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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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Celebrate National Farmers' Market Week, August 2-8

Farmers' markets are essential businesses fueling our rural economies. Support Connecticut's local food heroes while accessing a diverse, abundant and healthy food supply in a safe environment. Find a farmers' market near you [here](#).

ct.gov/coronavirus

KNOWING IS BETTER

COVID-19 Farmworker Testing

TOGETHER WE TEST

ct.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 Testing for Agricultural Workers

On Tuesday, July 21, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture offered agricultural producers and industry stakeholders an informational session on COVID-19 testing in high risk populations, including migrant farm laborers.

The program featured a presentation by Michelle Gilman, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the State of Connecticut, and both federally qualified health care centers (FQHC) and UCONN Health. The webinar attracted producers from various sectors including tobacco, fruits, and vegetables, eliciting productive dialogue during the question and answer session.

Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt stated, "Connecticut has been diligent in pushing for additional COVID-19 testing leading to some of the lowest rates of infection in the country. On-farm testing is critically important for the health and safety of our agricultural community and to continue efforts in reducing the spread of this disease."

For those unable to attend the meeting, the agency has prepared a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) sheet and compiled additional resources, all of which can be found here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers



This year, more than ever, CT restaurants and farmers need your support.

2020 CT FARM-TO-CHEF WEEK

Save the date for Connecticut's state-wide Farm-to-Chef Week scheduled for August 16-22, 2020. Open to all restaurants and food service businesses in the state, it invites participants to create a special Farm-to-Chef menu showcasing Connecticut Grown ingredients and beverages.

Visit www.CTFarmToChef.com for more information on the virtual kick-off event happening Sunday, August 16, 2020. Additional news and updates can be found on the Facebook page [CTFarmtoChef](https://www.facebook.com/CTFarmtoChef).

To register, or become a sponsor of the event, visit <https://bit.ly/2UAMmak>. For additional details, contact Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-

Farm-to-Chef Program, which connects farmers and producers of Connecticut Grown products with chefs and other culinary professionals.

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](#).

COVID-19 Farmers' Market Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Pick-Your-Own Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Farm Store & Store Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events available [here](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

New Britain Farmers Market Truck Vandalized, Burglarized, NBC CT, 7/24

Fresh Please app brings farmers and shoppers together, Hartford Courant, 7/27

Celebration of life planned for 4th generation farmer, Norwich Bulletin, 7/29

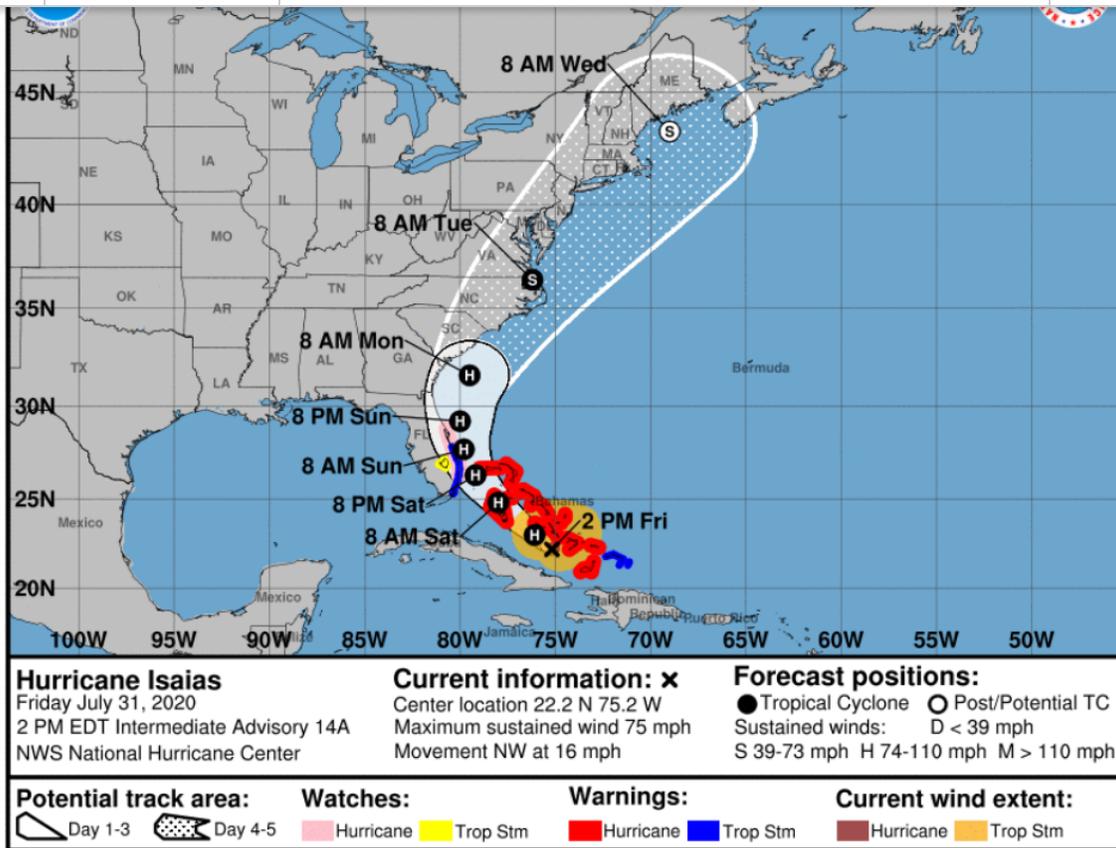
Connecticut farmers get much-needed support during pandemic, The Produce News, 7/30

Dry, Hot Weather Impacting Local Crops, NBC CT, 7/30

CT LIVE!: Taylor Brooke Winery, NBC CT, 7/31

Mystic Oysters - Mollusk Masters of Connecticut Part 1, InkCT.com, July 2020

The Richness of Connecticut's Farms & Vineyards, InkCT.com, July 2020



DISASTER PLANNING FOR PET & LIVESTOCK OWNERS

As hurricane season gets underway, pet and livestock owners are urged to review their disaster plans and prepare accordingly. The American Veterinary Medical Association has provided the following resources:

- [Disaster Planning for Pet Owners](#)
- [Disaster Planning for Large Animals & Livestock Owners](#)

REPORT RECEIPT OF ANY UNSOLICITED PACKAGES OF SEEDS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) were notified that Connecticut residents received unsolicited packages containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are unknown at this time and may be invasive plant species. The packages were sent by mail and may have Chinese writing on them. Unsolicited packages of seeds have been received by residents in every state throughout the country over the past week.

“Planting seeds of unknown origin has the potential to introduce invasive diseases, pests or bacteria, posing a threat to our food supply,” says Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We are committed to working with state and federal partners to safeguard agriculture through the regulation of seed importation.”

Please do not plant these seeds. Anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds from China should immediately contact their state plant regulatory officials, Dr. Kirby Stafford at 203-974-8485 (Kirby.Stafford@ct.gov) or Dr. Victoria Smith at 203-

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

At this time, they don't have any evidence indicating this is something other than a "brushing scam" where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales. USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents and determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment.

USDA is committed to preventing the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protecting U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds. Visit the [APHIS' website](#) to learn more about USDA's efforts to stop agricultural smuggling and promote trade compliance.

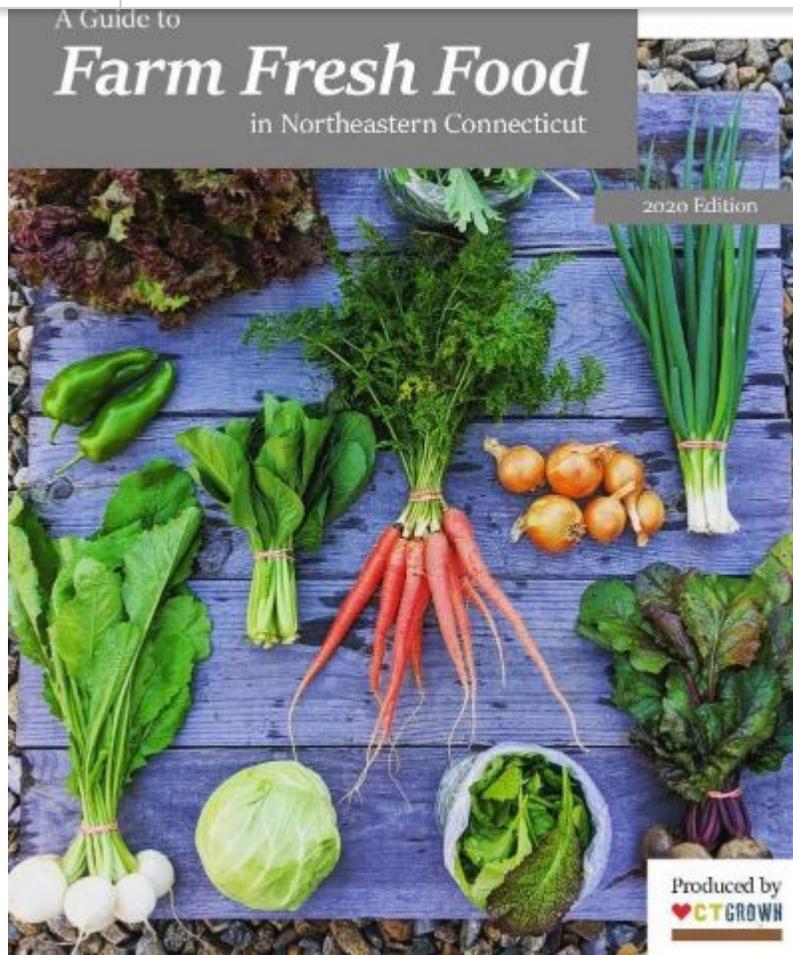
ORDER YOUR CT GROWN PRICE CARDS



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture offers price cards to producers as available resources allow. Cards for Connecticut Grown products are full color, 5.5" x 7", with space to fill in the name and town of the farm that grew/produced the item offered, and available at no cost to producers. Each pad contains 50 double-sided sheets.

To order, please

visit www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com.



EXTENSION TEAM AIMS TO INCREASE FARM SALES IN NORTHEAST CT

Connecticut's Northeast is well known for its rural character. A part of [The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor](#), these towns feature picturesque landscapes marked by their agricultural roots. While these scenic farmlands are historical, they also continue to be active, growing and selling a variety of products. However, too often local consumers pass right by the region's many farms and farmers' markets without stopping to enjoy the fresh products these agricultural treasures offer.

Extension Educator Jiff Martin received \$500,000 in funding from the USDA to deliver community presentations, organize outreach activities, conduct market research and launch new marketing tools and trainings to improve consumer awareness and increase product sales across twenty-three towns in Windham and Tolland Counties.

The three-year project in Northeastern Connecticut targets over ninety food producers. The project aims to raise direct sales from farmers to consumers by 15 percent and grow the customer base by 20 percent, substantially increasing the consumption of locally grown food. Based on research conducted by a professional marketing firm earlier this year, the project seeks to leverage values that residents in the region share, such as community, relationships, freshness, and flavor.

The UConn Extension team is working with numerous collaborators, including

Farmer Advisory Committee.

WARM WEATHER PET SAFETY

Just like cold weather, warm weather poses risks to pets. The American Veterinary Medical Association offers these 20 tips to keep you pet safe and cool: <https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/warm-weather-pet-safety>.

PLANT SCIENCE DAY 2020 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

The 110th annual Plant Science Day open house event hosted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) will be a virtual event this August. “Given the current concerns during the global pandemic and the fact that this event draws nearly 1,000 visitors each year to our Lockwood Farm, we felt there was simply no way to safely hold an on-site live event,” notes Dr. Jason C. White, CAES Director. The CAES Plant Science Day has a long history and was last canceled during WWII, when a significant portion of the staff were on active duty. With this history in mind and by utilizing various available technologies, CAES has decided to host the first ever virtual Plant Science Day on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. The virtual event will be held via Microsoft TEAMS LIVE event and other platforms and will feature updates on the Station’s research advances in agriculture, food safety, the environment, forestry, and public health. The event is free and open to the public. Some parts of the day will be pre-recorded; others will be live streamed. Interactive Question and Answer services will also be available. Check out our Plant Science Day 2020 page for all of the current information and links <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Plant-Science-Day/2020/VIRTUAL-Plant-Science-Day-2020-Wednesday-August-5th>.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

[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

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.

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



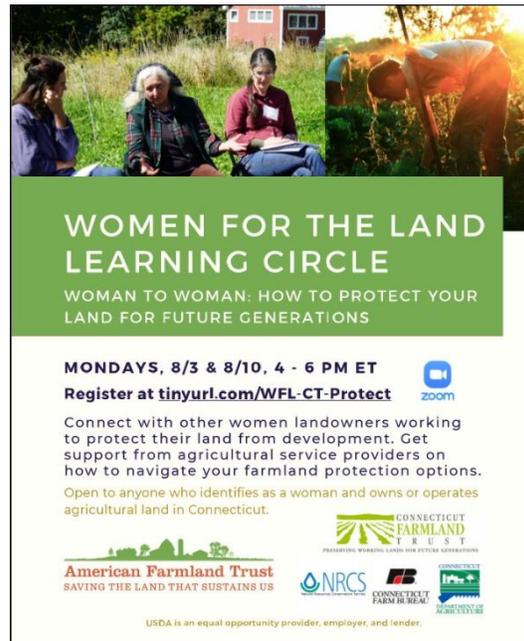
CONNECTICUT COMPOST WEBINAR SERIES

- August 26 | 4-6p**
Different Scales of Composting: From Municipalities to Farms
- September 9 | 4-6p**
Municipal Composting: Case Studies & Updates
- September 23 | 4-6p**
Advanced Composting: Building Quality with Recipes, Testing, Nutrient Management, & Environmental Planning
- October 7 | 4-6p**
Composting, Feedstocks, Equipment, Siting, Infrastructure, & Management
- October 28 | 4-6p**
Farm Composting: Case Studies & Updates

Register Online:
<https://bit.ly/compost-webinar>

Generous Sponsors: Sustainable CT, Farm Credit Northeast Ag Enhancement, Recycle CT, UConn Master Composter Program, American Farmland Trust, CT Recyclers Coalition, Fresh & Wholesome Composting, Council on Soil and Water Conservation, and CCAAP.

Partnering Partners: CT NIFA, CT RCAD, CT DEEP, KCSO, USDA NRCS, UConn Master Composter Program, CT DDCG, American Farmland Trust, CT River COG, NW Conservation District, Center for Ecotechnology, and Composting Association of VT



WOMEN FOR THE LAND LEARNING CIRCLE

WOMAN TO WOMAN: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

MONDAYS, 8/3 & 8/10, 4 - 6 PM ET

Register at tinyurl.com/WFL-CT-Protect

Connect with other women landowners working to protect their land from development. Get support from agricultural service providers on how to navigate your farmland protection options. Open to anyone who identifies as a woman and owns or operates agricultural land in Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST
PRESERVING WORKING LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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