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2020 CT Outstanding Young Farmer, Jimmy Bloom
The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council selected Jimmy Bloom of Copps Island Oysters by Norm Bloom & Son, LLC as the 2020 recipient. He will represent the state at the 2021 National Outstanding Young Farmer Congress.

Farmers' Markets Recognized as Essential &
Today, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt marked National Farmers’ Market Week by visiting the Farmers’ Market at Broad Street in Hartford, one of the more than 105 farmers’ markets in Connecticut. National Farmers’ Market Week concludes on Aug. 8. A list of every farmers’ market throughout the state can be found by visiting www.CTGrown.gov/farmersmarkets.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers’ markets in Connecticut were declared essential in order to provide communities a dependable source of food. At the same time, market masters implemented innovative strategies to meet public health protocols to provide a safe shopping environment while connecting residents to delicious and nutritious local food.

“Connecticut’s farmers’ markets are the heart of our communities. Not only do our farmers’ markets provide a dependable food source to all families, but they also ensure our most vulnerable populations have access to healthy, nutritious food by accepting SNAP benefits at some of the locations. During National Farmers’ Market Week, we encourage all Connecticut residents to support their local farmers’ market and enjoy Connecticut grown products,” said Lt. Governor Bysiewicz.

Nearly 50 percent of Connecticut’s municipalities host a farmers’ market offering increased accessibility. In addition, 25 farmers’ markets are authorized to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, many of which offer doubling programs that allow recipients to purchase more fresh, local produce to keep their families healthy.

In Hartford, the Farmers’ Market at Broad Street is the largest market in the city. During the month of August, the Farmers’ Market at Broad Street will be tripling SNAP/EBT benefits increasing the buying power for EBT users to fill their kitchen with local, fresh food. Approximately 40 percent of Hartford residents receive SNAP benefits.

“Farmers’ markets are crucial to increasing access to fresh, healthy food in our communities that need it now more than ever,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “They also provide a direct connection between consumers and our farm families who produce the food they eat helping to strengthen the relationship between urban, suburban, and rural communities. Please take the time to visit your local farmers’ market in the coming days. Not only are you supporting a small business, you are leaving with some of the freshest produce in the state.”

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture also administers the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), which assists seniors over the age of 60 and women, infants, and children who meet certain eligibility guidelines with assistance to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and honey.

One key component of the program is to work with local partners to provide nutrition education. This encourages recipients to improve and expand their diets, as well as educate them on how to select, store and prepare fresh fruits and vegetables. Find recipe and storage ideas on the GrowCTAg Pinterest page.
ATTENTION PRODUCERS/FARMERS
If you experienced crop loss and/or structural damage during Tropical Storm Isaias, please let us know. We are compiling information to gain a greater understanding of the impacts in order to trigger a USDA disaster declaration. Contact AGR.COVID19@ct.gov.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

110th Plant Science Day

Wednesday, August 5th, 2020

The 110th annual Plant Science Day open house event hosted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) was held on Wed., August 5. For the first time ever, it was held as a virtual event and featured updates on the Station’s research advances in agriculture, food safety, the environment, forestry, and public health. The full event, including presentations, demonstrations, plot tours and more, can be viewed online here.

2020 Century Farm of the Year: Fish & Kent Farm, Suffield, CT

The site has been in agricultural use for 150 years and in the same family for more than a century. Andrew J. Fish, great-grandfather of the current owner, was in the Connecticut 12th Volunteers in the Civil War and purchased the farm in 1900.

Over the years the farmland and buildings has been utilized for tobacco, draft and riding horses, pigs, goats, strawberries and vegetables, and dairy. Currently, there are 8 acres of hay, hens, honey bees, and a small orchard, and 20 acres are rented to a local dairy farm for corn. A forest management plan was just completed for the approximately 45 acres of woodland, and trees will be harvested when lumber prices increase. Watch the award presentation video here.
Jimmy Bloom, along with his father at Copps Island Oysters, farm approximately 14,000 acres along the Connecticut coast from Greenwich to Stonington. Jimmy is part of a third generation oyster farming operation that has a dedicated focus not just on harvesting but also on continually regenerating beds in a sustainable fashion. Jimmy's love of shellfish farming began at the age of two, when he would accompany his father on the deck of his oyster boat. That began a life-long love of oyster farming that continues to this day. Jimmy has also served on the Board of the Fairfield County Farm Bureau and the Connecticut Aquaculture Advisory Council. This award recognizes Jimmy’s commitment to agriculture in Connecticut, both in the present and the future.

Watch the award presentation video here.

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 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
Dan Haar: The unpredictable COVID-19 economy takes root, CT Insider, 8/1
Photos: Socially distanced Westport Farmers Market draws hundreds, CT Post, 8/3
Tornado touches down in Sharon, Lakeville, National Weather Service confirms, CT Post, 8/3
'Not your father's agricultural school': UConn working to develop chicken free of antibiotics, CT Post, 8/3
Unlike many others, this CT brewery makes its beer almost exclusively from local ingredients, CT Insider, 8/5
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.

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 860-519-6083.

This promotion is an initiative of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s Farm-to-Chef Program, which connects farmers and producers of Connecticut Grown products with chefs and other culinary professionals.
CFAP

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. More than 40 commodities are covered.

Details: www.farmers.gov/cfap

Deadline: August 28, 2020

FARMUP PROGRAM

The CT RC&D is seeking information for their FarmUp Program this year, which is aimed at providing a diverse level of backend support for new (and now Veteran) farmers in Connecticut. They are looking to obtain, or generate a list of existing Beginning Farmers and Veteran Farmers across the state. If you or your organization have a list with this information, please reach out to CTRCDCoordinator@CTRCD.org.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT

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
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<tr>
<td>1-R. Blumenthal &amp; Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONWIDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep</td>
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<td>breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance</td>
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<td>needs. 800-554-8049 or <a href="http://www.bludon.com">www.bludon.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal</td>
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<td>&amp; Donahue 800-554-8049 or <a href="http://www.bludon.com">www.bludon.com</a></td>
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<td>3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens,</td>
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<td>&amp; beehives. Sonpal’s Power Fence 860-491-2290.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for</td>
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<td>information at 860-408-9039.</td>
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<td>24-R. Seven foot International 3-point hitch cultivator. $300. 860-779-2107.</td>
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<td>22-R. Orchard worker/manager needed. Experience worker preferred with</td>
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<td>equipment and orchard or farm experience. the right person could have a</td>
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<td>long-term opportunity. Please call 203-213-8833.</td>
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<td>HELP WANTED: USDA Farm Service Agency is looking for loss adjuster</td>
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<td>contractors to work in CT. Knowledge of field and specialty crops</td>
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<td>preferred, but will train individuals with ag experience. For more info,</td>
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<td>click here or email <a href="mailto:clark.chapin@usda.gov">clark.chapin@usda.gov</a>. Application deadline is August</td>
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