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Congratulations to Brittani Burke, a 2020 graduate of Suffield Regional Agriscience, who was recently named Eastern States Exposition FFA Regional Star Farmer. She demonstrated knowledge of her diversified livestock production project where she manages, breeds, raises and markets her beef cattle, swine and sheep to solidify the win.

CLICK HERE FOR COVID-19 TESTING RESOURCES FOR YOUR FARM AND EMPLOYEES
The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces that the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), for participants of Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and seniors over the age of 60 who meet income eligibility guidelines, has been extended until November 23, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, participants have an additional three weeks to redeem their checks at participating farmers’ markets and farm stands.

“The Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program provides those who are nutritionally at-risk critical access to fresh Connecticut Grown fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and honey,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “This program is vital to supplementing the diets of these individuals and families while expanding access to Connecticut farm products.”

While the growing season is winding down, farmers’ markets throughout the state are extending their season to serve their communities and accommodate the extension of the 2020 FMNP program. To find an authorized farmers’ market or farm stand near you, please visit www.ctgrown.gov/farmersmarkets. The list of farmers’ markets is updated frequently to reflect current market locations and operating hours.

More than 230,000 checks valued at three dollars each have been distributed this year to eligible WIC participants, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who live in congregate housing where nutrition services are provided.
Redemption of FMNP checks in 2020 has been significantly lower than in previous years, and it is DoAg's hope that this program extension will encourage continued use of the checks and benefit both FMNP participants and Connecticut farmers. Participating farmers have also been granted an extension to deposit the checks through December 15, 2020.

FMNP has been in effect in Connecticut since the 1980s, when Connecticut was chosen as one of 10 states to pilot the program. Congress subsequently instated the program nationally in 1992, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), which works to end hunger and obesity. The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is a federal/state partnership and administered by Connecticut Department of Agriculture. For more information regarding the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, please contact Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or Haley Rowland at Haley.Rowland@ct.gov.

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION FOR HONEY AND MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS

Public Act 19-18 transferred the regulation of honey and maple syrup from the Department of Consumer Protection to the Department of Agriculture. The public act did not provide for the registration of honey and maple syrup producers, nor did it provide for labeling or sanitary standards for honey and maple syrup producers. The Department of Agriculture has received numerous inquiries related to registration, because honey and maple syrup producers may want to register their operations for market access purposes. To facilitate market access, the department is accepting voluntary registrations at this time. Please go to our eLicense system to register.

If you have any questions regarding registration with DoAg please contact: ag.licensing@ct.gov or 860-713-2512.

If you have any questions regarding regulatory requirements for honey or maple syrup, please contact: agr.commodities@ct.gov or 860-713-2513.
COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES
Connecticut Grown Farm Map: online, interactive listing of open farm stands, farm stores and farmers' markets to access Connecticut Grown produce, dairy, meat, shellfish, greenhouse and nursery stock.

COVID-19 PRODUCER RESOURCES
Find the latest guidance on best practices, resources and updates related to COVID-19 visit: https://portal.ct.gov/doag-covid

List your farm, farmers' market or farm stand on CTGrownMap.com by clicking here.

ALERT: Rollback to Phase 2.1 effective November 6, 2020
Find all updated guidance documents here.

Equine Guidance
Equine Competition Guidance
Farmers' Markets
Farm Stores/Stands and CSAs
Food Safety
Pick-Your-Own/Cut-Your-Own

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS
Farm-To-Table Restaurants in Mystic, 10/27, Travel and Leisure
Checking in with Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, 10/27, The Packer
Connecticut's Hemp Program Gearing Up for Success, 10/28, Lancaster Farming
Hard Ciders & Apple Beverages Having a Revival, 10/30, Lancaster Farming
Interview with Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt of the CT Department of Agriculture, 11/3, The River 105.9
Sustainable Food Success Stories From Connecticut, 11/3, AgWeb
9 spots for craft beer or wine north to south along Route 2 in CT, 11/3, CT Post

CT GROWN OPINION SURVEY
Please watch your mailbox (or spam filters) — heading your way is a survey from the respected, Connecticut-based team of Great Blue Research. We have partnered with these 40-year experts to survey many audiences — including you: those closest to our mission
Hello! You are receiving this survey from GreatBlue Research. We are conducting an opinion survey on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Please be assured that your responses will remain confidential and be treated in accordance with data protection laws. All analyses will be conducted anonymously on an aggregated level. Please click the link below to begin. Your results are greatly appreciated!

We have heard from a few producers that Great Blue was not a recognized name/brand and we are making some adjustments in the survey push to ensure that the more-familiar Department of Agriculture is not just in the subject line, but if possible, the sender as well.

In the interim, please support us by looking for the first round of survey information and sharing your voice. Together, we are making decisions that will impact generations of Connecticut producers and the greater our clarity... the greater our success. Thank you!

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**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER HOSTS REGIONAL WEBINARS**

SBDC has partnered with Chambers of Commerce and several municipalities from throughout the state to offer 7 no-cost informative webinars on the PPP Loan Forgiveness Application, and provide a brief overview of the State’s new CT CARES Small Business Grant Program being released by the CT DECD the week of November 9.

Join them to get your questions answered on the PPP Loan Forgiveness Applications and please share with businesses who could benefit from this in-depth review.

Upcoming Webinars:
Tuesday, November 10 @ 11:00 AM Hartford Region [Register Here]
Thursday, November 12 @ 11:00 AM Central Connecticut [Register Here]

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**HARVEST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW WILL BE VIRTUAL IN 2021**

We’ll miss seeing you in person, but are excited to bring you the 2021 Harvest New England Conference with our new on-line format happening February 24-25, 2021. This unique marketing conference sponsored by your New England State Departments of Agriculture is for New England farmers interested in learning new marketing ideas or fine-tuning strategies for business success. Attended by hundreds of farmers from across the region, this will be the eighth biennial conference.
Look for more details, including keynote speakers and complete agenda, toward the end of November at www.harvestnewengland.org.

WORKING LANDS ALLIANCE RELEASES UPDATED EDUCATIONAL GUIDES

Working Lands Alliance – a project of American Farmland Trust – is excited to announce the release of two newly revised educational guides: Planning for Agriculture and Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland that have served as go-to resources for landowners, land trusts, municipalities, policymakers, and nonprofit organizations interested and invested in creating prosperous agricultural environments for farmers and farm businesses in the State. The updated versions of the guides were paid for by the CT Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act.

The 2020 revisions to the Planning for Agriculture guide include emerging agricultural trends and ways that town governments can plan and provide a supportive community atmosphere where agriculture can thrive.

The 2020 revisions to the Conservation Options guide include information about farmland protection, open space protection, updated information on federal and state farmland protection programs and answers questions many landowners have about protecting their land with an agricultural conservation easement.

“Connecticut may be small in size, but our agriculture industry is vast — so influential, in fact, that it contributes an impressive $5.2 billion to the state’s economy each year. These guides provide the framework to ensure these great farm businesses remain viable for future generations and create opportunities for new and beginning farmers to operate and grow,” said Connecticut’s Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt.

To read the release in full and for information on obtaining hard copies of these guides, click here.

APPLY FOR 2021 CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS

Are you an agricultural producer wanting to conserve water or address water, air, or animal waste issues? Are you looking to reduce erosion; improve wildlife habitat; or maybe obtain a seasonal high tunnel? Maybe you just plain want to improve conservation on your farming operation. Sound like you? Then why not find out if you’re eligible for financial assistance through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for those engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production – including organics. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. It also provides payments for implementing practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long-term production and sustainability.
The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers to implement seasonal high tunnels, and to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control. Each eligible conservation practice has a Practice Payment Rate which is a fixed amount based on regional costs of a typical installation of that practice.

Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, to be eligible for current year funding you must ensure your application is submitted to your local NRCS office by November 20, 2020. Not sure how to begin? Visit the Getting Started section of our website, then establish records and fill out eligibility forms. NRCS staff will need to complete an assessment of resource conditions and practice feasibility prior to making a determination of program eligibility.

**ONLINE COURSE: PREVENTIVE CONTROLS FOR HUMAN FOOD PART 2**
The URI Food Safety Education Program is offering the Preventive Controls for Human Food Part 2 course this November 18-19, 2020. The deadline to register is Wednesday, November 11.

This Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) Blended Training course was developed to provide an alternative for individuals to complete the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food course. The Blended course consists of 2 parts. Part 1 is online and Part 2 is instructor-led (virtually). Both parts must be completed in order to obtain the certificate.

The online portion of the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food blended course is a prerequisite for enrollment into Part 2, the Instructor-Led of the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food. The online portion is completed through IFPTI's Learning Management system and emphasizes key-point concepts from the participant manual. The online portion covers all of the information presented in the first two days of the traditional three-day FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food. Registration for Part I of this 2-part course is $198 and the link for course registration is as follows: https://lms.ifpti.org/#/online-courses/8fa8a76a-5a55-44b6-9cec-60d4f4aa784b

For more information about this FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food blended course, click here.

**VIRTUAL MEAT AND POULTRY HACCP CERTIFICATION COURSE**
**Tuesday, December 8, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**
**Wednesday, December 9, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**
**Thursday, December 10, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

This virtual, three-day International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP course will be on a zoom platform and will provide participants with the information they need to prepare a HACCP food safety program and also plan for a plant under USDA/FSIS Grant of Inspection. This course meets requirements for training of personnel responsible for HACCP plan development and implementation, including plan validation and verification.
Course registration fee (includes all course materials): $425. You must pre-register. Space is limited. Registration materials must be received by November 23. For more information and a tentative agenda, please visit UConn - Food Safety - HACCP. To register, go to http://cahnrcconference.uconn.edu/ and click on "Register for an event".

STATE ANNOUNCES $50 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Governor Ned Lamont has announced that he is creating the Connecticut CARES Small Business Grant Program to assist small businesses and nonprofits that have been impacted by the economic downturn caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The program will provide businesses and nonprofits in Connecticut that have fewer than twenty employees or a 2019 payroll of less than $1.5 million with a one-time grant of $5,000.

To fund the program, the governor is committing $50 million from the state’s Coronavirus Relief Fund, which utilizes federal CARES Act funding. The program will be administered by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). The grants can be used for payroll, rent, utilities, inventory, purchase of machinery or equipment, or costs associated with compliance of the ongoing Reopen Connecticut Business Sector Rules.

The governor is directing DECD to commit half of the funds to small businesses and nonprofits that are located in towns and cities designated as distressed municipalities.

DECD estimates it will begin accepting online applications the week of November 9, and all of the funds are anticipated to be disbursed by December 30. Information on eligibility requirements, upcoming webinars, and other aspects of the program will be published on the state’s business portal at business.ct.gov.

FARM CREDIT EAST'S GENERATIONNEXT WEBINAR SERIES

A successful manager is required to master many aspects of the farm business. To help the next generation develop the necessary business and financial skills, Farm Credit East is hosting GenerationNext seminars virtually this winter, and currently seeks interested young leaders to attend. There will be eight, 90-minute sessions held online once per week starting December 2, covering a range of farm business management topics.

GenerationNext is optimal for those producers who will be the next generation operators of a farm business or for entrepreneurs starting their own business. The 90-minute web sessions will cover a range of topics, including leadership and management, human resource development, financial management, production economics, marketing, risk management, and farm transfer and estate planning.
Whether just entering into a management role or an experienced manager, participants will gain valuable insights from Farm Credit East farm business consultants and from their GenerationNext colleagues. For more information and to sign up, visit FarmCreditEast.com/GenerationNext. It is not necessary to have an existing relationship with Farm Credit East to attend. Contact your local Farm Credit East office, or call 800-562-2235 for more information or to sign up.

**U.S. Drought Monitor**

**Connecticut**

**November 3, 2020**

(Released Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Color</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D0 Abnormally dry</td>
<td>Light Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1 Moderate Drought</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2 Severe Drought</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3 Extreme Drought</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D4 Exceptional Drought</td>
<td>Maroon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Drought Monitor focuses on trend, local conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu.

**Author:**

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

**DROUGHT DISASTER RELIEF**

All eight counties in Connecticut are eligible for federal assistance per the drought declaration issued by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. For information on the drought and drought relief assistance for producers, please visit the [Drought Disaster Relief page.](#)
Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices last provided on November 6, 2020

Northeast Regional Eggs

New England Shell Eggs

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

New Holland, PA Hay Report

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - 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.

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

24-R. Seven foot International 3-point hitch cultivator. $300. 860-779-2107.

28-R. Christmas Greens, wreaths, and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fund raisers and honoring fallen veterans. 203-457-1344


Wanted

22-R. Orchard worker/manager needed. Experience worker preferred with equipment and orchard or farm experience. the right person could have a long-term opportunity. Please call 203-213-8833.

Interested in Advertising? Click here for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020
9:30 AM
Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Connecticut

A comprehensive look at opportunities for urban agriculture in Connecticut. Presentations will be given by local farmers and experts on how to start and grow an urban agriculture business. Sessions include:

- Opening Remarks
- Urban Agriculture in Connecticut
- Understanding the Business of Agriculture
- Scott Spencer, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Development
- Susan Spencer, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Development
- Market Opportunities
- Developing a Business Plan
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Food Safety
- Parking
- Soil
- Water
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Development
- Industrial Hemp Program
- Soil Health
- Water Quality
- Climate
- Energy
- Food Security
- Economic Development
- Community Engagement

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WEBINAR SERIES

LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19
BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

MARKETING INNOVATIONS
WHEN COMMUNITIES SAT AT HOME
October 19 | 1 PM EST

FORMAL AND INFORMAL
COORDINATIVE DEVELOPMENT
TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS
February 16 | 1 PM EST

RETAINING & ENGAGING
NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS;
TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES
November 18 | 1 PM EST

ONLINE PLATFORMS:
PROFIT AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
March 15 | 1 PM EST

EMERGENCY FOOD,
CRISIS, AND THE LOCAL
FOOD SYSTEM
December 16 | 1 PM EST

INTEGRATING NATIONAL
CONSUMER SURVEY
RESULTS INTO FUTURE
PLANNING
April 13 | 1 PM EST

INNOVATIONS IN STATE
POLICIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL
AND REGIONAL FOOD SECTORS
January 28 | 1 PM EST

NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT
THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM
IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY
CONSUMED BEHAVIORS
May 17 | 1 PM EST

https://ctقودlocalfoodeconomics.com/

Culture and Resilience of Farmers in Your Community

What Health and Other Professionals Need to Know to Support
the Farming Population

A 3-part Webinar Series
October 12, 20 & 26

The Delaware and Maryland东部海岸农业供应链企业和农业企业深受新冠和传统的影响。他们也面临着保持健康和福祉所需的策略和解决方案。如果他们失败，就会对健康和农业专业人士产生影响，而农业专业人士必须依赖于健康和农业专业人士之间的合作来应对这些影响。

This three-part webinar series is designed to support farmers and families thrive in the area - from farm families to urban consumers and the larger community. The series will help you understand what you’ve learned, how to use the information you’ve learned, and how to support the farming population.

Each webinar will be presented by:

https://www.coopext.org/culture_and_resilience_of_farmers_in_your_community

Presenters:

• Alexander G. Chae, Ph.D., UMD, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Mental and Behavioral Health
• Susan Neaves, Ph.D., University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, School of Rural Studies – Delaware County
• Linda Hoyer, M.S., 4-H, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Extension Educator
• Lauren Westrate, M.S., University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Research Educator

Sponsors:

• University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
• University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
• Delaware and Maryland’s Farm Stress Task Forces

Funding Provided By:

• University of Delaware Sea Grant – Sustainable Coastal Communities

This project is funded in part by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension to provide current information about agriculture and food systems in a fun and engaging format. To request a free copy of a program, please contact us at service@cooperativeextension.org or call 1-800-849-0021.

If you have special needs that cannot be accommodated, please contact us at service@cooperativeextension.org or call 1-800-849-0021.

FOLLOW on FACEBOOK
JOIN on PINTEREST
VISIT our WEBSITE

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