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# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

*Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
Version en espanol disponible en linea en [CTGrown.gov](#).*

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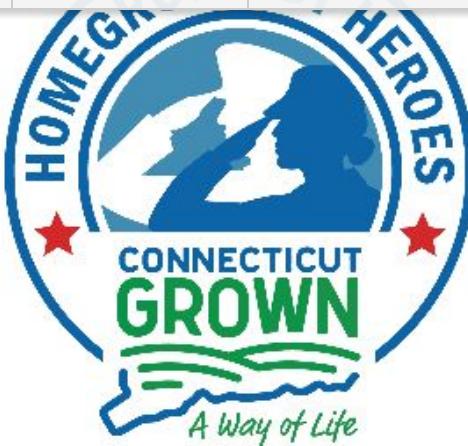
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Did you miss the Farmland Restoration Grant webinar that was held this week? No problem, it was recorded!

If you're interested in applying for the grant and would like [to view the recording](#), [please follow the link](#). The Farmland Restoration Grant **closes on Friday, December 9**.

Pictured above is Arisco Farm, in Cheshire, which was awarded in a previous round of the Farmland Restoration Grant.

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## Newly Formed Farmer Veteran Coalition of Connecticut Officially Launched

*Look for Homegrown by Heroes CT Grown Branding to Support Local Farmer Veterans*

On Thursday, November 10, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, CT Farmer Veteran member and owner of Mountain View Farm Lorren Pogson, USDA Rural Development Southern New England State Director Scott Soares, Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) of CT President Jared McCool, and Executive Director of CT Resource Conservation & Development (CT RC&D) Jeanne Davies gathered to officially announce the formation of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Connecticut and release the Homegrown by Heroes CT Grown brand logo.

“One of my office’s biggest priorities is making sure our state’s veterans feel the recognition and honor they deserve,” said Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz. “This new Connecticut Chapter will help bring like-minded veterans, who have been through similar experiences, together for a greater purpose. We are always proud of our Connecticut Grown products, but there is something extra special when you know the product is homegrown, by a veteran who made the sacrifice of serving to protect our freedoms. I encourage everyone to be on the lookout for products with the Homegrown by Heroes logo. Buying these products will go a long way to support our state and support our state’s veterans.”

The Homegrown by Heroes label (HBH) is the official farmer veteran branding program of America and is administered nationally by the Farmer Veteran Coalition. It informs consumers that agricultural products were produced by

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"Through an agreement between the Farmer Veteran Coalition and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture we are able to conduct a joint marketing effort promoting to consumers that the product they are buying is both produced by a Veteran Farmer and a CT Grown product," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "By merging these branding tools and leveraging the cumulative power that they both bring we are able to better support these operations for long-term success."

The Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) is a national nonprofit non-governmental organization that mobilizes veterans to feed America and transition from military service to a career in agriculture. Started in 2007, chapters have been created in various states since then to provide veterans or active-duty military service members with access to their programs including the Farmer Veteran Coalition Farming Fellowship, Homegrown by Heroes, and attendance at workshops, retreats, and webinars.

"The Farmer Veteran Coalition was integral to the growth of my farm, True North Homestead," shares Nicole DeFelice, Communications Officer for the Connecticut chapter. "Through the award of the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund we were able to build the sugar shack, which is now the home base for our maple syrup operation. This outbuilding expanded our production capacity immensely and wouldn't have been possible without FVC. Playing a role in helping to establish a local FVC chapter here in Connecticut has been an incredible opportunity for me to pay that generosity forward to other Farmer Veterans. We are providing valuable programs and resources to serve our community in creating a more vibrant and sustainable Connecticut."

According to USDA NASS Census of Agriculture 2017 there are nearly 900 farmers in Connecticut with military experience. Of those, nearly half report agriculture as being their primary occupation.

The formation of this Connecticut chapter was spearheaded by a conversation between Jared McCool, a Marine Corps veteran and owner/operator of Steadfast Farms in Bethlehem and Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Agricultural Programs Director at Connecticut RC&D. The two-year process in the development was achieved through the hard work by a dedicated group of Veteran farmers.

"It all started with a conversation with a farmer, as many of the things we do at CT RC&D begin," shares Fargo-Johnson. "As a partnership driven organization seeking to bridge gaps where assistance is needed most, it was a natural extension of our FarmUp program to create Veteran FarmUp. With the goal of providing one-on-one assistance to Veteran farmers as well as facilitating the formation of a Chapter of Farmer Veteran Coalition in the state. Thankfully with support from USDA Rural Development we've been able to do just that. I'm excited for the next phase of this journey, to see all the great things this Chapter will accomplish!"

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"These extraordinary Veterans exemplify what it means to serve. They never brag, they are unbelievably humble, and they care about strangers they pass in the grocery store as much as their neighbors, family, and friends," said Aaron McCool, Farmer Veteran Coalition of CT Board Member. "Duty, honor, and the desire to serve their communities and make the world a safer better place drives these dedicated Americans to continue to serve their country long past their military enlistment contract. I'm honored and humbled to work with them, mobilizing veteran farmers to cultivate agricultural solutions for a vibrant and sustainable Connecticut. God Bless America and the Veterans who protect her."



## PRESENTING THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPO 2022

The Connecticut Agricultural Expo comes to Aquaturf in Southington on **Friday, November 18, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Register today for this ag expo showcasing the latest in ag innovation, farm equipment, tractors, farm implements, seed & crop protection products, farm supplies & services. Registration for the event includes access to the tradeshow, state-wide networking, lunch buffet, Connecticut wine and beer tasting, Taste of Connecticut, and the Pesticide CEU credits. If you would like to purchase tickets to attend please [click here](#).

### Schedule

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

### Taste of Connecticut

Enjoy Connecticut-made ice cream, cheese, maple syrup, oysters and other products made or grown here in the state by CFBA members. | Aqua Turf Glass Room

### Trade Show

Ag Expo Trade Show featuring more than 30 exhibitors including farm equipment, tractors, feed suppliers, legal assistance, wage & labor resources, fleet management and other services. The Trade Show provides you with an opportunity to network with farmers, ag service providers and ag experts from

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across Connecticut

| Aqua Turf Glass Room

[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.****CEU Pesticide Credit**

Presentation by Shuresh Ghimire, Vegetable Specialist Assistant Extension Educator, UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Ghimire discusses “Soil-Biodegradable Plastic Mulch for Specialty Crop Production” | Aqua Turf Wagon Room

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.****Buffet Lunch | Aqua Turf Wagon Room****1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.****Beer, Cider, and Wine Tasting**

Connecticut wine, hard cider & beer tasting | Aqua Turf Glass Room

- Bishop's Orchards Winery, Guilford | Wine & Hard Cider
- Jones Family Farms Winery, Shelton | Wine
- Hops on the Hill Brewery, South Glastonbury | Beer

**1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.****CEU Pesticide Credit**

CEU Pesticide presentation by Mary Conklin, Extension Educator, UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Concklin will speak on “General Pesticide Safety Education.” | Aqua Turf Wagon Room

**To Exhibit**

[Click here](#), call 860-768-1100 or email [traceym@cfba.org](mailto:traceym@cfba.org)

**For More Information or Questions**

[Click here](#), call 860-768-1100 or email [traceym@cfba.org](mailto:traceym@cfba.org)

For more information visit [cfba.org](http://cfba.org) or call 860-768-1100 or email [traceym@cfba.org](mailto:traceym@cfba.org).

[Register Here](#)**CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS**

[Hemp farmers in Connecticut lobbying to get a piece of the recreational marijuana pie](#), Hartford Courant, 11/7

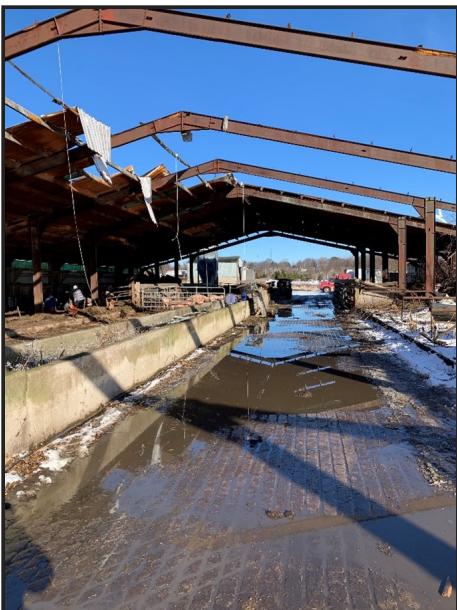
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[9 Connecticut farms selling local farm-raised turkeys for Thanksgiving, SF Gate, 11/2](#)

[Native Farmers Push for More Equitable Training and Support in the Farm Bill, Civil Eats, 11/1](#)

## TRANSITION GRANT IN ACTION: DESANTIS FARM PROMOTES PIG AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

Desantis Farm of Watertown was established by Mike Desantis in 2012. Mike founded the farm with little to no equipment--just some pigs and a love of farming. By 2019, Mike and his wife, Joann, and three daughters, raised over 100 pigs a year, meat birds and turkeys, sold eggs, grew ten acres of produce, 5,000 bales of hay, and over 40 acres of corn for the pigs and poultry.



Though the farm had expanded tremendously since 2012, the Desantis family felt the farm could do more. Mike says, "Every year, we aim to grow a little bit bigger. We take pride in growing bigger but staying within the limits of what our family can do. We have many plans for the future. This year, we are looking to grow even more with our farm stand business and offer more to the community at the local farmers' market."

Further expansion of the farm was limited by the existing pig and poultry barn, which had suffered tremendous damage during a snowstorm that collapsed a majority of the roof.

The awarding of a 2020 Farm Transition Grant enabled Desantis Farm to construct a 60' x 80' x 16' pole barn—plenty of room to **increase pig production by 50%, hay storage by 30-40%, and poultry production by 50 additional birds.**

Completion of the project resulted in a space where the animals can safely be housed and allow for a productive farming environment. Mike says, "We came to the state of Connecticut hoping to be able to secure funds to help us improve our farming goals and needs. **We would likely not have been able to accomplish this without the help of this grant,** and we appreciate the opportunity this has afforded us."

Are you a producer or agricultural cooperative looking to expand, transition, diversify, or innovate your operation? The 2023 Farm Transition Grant

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and application are now available. Applications will be accepted through

**January 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.**



*The FTG is a competitive matching reimbursement grant for Connecticut agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives. The Farm Transition Grant is provided through the State of Connecticut Farm Transition Grant Program, established in 2005 through [Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation](#).*

## FARM TRANSITION GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

### In-Person Workshop Information:

On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., a workshop will be held for interested agricultural producers and cooperatives to learn about the Farm Transition Grant's categories, required components, and submission process. The in-person workshop will take place at the Hartford County UConn Extension Office, in Farmington. Registration is required to attend this workshop. [Click here to register for the in-person workshop.](#)

### Virtual Workshop Information:

A virtual workshop will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., via Webex, for those interested in applying for the Farm Transition Grant. [Click here to register for the virtual workshop.](#)

**Questions about the workshops or the Farm Transition Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at [Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov](mailto:Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov).**

**[Click here for more information on the Farm Transition Grant](#)**

## USDA INVESTS \$3.3 MILLION IN TWO NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing about \$3.3 million in two new partnerships that will train and equip the next generation of crop insurance agents, adjusters and outreach educators about crop insurance options. These partnerships with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and the University of Arkansas' Southern Risk Management Education Center further efforts by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) to broaden participation in crop insurance, especially among underserved producers.

RMA and the IAC will strategically engage with minority-serving institutions and underserved stakeholder groups that will train, credential, and establish a pipeline of crop insurance agents and adjusters within underserved agricultural communities. The initiative's goal is to increase the representation of underserved insurance agents and loss adjusters providing service to underserved communities.

RMA and the Southern Risk Management Education Center will strengthen outreach and technical assistance to underserved farmers and ranchers through the development of risk management program navigators. These navigators will be program specialists trained by project collaborators to provide strategic outreach and engage underserved agricultural populations about federal crop insurance.

[Learn more](#)

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# Connecticut Renewable Energy Assessment & Assistance Project



## About the Program

This program provides assistance to eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses who want to implement renewable energy system projects **at no cost!**

## Join by Phone, Email, or Online

Participation in this program is limited! Join online at [www.ctfarmenergy.org/CTREAA](http://www.ctfarmenergy.org/CTREAA), scan the QR code with your phone, email [Connecticut@ensave.com](mailto:Connecticut@ensave.com), or call (800) 732-1399.

## Get a Resource Assessment

A customized resource assessment for your farm or business helps you determine what type of renewable energy is best for you.

## Receive a Complete System Design for Your Site

Energy analysts will design a renewable energy system that optimizes your operation's resources and energy consumption patterns to eliminate your electric bills.

## Assistance with Project Funding

Program representatives can help those who are eligible apply for incentives to help fund your renewable energy system through USDA Rural Development.

## Farm and Rural Small Business Eligibility

Agricultural producers with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations and small businesses located in rural areas with populations less than 50,000 are eligible.



**Connecticut**  
Resource Conservation  
& Development



**CONNECTICUT**  
FARM ENERGY PROGRAM

**EnSave**

**USDA** Rural Development  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For more information call EnSave at (800) 732-1399 or visit [ctfarmenergy.org/CTREAA](http://www.ctfarmenergy.org/CTREAA)

## CT RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSESSMENT & ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Are you a CT farm or AG based rural small business interested in renewable energy for your operation but don't know where to start? The Connecticut Farm Energy Program is pleased to announce with support from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the new Connecticut Renewable Energy Assessment & Assistance Project with technical assistance from EnSave, Inc. This project can provide you with a customized resource assessment for your farm or business that helps you determine what type of renewable energy is best for you.

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## FIRST NORTHEAST DISABILITY AND AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The Northeast Disability and Agriculture Conference is a first-time regional event designed to educate and empower the agricultural community. Through workshops and presentations, farmer attendees will learn how to better advocate for themselves, and service provider attendees will learn how to identify potential distress risks within the community. Together attendees will learn how to build a network sharing skills and resources to improve accessibility and reduce industry incidents of suicide.

The conference team is excited to offer a hybrid experience; in-person and limited virtual participation, on **February 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** at **Harkness Memorial State Park** (275 Great Neck Road, Waterford, CT). The daylong event includes a Keynote speaker, breakout sessions, group discussion, resources, and meals.

*In recognition of the needs of farmers with disabilities, a post conference stipend will be given to the first 50 farmers who identify as having a disability, have registered in advance, and attend the full conference.*

**Sign up here to reserve your spot today! 2023 Northeast Disability & Agriculture Conference**

The event is coordinated by Healing By Growing Farms, a social impact farm community that fosters a holistic healing approach reconnecting predominantly brain injury and trauma survivors to themselves, nature, and the environment while healing through farming. To learn more about our organization please visit us at [www.healingbygrowing.com](http://www.healingbygrowing.com).

Their aim for the conference is to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of farmers, agricultural service providers and the community. They would GREATLY appreciate your feedback to help them design conference content, better identify gaps in disability awareness and needed services for participants by participating in **THEIR SURVEY**.

For questions, please contact: [healingbygrowingconferenceteam@gmail.com](mailto:healingbygrowingconferenceteam@gmail.com).

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## FERAL CAT GRANT PROGRAM IS OPEN NOW

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Animal Population Control Program (APCP) is now accepting applications for the Feral Cat Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2023. Applications must be completed and returned by mail with

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### Population-Control-Program.

The Feral Cat Grant Program assists CT non-profit rescue groups with the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats. To be eligible for the grant your organization must be a registered non-profit and provide assistance in the control of feral cats. "Feral cat" means a cat of the species *Felis catus* that is unowned, that exists in a wild or untamed state, or has returned to an untamed state from domestication and whose behavior is suggestive of a wild animal.

Sterilizations and vaccinations must be performed by a Connecticut Licensed Veterinarian participating in the Animal Population Control Program and you must complete the Feral Cat Grant Outcome Report. A list of practices and facilities with participating licensed veterinarians can be found [here](#).

Since 2007, the APCP has averaged a 98% compliance rate for benefits issued through CT non-profit organizations, for the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats. The voucher will provide a one-time sterilization benefit of \$80 for a male cat and \$120 for a female cat. Reimbursements for vaccinations given coincident with the sterilization are \$30 for 2.

Questions about the Feral Cat Grant Program for the Fiscal Year 2023 can be directed to the Animal Population Control Program (APCP) by email [agr.apcp@ct.gov](mailto:agr.apcp@ct.gov) or by calling 860-713-2507.



### **WORKING LANDS ALLIANCE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING**

Please join Working Lands Alliance (WLA) for their 2022 annual meeting and luncheon to celebrate farmland preservation in Connecticut! The meeting will be on **Wednesday, Nov. 16 from 12 to 2 p.m.** at Thomas Hooker Live located at 1 Sequassen St., Hartford, CT, 06106.

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Indrajeet Chaubey of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources. As we enter this new phase of "normal", a panel discussion will explore how we can continue to advance resilient agricultural strategies. Attendees will hear from individuals who are creating innovative strategies and opportunities for farmers and service providers alike to create a resilient agricultural sector during these uncertain times.

The Annual Meeting will also include the presentation of the 2022 Farmland Preservation Pathfinder Awards. Established in 2003, these prestigious awards recognize individuals and groups in Connecticut that have significantly advanced farmland preservation through leadership, communications, advocacy, planning, and education. Award winners over the last fifteen years have included municipalities, land trusts, journalists, farmers, town boards, and many individuals and groups who have shown an impressive commitment to protecting our vital farmland in Connecticut.

[Register Here](#)

## FARMER TAX EXEMPTION PERMIT RENEWAL INFORMATION UPDATE

The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) is currently undergoing a multi-year, multi-phase information technology (IT) modernization initiative. As part of the initiative, DRS has begun replacing the Taxpayer Service Center (TSC) with [myconneCT](#), a new, safe, secure, and user-friendly online system. Additionally, DRS is expanding its online taxpayer services to more Connecticut taxpayers.

The following groups may now use myconneCT to submit their application renewals electronically by logging into myconneCT at [portal.ct.gov/DRS-myconneCT](http://portal.ct.gov/DRS-myconneCT):

- Farmers
- Fishermen
- Materialmen
- Small Wineries

Use myconneCT to file taxes, make payments, view filing history, and communicate with the agency simply and more efficiently on virtually any mobile device, including laptops, tablets, and smartphones, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If a farmer has not yet filed their renewal application with DRS, an additional mailing was sent the week ending October 21 with a letter explaining the process. If a farmer requires immediate access to their new permit, the letter explains how to apply online to receive a permit electronically.

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All permits will be set to a September 30 expiration date. All farmers who have already received a renewed permit from DRS do not need to take any further action. DRS will be issuing an updated permit with an expiration date of September 30, 2024.

If anyone has questions regarding a permit renewal, they may contact DRS directly at 860-297-4996. General questions may be sent via email to [drs@ct.gov](mailto:drs@ct.gov). Please do not include any attachments or images as it will be returned undeliverable. An online tutorial providing instruction on how to renew permits through the DRS website may be accessed [here](#).



## PROTECT YOUR AGRICULTURAL LAND WITH A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Are you a farmer with a deep connection to your land or interest in protecting the future of the nation's food supply? Maybe you're an agricultural landowner or eligible entity interested in protecting the integrity of your property? Why not consider safeguarding your land with a conservation easement through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). **NRCS accepts applications year round; however, applications for FY2023 funding are being accepted from now until January 31, 2023.**



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nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land. Under the **Agricultural Land Easements** (ALE) component funds are provided to eligible entities that use ACEP funding to purchase permanent agricultural land easements that not only protect the future of the nation's food supply, but also support environmental quality, wildlife habitat, and historic preservation and protection of open spaces. Landowner applicants who are interested must apply through an eligible entity – such as a land trust, municipality, or the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use.

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, grassland, and pastureland; non-industrial private forest land may be enrolled when associated with active agricultural land. Native American Tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to purchase conservation easements.

Enrolling agricultural land helps secure the future of the nation's food supply, prevents it from being developed or going to a non-agricultural use, and provides public benefits including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat, and protection of open space.

**Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2023, to:**

Carol Grasis  
Assistant State Conservationist for Programs  
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
344 Merrow Road, Suite A  
Tolland, CT 06084-3917

Not sure how to begin? Visit our [website](#) where you will find information on benefits, how to apply, all the forms you will need, and more.

To speak to someone about filling out eligibility forms with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), or to obtain an application, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#): Danielson – (860) 779-0557; Hamden – (203) 287-8038; Norwich – (860) 887-3604; Torrington – (860) 626-8852; Windsor – (860) 688-7725; Connecticut State Office, Tolland – (860) 871-4028.

**NORTHEAST**

**DAIRY BUSINESS  
INNOVATION CENTER**

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## FALL DAIRY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY NE-DBIC

New England Dairy Business Innovation Center is preparing to release guidance on grants for this fall. Below is a list of funding opportunities coming this fall.

### Grants for Dairy Processors

- **Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant (January):** This grant will be split into multiple funding tiers to accommodate processors of all scales. Projects will focus on acquiring specialized equipment needed to increase the processing capacity of regionally produced milk and other activities to support expansion to meet demand. Grant opportunity released in January.
- **Dairy Processor Innovation Grant (January):** Projects funded through this program will support long term business investments that increase dairy processor business consumer appeal and marketability of value-added dairy products. Project areas can address sourcing, product development, transportation/distribution, marketing/supply chain, operations, employee welfare, consumer experience, utilization of materials or systems that reduce carbon footprint, and beyond. Grant opportunity released in January.

For more information visit their site below.

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### **NEW DAIRY FARM INNOVATION & ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT GRANT LAUNCHES**

Between the economy, climate change, changing consumer preferences, and generational transitions, dairy farmers juggle many challenges – but they're also in a unique position to positively address those challenges through business innovation.

At the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, we're excited to announce the new Dairy Farm Innovation & Alternative Management Grant to support farmers and producers in implementing community- and climate-forward practices.

Open to licensed dairy farmers, producer associations, and technical assistance providers in all Northeast states, this grant will fund projects that lead to improved ecological and economic outcomes, as well as benefit the broader dairy community.

#### **Projects may include:**

- Utilization of new technologies to improve animal health, enhance labor efficiencies, reduce energy costs, and/or increase utilization of the farm's land base

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- Adoption of non-standard animal management practices
- Past Issues
- Milk Handling and non-traditional approaches to consolidating milk

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- Farm transfer, ownership, and/or training
- Water, waste, and manure management improvements
- Conversion or pilot testing of electric-powered equipment to replace fossil fuel powered equipment
- Technological advancements associated with improved production practices, soil management, nutrient management, financial analysis, greenhouse gas emissions, and crop production
- Or other activities that improve management strategies and/or implement innovative practices

**Awards will range from \$15,000 - \$75,000 with a 25% match commitment.**

The Dairy Innovation Grant Request for Applications (RFA) is available now on our website.

The application period will be open December 1, 2022 – February 2, 2023.

[Read the RFA to prepare for your grant proposal](#)

[Visit NE-DBIC](#)



### **FMSA PRODUCE SAFETY RULE / PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE APPROVED GROWER TRAINING COURSE (IN PERSON)**

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge that includes emphasis on co-management of food safety and environmental management goals, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires '*At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as*

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)**UPDATE****Revised Course Fee: \$50**

*We have received approval from the Department of Agriculture to cover the registration fee under produce safety funding from the FDA.*

**November 30, December 1, 2022; December 2, Snow Date**

**8:30 am through 3:30 pm**

Middlesex County Extension Center  
1066 Saybrook Road  
Haddam, Connecticut 06438

**Registration Deadline Friday, November 18**

Space is limited to 30 participants.

**REGISTRATION: Course fee is \$50** (previously \$200). The preferred method of registration/payment is through the CAHNR Conferences site, paying with a credit card. Please include both a work and cell/home phone number and regularly used email address in case of emergency or cancellation.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Please go to <https://s.uconn.edu/fsmaproducesafetycourse> to register.

VISA and MasterCard are accepted.

***In order to obtain a certificate that provides evidence of compliance with the training requirements of the rule, you must be present for the entire two-day course, so do not make plans for the snow date!***

For additional information, if you have a question regarding this course, or if you are an individual with a disability and need accommodations, contact: Indu Upadhyaya at (860) 871-0776 or [indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu](mailto:indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu). (Please be aware that advance notice is necessary as some accommodations may require more time for the University to arrange. A good faith effort will be made to provide accommodations up until the time of the workshop.)

[Register Here](#)

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## PROTECT YOUR POULTRY FROM HPAI

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) advises all poultry owners and producers to remain vigilant in protecting their backyard and commercial poultry flocks against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

HPAI was confirmed at a backyard non-commercial flock in New London County in March 2022 and more recently on October 4 at a backyard non-commercial flock in New Haven County. Additionally, multiple detections have been confirmed within wild birds throughout Connecticut, primarily waterfowl and raptors.

Poultry biosecurity materials and checklists can be found on the [USDA's "Defend the Flock" website](#). Best practices include:

- Discourage unnecessary visitors and use biosecurity signs to warn people not to enter buildings without permission.
- Ask all visitors if they have had any contact with any birds in the past five days.
- Forbid entry to employees and visitors who own any kind of fowl.
- Require all visitors to cover and disinfect all footwear.
- Lock all entrances to chicken houses after hours.
- Avoid non-essential vehicular traffic on-farm.
- After hauling birds to processors, clean and disinfect poultry transport coops and vehicles before they return to the farm.
- Report anything unusual, especially sick or dead birds, to CT DoAg at 860-713-2505 or [ctstate.vet@ct.gov](mailto:ctstate.vet@ct.gov) or the USDA at 866-536-7593.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild ducks and geese and their droppings. Outdoor access for poultry should be limited at this time.

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appetite, drop in egg production, swelling around the eyes, neck, and head, and purple discoloration of wattles, combs, and legs.

Avian influenza does not present an immediate public health concern. Only one detection in a human has occurred in the United States, and the individual exhibited minor symptoms. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F kills bacteria and viruses.

## APPLY NOW FOR FARMLAND RESTORATION GRANT

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announces that the 2023 Farmland Restoration Grant (FLRG) guidance is now available, and the application portal is live to accept applications.

The Farmland Restoration Grant (FLRG) provides matching funds to Connecticut farmers, nonprofits, and municipalities to increase food and fiber production in the state by restoring lands into active agricultural production. The Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan and a Climate Smart Resiliency Plan (FLRP Plan). Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022.

For the purposes of this grant, farmland restoration is the act of bringing land into agricultural production for human food, animal feed, or livestock grazing.

The maximum grant awarded is \$20,000.00. Applications of any amount up to the maximum possible award will be considered for funding. There are two opportunities for funding under the Farmland Restoration Program. The opportunities for funding are for projects on either publicly owned land or for projects that are on privately owned land. Applicants will choose the grant that best fits their property to apply.

The following entities are eligible to apply for the Farmland Restoration Grant:

1. Agricultural producers, who are owners or tenants of an existing agribusiness within the State of Connecticut with at least one year of production experience.
2. Not for profits owning or leasing a property in use for agricultural production.
3. Municipalities leasing farmland, currently in use by a farmer. The lease must be no less than five years in duration, with a five-year option to renew in the terms.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants) with additional details on match requirements and eligible expenses.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. a virtual webinar will be held for interested agricultural producers and cooperatives to learn about the Farmland

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session will be recorded and posted to the agency website if you are unable to attend the live event.

Questions regarding the Farmland Restoration Grant can be directed to Lance Shannon, [Lance.Shannon@ct.gov](mailto:Lance.Shannon@ct.gov) or Simon Levesque, [Simon.Levesque@ct.gov](mailto:Simon.Levesque@ct.gov). More information on application requirements, submission process, and accompanying forms can be found online at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).

*Funding for the Farmland Restoration Grant is made possible by Connecticut General Statutes 22-6c. The Farmland Restoration Grant and any awards are subject to the requirements and provisions of state funding.*



**2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**

**COMING THIS NOVEMBER.**  
[nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

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**#AgCensus**

**USDA**  **United States Department of Agriculture**  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



**EL CENSO DE AGRICULTURA CUENTA**

**PORQUE MUESTRA EL VALOR**  
**DEL TRABAJO QUE HAGO.**

**2022 CENSO DE AGRICULTURA**  
SU VОZ. SU TRABAJO. SU OPORTUNIDAD.

**A PARTIR DE NOVIEMBRE**  
[nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

**#AgCensus**

**USDA**  **United States Department of Agriculture**  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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## **USDA SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking public comment on how it should implement Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), a provision that aims to provide assistance to the nation's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs.

Section 22007 provides a transformative opportunity for USDA to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners impacted by discrimination in USDA farm lending programs. IRA Section 22007 directs USDA to provide financial assistance to producers who have experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs and has appropriated \$2.2 billion for this purpose.

This request for information is an important step in making sure farmers, advocates, academics, legislators, tribal governments, and other experts who have important perspectives that must be incorporated to assist USDA in implementing these provisions to fulfill the intent of Congress.

**The 30-day comment period closes on November 14, 2022.**

[Click here for more information.](#)



**BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

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## *Grants Will Increase Innovative, American-Made Fertilizer Production, Spur Competition and Help U.S. Farmers Address Rising Costs*

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is inviting U.S. farmers and agricultural producers to apply for grants under the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program. The Administration recently announced it is making \$500 million in grants available through the program to increase American-made fertilizer production, spur competition and combat price hikes on U.S. farmers caused by the war in Ukraine.

“The Fertilizer Production Expansion Program is one of many ways the Biden-Harris Administration invests in the agricultural supply chain right here at home,” Vilsack said. “This funding will bring production and jobs back to the United States, promote competition and support American goods and services. Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA continues to create a resilient, secure and sustainable economy to support opportunities for local businesses and people across this nation. This program is a critical part of that effort.”

USDA begins accepting applications today via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applicants have two opportunities to submit their applications:

- Applicants may apply until **Nov. 14, 2022**, to receive priority for projects that increase the availability of fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphate or potash) and nutrient alternatives for agricultural producers to use in crop years 2023 or 2024.
- Applicants may apply until **Dec. 29, 2022**, to receive financial assistance to significantly increase American-made fertilizer production to spur competition and combat price hikes. This application window supports applicants who need more time to make additional capacity available.

[Click here for more information on the program.](#)

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## CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT



**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING  
ACCEPTED THROUGH  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022**



To Apply: Visit  
[www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants)  
and click on CT Grown for  
CT Kids

grant program to support farm to school programming

 Funds projects up to \$24,999 for 18 months

 Q & A session on Thursday October 6 11:00 AM, register at [CTGrown.gov/grants](http://CTGrown.gov/grants) --> CT Grown for CT Kids

 For questions contact [Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov](mailto:Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov) 860-895-3094




## BEGINNING FARMER LOAN OPPORTUNITY

Accessing capital to begin, extend, or support an agriculture operation can be challenging--especially to new producers. Farm Service Agency's "Beginning Farmer" direct and guaranteed loan programs provide an opportunity for qualified applicants to secure loans from funding set aside for producers who meet the following conditions:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training, and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm

For more information, contact the New London County USDA Service Center at (860) 887-9941 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

### Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)  
*Prices provided on November 7, 2022*

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)  
*Prices provided on October 27, 2022*

[Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report](#)

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### **Advertisements**

[Advertisement space can now be purchased online. Click here to have your posting added.](#)

### **For Sale**

For Sale, Christmas Greens. Wreaths & Roping, Many sizes and varieties. We Deliver 203-457-1344. (12/2/22)

Lynn Blackmer, local Nationwide Farm Insurance Agent. AFIS Certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT, RI & MA. Any type or size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for a discount. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com. Evenings & weekends available. (1/27/22)

Rain Flo irrigation pump. Four inch discharge. New condition. Please call 860-841-3082.

Dried Sawdust / Different Grades, \$20 per yard. You pick up or delivered with additional charge. 860-642-7084. Blue Slope Sawdust.

Bush Hog Subsoiler Model HDSS1L single shank, 3 pt. Hitch, goes 23" deep. Like new condition. No rust. \$425 or best offer. 203-283-1459.

John Bean 200-gallon stainless-steel high-pressure sprayer on skids. 100 ft. hose on reel, premium J. Bean model 785-gun, mechanical agitation, Honda OHV motor. \$2,200 or best offer. 203-283-1459.

Walk behind Gravely tractor with sickle mower. \$400. Very good, workable condition. 860-875-8056.

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)

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Sonpar's Power Fence 860-491-2290.[Translate ▾](#)

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.

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](mailto:Griffinfarm@aol.com); [www.griffinfarmtools.com](http://www.griffinfarmtools.com)

### **Wanted**

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

**Interested in Advertising?** Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

### **Employment Opportunities**

AFT is hiring a New England Policy Associate. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, applicants who apply with a resume and cover letter prior to **November 15** will be given primary consideration. You can find the job description and details on how to apply [here](#).

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





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**UConn Extension's 2023 Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference**

Wednesday, January 4, 2023  
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel  
100 Capitol Blvd, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Trade Shows: 8:00-8:55, 10:00-10:45, 11:00-11:45  
8:00-8:15 Registration, breakfast, trade show, and trade show  
Morning Moderate – More to Know: Fruit, Estuaries, Specialties, Breweries, UConn  
8:45 Available: Insecticide Use, best practices, Hamilton, Economics, Profitability, UVM  
9:00 Nutrient management in sweet corn, George Hamilton, Economics, Profitability, UVM  
9:15 Vegetable benefits and disease control of nanotechnology, Kaitlin Turner, UVM  
10:00 Am. vs. eastern  
10:15 Break (make know your area)  
10:30 Plug strawberries: VS bare root, strawberries – pros and cons of both, Tim Howard, Nicasia Farms  
11:15 Small scale bush breeding project with UConn engineering students, Susan Mittleman  
11:30 Research update, AgriFood, UConn  
11:45 New opportunities to sell to restaurants and early care providers, J.F. Martin, UConn  
12:00-1:15 Lunch break/cocktail hour  
Afternoon Moderate – UConn vs. UVM  
1:00 Winter is coming in low numbers, Robert Dugay, UConn  
1:15 Drone imaging to monitor pests, leafhopper damage in the field, C. and W. Wenzel, UConn  
1:45 Strawberries and irrigation for irrigation Tressie Kirby and Joe Stopp, Brookside Fruit Farm  
2:00 Drone micoscale for produce safety with new UConn, UConn  
2:30 Knoll Hill small scale growers present: Joni Jones, Jones Family Farms, Bryan Chiodo, Tobacco Road Farms, others TBA  
3:30 Peer discussion on the risk and liability in EU, to be confirmed

**REGISTRATION:**  
Regular: Early Bird (prior to 12/20/22 \$50.00), \$110.00, includes Sat.  
After 12/20/22 \$120.00, Saturday registration will be available, register online at [http://ctagreportnovember112022.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportnovember112022?e=\[UNIQID\]](http://ctagreportnovember112022.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportnovember112022?e=[UNIQID])  
Student: Early Bird (prior to 12/20/22 \$30.00)  
After 12/20/22 \$50.00, Saturday registration will be available, register online at [http://ctagreportnovember112022.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportnovember112022?e=\[UNIQID\]](http://ctagreportnovember112022.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportnovember112022?e=[UNIQID])

Contact [ctagreport@ct.gov](mailto:ctagreport@ct.gov), 860.625-5031 if you have any questions

**UCONN** **CAES**

**UConn Winter Riding Lessons 2022-2023**

Lessons offered in dressage, hunt seat, western and polo at a variety of levels.

**SESSION I:**  
Week 1: December 12-15, 2022  
Week 2: December 19-22, 2022

**SESSION II:**  
Week 1: January 02-05, 2023  
Week 2: January 09-12, 2023

**PRICING:**  
\$200/2 days per week for 2 weeks

**REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DEADLINES:**

Session I: December 5, 2022  
Session II: December 19, 2022

Visit [s.uconn.edu/winter-riding](http://s.uconn.edu/winter-riding) for the full schedule and to reserve your spot today!

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