The Department of Agriculture (DoAg)’s Bureau of Aquaculture is currently testing a new smartphone app that could make Connecticut’s nearshore waters safer for boaters.

The app would allow people on the water to observe, record, and share current conditions with others in real time.

Development of the app is being funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in an effort to expand records in waters that are closer to shore than existing NOAA buoys.

While information the offshore buoys collect is helpful, it is not as useful to boaters who stay near shore because conditions can vary greatly from just offshore to mid-Long Island Sound.

The goal of the app is to enhance information available to nearshore boaters. The current information available for conditions of nearshore waters is not always necessarily complete or accurate for the area, since most buoys are several miles off shore.

The majority of recreational boating occurs in nearshore waters. Providing an app that will allow boaters to upload their own information about current conditions and check conditions before heading out will be a valuable tool for boaters.

The app was created by Creare LLC, an engineering research and development company out of Hanover, New Hampshire.

Using the app is very simple. There are two different modes of entering information: passive and manual.

When the user first gets on the boat, they make a manual observation of the conditions, such as temperature, wind speed and direction, water temperature, wave height, cloud type, cloud height, visibility, and precipitation.

The user can also take a picture of the current area, which will be geotagged with the location of the observation. A manual observation is also typically made at the end of the run.

During a passive observation, the user simply opens the app to the “Record” tab and presses start. The phone is then set down in a safe location on the boat and passively records observations such as wave height, wave period, speed, temperature, pressure, and acceleration.

Once all of the data are collected, they are mapped and users can go to the website to see their data on the map. Different parameters can be selected and viewed on the map. The current version of the app also has a news feed on the home page which shows information gathered by other users in the area.

Due to the nature of the work, DoAg boating staff are frequently out on the water and all DoAg boating activities are considered nearshore boating. This makes DoAg boating staff a good candidate for testing the app.

Currently, DoAg is the only party testing the app in the area, so all observations that come up in the news feed have been gathered by DoAg staff.

For more information about the app go to https://weathercitizen.org.
NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS
Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)
XTRA LARGE 1.48 - 1.69
LARGE 1.40 - 1.59
MEDIUM 0.90 - 1.06
SMALL 0.77 - 0.85

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS
Per doz. Grade A brown in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)
XTRA LARGE .69 - .85
LARGE .63 - .77
MEDIUM .48 - .61

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK
Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted
SLAUGHTER STEERS
PRIME 3-4 121.00 124.50
Choice 2-3 116.00 121.00
Select 2-3 111.00 117.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS
PRIME 3-4 116.00 120.00
Choice 2-3 113.00 117.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing
breakers 75-80% lean 54.00 58.00
boners 80-85% lean 53.00 57.50
lean 88-90% lean 44.00 50.00

CALVES - Graded bull
No 1 94-118 lbs 132.00 150.00
No 2 94-118 lbs 130.00 145.00

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3
80-90 lbs 202.00 245.00
110-130 lbs 187.00 210.00
130-150 lbs 175.00 200.00
150-192 lbs 170.00 192.00
Choice 1-2
40-50 lbs 190.00 240.00
60-70 lbs 180.00 200.00
70-80 lbs 175.00 220.00
80-90 lbs 167.00 210.00
Choice 2-3
90-100 lbs 165.00 195.00
110-130 lbs 150.00 180.00
130-150 lbs 150.00 172.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3
120-160 lbs 60.00 100.00
160-200 lbs 60.00 85.00
200-300 lbs 40.00 65.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1
40-60 lbs 170.00 205.00
60-80 lbs 195.00 235.00
80-100 lbs 210.00 240.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1
80-130 lbs 175.00 210.00
130-180 lbs 220.00 255.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1
100-150 lbs 225.00 275.00
150-250 lbs 270.00 355.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION
Per cwt.
SLAUGHTER HOGS
52-56 200-300 lbs 54.00 62.00
300-350 lbs 56.00 62.00
48-52 200-300 lbs 50.00 57.00
300-350 lbs 55.00 58.00
Sows, US 1-3
300-500 lbs 35.00 46.00
500-800 lbs 38.00 48.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT - April 15, 2019

DUCKS AT MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK
APPRECIATED
FAIR

MALFIA CALVES
100.00 122.50

BOBBY CALVES
170.00 192.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HAY REPORT
Price per ton, small squares. April 12, 2019

ALFALFA/GRASS
SUPREME 410.00 430.00
PREMIUM 340.00 370.00
FAIR 170.00 250.00
GRASS HAYS
PREMIUM 350.00 370.00
GOOD 265.00 330.00
FAIR 140.00 230.00
STRAW 320.00 350.00
SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper first discovered in southeastern Pennsylvania in late 2014. Established populations have since been found in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia.

Interceptions of dead individual insects have occurred in other northeastern states, including Connecticut.

This insect has the potential to spread long distances when egg masses are transported via shipping, travel, and other human activity.

Native to China, India, and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly attacks a wide range of host plants, including many agricultural crops. Grapes, apples, and hops are among those impacted, resulting in lower yields. Compromised plants may also be more susceptible to winter die-off.

Both nymphs and adults pierce the stems of host plants in order to feed on the plant’s sugars. Feeding results in the excretion of sticky honeydew, which encourages secondary fungal and bacterial growth.

The non-native tree-of-heaven, Ailanthus altissima, is its preferred host, and is associated with attracting egg-laying adults in the fall. Populations of adult spotted lanternflies congregating in large numbers on trees in the fall are also a nuisance to homeowners.

Anything directly below affected host trees can become coated in the honeydew produced by feeding insects. Honeydew may become slippery on surfaces such as stairs, decking, or sidewalks. Honeydew also supports the growth of black mold, which is unsightly and may trigger allergic reactions.

Egg-laying occurs in the fall, on host tree trunks or any other nearby vertical surfaces. Clusters of eggs overwinter within waxy, well-camouflaged egg masses, and hatch the following spring.

Nymphal development takes place through the spring and summer, with mature adults appearing in late summer to early fall. Immature nymphs are black with white spots and resemble large aphids. Older nymphs have red patches.

Adult spotted lanternflies are about one inch long, with two pairs of spotted wings. The underwings have very conspicuous bright red patches.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is currently conducting additional visual surveys for spotted lanternfly throughout the state this year.

Areas of interest include public areas with large stands of tree-of-heaven with ten or more mature stems, especially at sites along shipping lanes where spotted lanternfly egg masses may have been transported.

Locations fitting these criteria are most likely to harbor spotted lanternfly populations, and the public is urged to report any potential sightings of this invasive pest.

Please contact ReportSLF@ct.gov with detailed location information, including photographs of suspected spotted lanternfly. A fact sheet/submission form is available on the CAES website, portal.ct.gov/ceas.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

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WANTED

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NRCS CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Are you an agricultural producer wanting to continue to farm but use less resources and have less of an effect on the land? Why not consider applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)?

Through CSP, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps private landowners build their business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of their entire operation.

While applications for CSP are accepted year-round, to be considered for FY2019 funds they must be received by May 10. Through the program, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities such as cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rates, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

Some of these benefits of CSP include increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife population improvements, and better resilience to weather extremes.

Interested? Find out if you’re qualified for CSP by contacting your local USDA service center or visiting the Get Started portion of the NRCS website at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/home/?cid=stelprdb1252233.
LOOKING FOR A CT FARMERS’ MARKET?

If you’re a farmer in search of a Connecticut Farmers’ Market, please go to https://tinyurl.com/yykqq88. Tell us what Connecticut Grown farm products you grow and what market days you’re interested in and we’ll share that information with Connecticut farmers’ market managers. Please complete the online form by April 19, 2019.

CONNECTICUT GROWN PRICE CARDS

It’s that time of year—farmers’ markets and producers are gearing up for the season ahead and they need Connecticut Grown price cards.

To order go to www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com, call 860-713-2538, or email Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov.

Connecticut Grown price cards are available at no cost. There is also a limited supply of Connecticut Grown tents available for purchase through the website.

DOAG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS’ MARKET AT THE REGIONAL MARKET

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the Farmers’ Market at the Regional Market. The 2019 farmers’ market season runs from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Stall use agreements are available for periods of three months up to one year.

Applications and information can be found on DoAg’s website at https://tinyurl.com/https-ct-gov-doag. For more information or questions, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

CONNECTICUT COUNTIES DESIGNATED DISASTER AREAS

Three Connecticut counties have been designated as primary natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Producers in Fairfield, Litchfield and New London counties who suffered losses caused by excessive rainfall that occurred from Aug. 1, 2018, through Nov. 30, 2018, may be eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

This natural disaster area designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinancing of certain debts.

Producers in the contiguous Connecticut counties of Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, Tolland, and Windham are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is Nov. 20, 2019. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

FSA also has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster that do not require a disaster declaration.

Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at https://www.farmers.gov/recover.

Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: $3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact Crystal.Morris@ct.gov or call 860-713-2533.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.