The Farmers' Market at CT Regional Market, 101 Reserve Road, Hartford, opens for the season on Saturday, April 2.
Shop for seasonal flowers, shrubs, fruits and vegetables on Saturdays and Sundays from 6-9 a.m.
For more information on the market or how to become a vendor, click here.
Connecticut Agriculture Day Returns

CT Ag Info Council Recognizes 2022 Outstanding Young Farmer in Connecticut

After three long years, the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) was pleased to welcome the return of Connecticut Ag Day as an in-person event with a host of changes, including a new location and date change. That didn’t dampen spirits though as more than 35 agricultural organizations, nonprofits, municipalities, and state and federal agencies committed to agriculture gathered at the Governor William A. O’Neill State Armory in Hartford on Friday, March 25, 2022.

From the ground to the sound, it was all on display to showcase the diversity and strength of Connecticut agriculture which contributes $4 billion to the state’s economy and 22,000 jobs. Dozens of FFA students from Lebanon, Lyman Hall, Southington, Shepaug, Woodbury and the Sound School were in attendance not only to assist with the coordination of legislator bags but also meet with exhibitors and forge connections for the future.

An official statement from Governor Ned Lamont declared March 25 as Connecticut Agriculture Day and was read by Lt. Governor Bysiewicz at the start of the speaking program. Legislators in attendance gathered on stage along with Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt to recognize recipients of the Outstanding Young Farmer, Century Farm, and Ag Journalism awards.

2022 CT Outstanding Young Farmer: Kies and Jared LaVack

Connecticut’s agriculture industry grows great crops, including the next generation of farmers. Kies (Orr) and Jared LaVack of Fort Hill Farms, LLC in Thompson have been chosen as Connecticut’s Outstanding Young Farmers of 2022.
Kies LaVack is the 4th generation of her family to grow up dairying at Fort Hill Farms. She studied plant science at the Killingly AgriScience Center so she could add soil and water conservation practices to the skills she’d need one day as farm manager. Jared LaVack hails originally from northern New York and is himself a 3rd generation dairy farmer. After meeting at SUNY Cobleskill, they joined forces and have been farming together and building their future at Fort Hill Farms.

That future is one that embraces the agricultural diversity instilled in them by Kies’ parents, Kristin and Peter Orr. As herdswoman, Kies oversees the 250 milking cows and over 200 youngstock, and is in charge of milking and herd health. Jared puts his agronomy and mechanical skills to work in his role as crops manager and head mechanic.

Learn more about the 2022 CT Outstanding Young Farmer winners and past winners here.

Century Farm: March Farm
CAIC also recognized March Farm in Bethlehem, CT, as a Century Farm. This award recognizes a farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years, and has great potential to be successful for at least another 100 years.

March Farm, a fourth generation family farm, was established in 1915 when Thomas and Rose Marchukaitis purchased 114 acres to support 15 cows and 2 horses. Over the years, the farm has diversified to meet changing needs. In the 1940's poultry and dairy barns were added and the following decade 14 acres of adjoining land was purchased for an apple orchard to be planted. The farm continued to increase both stock and fruit production over the next three decades until the late 80's when the decision was made to sell the cows and concentrate on producing vegetables and fruit.

Today the farm is home to greenhouses, a commercial kitchen for a bakery business, farm store, pick-your-own, a CSA, and more family fun and agritourism activities.

Ag Journalism Awards
These awards recognize outstanding coverage of Connecticut agriculture by the news media. Congratulations to the 2022 recipients:
Jocelyn Ruggiero, Boston Globe, Alongside a career in IT, Robert Chang forges a new life as a farmer, while advocating for farmers of color in Southern New England
Jim Altman, Fox 61 News, Old Mystic cider mill Pressing on Through the Pandemic
Jan Spiegel, CT Mirror, CT Farmers Are Finding There Is No Easy Way to Deal With Climate Change
Amy White, Seasons Magazines, The Egg and I
CT Ag Day 2022 Moments

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Conn. farmers hold off on growing plants outside, 3/28, WFSB
'From the ground to the sound': Connecticut Agriculture Day returns after COVID hiatus, 3/25, Fox 61
5 CT farms to visit for goat snuggles, goat nannying and more, 3/24, CT Insider
Growing food, growing outreach: Yellow Farmhouse Education Center expands on crop donations and teacher training, 3/24, The Day

CONNECTICUT MILK PROMOTION BOARD ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board (CTMPB), administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, is pleased to announce up to $500,000 available in funding opportunities for programming in fiscal year 2022-23. These opportunities align with their core focus which includes the vision of
increasing purchases and expanding the access of milk and dairy products to consumers, retailers, institutions, and other applicable outlets. The funding is intended to support the CTMPB’s mission to develop, coordinate, and implement promotional, research, and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and the consumption of milk and dairy products.

“These funding opportunities will enable us to continue building upon the work done over the past year which aligns with the strategic vision plan created with input from the state’s dairy farmers and formally adopted by the board in 2020,” said Paul Miller, Chairman of the CTMPB. “The board has honed our focus on funding to include consumer nutrition education, multi-media marketing, and farmer engagement programs to meet our five-year target of realizing an increase in dairy purchases and consumption throughout the supply chain in Connecticut.”

The CTMPB has up to $500,000 available for programming and expects to award contracts up to $200,000 each in the first two bulleted program areas and no more than $100,000 in the third bulleted program area:

- Partnerships with various types of retail, educational, and professional organizations that will lead to the increase in dairy consumption.
- Multi-media campaigns promoting the value of Connecticut’s dairy farms and the accessibility of milk.
- Farmer engagement programs to educate and engage dairy farmers on the utilization of their checkoff dollars.

Proposed applicants can apply for any combination of the above program areas and are not limited to applying for only one. Eligible entities include businesses, extension agencies, agricultural and non-profit organizations, universities, community colleges, educational institutions, agricultural science schools, research organizations, and contract media vendors. Interested applicants should review each funding guidance document to confirm their eligibility.

Funding is provided through dairy checkoff dollars, established through the national dairy checkoff order. CGS Sec. 22-authorizes the CTMPB to award grant funds from Connecticut’s portion of checkoff dollars. All projects should be conducted in accordance with the national dairy checkoff order, which can be found at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/dairy.

Additional details on the dairy grant funding opportunities can be found on www.CTGrown.gov/grants. For more information on Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and Connecticut Dairy, visit CTDairy.org
Register in advance for this meeting: https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfu-rqDopH9d8fAinAukeCqklysjRYefS

**Apr 6, 2022 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**3:00pm - Welcome**
Sherill Baldwin, CT DEEP

**3:15 - 4:45 - Municipalities Developing On-Site Compost Initiatives**
Moderator: Coryanne Mansell, CET
Brent Madho, CT DEEP
Frank Gagliardo, CT DEEP
Doug Colter, City of West Haven
Leah Retherford & Jim Davis, Atlas Organics
Dave Aldridge, SCRRRA

**5:00-6:00pm - Municipalities Creating Opportunities to Collect Food**
Moderator: Kat McCarthy, CET
Brian Bartram, Towns of Salisbury / Sharon
Kim O’Rourke, City of Middletown
Julie DesChamps, Waste Free Greenwich

For more information follow the link.

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**NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER INVESTS IN PROJECTS**

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) invests in projects that advance the regional dairy industry. A range of NE-DBIC funding opportunities totaling approximately $3 million will be available for farmers, processors, and industry partners in 2022:

- **April** – Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant: Funding for value-added dairy processors to access professional services to implement marketing tactics, brand improvements, and overall strategy.
- **June** – Dairy Processor Innovation Grant: Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.
- **October** – Dairy Farm Innovation Grant: Funding for dairy farms to take a holistic approach to implementing community- and climate-forward dairy production and business strategies.
2022 VIRTUAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR SEMINAR

There will be a 2022 Virtual Agricultural Seminar hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (USDOL/WHD). This free, virtual event will be held April 5-7, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT and will provide guidance on federal labor rules pertaining to the agriculture industry.

Presented in coordination with various federal agencies, the seminar will focus on federal regulations governing agricultural employment and will include presentations on the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act (MSPA), H-2A program requirements, and the Office of Foreign Labor Certification. Learn about requirements for wages, housing, transportation, field sanitation, farm labor contractor certification, and much more.

Attendance is free, but space is limited. Register here: Virtual Agricultural Seminar

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Avian Influenza (AI)

**What is it?**

- **AI** is a virus carried by migratory waterfowl, turkeys, and pheasants.
- **Domestic poultry**, such as chickens, turkeys, and quails, are susceptible and will become very sick.
- The virus is believed to originate in Europe and spread to Canada and the Atlantic Flyway through wild geese and ducks.
- Migratory bird flyways cross the United States. Connecticut is in the Atlantic Flyway.

If you have dead or dying birds, please contact: 860-783-4502.

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Biosecurity Basics

Protect Your Flock From Avian Influenza

- **Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent contact with wild waterfowl and their droppings.**
- **Wash hands before and after working with birds.**
- **Change food and water daily.**
- **Provide disposable boot covers and/or disinfected footwear for anyone having contact with your flock.**
- **Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility.**

If you have sick or dying birds, please contact: avian.wet@ct.gov or 860-783-2505.

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2022 FARMLAND RESTORATION GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSE APRIL 12

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announces the 2022 Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) grant guidance is now available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. The application period is open until April 12, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

The FLRP is a competitive grant program. It provides matching funds (up to...
agricultural production. The FLRP focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan.

Examples of potential restoration activities include:

- Reclamation of grown over pastures, meadows, and cropland
- Clearing/removal of trees, stumps, stones, and brush to create or restore agricultural use
- Fencing to keep livestock in reclaimed pasture areas and/or out of riparian areas
- Drainage of crop fields to improve cropland areas and restore water runoff patterns
- Irrigation and irrigation wells
- Enhancement of farm roads which service restoration areas
- Restoration of shellfish beds or aquaculture ponds

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Additional details on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications must be submitted electronically via the new DoAg Grants Portal. Questions regarding the Farmland Restoration Program Grant can be directed to Lance Shannon at Lance.Shannon@ct.gov.

*Funding for the Farmland Restoration Grant is made possible by Public Act 11-1, codified in Chapter 422 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Farmland Restoration Grant and any awards are subject to the requirements and provisions of state funding.*
LOOKING FOR AFFORDABLE CREDIT TO START OR GROW YOUR FARM? THE NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION IS HERE TO HELP!

LEARN ABOUT THE USDA’S LOAN PROGRAMS THROUGH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA). OUR COALITION WON A MICROLOAN PROGRAM IN THE 2014 FARM BILL TO MAKE THESE LOANS MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR YOU!

We know that it may not be easy to work with government programs due to historical and ongoing discrimination against BIPOC farmers. Young Farmers has a farmer on staff who can answer questions for BIPOC farmers about the loans and walk you through the application.

CALL OUR FARMER TECHNICAL ASSISTANT SHAKERA RAYGOZA TO LEARN MORE AT SHAKERA@YOUNGFARMERS.ORG OR 518 643 3564 EXT. 1

USDA FSA Loans feature low interest rates (rates 2-3% as of February 2022), and do not use credit scores to determine eligibility.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS:

**MICROLOANS**
- Up to $50,000 in Operating Loan funds and $50,000 in Ownership Loan funds, for a total of $100,000
- Repayment terms are 1-7 years
- Same uses as Operating and Ownership loans
- A streamlined application process with less paperwork

**OPERATING LOANS**
- Up to $400,000
- Up to 7 years to repay
- Use funds for infrastructure, livestock, feed, seeds, equipment, labor, fertilizers, rent, family living expenses, etc.

**OWNERSHIP LOANS**
- Up to $900,000
- Repayment terms are up to 25 years
- Use funds to purchase or enlarge a farm, make a down payment, promote soil and water conservation and protection, or pay closing costs
- Funds can also be used to purchase, improve, or build structures related to the farming business

Farm operating expenses, including but not limited to, feed, seed, fertilizer, pesticides, farm supplies, repairs and improvements which are to be expedited, cash rent and family living expenses. Other programs include farm storage loans, living expenses under the loans above, down payment loans, guaranteed loan program, and youth loans.
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY2022 INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN CONNECTICUT

Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced the availability of funding for FY2022 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). CIG seeks to spark the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers and other landowners.

Applicants must submit their applications via Grants.gov (search for Funding Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-CT-CIG-22-NOFO0001157) by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 29, 2022. For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts. Please limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in this Notice of
Questions related to eligibility or the merits of a specific proposal will not be addressed.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the CT State CIG website to learn more about the CIG program.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The 2022 scholarship application from Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is now live. **The application deadline is June 1, 2022.** This annual scholarship is for Connecticut students who are pursuing a career in agricultural education and/or have goals to further agriculture across the state.

Learn more here.

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Ag Market Pricing

- **Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT**
  *Prices provided on March 28, 2022*

- **CT Farmers' Market Prices**
  *Prices provided on October 22, 2021*

- **Northeast Regional Eggs**

- **New England Shell Eggs**

- **Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary**

- **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](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)
50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

54-R. Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com

55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.


22-5. Lynn Blackmer, your local Nationwide Farm Insurance agent. AFIS Certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT, RI & MA. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discount. Cell: 860-377-8947 lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.


22-7. Farm sold, many pieces of equipment for sale. 860-488-0324.

22-8. Eight-year-old Hereford cow ready to breed, reasonable offers accepted. Call 860-487-7739 after 6 pm.


Wanted

42-R. EZTRAIL kicker bale wagons, any condition. Cash paid. Call or text George, 860-918-5442.
Connecticut Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for an Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 position to support its livestock and small poultry surveillance programs, the agency’s dairy product safety and inspections programs, and it’s Produce Safety program. This position will be responsible for inspections of agricultural businesses, production and processing plants and retail facilities for compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations. Close date: April 7, 2022. For more information or to apply, click here.

Interested in Advertising? Click here for details on rates and submission.

**Upcoming Events**
*(click on image below for info)*

**SALES & AUCTION**
Middlesex Livestock Auction announces the following sales and auction:
- Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.: Lamb and Kid Goat Sale
- Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.: Farm & Landscape Equipment Auction
- Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 11 a.m.: Spring Feeder Cattle Sale
Thursday, April 7th, 2022
from 5-7:30pm

Please join us for an educational session discussing:
- Identifying common and reportable diseases in poultry and swine
- Best-practice biosecurity
- The recent Asian Influenza outbreak
- Prevention of African Swine Fever outbreaks
- Opportunities APHIS provides for diagnostic collection

ATTEND VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON

Click here to R.S.V.P.

Speakers include:
Dr. Tech Schoedler, DVM
Veterinary Medical Officer
USDA APHIS VS - New England

Dr. Lisa Duston, DVM
Deputy State Veterinarian
USDA APHIS VS - New England

Dr. Eric Maurer, DVM
Associate Veterinarian
USDA APHIS VS - New England

Dr. Bradley Kough, DVM
Deputy State Veterinarian
USDA APHIS VS - New England

Dr. Valerie Koenig, DVM
Epidemiology Officer
USDA APHIS VS - New England

Location
Litchfield County Extension Office
543 University Drive
Torrington, CT 06790

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

More Than Nutrition:
Food, Social Justice
and Wellbeing

Food is about much more than nutrition
and health. It’s a part of our history, culture
and values, connecting us to the land, our
communities and one another. But, at too often
our discussions about food focus on individual
responsibility and behaviors instead of the
inequalities that are built into our food systems.

Join leaders who are implementing innovations
in food justice and sovereignty for a conversation
about transformational change. We will explore
the connections between food, wellbeing, equity,
social justice, community and more as we shift
the focus from individuals to a vision for long-
term, systemic change.

Tues., April 5, 2022
3 – 4:15 p.m. ET

Speakers:

Alicia McKinney
Assistant Director
Food Trust Connecticut

Deborah Pozniak
Independent Educator
Urban Farming Education

Julie Garin
Senior Program Manager
FED/New London

REGISTER TODAY:
bit.ly/MoreThanNutrition

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