Apples, chowder, eggs, ice cream, maple syrup, and potted plants are just a few of the items expected to be on display during Agriculture Day at the Capitol ("Ag Day") scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2019*, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

More than 45 organizations featuring farmers, agricultural non-profits, producer associations, cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities are anticipated to be on display throughout the Capitol in the Hall of Flags, North Lobby, and Rotunda. Each display will highlight their work within agriculture while conveying their individual stories of success and challenges.

Organized by the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Ag Day is a celebration of the diversity and success of agriculture in Connecticut. It also offers attendees an opportunity to schedule an appointment with their state representative to discuss the importance of agriculture and educate them on why their support is needed.

Dr. James LaMondia of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and member of CAIC says, “Many legislators do not have direct contact with farmers, agribusiness or the organizations that work with farmers and Ag Day is a great way to demonstrate the impacts that agriculture has on our communities and the Connecticut economy.”

CAIC collaborates with Connecticut’s FFA program to assist with the building of legislator bags while offering students the opportunity to learn first-hand how state government works. Students from Southington High School FFA Chapter also provide corsages for each legislator. Other highlights of the program include the opportunity to tour agricultural displays, sample Connecticut Grown products and the presentations of Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF), Century Farm, and Journalism awards.

Today’s farmer has become an active citizen, participating in everything from local and state government to civic groups and charitable organizations. The OYF award has been established to recognize outstanding achievements in agriculture as well as community involvement.

CAIC is pleased to announce that the 2019 Connecticut OYF award recipient will be Steve Munno, farm manager of Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, CT.

“Steve stood out as someone who not only worked on his own career as the first and to this point, only, manager of Massaro Community Farm, building the CSA program, he helped create a community of farmers to build support for each other and new first generation farmers in his leadership role with the New CT Farmer Alliance. His contributions to the community add to his success as a farmer and role model for other young farmers in Connecticut,” says LaMondia.

Steve is originally from Long Island and is a graduate of Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.

After graduation in 2001, Steve’s work in field science and wilderness skills education took him to California, where he lived for five years. During this time, Steve began to hone his skills in agriculture. Always a food lover and longtime supporter of local farms, Steve found his work in the wilderness continually pointed toward the importance of healthy food and its connection to healthy communities and healthy land.

Inspired to be more involved with food and farming, he volunteered with a local farmer for two years before enrolling in the UC Santa Cruz Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture.

Upon completion of this Apprenticeship, Steve stayed on for second year at UC Santa Cruz serving as a teacher...
**New England Shell Eggs**
Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

- **XTRA LARGE**: .88 1.04
- **LARGE**: .82 .96
- **MEDIUM**: .74 .87

**Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report**

**SLAUGHTER HOGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-110</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>265.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110-130</td>
<td>202.00</td>
<td>230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150-200</td>
<td>185.00</td>
<td>195.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SLAUGHTER HEIERS**

- Hi Choice/Prime 3-4: 124.00 124.50
- Choice 2-3: 121.00 123.50
- Select 2-3: 114.00 120.00

**SLAUGHTER HEIFERS**

- Hi Ch/Prime 3-4: 121.00 125.00
- Choice 2-3: 116.00 119.00

**SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing**

- Breakers 75-80% lean: 56.00 62.50
- Boners 80-85% lean: 54.00 60.50
- Lean 88-90% lean: 48.00 53.50

**CALVES - Graded bull**

- No 1 100-118 lbs: 127.00 130.00
- No 2 94 - 110 lbs: 132.00 155.00

**SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn Markets**

- Choice 2-3: 232.00 257.00
- Choice 1-2: 275.00 310.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

- Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grocer Prices

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - March 11, 2019

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

**DAIRY CATTLE**

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

**FRESH COWS**

- APPROVED: 700.00 1100.00
- MEDIUM: 500.00 750.00

**SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS):**

- APPROVED: 675.00 950.00

**SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):**

- SUPREME: 1050.00 1225.00
- APPROVED: 725.00 1025.00
- MEDIUM: 400.00 700.00

**BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):**

- SUPREME: 1075.00 1110.00
- APPROVED: 625.00 825.00

**OPEN HEIFERS:**

- 100-300 lbs: 160.00 250.00
- 300-600 lbs: APPROVED 250.00 325.00
- MEDIUM: 150.00 225.00
- 600-900 lbs: APPROVED 410.00 510.00
- 900-1200 lbs: APPROVED 535.00 600.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT**

Price per ton, small squares. March 8, 2019

**ALFALFA/GRASS**

- SUPREME: 450.00 505.00
- GOOD: 285.00 300.00
- FAIR: 160.00 205.00

**GRASS HAYS**

- PREMIUM: 340.00 390.00
- GOOD: 250.00 340.00
- FAIR: 230.00 260.00
- STRAW: 290.00 345.00
and assistant manager at a small market garden growing a
tremendous variety of vegetables, flowers, fruit and perennials.

He then returned to the east coast to work for The Food
Project in Lincoln, MA. Steve managed the greenhouse on this
30-acre farm and helped provide for a 400-member CSA, sup-
ply food to farm stands in Boston, donate produce to hunger
relief organizations, and offer educational opportunities to
youth and community organizations in the greater Boston area.

At the end of 2009, Steve came to Massaro Farm to revive
the land and bring the fields at Massaro Farm back into production.

Steve will represent Connecticut at the National Outstanding
Young Farmer (NOYF) Awards Congress being held in
Westbrook, CT, February 6-9, 2020.

Since 2012, four Connecticut OYF nominees have gone on to
be NOYF Semi-Finalists. Past NOYF winners from Connecticut
include Joe Geremia in 2011 and Joe DeFrancesco in 2016.

The Century Farm Award is given to a farm that has been
in family operation for more than 100 years, and has outstand-
ning potential to be a successful business for another 100 years.
The recipient is selected annually by the CAIC.

The 2018 winner was Zentek Farm of Cheshire, CT. They
were presented with the plaque at Plant Science Day in August
2018 and will be recognized at Ag Day this year.

Zentek Farms can be traced back to 1914 when Pawel and
Aniela Zentek, Polish immigrants, put down their roots in
Cheshire, CT. They purchased property on Higgins Road to
establish a dairy farm and soon began a family that resulted in
ten children. Eventually, Pawel and Aniela decided to shift from
dairy to agricultural farming.

As Pawel and Aniela’s children grew into adulthood and got
married, most of them explored different avenues to make a
living. Two of their children, Joseph and Stanley, remained
bachelors and resided on the farm to continue in the business.

Paul Walter Zentek, named after his grandfather Pawel,
began helping his uncles, Joe and Stanley, on the farm. Paul's
interest in farming continued to expand as he grew older.

He worked side by side with his uncles and incorporated
many new ideas. He continued to farm the land with vegeta-
bles, however he also saw the benefits of raising bedding
plants and Easter bulbs.

Over the years, greenhouses were constructed on the
farm. Presently, the greenhouses cover five acres of farmland.
Although raising bedding plants has been a primary focus, Paul
continues to farm fifty acres of vegetables each year.

In 1987, an eight-by-ten square foot vegetable stand was
built. In 2004, a larger vegetable and flower stand was built to
accommodate their growing business. The Zentek Farms stand
is best known for its sweet corn.

Today, Paul works the farm with his sons, Benjamin and
Joseph, and his brother, Michael. Paul and Donna Zentek hope
that the fourth-generation will continue in the footsteps of their
great-grandparents, Pawel and Aniela.

Century Farm nominations for 2019 are due by June 1,
2019. For more information about nominating a farm for the
Century Farm Award and a complete listing of award recipients
visit http://ctaginfocouncil.org.

The purpose of the Agricultural Journalism program is to rec-
ognize outstanding coverage of Connecticut agriculture by
the news media. Nominations may be made by anyone in Connecticut
with an interest in agriculture, including the entrants themselves.

If you’ve never attended Ag Day before, plan on it this
year. You won’t be disappointed. For more information, please
visit www.ctaginfocouncil.org.

*In case of inclement weather, a snow date of March 21 has been scheduled.
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://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/regional_market/2018/Farmers_Market_Application_2019.pdf. For more information or questions, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

EXHIBIT AT THE 2019 BIG E

The Connecticut Building at the Big E offers a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture. The 2019 Big E is scheduled to run from September 13–29, 2019. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service. Applications are available at www.ctgrown.gov and are due by Friday, March 29, 2019.

Please call 860-713-2538 or email Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov to receive the application or more participation information.

GROWING NON-TRADITIONAL CROPS IN CONNECTICUT

The Agriculture Commissions of Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon, Mansfield, and Tolland will host a Growing Non-Traditional Crops Workshop Thursday, March 28, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Lyman Memorial High School Auditorium, 917 Exter Road, Lebanon, CT.

The workshop will focus on growing non-traditional crops, such as cultivated and wild fungi, hemp, and grain products.

Speakers will include Ken Metz owner of Chatfield Hollow Farm, Jeff Wentzel founder of Connecticut Hemp Industry Association, Dylan Williams, director of farming operations for US HempCare, and Lou Lipton of Pleasant View Farms.

The event is free and Refreshments will be provided by the Economic Development Commission of the town of Lebanon.

A regional agriculture commission update will be held before the workshop at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 860-345-3977 or email amanda@ctfarmergy.org.

POLLINATOR HABITAT CONFERENCE

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will hold a pollinator habitat conference on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 (snow date March 14, 2019) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT. The focus will be the diversity of pollinator habitats in New England, the diversity of bees living in those habitats, and the range of resources, including nectar, pollen, and nesting resources needed by the bees.

The cost is $30 if registered in advance ($40 at the door) and includes lunch and snacks. For more information go to www.ct.gov/caes/pollinators.