICULTURE & DAIRY

\$84,999

SUCCESS STORIES



In Waterbury, Mountaintop Mushrooms LLC is providing yet another example of the innovative, urban farming that is helping to expand our notion of Connecticut agriculture. Set up in warehouse space, Mountaintop Mushrooms is growing a variety of exotic, wild mushrooms that are highly sought after by chefs throughout Connecticut and the region. In fact, the demand for their unique offerings has greatly outpaced their ability to produce them.

To address this, owner Gregg Wershoven applied for two Agricultural Viability Grants – a grant program funded through the Community Investment Act – to build his laboratory and incubation rooms, to purchase additional equipment for pasteurization, and to install additional lighting, heating and cooling systems. He was awarded \$49,999 in 2012 and \$35,000 in 2013 to help him expand his operation – and completed work from the first grant in the following year.

With this additional infrastructure, Mountaintop Mushrooms is aiming to increase production of their in-demand exotic and wild mushrooms to 250 pounds per week, up from around 70 pounds per week. The new facilities are also allowing the small-scale operation to work with different strains, to produce their own cultures and spawn, and to clone mushrooms – all of which company was unable to do prior to receiving the necessary funding for expansion of the operation.

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT

PA 05-228

PA 09 –3

WWW.COMMUNITYINVESTMENTACT.ORG

The 2005 Community Investment Act implements the goals of the State of Connecticut to protect and preserve the beauty and unique character of the state for future generations through a designated funding stream. Funds from the Community Investment Act are used to save farms, preserve historic places and open space, and create affordable housing.

The Community Investment Act has helped to sustain the character and strengthen the economy of nearly every town and city in Connecticut.