Farm Transition Grants Awarded to 33 Agribusinesses

(HARTFORD, CT) – Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt announces that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has awarded funds to 33 agribusinesses through the Farm Transition Grant Program. The grants total $515,953.

Families will be celebrating mom on Sunday, May 8 with CT Grown flowers, food, or wine. Let consumers know where they can shop CT Grown by including your farm store or market on the CTGrown.org map. Add your business by clicking here.
cooperatives seeking to expand, diversify, and improve their existing operation.

The 2022 FTG featured four dynamic categories to continue building on the changes implemented in 2021. These categories were created to assist agricultural producers and cooperatives at all stages of business growth and development to bring CT Grown products to market while increasing farm sustainability. The four grant categories offered were:

- New Farmer Microgrant
- Infrastructure Investment Grant
- Research and Development Grant
- Innovation and Diversification Grant

“Now in our second grant cycle of offering the four Farm Transition Grant categories, we are encouraged by the response with a wider variety of projects seeking funding from a more diverse spectrum of Connecticut producers,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We look forward to sharing success stories from each of these projects in the future to showcase the innovation and growth of agriculture in Connecticut and the positive impacts it has for our state’s economy, job growth, and food production.”

Connecticut is home to more than 5,500 farms contributing more than $4 billion to the state’s economy.

2022 Farm Transition Grant awardees include:

**New Farmer Grant Category:**

- **Aasaaka Foundation**, Hartford: *Pollinator pathway*
- **Aisling Farm**, Stafford: *Purchase and installation of 20x24 unheated high tunnel*
- **Amerigo’s Dream**, Norwich: *High tunnel installation*
- **Cambera Farm**, Columbia: *Trailer, quarantine pen, and display freezer*
- **DeLuca Family Farm**, South Glastonbury: *plasticulture*
- **Holbrook Farm**, Redding: *Cold frame greenhouse*
- **Hungry Reaper Farm**, Morris: *Walk-in cooler installation*
- **Laurel Wood Farm**, Clinton: *Barn build*
- **Roots and Coops Family Farm**, Torrington: *12x20 greenhouse*

**Innovation and Diversification Category:**

- **Birch Mill Farm Partnership**, Canaan: *Purchase of no-till drill to service farms in Northwest CT*
- **Clover Nook Farm**, Bethany: *Store expansion and diversification*
- **Guardians Farm**, Southbury: *Microdairy*
- **Lemek Farms**, Tolland: *Construction of 24x36 manufacturing, tasting and sales room for sweet and hard cider*
**Infrastructure Investment Category:**

- **Mountain Dairy**, Storrs: *Installation of 500 gallon pasteurizer and walk-in freezer to expand product line to include cream line milk, buttermilk, sour cream, and yogurt*
- **Organic Roots Farm**, Hampton: *Commercial kitchen*
- **Rowland Farm**, Oxford: *Conversion of existing barn into dairy plant to enter value-added dairy market*
- **Stone Gardens Farm**, Shelton: *Construction of new farm stand to expand market reach*

**Research and Development Category:**

- **Harmony Sea Farm**, Stonington: *Evaluate growing potential and market demand for a new aquaculture product: butter clams*
- **Stonington Kelp Co.**, Pawcatuck: *Sugar kelp fermentation to preserve shelf life and reach new markets*

The Farm Transition Grant Program is a competitive matching grant program. Funding is provided through Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation. Grant funds are reimbursed to the awardee after the project is successfully completed, a final financial and written report outlining all expenses and tasks associated with the project have been received and approved, and site
A free webinar on **Wednesday May 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** to hear about state and federal resources available to assist Connecticut agricultural and food product companies interested in exporting. This webinar, sponsored by Congressman Joe Courtney (CT2) and the U.S. Commercial Service will feature speakers from Food Export USA—Northeast and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Food Export – Northeast is a non-profit organization that supports companies with value-added food and agricultural products in fueling growth through exporting. Members are made up of the Department of Agriculture in the 10 Northeast states, including the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Food Export USA—Northeast helps both novice suppliers and seasoned exporters unlock long-term global growth with export education, global connections, export strategies, and marketing financial assistance. In the last year alone, companies that participated in our programs and activities gained over $978M in combined export sales to countries around the globe.

Join us for this informative webinar to learn about the benefits of exporting and assistance available to your Connecticut company!

**Speakers:**

- Congressman Joe Courtney, CT2
- Apryl King | Liaison—CT, MA, ME, RI, VT | Food Export USA—Northeast
- Erin Windham | Ag Marketing and Inspection Rep | Connecticut Department of Agriculture
- Melissa Grosso | Director | U.S. Commercial Service (Connecticut office)

The webinar is free, but preregistration is required.

[Learn More and Register Here](mailto:https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportapr292022?e=[UNIQID])

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**Agricultural Assistance from Farmer to Exporter for Connecticut Agricultural Producers & Food Manufacturers**

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USDA NASS GEARING UP FOR 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Conducted once every five years, the ag census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, and expenditures. It is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land – whether rural or urban – count if $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. The Census of Agriculture tells the story of American agriculture over time.

Key Dates:

- June 30, 2022 – Sign up for those who do not already receive NASS surveys, and censuses end
- November 2022 – ag census mails out and data collection begins
- February 6, 2023 – response deadline

Sign up Here to be Counted
DEEP CLIMATE RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is pleased to announce—and ask for your input on—its straw proposal for the state’s
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, with approximately $47 billion in funding available nationwide to help communities prepare for climate-related hazards. This grant program would make funding available for planning grants for Connecticut communities, to help them develop projects that can compete for federal resilience investments.

The straw proposal outlines how DEEP is considering structuring the program and we would like your feedback and ideas, particularly in response to the questions posed in the Public Notice. These questions include requesting feedback on match requirements, maximum funding levels, review criteria, project duration, required meetings and deliverables, and how DEEP should define and evaluate vulnerable populations. DEEP is hosting a virtual meeting to deliver a presentation and receive comments on the straw proposal and Public Notice questions on Monday May 9, 2022 at 1:00 pm Eastern via Zoom [REGISTER]. Written comments may be submitted directly to DEEP at DEEP.ClimateChange@ct.gov on or before May 16, 2022, by 4:00 p.m. Please include “DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program” in the email subject line. Any questions may be directed to DEEP.ClimateChange@ct.gov.

Learn More Here

TOTAL FARMER HEALTH COACH OPPORTUNITY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is working with AgriSafe utilizing funds from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as part of their Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) project.

The 12-month grant award includes providing a train-the-trainer program to supply mental well-being awareness and coping strategies to ag educators, new farmers, and youth via the Cultivating a Healthy Mind curriculum offered by AgriSafe.

As part of that program, AgriSafe is seeking health care professionals to join their team as a certified Health Coach to educate Connecticut farmers on Total Farmer Health. The initial training is 100% online allowing interested individuals the ability to complete the Total Farmer Health Coach Certification wherever they feel most comfortable and when it fits best in their schedule.

Learn more about the program and process to become a coach here.
2022 CONNECTICUT COMPOST TOUR SERIES

Tours #3 and #4: Home Composting/Beginner
(This is a hands-on field trip; please dress in clothing you don’t mind getting dirty.)

The Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP) began in 2016 to provide hands-on training, on-site demonstrations, education outreach, and community collaboration that help families become more self-sustainable and environmentally conscious while preserving the historic Keney Park. Join KPSP staff for a tour of the site, and participate in a hands-on composting project. Tour the many types of composting systems KPSP supports from worm bins to tumblers all while learning about KPSP’s other efforts from planting native plants to producing maple syrup.

May 7: REGISTER

June 25: REGISTER

FREE CONSULTATIONS FOR CT COMMERCIAL FARMERS

These are free one-on-one consultations for Connecticut Farmers, with specialists in certain fields of knowledge. These consultations are intended for those who have been farming for 10 years or less, but folks can apply if they have been farming for a longer period of time.

Sign up for a consultation with an expert on the topics of:
Vegetable Production
Livestock
Conservation and Land use
Urban Farming

For more information and to sign up follow the link!
LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE GRANT

The Local Food Purchase Assistance Grant is now open. This is a program to connect CT producers and underserved communities. A webinar is scheduled for interested applicants on May 4 at 4:00 p.m. To register or learn more visit our website.

USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION

The USDA has opened the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Grants can be used for the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise. They also have a new Farm to Institution category! Applications are due by May 16, 2022.

To learn more about the LFPP program follow the link here.
GET READY FOR FARMERS’ MARKET SEASON

CT Grown tents are in stock and available for pick up at Connecticut Regional Market, 101 Reserve Road, Hartford, CT. Orders must be placed online in advance at www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com. Following order confirmation arrangements will be made to coordinate a pick up day and time.

EPA SEeks NOMINATIONS FOR THE FARM, RANCH, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a solicitation for nominations to serve on its Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). Established in 2008, the FRRCC provides independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to EPA's Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.

To be considered for an appointment to the FRRCC, nominations should be submitted to FRRCC@epa.gov by May 16, 2022, with the subject line “FRRCC Membership 2022.” Nominations should include a résumé or curriculum vitae and a statement of interest. Letters of support and recommendation will be accepted but are not mandatory.

In addition, Administrator Regan has issued a formal response today to the most recent set of FRRCC recommendations regarding food loss and waste, water policy, and pesticide policy, which were published in December 2021. This communication includes clear examples of how EPA is taking action to respond to priorities identified by the committee.

Learn more about the FRRCC nomination.

Find more information about the FRRCC.
The International Workshop on Agritourism is coming to Burlington, Vermont, from **August 30 to September 1, 2022**. Join agriculture and tourism industry professionals from the United States and beyond for an exciting program full of educational sessions, poster presentations, hands-on workshops, farm tours and networking events. Farmers, agricultural service providers, tourism experts and those interested in learning more about agritourism are all encouraged to attend and share your own knowledge, experiences and expertise!

Scholarships are available for farmers, students and others who demonstrate financial need and can illustrate how they would benefit from attending the conference.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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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.

For more information follow this link.

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**USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMER’S MARKET PROMOTION**
The Farmer's Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

To learn more follow this link.
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:

**MICROLLOANS**
- Up to $50,000 in Operating Loan funds and $60,000 in Ownership Loan funds, for a total of $110,000
- 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 $600,000
- 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 expensed, 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.
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.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE GRANT

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development (EWD) focuses on developing the next generation of research,
applications for the AFRI's Education and Workforce Development program areas to support:

1. professional development opportunities for K-14 educational professionals;
2. non-formal education that cultivates food and agricultural interest in youth;
3. workforce training at community, junior, and technical colleges;
4. training of undergraduate students in research and extension;
5. fellowships for predoctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars; and
6. special workforce development topics

Grant applications are due by October 27, 2022.

Learn More Here!

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices provided on April 25, 2022

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

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

New Holland, PA Hay Report

Northeast Regional Eggs

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update

New England Shell Eggs

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

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
3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal’s Power Fence 860-491-2290.

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.


22-11. New Holland 259 hydraulic hay rake, $2,500; International 435 baler, housed, $3,500; Both good condition, ready to make good hay. Tim, 203-627-2398, nbffarm@gmail.com.
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22-12. Logging services, forest management plans. Servicing all of CT. Fully licensed and insured. NRCS TSP. 860-398-1776, Josh Miller.

22-13. First cutting hay for sale. $5.00 per bale. 860-990-8060 text or call.

22-14. Farm sold, many pieces of equipment for sale. 860-488-0324.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

The USDA Farm Service Agency is currently accepting applications from individuals interested in providing contracted crop adjusting services throughout Connecticut for the 2022 crop year. Loss adjuster applications are due Friday, April 29, 2022 and can be submitted in person or by mail to your local county FSA office, or electronically to nathan.wilson@usda.gov. Applications and a complete position description may be found at any FSA county office in Connecticut or online here.

FoodCorps AmeriCorps service member position for 2022-23 is still open! Are you passionate about helping kids in your community experience the joy and power of food? We hope you'll apply! Does this sound like someone you know? The final deadline is May 27, 2022, but send in your application as soon as possible. Interviews are already underway and positions are filled on a rolling basis. Apply 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:
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

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