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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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Does your farm offer a CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) program?

In the upcoming months the Connecticut Grown campaign will be promoting CSA's and we want to be sure your farm is included. The

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Department of Agriculture maintains a list of Connecticut CSAs here. To add your farm to this list, or to update the information on this page, please submit your information here.

Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture & Forestry Grant Guidance Released

$7 Million Available to Fund Projects Supporting Climate Smart Farming

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is pleased to announce the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant Guidance is now available with up to $7 million available in funding for projects which support climate smart farming practices. Funding is provided through Public Act 22-118 Sec 12(b)(70) which provides $7 million for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

"In 2019, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 3 reinvigorating the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) which tasked state agencies to implement actions to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the climate crisis. As chair of the Agriculture and Soils Subgroup for Working and Natural Lands, I worked in coordination with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and key stakeholders to put forward recommendations to mitigate the effects of climate change on Connecticut Agriculture," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "During the recent legislative session, lawmakers took decisive action to make strategic investments to build a more resilient Connecticut. One of the results is this new funding opportunity, Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant, which will fund projects making a meaningful impact through the implementation of climate smart practices."

The Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant can fund projects in a variety of areas including, but not limited to:

1. Providing technical assistance.
2. Distributing a grant to producers.
3. Coordinating training programs.
4. Coordinating projects that pilot or demonstrate water and land-based conservation practices.
5. Creating tools that help reduce barriers to accessing assistance for climate smart farming.
6. Establishing equipment-sharing programs.
7. Other activities that will increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices.

Any agribusiness or entity, including nonprofit organization, soil and water conservation district, colleges and universities, municipality or for-profit organization in the State of Connecticut are eligible to apply. All agricultural commodities can participate including aquaculture, agriculture and forestry. In addition, all production types will be supported including conventional/organic, indoor/outdoor, soil/water, and urban/rural. CT DoAg plans to issue awards in varying amounts for program implementation from May 1, 2023, through May 1, 2028.

There will be four application funding tiers:

Tier 1: $100,000 to $249,999

- Project duration: Up to 18 months

Tier 2: $250,000 to $499,999

- Project duration: 18 months up to 2 years

Tier 3: $500,000 to $999,999

- Project duration: 2-3 years

Tier 4: $1,000,000 and up

- Project duration: 3-5 years

There is **no match requirement** for this grant.

An informational webinar will be held on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. to assist interested applicants in learning about eligible projects, the submission process, and tips for writing an application. Registration is required to attend this workshop. Please pre-register for the event here. Registered attendees will be provided the webinar information 24 hours prior to the start.

Questions regarding the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture & Forestry Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov. More information on application requirements, submission process, and accompanying forms can be found online at http://www.CTgrown.gov/grants.

AGBOTIC BREAKS GROUND ON NEXT SMARTFARM IN ASHFORD, CT

Agbotic's climate-smart farm model grows crops at a lower cost of production than hydroponic or vertical greenhouse models and is approaching economic parity with outdoor farming.

Agbotic, the leader in regenerative SmartFarm technology announced its ground breaking in Ashford, Connecticut where it will build the newest version of its highly automated, machine leaning, organic farm technology.

Regenerative farming cleans the air, water, and soil and can reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring soil biodiversity – resulting in carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle. It also makes higher quality and lower cost food.

There are significant advantages to embedding organic, soil greenhouses on distributed SmartFarms. Those benefits include food security and diversity; a

cleaner environment; and a secure, year-round supply of local, organic, fresh, healthy food. The economics are also better than with hydroponic greenhouses.

John Gaus, CEO of Agbotic, said, “The regenerative ag movement is accelerating with initiatives from industry leaders like Walmart, PepsiCo, ADM and General Mills. Agbotic has created a winning tech stack and proven it at scale to produce organic crops at a cost that competes with non-organic greenhouse and outdoor crops. Our economics will continue to improve with the evolution of our technology.”

"Integrating innovative technologies into our agricultural operations in Connecticut is critical to mitigating the impacts of climate change while increasing plant quality, crop yields, and profit margins," said Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "We are excited to see this project move forward as it's another building block to a future of more sustainable agriculture which will offer increased food security and availability of fresh CT Grown products for Connecticut residents."

Indrajeet Chaubey, Dean, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, states, “We are very excited to have Agbotic bring their state-of-the-art, greenhouse production system to Connecticut. This new facility will create excellent opportunities for research and outreach collaborations. We are also excited that our students will have experiential learning opportunities in this award-winning production system that will prepare them for top-level careers in agriculture.”

John Prete, who developed the Ashford project and is on the Board of Directors of Agbotic Inc., said, “Connecticut, and specifically this farm in Ashford, is the perfect place to continue our Mission to revolutionize farming in ways that nurture people and restore nature. We are adding the most advanced ‘Smart Farm’ to a very successful operating farm to deliver better food at lower prices with the best environmental model of any farm model. This farm will produce crops for all of Connecticut and surrounding states”.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Offers Five Ways for Residents and Visitors to Pick CT Grown for the Holidays, Yahoo Finance, 11/17
Dairy farmers working to battle food insecurity around the holidays, WTIC Hartford, 11/16
Serve Up a Stress-Free Thanksgiving Meal with Some Help from Bishop's Orchards, WTNH, 11/15
We visit Four Mile River Farm, and a mission-based restaurant in Hartford is reimagined, CT Public Radio, 11/15
'Pies, potato chips, fish' — new CT plant converting food scraps to animal feed, Stamford Advocate, 11/14
Ridgefield farm uses 30 hungry, grazing goats to munch on invasive plants, Stamford Advocate, 11/14

REGISTER NOW FOR THE BUYERS MISSION AT THE WINTER FANCY FOODS SHOW

Are you seeking new growth opportunities for your business? The Connecticut Department of Agriculture partners with Food Export USA–Northeast (Food Export–Northeast), a non-profit organization that assists U.S. companies

looking to start or expand export sales. Through this partnership we aim to maximize your success through programs and services in Export Education, Market Entry, and Market Promotion.

Food Export Northeast provides market intelligence, education, assistance, tools, and financial support for novice to seasoned U.S. food companies that help them find growth opportunities and build dynamic export strategy programs to achieve international success.

Currently, we are seeking Connecticut companies for participation in the Buyers Mission at the Winter Fancy Foods Show taking place in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 14-16, 2023. Hosted by Food Export Midwest in partnership with the Specialty Food Association the show attracts 1,400 exhibitors, and more than 25,000 attendees bringing together the best and brightest makers in the specialty food industry. This is your opportunity to develop and expand your business with domestic and international buyers who have expressed interest in a variety of U.S. specialty food products.

You'll have the opportunity to meet with up to thirteen (13) pre-qualified buyers from around the world in pre-arranged, one-on-one meetings right here in the U.S., generate new sales leads, and build relationships with key industry players! It's the perfect low-cost opportunity to meet qualified buyer from around the world in one place!

The early registration fee is $225.00, and the registration deadline is December 7, 2022. All suppliers who wish to participate in this Buyers Mission must be a member of the Specialty Food Association. Click here for information on SFA Membership.

For questions or more information, please contact Erin Windham with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-6083.

TRANSITION GRANT IN ACTION:

TROPICAL ORCHID PRODUCTION AT GEREMIA GREENHOUSE

Geremia Greenhouse is a family owned and operated wholesale greenhouse facility in Wallingford, CT. Over the years, the business has grown to encompass 10 acres and is proud to be one of the most modern and environmentally friendly greenhouses in the Northeast. Current production includes more than 500 varieties of annual plants and seasonal items, such as poinsettias, mums, and tropical orchids.

In 2020, Geremia Greenhouse applied to the Farm Transition Grant program looking to increase their production capacity for tropical orchids. Project components included constructing a 9,500 sq. ft.-controlled environment greenhouse, outfitting the greenhouse with a fog system to keep humidity levels optimal, new LED lighting, greenhouse benches, and a heat retention/shade curtain system.

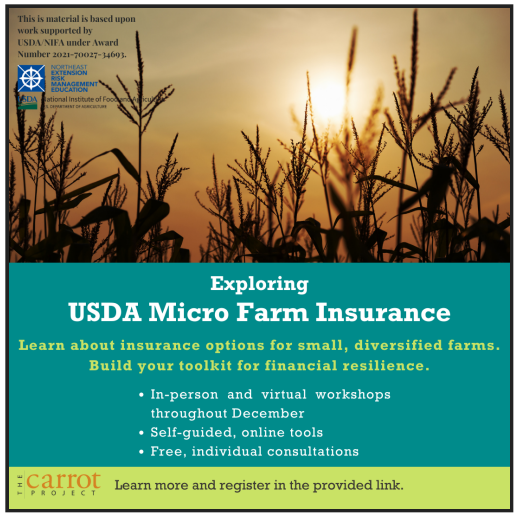
Increasing production of tropical orchids has enabled Geremia to meet demand in a lucrative market that is uninhibited by local marketplace competition. Joe Geremia, owner, says, “Customer demand for exotic plants, such as the orchids, had grown beyond our capacity to meet their needs. Our increased orchid production and sales have been able to fill a niche for the domestic production of tropical orchids.”

As a whole, the United State produces only about 6% of the world's supply of tropical orchids. Geremia says, “This project has helped sustain and promote CT agriculture because it will promote the CT Grown brand as one that uniquely incorporates production of quality tropical orchids in the national

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

THE CARROT PROJECT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR USDA'S NEWEST CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM



Small-scale, diversified farmers – have you heard the news? There's a new insurance program available from USDA called Micro Farm insurance, available specifically for farmers making up to $350,000 annually. If you've thought federal crop insurance didn't apply to you before, well, things are starting to change!

How it Works: Micro Farm insurance prepares your farm for the unexpected by protecting your total farm revenue from losses in income. For example, if you're insured for $100,000 and you only make

$30,000 during the year, you could receive a claim payment of $70,000 to recover the difference. Coverage is based on your historic revenue over the past three years along with your estimated revenue for the coverage year.

Unlike other crop insurance programs that cover only single commodities, this insurance covers everything under one policy. This includes income from post-production processing like freezing or drying, plus value-added products like jams, jellies, cider, canned or pickled goods, etc.

How The Carrot Project can help: With disruptive weather events getting increasingly common and intense, The Carrot Project – a non-profit supporting producers in MA, CT, and RI – is encouraging farmers to consider every tool available to help reduce risk and keep your farm running year after year. In partnership with local organizations, we have a number of free support services available to help you determine if Micro Farm insurance can work for you, including:

- In-person and virtual workshops throughout December
- Self-guided, online tools
- Free, individual consultations

Check out The Carrot Project's resources on USDA Micro Farm insurance and register for workshops here:
https://thecarrotproject.salsalabs.org/microfarmworkshop20222023

If you have any questions or would like individualized support, reach out to Amanda Chang, Outreach Coordinator at The Carrot Project, at achang@thecarrotproject.org or 617-674-2371 x 10.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2021-70027-34693.

USDA INVESTS $3.3 MILLION IN TWO NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND OUTREACH ON CROP INSURANCE TO UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS

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

FACT PRESENTS THEIR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FARM GRANTS

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is now accepting applications for our next round of **Fund-a-Farmer Grants**! The deadline for livestock and poultry farmers to apply is **January 10, 2023**. Grants will be awarded in March 2023. (**Learn more & apply online**)

FACT awards competitive grants of up to $3,000 to working, independent farmers located in the 50 United States and five major U.S. territories who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. **This year, FACT will fund the following types of projects:**

► **Farms that wish to improve and expand pasture for animals.** These grants for farms to transition to pasture-based systems, expand animals'

access to well-managed pasture, and improve the quality of pasture for animals.

► **Farms seeking one of three animal welfare certifications**: Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World, Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership Animal Welfare Certified (steps 4 to 5+). These grants will be made for on-farm projects that help improve animal welfare.

► **Farms that already hold one of the welfare certifications** above to build capacity or maintain certification. These grants can be for on-farm production-related projects, or for other projects related to the marketing, sales, and distribution of welfare-certified products.

Before beginning your application, we encourage you to review the complete list of **grant guidelines** and other resources, including several example applications and tip sheets. If you have questions, please email us at grants@foodanimalconcerns.org. We are happy to assist you and look forward to receiving your application!

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, scan the QR code with your phone, email 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

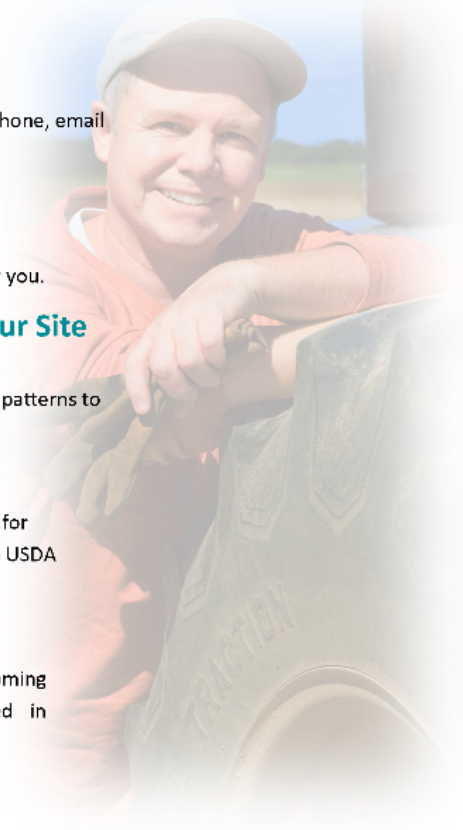
Energy analysts will design a renewable energy system that optimizes your operation's resources and energy consumption patterns to eliminate your electric bills.

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

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.

Click here to learn more.

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.

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**.**

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 postmark no later than November 30, 2022. Applications are available for download at https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Regulatory/Regulatory/Animal-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.

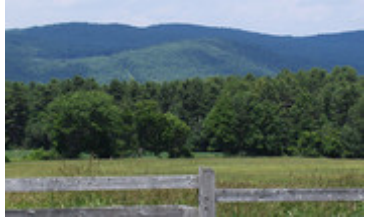
Sterilizations and vaccinations must be performed by a Connecticut Licensed Veterinarian participating in the Animal Population Control Program and you

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 or by calling 860-713-2507.

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.**

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting 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

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 focused 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.

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
- Adoption of non-standard animal management practices
- Milk handling and non-traditional approaches to consolidating milk
- 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

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 adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'*

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. (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

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 with additional details on match requirements and eligible expenses.

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.** Questions regarding the Farmland Restoration Grant can be

directed to Lance Shannon, Lance.Shannon@ct.gov or Simon Levesque, Simon.Levesque@ct.gov. More information on application requirements, submission process, and accompanying forms can be found online at 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.

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS UNDER THE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROGRAM

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. Applicants have two opportunities to submit their applications:

- 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.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices provided on November 14, 2022

CT Farmers' Market Prices
Prices provided on October 27, 2022

Northeast Regional Eggs

New England Shell Eggs

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston

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

Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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

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; www.griffinfarmtools.com

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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

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)

DEC 3RD
POWER TOOLS & CARPENTRY BASICS
DEC 10TH
BCS/WALK BEHIND TRACTOR
JAN 7TH
SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 2-STROKE
JAN 28TH
SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 4-STROKE
FEB 11TH
BASIC WELDING FOR BEGINNERS
FEB 25TH
ADVANCED WELDING USING METAL INERT GAS METHODS
UCONN
USDA

LUNCH
Healing by Growing Farm
East Haven, CT
November 19, 12pm-2pm
We'll enjoy a meal together, take a farm tour, and discuss the complexities of farming while taking care of our bodies and getting older.
NEW CONNECTICUT
FARMER ALLIANCE

GROWING FARMS
SAVE THE DATE
Northeast
Disability and Agriculture
Conference
February 4, 2023*
9am - 3pm
Harkness Park
Waterford, CT
Our first Northeast conference invites farmers, service providers and community supporters to engage in active dialogue around disability, mental health, and suicide. Interactive workshops will build connections and equip participants with skills and resources to promote advocacy, equity, access, and a just agricultural system.
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.
*Snow date: February 11, 2023
Scan to register

GROWING FARMS
GUARDE LA FECHA
Conferencia Noreste
sobre Discapacidad y
Agricultura
Febrero 4, 2023*
9am - 3pm
Harkness Park
Waterford, CT
Nuestra primera conferencia del noreste invita agricultores, proveedores de servicios y comunidades de apoyo a participar en un diálogo activo sobre la discapacidad, la salud mental y el suicidio. Los talleres interactivos construirán conexiones y equiparán a los participantes con habilidades y recursos para promover abogacía, la equidad, el acceso y un sistema agrícola justo.
Se dará un estipendio después de la conferencia a los primeros (50) agricultores que se identifiquen como discapacitados, se hayan registrado con anticipación y asistan a la conferencia completa.
*Fecha si nieva: Febrero 11, 2023
escanear para registrarse

GREENWICH
FOOD SYSTEM
FORUM
2022
PATHWAYS TO ENGAGEMENT
Funding a Resilient Regional Foodshed
Nov. 30, 2022
7:00 - 8:30pm
thefoodshednetwork.org
PANELISTS
Sarah Huang, Grassroots Fund
Esperanza Pallana, Food & Farm Communications Fund
Kyle Philipp, Regenerative Food Network
Anthony Myint, Zero Foodprint
Woody Tasch, Slow Money Institute

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

Trade Show: 8:00-8:55, 10:00-10:45, 12:00-1:00
8:00-8:55 Registration, breakfast, socialize, visit trade show
Morning Moderator – Mary Concklin, Fruit Extension Specialist, Emeritus, UConn
8:55 Welcome: Introject Chatchey, Dean of CAHNR, UConn
9:00 **Nutrient management in sweet corn** George Hamilton, Emeritus Professor, UNH
9:30 **Vegetable benefits and disease control of nanotechnology** Wade Elmer, CAES
10:00 Annual Business
10:15 Break (trade show/coffee Area)
10:45 **Plug strawberries VS bare root strawberries – pros and cons of both** Tim Moore, Moore Farms
11:15 **Small scale bean threshing project with UConn engineering students** Susan Mitchell, Cloverleigh Farm
11:35 **Trap crop- UConn research update** Ana Legrand, UConn
11:50 **New opportunities to sell to K-12 schools and early care providers.** Jill Martin, UConn
12:00-1:00 Lunch breakfast/trade show
Afternoon Moderator – Sherman Gilmore, Vegetable Extension Specialist, UConn
1:00 **Winter Growing in low tunnels.** Robert Dungy, CAES
1:30 **Drone imaging to monitor potato leafhopper damage in the field.** Chandi Wimarana, UConn
1:45 **Strawberries and irrigation/fertigation** Trevor Hardy and Zoe Stapp, Brookdale Fruit Farm
2:15 **Drone microbubble for produce safety** Ashraw Upadhyay, UConn
2:30 **No-till and soil health growers' panel** Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm, Bryan O'Hara, Tobacco Road Farm, others TBD
3:30 Pesticide recertification credits and sodalize: 4 CEU to be confirmed

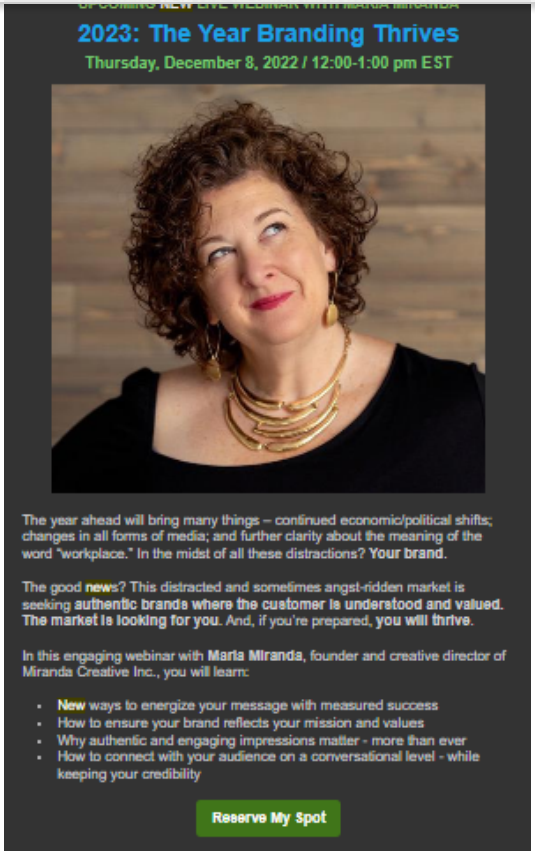
REGISTRATION:

Regular: Early Bird (prior to 12/29) $50.00 ($1.00 processing fee)
After 12/29 $70.00 same day registration will be available, cash or check only.
https://ctagreportnovember112022-5018708/registration

Student: Early Bird (prior to 12/29) $30.00
After 12/29: $50.00, same day registration will be available, cash or check only. You MUST present your school or student ID when you check in the day of the event.
https://ctagreportnovember112022-5018708/registration

Contact tolland@uconn.edu 860 875-3031 if you have any questions

UCONN CAES



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