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Connecticut’s Green Industry is Growing
Accounts for 51% of Total Agricultural Production

Last month members of the green industry, comprised of wholesale and retail nursery, greenhouse, turfgrass and sod producers; landscape architecture, design, construction, and maintenance firms; and distributors of lawn and garden products at wholesale and retail, gathered in the Legislative Office Building to announce the findings of the report by UConn’s College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy, Economic Impacts of the Connecticut Green Industry in 2017.

The major findings were impressive – from contributing $4.7 billion to the state’s economy, a 27% increase since 2012, to nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod production accounting for 51% of all agricultural production (measured by gross sales) in Connecticut. However, it was noted that because business activities are so diverse and widespread, the industry is often underestimated in the public eye as a driver of the economy.
The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA) requested and funded the study, which also reports the green industry supports 43,000 jobs in the state. CNLA President, Dustyn Nelson said, “The Green Industry Economic Impact Study is important on many fronts. It shows that our industry is growing and has great opportunities for younger generations to make a career. Legislators need to know the impact our industry has as they are creating legislation.”

**Coronavirus Guidance**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has received inquiries from producers regarding protocols related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. As of today, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Connecticut. However, as this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation we urge you to take necessary precautions and follow guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) have compiled helpful information on how to keep homes and workplaces safe from illness. This guidance and updated information on the state’s response to coronavirus can be found by visiting ct.gov/coronavirus.

As additional guidance is released we will share that information with the industry.

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**Connecticut Food & Beverage Business Growth Summit**

Please join the Connecticut District Expo Council, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Connecticut Small Business Development Center for the inaugural Connecticut Food & Beverage Business Growth Summit. This summit will provide an opportunity for food and beverage businesses to learn...
The event will be held Tuesday, April 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Eversource Energy, 107 Selden St., Berlin, CT. Registration is $35 per person and includes lunch. For additional information on this event including agenda, registration, and speakers visit: http://www.ctexporters.com/connecticut-food-beverage-business-growth-summit/

**UConn Extension Hosting 4-H Goat Day**

UConn 4-H Goat Day is on Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena on the UConn-Storrs campus. This event is designed for youth ages 7-18, parents, leaders and adult goat enthusiasts from around New England.

UConn 4-H Goat Day features various workshops held throughout the day such as Dairy Goat Showmanship, Goat Knowledge and Crafts, Hoof Trimming and Milking. The workshops will be covering topics such as goat evaluation, management, health, nutrition, and goat products. Participants will gain knowledge about goats whether you are looking to purchase one or expand your farm. This is the perfect opportunity for 4-H members who have goat projects to learn more about goat care and management, while also learning about skills they can use during their future shows. Presenters include veterinarians, American Dairy Goat Association judges, goat owners and industry professionals.

Registration is due March 11th and can be found at 4-H.uconn.edu. This event is sponsored by the UConn 4-H program.

**FSMA Produce Safety Rule/Produce Safety Alliance Approved Grower Training Courses**

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. A training session is scheduled for March 18 and 19 (snow date: March 20) at Hartford County Extension Center, Exchange Building, Suite 262, Building 4, 270 Farmington Ave, Farmington, CT. Registration deadline is Friday, March 6. Space is limited to 30 participants. View flyer here or Register online here $50 registration fee. Contact: Indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu with any questions.

**Enroll Soon in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs**

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers to enroll now in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. March 15, 2020 is the enrollment deadline for the 2019 crop year. ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American
The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our program fact sheet or our 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet. Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at fsa.usda.gov/arc/plc. To enroll, contact your FSA county office for an appointment.

**Productive Conversations: Dairy Training Workshop**

Do you think we can do a better job explaining why we do what we do as dairy farmers? Are you hesitant to engage in conversations with the average consumer? Misinformation abounds, but it's up to us in the agricultural community to set the record straight.

Join us at the upcoming "Productive Conversations" training workshop on Thursday, March 26 at the Tolland County Agricultural Center to learn how to lead positive conversations about the tough issues surrounding our industry, with a specific focus on water quality and the environment.

The workshop will train you to get your point across in all types of settings including in person, in a town hall setting, online or when speaking to a reporter. Lunch will be included. RSVP through the Facebook event or by emailing your name, farm name, and number attending to Annalise Kieley at AKieley@newenglanddairy.com

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**Seeking Industry Input**

for Connecticut Grown Marketing Campaign

**We want to hear from you.**

Take our Connecticut Grown Producer Survey

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**Ag Market Pricing**

- **Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT**
- **Northeast Regional Eggs**
- **New England Shell Eggs**
- **Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary**
- **New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA**
- **New Holland, PA Hay Report**
- **Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston**
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

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal’s Power Fence 860-491-2290

4-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

5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039

7-R. Black angus heifers, 23 months old. 3 available. Each to calf in or around May. Asking $1,400 each. Call 860-212-5463

12-R. Unrooted succulents $0.55 each, unrooted variegated ivy $0.75 per 18 inch piece, 11 inch hanging basket pot with hanger $0.75 each, slim jim flats $0.55 each, 14 inch plastic clay wall planter $3 each, 12 inch plastic clay oval $2 each. Call Bill 203-430-8229

14-R. Honeybees: 5-frame NUCS, DEEPS only available first week of May. Jones' Apiaries LLC 860-677-9391

15-R. Need Honey Bee Pollination? Call Heritage Apiaries, Canton, CT. 860-805-7191


Wanted
9-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

Job Opportunities
Forge City Works Farmers Market Master; Part-Time Mid-April - End of October
The Market Master manages the weekly farmers market on Broad Street at
Hollow neighborhood which brings local and healthy produce to community residents and creates a meeting space for the community and the surrounding workers from the State Capitol, insurance companies, and offices.

Job Duties: Attract, retain and manage an excellent and diverse mix of local vendors; Expand the customer base of the market using various PR strategies and creative, low-cost marketing; Oversee market site and market day activities, including local food events, cooking demonstrations, special events and market stage entertainment; Recruit, train, coordinate and acknowledge market employees and volunteers; Create and maintain effective administrative systems; Ensure sound financial management and sustainability of the market; Develop and maintain market policies and procedures; Maintain website / database; Measure success of market and communicate it to both our internal and external community

Email cover letter and resume to: Cary Wheaton, cary@forgecityworks.org.

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

**Upcoming Events**

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**Ag Day at the Capitol**

March 18, 2020
10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Hartford, CT

Recognizing the 2020 CT Outstanding Young Farmer, 2019 Century Farm and Ag Journalism winners while showcasing the diversity of agriculture in Connecticut.

www.ctaginfocouncil.org
**Workman’s Compensation**

Managing Risk: Employee Insurance and Liability

**Fleet Safety**

**SEMINAR SERIES**

Employees training and understanding how to properly insures your farm employees are critical components to farm profitability and risk management.

These five topics will be covered by one of the leading experts in farm risk management and occupational safety and health.

Presented by:

Matthew Lohing, CFPA,ARM,AINS,OPCU
Risk Management Services
Occupational Safety & Health National

Nancy Barrett, UConn Extension Educator, will discuss using Crop Insurance to Manage Farm Risk and a Risk Management Program Update.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from Limekiln Country, and is a cooperative effort of Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, UConn Extension, and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Please note this is an all-inclusive educational opportunity available to everyone and is program nonprofit.

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**COMPOST CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 23, 2020 | 8:30AM - 5PM**

Hosted by Central Connecticut State University

This informative day will feature keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, networking, exhibits, and a Q&A. This critical event will provide information and resources for farmers and municipalities to expand their leaf and mulch composting operations to include food scraps. Focus of workshops will include the benefits to soil health, conservation, food waste management, and climate adaptation. Compost manufacturing and utilization are vital to producing healthy soils, clean air and water, and a sustainable society.

Visit ctdga.org for more information.

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