Plan Ahead for the Holidays

COVID-19 Resources

CT Grown Price Cards

Connecticut Grown Map

Honey & Maple Syrup Regulations

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Now In Season: Peaches
Set aside time to pick-your-own or visit a farm stand or farmers' market to buy pre-picked Connecticut Grown peaches. Find recipe ideas here.

Planning Ahead for the Holidays
While most people are thinking of what to cook on the grill during the summer, it’s never too early to start planning for the holidays. If you haven’t given it thought yet, now is the time to connect with your local meat producer to ensure you don’t miss out on your favorite cuts.

“From Connecticut Grown turkey and pork to lamb and beef, we offer a diverse array of meat production in the state,” says Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “The COVID-19 disruptions in the supply chain with closure of processing facilities out west have shown how critical it is that we support our local meat producers. Placing your order now for the holidays is a great way to do that.”

Thanksgiving may be four months away, but Katie Hermonot of Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm in Sterling says they are always taking orders for turkeys. “Customers can call now to reserve their Thanksgiving turkey,” she says. Unlike some meat producers, Ekonk Hill typically processes their birds on-site the week leading up to the holiday for fresh birds.

Hermonot acknowledges the ability to be flexible due to the COVID-19 pandemic is important and they are ready to adjust as needed to continue serving customers this holiday season. The farm also raises beef, pork, lamb, and chicken, some of which is processed at a local USDA inspected facility allow them to sell it at retail by the cut.

At Sepe Farm in Sandy Hook, they raise Connecticut Grown lamb. Owner Pete Sepe says that processing is the biggest challenge right now. “As we move through the summer and into the cooler months, we are working to build our inventory,” he says. “The sooner we know about special orders the better. We can take orders now for Thanksgiving – that would be awesome.”

Sepe reminds consumers that in addition to the traditional loin roasts and leg of lamb, there are many other cuts including ground lamb and racks, as well as chops and stew meat that offer variety and high-quality taste.

Now is also a good time to think about stocking your freezer for the winter by investing in a bulk purchase of a quarter, half, or whole animal. Jonathan Eddy at New Boston Beef, LLC in Thompson, raises grass-fed beef which is showcased on the holiday table in the form of prime rib roast on Christmas Eve. This specialty cut is limited in supply, but he says, “We have appointments available this fall for purchases by the hanging weight.”

A bonus of going this route is that customers can determine exactly how their order is cut and packaged. Right down to thickness of steaks and how much is turned into ground beef – perfect for chili on cold winter nights.

To place your holiday meat order from a local producer, visit...
COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

2021 AFB AG INNOVATION CHALLENGE
Farm Bureau will award $145,000 in startup funds to ten businesses. This national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies addressing challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau and the Farm Credit Rural Investment and Innovation Workgroup will select ten startup businesses. The application deadline is midnight Eastern Daylight Time on July 31, 2020. Details here.

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.

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
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.

Has your agribusiness or farm adopted new ways of doing business to continue serving Connecticut residents through COVID-19? We want to highlight those who have modified their operations to protect their workforce and consumers, give back to their community, and continue pushing forward in a COVID-19 world.

Send photos/stories to rebecca.eddy@ct.gov. We look forward to sharing your story.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS
The Coventry Farmers' Market looks a bit different this year, Hartford Courant, 7/20
No EEE found in state mosquitoes yet, CT Post, 7/21
LEAP, National Dairy Council encourage healthy eating, exercise in New Haven summer camps, WTNH, 7/21
Sunflowers for Wishes still grows on, Norwich Bulletin, 7/21
COVID-19 Need Spurs Dairy-UConn Food Pantry Partnership, Farm Journal, 7/22
Bridgeport farmers markets back up and running, CT Post, 7/22
Niantic Farmers Market celebrates its 10th year, The Day, 7/23
CONNECTICUT DROUGHT INFORMATION CENTER

Status as of July 23, 2020: The entire state is classified as STAGE 1 -- BELOW NORMAL CONDITIONS

Connecticut is experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The Interagency Drought Workgroup is meeting as needed to review conditions and make preparations in accordance with the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. Some public water utilities have reached drought thresholds and have issued voluntary or mandatory conservation alerts. Plan to conserve water and follow state or local conservation guidelines if issued.

Next update expected on or before 8/7/2020.

For more updates from the Connecticut Drought Information Center, click here.
RURAL RESILIENCE: FARM STRESS TRAINING

What is farm stress and how can you help? Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress and suicide, effectively communicate with people under stress, reduce stigma related to mental health concerns, and connect farmers and ranchers with resources.

Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America’s farmers and ranchers, USDA’s Cooperative Extension System, Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union have worked together to bring this course online for the public.

Click here to register for the free course.

HONEY & MAPLE SYRUP PROPOSED REGULATION

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4-168(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the Connecticut Department of Agriculture hereby gives notice that it proposes to adopt a regulation concerning the production and sale of Honey and Maple Syrup. To review the proposed regulation, click here.

All interested parties who wish to submit comments, data, views, or arguments may do so in writing through the closing date of August 30, 2020. Click here for details on how to submit a comment.

USDA UNPROCESSED F&V PILOT APPROVED VENDORS

In accordance with the Eligible Vendor Requirements for the Pilot Project for the Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, all approved vendors must maintain a list of current suppliers. In addition, as a vendor, you must be able to make your suppliers’ current food safety certificates available upon request.

Vendors may add new suppliers with USDA approval. If you want to add new suppliers to your listing for the upcoming school year, please submit a new Attachment D that includes the required information for your new supplier(s), and copies of their current food safety certificates via email to SCPilotProject@ams.usda.gov. Please ensure your subject line reads:
**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

**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.

**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

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