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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 español disponible en línea en CTGrown.gov.

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Lt. Governor Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt visited Botticello Farms in Manchester to promote supporting local farms this holiday season by purchasing CT Grown for your table and home.

Find a farm or farmers' market near you at CTGrown.org and check out our blogs with tree care tips, gift ideas, and more!

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USDA Invites Ag Producers to Respond Online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture

On November 22, 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed survey codes to all known agriculture producers across the 50 states with an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture at accounts.usda.gov. The ag census is the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and territory. By completing the survey, producers across the nation can tell their story and help generate impactful opportunities that better serve them and future generations of producers.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, with paper questionnaires following in December. Producers need only respond once, whether securely online or by mail. The online option offers timesaving features ideal for busy producers. **All responses are due Feb. 6, 2023.** Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, are included in the ag census.

"The 2022 Census of Agriculture is a powerful voice for American agriculture. The information gathered through the ag census influences policy decisions that will have a tremendous impact on ag producers and their communities for years to come," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "I strongly encourage all farmers, no matter how large or small their operation, to promptly complete and return their ag census. This is your opportunity to share your voice, uplift the value and showcase the uniqueness of American agriculture."

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture is a complete picture of American agriculture today. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics.

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NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "We recognize how valuable their time is, so we have made responding more convenient and modern than ever before."

Between ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep and updates to internet access questions.

Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow USDA NASS on twitter @usda_nass.

SAVE THE DATE: FOUNDATIONS OF SHELLFISH FARMING TRAINING COURSE 2023

Foundations of Shellfish Farming is a training course for new and prospective farmers and those who simply seek to learn more about aquaculture practices and techniques. Topics that will be covered include: how to establish and operate a shellfish business; leasing and permitting requirements; considerations for gear, vessels, and facilities, shellfish biology, aquaculture techniques and best practices, and risks involved in farming shellfish. Although the course will concentrate on Long Island Sound waters within the jurisdiction of Connecticut, the topics and practices covered are applicable in the Northeast United States and potentially beyond.

When: Tuesdays, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, weekly from January 24 to April 11

Location: UConn Avery Point Campus, Groton, CT, Lowell P. Weicker Jr. Building, Room 312

Cost: \$300 (Registration begins in mid-December, details to follow)

Outline: <http://s.uconn.edu/course-schedule>

Instructors: Michael Gilman and Tessa L. Getchis

Sponsors: Connecticut Sea Grant, UConn Extension, and the Connecticut

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**This course meets the Connecticut Department of Agriculture eligibility requirement for the submission of a Joint Agency Application for Marine Aquaculture.*

Additional questions can be emailed to: shellfish@uconn.edu



CT GROWN MARKETING TOOLS: LIST YOUR CSA

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 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](#).

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CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Rockville High School Agriculture Students Ready For Holiday Sale, Patch, 11/30](#)

[Summer drought not drying up all the Christmas spirit, The Day, 11/27](#)

[CT's Thorncrest Farm chocolates are about bringing joy. The secret? The happiness of the cows, Hartford Courant, 11/27](#)

[Don't wait to get your Christmas tree from these Connecticut farms, Hartford Courant, 11/25](#)

[Residents look to local farms to put food on Thanksgiving table, SF Gate, 11/23](#)

[Jones Family Farms Celebrates 75 Years Of Cut-Your-Own Christmas Trees, Patch, 11/22](#)

FARMLAND RESTORATION GRANT DEADLINE DECEMBER 9

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.

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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.

TRANSITION GRANT IN ACTION: THE BIRCH MILL FARM PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES NO-TILL

In 2022, the Birch Mill Farm Partnership collaborated with the Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, The Northwest Connecticut Conservation District, Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development, and the Connecticut Natural Resources Conservation Service State Agronomist to propose a project that would address the need for custom no-till equipment operation for the region's farmers.

The Birch Mill Farm Partnership farms 500 acres of hay and corn, while also providing custom field work and harvesting for area farms. With the purchase of a no-till drill, the Partnership would be able to improve not only their own land management practices, but also increase the use of sustainable agriculture practices by offering custom no-till services to farms in the Northwest corner of CT. The addition of this service would also further diversify their farm business and services offered.



The Esch 5612 was chosen as the best fit for both the Partnership's use and use by the region's farmers. It provides a large working drill width of 12ft but folds to 8ft to travel efficiently down the road and into fields. It is also able to plant 4 to 5 acres an hour, making it very efficient.

After receiving the drill, several area farms requested work to be done. In the first week after it came in, the Partnership planted 40 acres for 3 different farms and scheduled seedings including pasture rehabilitation, fall hay and cover crop seedings.

Tim Kinsella, a partner in the Birch Mill Farm Partnership, says, "The Transition

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sustainable future for the land and added diversification to our business. Improving our own soil health practices is always a priority but it is even better when you can bring those practices to farmers across the Northwest corner of Connecticut.”

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.

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



GROWN CONNECTED RELEASES WINTER GIFT GUIDE FROM NE CT FARMS

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released this year's edition of the [Northeastern CT Farms Winter Gift Guide!](#)

Unlike our Summer guide, we put products into categories so you can easily find what you are looking for if you want to source local for a special roast, find local gifts for your friends and family, or just want to explore our farms differently!

As a digital guide it is more condensed, but most farms listed are clickable links that bring you directly to their website or Facebook page so you can get the most current info about their offerings. However, if you would like to access the guide as a pdf, or even print it yourself, [let us know](#) and we'll send you the file!

So check out the guide and add the gift of local farms to your home this season.

SEEKING ROOTS FOR SCHOOLS

+ SCHOOLS FOR ROOTS!





*Our Rooting for Winter campaign is here!
where local farms and districts connect to
bring seasonal delicious carrots, potatoes,
turnips and more to the cafeteria!*

Are you a farm with Roots for sale?
**Let us know and we can connect you
to a district looking to buy!**

Connect at s.uconn.edu/R4W




[Click here for more information.](#)

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES SECOND WEBINAR FOR USDA REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTER GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets today announced

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	<p><u>Business Center grant opportunity.</u> Held in collaboration with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation, the Center for Regional Economic Advancement at Cornell University, Buffalo Go Green, and Farm Credit East, the webinar seeks input from groups across the region to best represent their needs in an application for a Northeast center.</p> <p>The webinar will be held on Monday, December 5 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET. The agenda includes a brief description of the RFBC grant, an overview from grant application partners and supporters, and descriptions of the funding opportunities planned through the RFBC, including technical assistance, business builder grants, and market access grants. The webinar will allow for stakeholders and potential grant supporters to provide feedback and ask questions about the application process and program vision.</p> <p>To register for the webinar, please visit: https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E3IV_WSwTeGe039cd6yzog. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar, which is hosted by Cornell University.</p> <p>A previous webinar regarding this opportunity was held on Thursday, November 3. A recording of the webinar can be found at https://agriculture.ny.gov/business-development.</p> <p>The RFBCs will support and create a more resilient, diverse, and competitive food system focused on underserved producers, processors, aggregators, distributors, and other businesses within the supply chain. RFBCs will offer comprehensive, collaborative, and regionally driven community and economic development that improves opportunities and competitiveness of food and farm businesses, including value-added activities that generate additional business revenue.</p> <p>The Northeast application seeks to include the 10 states in the <u>Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture's region</u>: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.</p> <p>To share additional thoughts around this opportunity, please complete and submit the following intake form found at https://airtable.com/shrUIYKxUXZ5DPOjC as soon as possible.</p> <hr/>	

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CLIMATE SMART FARMING: AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY GRANT

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) announces 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.**

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:

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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>.

[Click here for more information on the Climate Smart Farming Grant.](#)



Register now for the Buyers Mission at the Winter Fancy Foods Show

Las Vegas, Nevada

January 14-16, 2023



in partnership with



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

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 A Program Of UConn Extension

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AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES: 2022-2023

**DEC
3RD**

POWER TOOLS & CARPENTRY BASICS

ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM


Get familiar with the power tools & carpentry skills that you'll need on your farm. Learn to use an impact driver, drill, skill saw, table saw, & more. You'll work with your new skills to complete a project to take home!

COST PER WORKSHOP \$25 - Lunch included

SPACES ARE LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY at newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground/
 If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a stipend by emailing rebecca.toms@uconn.edu

Please contact us in advance with special needs (dietary, translation, accessibility, etc.) We'll do our best to accommodate you

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROGRAM PROVIDER.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL - YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND.


[Sign up here!](#)

DEFEND YOUR LIVELIHOOD! STOP AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

USDA has created a one-stop African swine fever resource, called Protect Our Pigs, to help producers like you keep the deadly disease off your farm or facility by providing:

- Easy-to-understand biosecurity tips
- Downloadable fact sheets to educate your workers on the threat
- Helpful videos to alert visitors on expectations before coming to your site
- Attention-getting posters to hang at your site
- Ready-made graphics on protecting your country's swine and food supply to share on your social channels
- Timely USDA disease email alerts sent to your inbox

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pig owners who are banding together to protect our pigs from African swine fever.

[Click here to Stay Informed.](#)

WEBINAR: STATE PERMITTING PATHWAYS FOR ADVANCING ON-FARM COMPOSTING

Farmers have a vital role to play in producing and utilizing compost to restore depleted soils. Permit exemptions can authorize compost operations on farms and smaller-scale facilities, such as community gardens, thus avoiding superfluous permitting requirements intended for larger, full-scale compost facilities. Because there are often significantly less risks or hazards associated with on-farm and small-scale composters, many states have incorporated permit exemptions into their composting regulations for such cases. Some states have additional regulatory pathways that support farms and other small-scale sites that are ready to scale up. This webinar will explore models from around the country and explore the impact these rules are having on advancing on-farm composting.

DATE: Thursday, December 8

TIME: 12-1:30 p.m. ET

The registration fee for this webinar is \$20.

Participation is free for farmers (use code FARMER), Community Composter Coalition members (use code CCC), local government! (use code LOCGOV)!

Don't fit in one of these categories, but need a scholarship? Fill out [this form](#).

A recording of this webinar will be made available to those who register. This webinar is one in [a series](#) the Institute for Local Self-Reliance offers to support on-farm composting and compost use. View past composting-related webinar recordings [here](#).

[Register Here](#)

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

This material is based upon work supported by USDA NIFA under Award Number 2021-20027-14691.

**Exploring
USDA Micro Farm Insurance**

Learn about insurance options for small, diversified farms.
Build your toolkit for financial resilience.

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

Learn more and register in the provided link.

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-

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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

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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.

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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!

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.

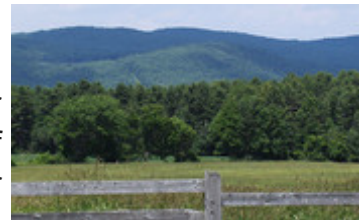
Their aim for the conference is to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of farmers, agricultural service providers and the community. They would GREATLY appreciate your feedback to help them design conference content, better identify gaps in disability awareness and needed services for participants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

For questions, please contact: healingbygrowingconferenceteam@gmail.com.

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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

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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.



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 be 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.

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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](#)

[Visit NE-DBIC](#)

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on November 14, 2022

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

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

[Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly](#)

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	<p>New England Shell Eggs</p> <p>Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary</p> <p>Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA</p>	<p>Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston</p> <p>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston</p> <hr/> <p><u>Advertisements</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Advertisement space can now be purchased online. Click here to have your posting added.</u></p> <hr/> <p>For Sale</p> <hr/> <p>For Sale, Christmas Greens. Wreaths & Roping, Many sizes and varieties. We Deliver 203-457-1344. (12/2/22)</p> <hr/> <p>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)</p> <hr/> <p>Rain Flo irrigation pump. Four inch discharge. New condition. Please call 860-841-3082.</p> <hr/> <p>Dried Sawdust / Different Grades, \$20 per yard. You pick up or delivered with additional charge. 860-642-7084. Blue Slope Sawdust.</p> <hr/> <p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>Walk behind Gravely tractor with sickle mower. \$400. Very good, workable condition. 860-875-8056.</p> <hr/> <p>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</p> <hr/> <p>Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com</p> <hr/> <p>Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.</p>	

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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

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

The CT DoAg is recruiting for an [Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1](#) (AMIR 1) to support its livestock and small poultry surveillance programs, the agency's dairy product safety and inspections programs. This role will be responsible for inspections of agricultural businesses, production and processing plants and retail facilities for compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations. Deadline to apply is December 7, 2022. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)

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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

<https://forms.gle/3G9P9J9T7Y7Q4W4>

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



Escanea para registrarse

<https://forms.gle/3G9P9J9T7Y7Q4W4>

Register at:
www.uconn.edu/solidground

SOLID GROUND


A Program Of UConn Extension

AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES: 2022-2023

DEC 3RD	POWER TOOLS & CARPENTRY BASICS PACVILLE AGRI-SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, HENNING CT - 9AM-3PM Get familiar with the power tools & carpentry skills that you'll need on your farm. Learn to use an impact driver, drill, skill saw, table saw, & more. You'll work with your new skills to complete a project to take home!
DEC 10TH	BGS/WALK BEHIND TRACTOR WINNEVING AGRI-SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, WINDBORO CT - 9AM-3PM Interested in scaling up and incorporating a walk-behind tractor into your farming operation? Come learn the about the Italian made BGS walk-behind tractor. We'll cover how it can be used on the farm, safe operation, and practice attaching different implements.
JAN 7TH	SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 2-STROKE WINNEVING AGRI-SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, WINDBORO CT - 9AM-3PM Take apart a small engine that you find yourself using on the farm on a regular basis, and then learn how to put it back together again, all the while finding out how it works and how to address common problems.
JAN 28TH	SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 4-STROKE WINNEVING AGRI-SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, WINDBORO CT - 9AM-3PM Gain hands-on experience working on 4-stroke engines, walk-behind tillers, log skidders and more. Maintenance and trouble-shooting skills to put right to work on your own farm equipment.
FEB 11TH	BASIC WELDING FOR BEGINNERS PACVILLE AGRI-SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, YERGEN CT - 9AM-3PM Intro to the basics of welding. Learn the proper personal protective equipment required and safety protocols to know before getting started. Instructor will go over the fundamentals of MIG and stick welding, teaching you techniques to get welds done safely and efficiently.
FEB 25TH	ADVANCED WELDING USING METAL INERT GAS METHODS PACVILLE AGRI-SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, YERGEN CT - 9AM-3PM Did you attend our welding workshop in the past? Are you a novice welder? This workshop is perfect for you as we go deeper into welding a MIG weld inert gas and take on bigger welding tasks that you might encounter on your farm.

COST PER WORKSHOP: \$25 (Lunch included) | GRANTS AND LIMITED REGISTRATION TODAY!
***If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a stipend for fuel, wages and/or travel, by emailing info@solidground.org referenced to this announcement.

PLEASE CONTACT ALL 22 EVENTS TO REQUEST A STIPEND OR REQUEST A GRANT. IF APPROVED, WE'LL PAY YOU UP TO \$100 PER EVENT TO COVER TRAVEL AND LUNCH.



**JOIN US FOR A
FARMLAND MIXER!**

**LOOKING FOR THAT
FARM LAND?**

Sunday, December 4, 2022
@ the Vineyard at Franklin

**12-1pm: Optional field walk of
the Farm and strategies for
assessing land**

**1-3pm: Eat (free!), meet
landowners, farmers,
service providers,
and find land!**

Sign up at:
uconn.edu/farmlandmixer

Land For Good **UConn**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

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Subscribe	UConn Past Issues 2023 Vegetable & Small Fruit Grower's Conference	Translate ▼
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Wednesday, January 4, 2023
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Track Shows 8:00-8:55, 10:00-10:45, 1:00 - 1:50
 8:00-8:55 Registration, Breakfast, Welcome and Welcome Video
 Morning Moderator – Mary Gorman, Fruit Editor, Special Advertising Editor
 8:55 Welcome Introductions (Chair: Dean of CAHRS, UConn)
 9:00 Nutrient management in sweet corn (Kevin Hamilton, Extension Professor, UH)
 9:30 Vegetable benefits and disease control of nanotechnology (Wendy Wang, CARS)
 10:00 Animal Nutrition
 10:15 Break (Trade Show/Trade Show)
 10:30 Plug strawberries VS bare root strawberries – pros and cons of both (Jim Housh, Nantux Farms)
 11:15 Small scale bean breeding project with UConn engineering students (Kevin Mather, Covington Farm)
 11:45 Trap crop: UConn research update (Ana Agnew, UConn)
 11:40 New opportunities to sell to K-12 schools and early care providers (Jill Martin, UConn)
 12:00-1:00 Lunch (broadcast show)
 Afternoon Moderator – Sharon Fleming, Vegetable Extension Specialist, UConn
 1:00 Winter growing in low tunnels (Robert Dunge, CARS)
 1:30 Drone imaging to monitor potato leafhopper damage in the field (Kunal Whamane, UConn)
 1:45 Strawberries and irrigation/fertilization (Teresa Henry and Zoe Saps, Brookside Fruit Farm)
 1:45 Dome microclimate for produce safety (Akhil Upadhyay, UConn)
 2:30 No till and soil health growers panel (Janet Jones, Jones Family Farm, Byron, OH; Kate Tobasco, Road Farm, others TBD)
 2:30 Post conference reception drinks and socialize (CTU to be confirmed)

REGISTRATION:
 Regular: Early Bird (up to 12/20) \$50.00 / \$1.00 processing fee
 After 12/20 \$70.00 same day registration will be available, contact Chris Long
chrislong@uconn.edu or 860-405-3730
 Students: Early Bird (up to 12/19) \$30.00
 After 12/19: \$50.00 same day registration will be available, contact Chris Long. You MUST present your school or student ID when you check in the day of the event.
chrislong@uconn.edu or 860-405-3730

Contact john@caes.uconn.edu 860-405-3731 if you have any questions

UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CAES COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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 uconn.edu/winter-riding for the full schedule and to reserve your spot today!

Payment Online by Credit Card Only

UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 CAHRS

SCORE Eastern CT

UPCOMING NEW LIVE WEBINAR WITH MARIA MIRANDA
2023: The Year Branding Thrives
Thursday, December 8, 2022 / 12:00-1:00 pm EST



The year ahead will bring many things – continued economic/political shifts; changes in all forms of media; and further clarity about the meaning of the word “workplace.” In the midst of all these distractions? **Your brand.**

The good **news?** This distracted and sometimes angst-ridden market is seeking authentic brands where the customer is understood and valued. The market is looking for you. And, if you're prepared, **you will thrive.**

In this engaging webinar with Maria Miranda, founder and creative director of Miranda Creative Inc., you will learn:

- **New** ways to energize your message with measured success
- How to ensure your brand reflects your mission and values
- Why authentic and engaging impressions matter - more than ever
- How to connect with your audience on a conversational level - while keeping your credibility

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