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CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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**STAY HOME
IF YOU CAN**



**WEAR
YOUR MASK**



**WASH
YOUR HANDS**



**KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE**

COVID Alert CT is Connecticut's Exposure Notification Application available for iPhone and Android. The app will become more effective if more people enable it on their phone. That's why we're counting on everyone to share this app with their friends, family, customers, and others. Find more information about the app at ct.gov/covidalertct.

**CLICK HERE FOR COVID-19 TESTING RESOURCES FOR YOUR
FARM AND EMPLOYEES**



Support Local Farmers

Buy Connecticut Grown this Holiday Season

The holiday season is upon us and Governor Ned Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt would like to recognize the importance of our farm families to the state's food system and economy. Connecticut's farmers and agricultural businesses offer consumers an option for safe, socially distanced shopping while providing a diverse array of food, fiber, flowers, and shellfish.

"Connecticut farmers are an essential segment of our state's economy and have been tremendous partners throughout the COVID pandemic," said Governor Ned Lamont. "Beyond the food that we will gather around this Thanksgiving, Connecticut farmers have stepped up to provide families in need with affordable and nutritious food options. That is why, when preparing for this year's Thanksgiving dinner, consider using Connecticut Grown products—from delicious turkey to incredible desserts and other beverages. Be sure to celebrate the holidays safely and choose Connecticut Grown."

Gatherings around the Thanksgiving table may be smaller this year, however, you can still enjoy the bounty of the harvest season by purchasing Connecticut Grown products. Farms are offering online ordering, curbside pickup and delivery in some cases to ensure you can dress your table in a healthy, safe way.

“Our farm families are a key component of our state’s food infrastructure. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, so many of our farms have stepped up to meet the needs of our communities by donating pantry staples like eggs and milk. This holiday season, let’s give thanks to all our countless farm families by shopping local. From our farm wineries to our craft breweries, to our dairy and turkey farms, there are so many great ways to support Connecticut’s diverse agricultural system. Be sure to incorporate food or flowers from your favorite farmer into your holiday meal or centerpiece,” said Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz.

Turkey is the centerpiece of most Thanksgiving meals, but you can also find potatoes, carrots, winter squashes, onions, green beans, and even cranberries, locally for all your sides. Dairy products, including butter, milk and cheese are available at local creameries and grocery stores to create those delicious dishes. If you are looking for a new twist on the traditional stuffing, take a visit to the shoreline to pick up oysters for an oyster stuffing.

“Farmers are the backbone of our nation and this year has shown how critical our local food supply is,” said Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We are fortunate to have a diverse array of agriculture in Connecticut creating a bountiful harvest and these small businesses have pivoted to ensure we have food on our tables during these challenging times.”

This traditional meal isn’t complete without a locally made pie. Polls show that Americans prefer pumpkin pie. However, the abundance of orchards in the northeast makes apple pie an iconic choice for many families. Round out your celebration by responsibly enjoying adult beverages available from Connecticut’s farm wineries, breweries, and distilleries.

You can find all of these products and more, by visiting CTGrownMap.com to locate a farm stand or farm store. Holiday farmers’ markets are also underway starting this weekend and can be found [here](#).

Once you have enjoyed your feast, a trip to a Connecticut farm to find the perfect Christmas tree is an ideal outdoor activity. Many tree farms will open this weekend to bring holiday cheer to homes throughout the state. Finish your decorating with wreaths, garlands and poinsettias. Find a tree farm near you at www.ctchristmastrees.org.

From all of us at the State of Connecticut, we wish you a healthy, safe holiday and extend our gratitude and appreciation to all of our farm families.

CT FarmLink Features:



Gunther Farm: 68 Hyde Ave., Vernon, CT
13 acres available | Seeking beginning farmer

CT FARMLINK FEATURED PROPERTY: GUNTHER FARM

The Tolland Agricultural Center is seeking a beginning farmer (USDA definition of less than 10 years) with experience and a strong business plan to lease 13 acres of farmland in Vernon. The Gunther Farm was purchased in 2016 by the Connecticut Farmland Trust with assistance from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. It was then transferred to the Tolland Agricultural Center.

The farm is currently in conventional hay production, but its well-drained Agawam fine sandy loam and moderately well drained Sudbury soils and gentle slopes make it suitable for a wide variety of crops. The location has easy access to markets with road frontage and close proximity to an I-84 intersection.

A late 1800's/early 1900's 1,539 sq. ft. farmhouse is available for farmer housing under separate lease. The property has water, electric, and several outbuildings. There is room available for the development of high tunnels and a greenhouse.

The farm offers a unique, but not required, opportunity for partnership with the adjacent Tolland Country Agricultural Center and UConn Extension Center for research, education, and the development of additional farm infrastructure. The farm is protected with a farm friendly conservation easement. A perimeter trail system along the property and field edges provide limited access to the public. For more information about this opportunity, please click [here](#).

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will be featuring a CT FarmLink listing on a monthly basis to help connect farmland owners and farmland seekers. Click [here](#) for details on the program or additional listings.

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

[The Future of Connecticut Farming](#), 11/16, The Connecticut Examiner

[Turkey Talk: Demand for Big Birds Potentially Decreasing During Pandemic Thanksgiving](#), 11/17, NBC CT

[We're Open: Maple Row Farm](#), 11/17, News 12 CT

[Connecticut's regional market changes hands, gets some updates](#), 11/17, The Packer

[Jones Family Farms in Shelton excited for harvest season despite drought and pandemic](#), 11/18, WTNH News 8

[Get to know the food artisans behind 9 of CT's finest small-batch operations](#), 11/19, Connecticut Magazine

[Guide: Christmas Tree Farms in Connecticut](#), 11/19, News 12 CT

Looking to save jobs? CT DOL Shared Work Program offers a solution. The Shared Work program is an **economic relief program** available to Connecticut employers who are experiencing business downturns. It is a great alternative to laying off employees. For more information, please visit us at SharedWorkCt.com and chat with our Virtual Assistant, Sherry.



DECEMBER 1 & 3, 2020 - 6-8:00 PM
Connecticut Hemp Webinar
FOR GROWERS AND PROCESSORS



CONNECTICUT HEMP WEBINAR

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) has scheduled two webinars to explain the update to the CT Hemp Law and the new Hemp Producer Application. USDA Farm Service Agency (USDA) will explain requirements for creating a farm record and registering hemp lots. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will describe the results of their 2020 research, and DoAg will summarize the results of the 2020 growing season. At the end of the presentations, DoAg, CAES, and USDA will have time to answer questions.

Webinars will be offered on December 1, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and December 3, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Both webinars will cover the same information, and one will be recorded for future viewings.

For information on how to access these webinars, click [here](#) and scroll to the second and third pages.



WEBINAR: DAIRY MARKETS - THE 2020 IMPACT/BRACING FOR 2021
Tuesday December 1, Noon-1:15PM EST

2020 saw dramatic price swings in dairy markets due to COVID-19's global impact on foodservice markets. What have we learned from this? What will 2021 bring? While the precise answers are still unknown, we are sure to see volatility. Are you sure you're ready? Please Join Crop Growers, LLP, Farm Credit East, and Yankee Farm Credit for a timely discussion led by Dr. Marin Bozic of the University of Minnesota along with Farm Credit East business consultant Gregg McConnell.

The event will cover:

2020 Impact, Rebuilding in 2021 – Dr. Bozic will explore the post-election market impact, the year ahead and decision support tools to assist dairy producers through it all.

2021 Volatility – are you sure you're ready? Business Consultant Gregg McConnell will share insights as you prepare for the new year.

Ask the Experts – Live discussion taking questions from webinar participants.

To Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8512205028053898765>

**SURVEY: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CONNECTICUT
VEGETABLE PRODUCERS**

Zachary Duda, Alyson Schneider, and Jonathan Russo are conducting a study at the University of Connecticut on changes brought on by this pandemic and

how they influenced the decisions vegetable producers have made in Connecticut.

They want to analyze the adaptability of producers in Connecticut and ultimately produce a research paper formed on the results of this survey. The survey itself asks no personal information, and is 100% voluntary. The questions seek to understand the marketing strategies of vegetable producers and how COVID-19 impacted them. Your consent is noted when you fill out and submit the survey, however, more information about your rights as a participant can be found at the top of the form.

The survey can be found here; [The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Connecticut Vegetable Farm Market Systems](#) and all results will be submitted when you click the submit button at the end. The deadline to fill out the survey is November 30, 2020. More information about the study as a whole can be found here: [Participant Information Sheet](#).

SARE PROGRAM SEEKING INDIVIDUALS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The [Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\)](#) program is seeking individuals to serve on its Administrative Council (AC). The 20-member governance committee sets program policies for Northeast SARE, participates in the grant review process and makes final award decisions for all grant programs. In 2020, it approved \$6.2 million to fund 108 grant projects across the Northeast, including 22 grants awarded directly to farmers to conduct research on their farms. Council members include farmers, agency personnel, Extension and nonprofit staff, researchers, industry representatives and others from across the Northeast.

Currently, Northeast SARE is seeking to fill three open seats representing:

1. agricultural lending and farm financial management;
2. non-profit organizations engaged in environmental work; and
3. for-profit agricultural businesses/industry.

Interested individuals should submit (preferably as one PDF file) a letter describing their interest in serving on the Council, a resume and a short description of the business or organization where they work. Please send this information to Northeast SARE director Dr. Vern Grubinger at vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu by December 4, 2020. Email with questions or go to www.northeastsare.org/NortheastSAREAC to learn more about the Council.

CROP GROWERS TO HOST WEBINAR ON DAIRY MARKETS: 2020 AND BEYOND

COVID-19's global impact on foodservice markets has caused dramatic price swings in dairy markets. To help producers prepare for the year ahead, Crop Growers LLP, Farm Credit East, Yankee Farm Credit, and AgChoice Farm Credit are hosting two webinars to analyze 2020's impact on dairy markets, look at current and future dairy markets, and discuss risk management strategies.

Dairy producers of all sizes as well as the service providers who support them are invited to join Farm Credit East and Yankee Farm Credit on Tuesday, December 1, at 12 noon EST, or join AgChoice Farm Credit on Thursday, December 3, at 12 noon EST. Both webinars will cover similar information and are free to attend. Visit CropGrowers.com to learn more and register.

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: AgLicensing@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.

VIRTUAL MEAT AND POULTRY HACCP CERTIFICATION COURSE

Attend a virtual, three-day International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP course. It 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 activities.

Dates are as follows:

Tuesday, December 8, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

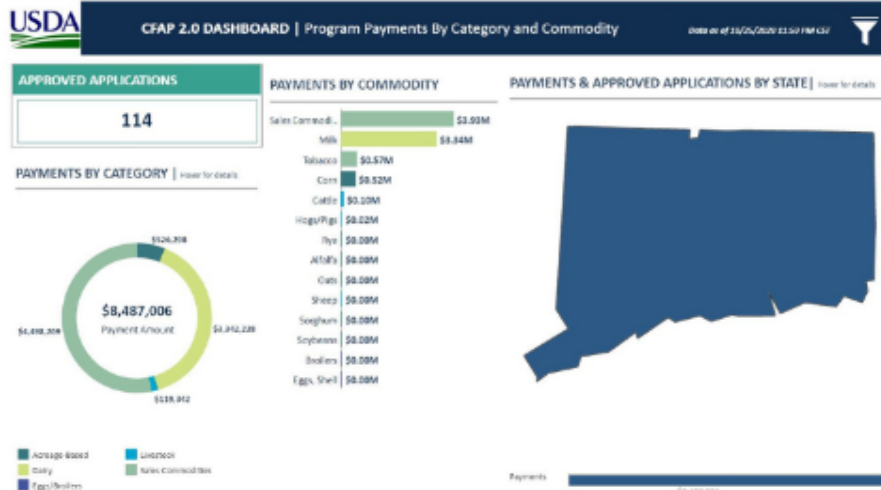
Course registration fee (includes all course materials): \$425. You must pre-register. Space is limited. Registration materials must be received by November 23. For more information and a tentative agenda, please visit [UConn - Food Safety - HACCP](#). To register, go to <http://cahnrconference.uconn.edu/> and click on "Register for an event".

SPECIALTY CROPS - AQUACULTURE - WOOL
DAIRY - LIVESTOCK - FLORICULTURE & NURSERY
BROILERS & EGGS - TOBACCO

CFAP 2: ENROLL TODAY

Deadline: December 11, 2020

Contact your local Farm Service Agency office to apply.



Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on November 11, 2020

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)

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

32-R. Modine Power-Vented propane heater, 240K BTU. Greenhouse/high tunnel heater. Brand new, still in box. \$1,600 Call 860-576-2277.

33-R. Loyal compact manure spreader, ground driven, not PTO. 28 cu ft capacity. Excellent condition. Used couple of times. \$1,200. Call 860-576-2277.

34-R. Salad Ace by Delfield commercial lettuce spinner/dryer. Used couple of times. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 860-576-2277.

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

(click the image to be redirected to the event website)

New England Winter Fruit Meetings



14 Free Webinars for New England Fruit Growers!

In an effort to provide fruit growers the same high quality educational opportunities we have in the past, and because we are unable to hold back to back meetings due to COVID-19, the Connecticut Extension throughout the New England region joined forces in a collaborative effort to develop a winter series of free webinars aimed at improving the commercial fruit growers. Registration is required for each webinar and positive identification credits will be available. The 12/11 meeting starts at 6 pm, but the remainder of the series will begin at noon and typically end at 1:30 pm.

Partners



The 14 webinars focus on topics that are critical to the success of the fruit growing industry. Topics include: Fruit Production, Fruit Marketing, Fruit Processing, Fruit Storage, Fruit Quality, Fruit Safety, Fruit Health, Fruit Nutrition, Fruit Economics, Fruit Policy, Fruit Research, Fruit Education, Fruit Extension, Fruit Outreach, Fruit Communication, Fruit Collaboration, Fruit Partnership, Fruit Cooperation, Fruit Coordination, Fruit Consensus, Fruit Consensus, Fruit Consensus, Fruit Consensus.

Webinar Schedule

- December 11 - Managing State Fruit Extension Systems
Presented by: Paul Fries, PhD
- January 22 - Fruit Production and Marketing on Farm and Other Venues, CA
Presented by: John L. Kunkel, PhD
Dorothy Denton, MS
- January 28 - Training and Marketing Strategies for Small and Medium Scale Fruit Producers
Presented by: Susan, MS
- January 29 - Strawberry Two-Stage Production
Presented by: Susan, MS
- February 2, 3 & 6 - Cornell Winter Tree Fruit Meeting
Presented by: Susan, MS
- February 6 - Cover Crops in 2021: When to Plant?
- February 16 - Innovative Fruit Production
Presented by: Susan, MS
- March 3 - Managing a Transition: Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Fruit Industry
Presented by: Susan, MS
- March 10 - Research Updates in Early Season Fruit Production
Presented by: Susan, MS
- March 17 - Managing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Fruit Industry
Presented by: Susan, MS
- March 22 - Tree Fruit Production and Marketing Strategies for Small and Medium Scale Fruit Producers
Presented by: Susan, MS
- March 30 - Research for Extension and Marketing Applications (RFA) 2021 Project Progress Report
Presented by: Susan, MS

Learn More & Register:

<https://www.ct.gov/extension/programs/new-england-winter-fruit-meetings>

WEBINAR SERIES

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

MARKETING INNOVATIONS WHEN COMMUNITIES EAT AT HOME

October 19 | 1 PM EST

FORMAL AND INFORMAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

February 15 | 1 PM EST

RETAINING & ENGAGING NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS: TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

November 18th | 1 PM EST

ONLINE PLATFORMS: PIVOTS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

March 15 | 1 PM EST

EMERGENCY FOOD, CHARITY, AND THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

December 21 | 1 PM EST

INTEGRATING NATIONAL CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS INTO FUTURE PLANNING

April 19 | 1 PM EST

INNOVATIONS IN STATE POLICIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SECTORS

January 25 | 1 PM EST

NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM IN TIMES OF UNCERTAIN CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

May 17 | 1 PM EST

<https://fscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>



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VISIT our WEBSITE

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