Governor Ned Lamont announced on March 10 that his administration is forming a working group with the goal of increasing diversity, racial equity, and inclusion within Connecticut’s agriculture industry. Administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Connecticut Agriculture Working Group will focus on engaging and supporting current and future farmers and those in the industry who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
“We need to do a better job of supporting diversity and inclusion within all sectors of our economy, including agriculture,” Governor Lamont said. “We want this working group to collaborate on the barriers that prevent people from entering this sector and create recommendations for what the state and agriculture service providers can do to better support diversity and inclusion within Connecticut's agricultural community.”

“As Connecticut continues to grow and foster its agricultural infrastructure, it’s critical that we create opportunities that allow our Black and Indigenous residents and people of color to become farmers and thrive,” Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz said. “This starts with embracing and implementing initiatives that promote racial equity and inclusion across food and agriculture. Through the launch of this working group, we can ensure that the agriculture field better represents our entire population and we are better equipped to combat food insecurity in our underserved communities. This working group, under Commissioner Hurlburt's leadership, will serve as a model nationwide that will encourage other states to commit to supporting policies that allow everyone – regardless of their race, age or zip code – to make a healthy difference in other peoples' lives by working in the agriculture sector."

Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt said that there are significant barriers and issues of access to enter and remain in agriculture, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and persons of color. While there is deep, meaningful work that is being done by community groups, there is a need for institutional support for current and future individuals of color entering professions throughout the agriculture sector, he explained.

"In agriculture, we usually talk about the diversity of our farm commodities and types of production," Commissioner Hurlburt said. “While diversity is easily seen at a farmers’ market or in the field, it is not usually represented by those around the table. Through intentional inclusion of BIPOC individuals and organizations and others, we will work to move the needle towards true diversity, equity, and inclusion in Connecticut agriculture. This initiative will ensure that Connecticut agriculture better reflects our population by identifying resource gaps, providing support for businesses to grow, and supplying a connection to markets. I am excited to launch into this endeavor and know we will make a positive difference.”

“The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Group is a necessary addition to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture,” Congresswoman Jahana Hayes said. “Across Connecticut, Black residents, Indigenous residents, and residents of color are working to ensure our agriculture industry is robust, resilient, and a driving force in combatting food insecurity. BIPOC leaders in agriculture deserve to be part of the decision making. This working group will ensure their voices are heard. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and the chair of the Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations Subcommittee, I look forward to working with the task force on federal legislation to support their crucial work.”

The structure of the working groups will be one main working group and five smaller topic subgroups, which will include:
• Access to Capital and Financial Planning
• Access to Secure Land Tenure
• Access to Education and Training
• Access to Resources, Infrastructure, and Business Planning
• Market Access and Diversification

The Department of Agriculture is inviting Connecticut farmers, service providers, nonprofits, educators, and others to participate in the working groups. Nominations must be submitted to the agency by April 4, 2021, and appointments will be identified in mid-April. Nominations are strongly encouraged from individuals of all backgrounds. Working groups will meet monthly, or as determined necessary, for approximately a year and a half. Individuals can express interest in multiple subgroups but will be appointed to only one. To submit a nomination, click here.

Questions can be directed to Cyrena Thibodeau at Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov or Jaime Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov. More information is available at www.ctgrown.gov.

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**USDA PROVISIONS IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

On March 10, 2021, U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The legislation is a critical step in getting the U.S. economy back on track, getting children back to school, getting COVID-19 vaccinations to all Americans, and pulling millions out of poverty. Specifically, provisions within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will reduce hunger across the country, strengthen the food supply chain, invest in rural America, and provide long awaited support to underserved, socially disadvantaged farmers.

Additional details here.

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**COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers**

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**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.

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**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
Connecticut Agriculture Working Groups Announced to Address Diversity, Equity

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

NEW: COVID-19 Vaccination & the Food and Agriculture Sector
NEW: Maple Sugarhouse Guidance
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
Opinion: Urban farms can make our cities more livable, 3/5, CT Post
Century-old farm works to adapt to COVID-19, 3/6, Journal Inquirer
'Every year it grows': Westport Farmers' Market named best in CT and among the top in US, 3/7, Westport News
Will the CSA Boom Survive Beyond the Pandemic?, 3/10, Civil Eats
With late start, maple syrup makers don’t agree on how season will turn out, 3/10, Norwich Bulletin
Goats Removed from Redding Property, 3/10, NBC CT

USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON FOOD PURCHASE PROGRAM, WILL HOST LISTENING SESSION
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) seeks comments on the development, coordination, and implementation of a food purchase and distribution program intended to provide additional aid to nonprofits serving Americans in need of nutrition assistance.

Comments can be submitted through midnight ET on March 31, 2021, via online portal or by email to AMSCOVIDStimulus@usda.gov. They welcome feedback from all interested parties, and appreciate early response. Additional information is available on the AMS website.

In addition, AMS will host a listening session to provide groups and individuals an opportunity to share their views on how USDA can best serve people in
Connecticut Agriculture Working Groups Announced to Address Diversity, Equity

The need of food assistance as well as the industry through this program. All interested stakeholders are invited to attend. Stakeholders are also invited to register to provide oral comments during the session.

Registration will remain open until the start of the event, or until the session is full. However, you must register by midnight ET on March 17, 2021, to provide oral comments during the listening session.

Additional details here.

FARM TRANSITION GRANT VIRTUAL MEETING

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will be offering a virtual webinar on Wednesday, March 17 at 10:00 a.m. for interested agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives to learn about the Farm Transition Grant’s (FTG) five new grant categories and application process. The webinar will be held utilizing Microsoft Teams and the link to join via a video call or voice call is below.

Grant applications will be accepted starting April 8 and due no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 15, 2021. For more information on the FTG and a link to Wednesday’s meeting, please visit the Farm Transition Grant webpage. Questions can be directed to Amanda King at Amanda.King@ct.gov.
Connecticut's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is now accepting applications for the 2021 program year, and the deadline is fast approaching! The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop. The complete definition of specialty crops can be found on the USDA's website.

Eligible applicants include commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits. The USDA wants to see as many entities as possible benefit from these dollars during the three years in which the project can take place. As a result, individual farms or businesses are encouraged to apply and partner with other eligible applicants rather than apply themselves.
This is a reimbursement grant for research with awards up to $75,000. Completed applications must be sent to AGR.Grants@ct.gov by 4 p.m. on March 19, 2021. For more information on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and an example application, please visit the website, www.ctgrown.gov/grants and click on Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, or contact Haley Rowland at 860-895-3095 or haley.rowland@ct.gov.

CONNECTICUT HEMP WEBINAR SERIES

On March 17 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (CTRCD) will present Session 3 of their Connecticut Hemp Webinar Series Part One: For Growers. Session 3, titled "Growing Successfully: Transplanting into the Field, Soil Health & Fertilizers," will be moderated by James Hyde, USDA NRCS, State Agronomist. Corby Brown, a Kentucky grower, will discuss hemp production from transplant to flowering in a no-till system. A discussion will follow on soils management, pest management (disease, bugs, weeds), and his experience with no-till implements and the modifications required to find a system that worked for their farm. Afterwards Dr. Heather Darby, an Extension Agronomist with the University of Vermont, will present a talk titled "Soil Management for High Quality Hemp. Managing soils to Produce High Yield and Quality Hemp."

For more information on the series and to register for this webinar, please visit https://ctrcd.org/hemp/.
LOOKING FOR A FARMERS' MARKET IN 2021?

Farmers pursuing new/additional farmers’ markets in 2021 are encouraged to provide information about the farm products they produce and logistics about the type of market they’re looking for by completing this online form: https://bit.ly/3a5r9LS

Information will be shared with all farmers’ market managers throughout Connecticut.

As a list is compiled of markets looking for new farmers, that information will be shared with any farmer who completes the above online form in an effort to provide a match-making service between markets and farmers.
APPLY TO VEND AT THE FARMERS’ MARKET AT THE CT REGIONAL MARKET

The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the Farmers’ Market at the CT Regional Market.

The 2021 farmers’ market season runs from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Stall use agreements are available for periods of three months up to a full season. Applications and information can be found here.

FREE FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING WEBINAR

Land For Good is offering a FREE webinar series for farmers and farm families to learn the basics of farm succession planning, how to get started, where to find resources, ask questions of succession planning experts, and get support on this challenging process. Farmers from across New England of all farm sizes and enterprises are welcome.

March 16: Getting Started With Your Farm Succession Planning
March 23: Financial Considerations for Farm Succession Planning
March 30: Legal Considerations for Farm Succession Planning

Register now! Registration gives participants access to all of the webinars in this series, plus class worksheets and resources, as well as access to recordings of webinars. Click here for more information.
MULTI-BUSINESS DAIRY AGRITOURISM GRANT - DEADLINE EXTENDED

The first competitive grant round through the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is going live! The Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant will fund projects to dairy farmers, processors and producer associations throughout New England, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Projects that support multiple farmers and processors will be eligible for grant funds of $10,000 - $25,000 for the development and marketing of geographically contiguous agritourism activities designed to raise awareness and consumption of regionally produced dairy products.

Applications are due by April 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EST. Click here for more information.

2021- 2023
FMNP Farmer Certification Meetings

FMNP FARMER CERTIFICATION MEETINGS

All fruit, vegetable, and honey producers selling at Certified Connecticut Grown Farmers’ Markets must be certified with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). To be certified, producers must attend a certification meeting.
The certification allows farms to accept the FMNP checks for fresh fruits, vegetables, and honey from WIC clients and income-eligible seniors over the age of 60. Join us to get your certification, learn more about available grant funding for your farm, and accepting SNAP to expand your sales.

Additional March meeting dates will be added. Below is the current list of meeting dates which will all be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

- Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Registration is now open at http://bit.ly/3qK3cjV.

Questions can be directed to Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-6083 or Haley Rowland at Haley.Rowland@ct.gov or 860-895-3095.

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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.

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**Ag Market Pricing**

- **Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT**
  - Prices last provided on March 1, 2021
- **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**
- **USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update** *(New!)*
- **Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston**
- **Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston**

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**Advertisements**

For Sale

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers,
Connecticut Agriculture Working Groups Announced to Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Connecticut Agriculture Working Groups Announced to Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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.


39-R. Honeybees: 5-frame NUCCS, DEEPS only, available 1st week May. Jones Apiaries LLC, 860-677-9391


41-R. Straw - small square bales, 45-50 lbs. 860-675-9252, please leave message.

43-R. 24' Aluminum Body with rail gate, 16' Aluminum beverage body, tractor tires and rims 15.5R38. 203-623-2694

44. Kuhn GMC 600 II HD, 3 point hitch disc mower, 7'10" working width, ready to mow, $5,800. Durham, 860-638-9689

Wanted

42-R. EZTRAIL kicker bale wagons, any condition. Cash paid. Call or text George, 860-918-5442.

Job Opportunities

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Regulatory Services is seeking an Administrative Assistant. Application deadline is March 18, 2021. Details and application information here: https://bit.ly/3qFIHoa

University of Connecticut, UConn Extension is seeking an Urban Agriculture Assistant/Associate Extension Educator, primarily based in the Fairfield County Extension Office in Bethel, CT. Application deadline is March 24, 2021. Details and application information available here.

The Rhode Island Land Trust Council seeks a strategic and experienced leader to work with the Board to promote and grow the organization. The Executive Director will be a conservation advocate and champion able to partner with a
strong grassroots network of land trust leaders, organizations, and community members across Rhode Island and New England. Details [here](https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportmar122021?e=[UNIQID]).

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**Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps**

The application is now open to serve with [FoodCorps](https://www.foodcorps.org/) for the 2021-2022 school year. As a FoodCorps AmeriCorps service member, you’ll spend a year teaching kids about healthy food in schools through hands-on nutrition & garden lessons, promoting healthy school meals, and fostering a school-wide culture of health. Service members earn a stipend, a year’s worth of training and professional development resources, and a network of passionate food educators and school nutrition leaders. This is a great opportunity for folks who are committed to food justice, inspired by strong local communities, and creative in the face of a challenge- like serving during a pandemic. FoodCorps is accepting applications until all service member positions are filled. First round interviews will begin as early as mid-March. Learn more and apply at [www.foodcorps.org/apply](http://www.foodcorps.org/apply).

**Interested in Advertising?** Click [here](https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportmar122021?e=[UNIQID]) for details on rates and submission.

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**Upcoming Events**

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

![SOLID GROUND](Image)

**AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES - 2021**

**WEBINAR SERIES**

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM 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 16 | 1 PM EST

**RETAINING AND ENGAGING NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS: TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

November 16 | 1 PM EST

**EMERGENCY FOOD, CRISIS, AND THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM**

September 29 | 1 PM EST

**INTEGRATING NATIONAL CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS INTO FUTURE PLANNING**

April 18 | 1 PM EST

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

January 29 | 1 PM EST

[https://ncord.rr/localfoodeconomics.com/](https://ncord.rr/localfoodeconomics.com/)
2021 Tri-State SARE Project Webinar Series
Improving Pasture Management for Sustainable Livestock Production

Webinar 1: Friday, February 19th
Webinar 2: Wednesday, March 10th
Webinar 3: Tuesday, March 23rd
Webinar 4: Tuesday, April 6th

Webinar 1: Introduction to the development of a simple grazing plan
Joan Colby (UVM), Susan Purzy (PA SARE), & Dainthus Mar (NH-NRCS)

Webinar 2: Grading plan calculations
Nasir Assistant Research (UMass), Tom Otis-Conner (New England Grazing Network), & Joan Colby (UVM)

Webinar 3: Mapping out your grazing plan
Joan Colby (UVM) & Susan Purzy (PA SARE)

Webinar 4: Refining, your grazing plan
Dainthus Mar (NH-NRCS) & Susan Purzy (PA SARE)

All webinars will be held from 10 am to 12 noon

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers and will be comprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout sessions. By attending all webinar participants will have a sound understanding of how to develop their grazing plan and work to develop a personalized grazing plan on their farm. Participation in all webinars is encouraged, but not required.

For more information, visit http://neextension.unh.edu/ or contact Rachel Espada, Project Director at rachel.espada@uconn.edu


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