2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The 2022 legislative session adjourned sine die at midnight on May 4th, wrapping up one of the shortest legislative sessions in recent years. During this time, over 300 bills were voted on in both chambers, there were hundreds of hours of public hearing testimony held over Zoom, and the legislature once
At the beginning of the session, committee meetings and public hearings were held virtually over Zoom, and access to the Capitol and Legislative Office Building were limited. By the end, the first and second floors of the Capitol were open to the public, but meetings had taken on a “virtually in-person” blended meeting style. Many members voted on final legislation from their respective chambers, but some elected to continue to do so from their offices on the capitol complex.

At the end of this whirlwind session, the Department’s agency bill, Public Act 22-54 An Act Concerning Agriculture Development and Innovation, passed with overwhelming support in the House and on the consent calendar in the Senate and the agency was able to work on legislation on topics such as cannabis, animal advocacy, and climate change with other state agencies and partner organizations. Public Act 22-54 reconstitutes and renames the Governor’s Council on Agricultural Development and Innovation, updates language surrounding service animals to conform with federal law, and creates a working group with DoAg and the Town Clerks Association to develop a plan for online dog licensing here in Connecticut.

Building off the work of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change and the AG/Soils Working group, we saw historic investments in the biennium budget for the industry to invest in climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices.

Over the next few weeks, Governor Lamont will continue signing bills into law and in next week’s Ag Report, We will go into further detail on some of the legislation that impacts the agricultural industry, the biennium budget, and how we plan to implement those new changes.

For any questions about the legislative session, please contact Kayleigh Royston at Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Scantic Valley Farm owner gets $10,000 grant, May 12, Hartford Courant
Bethel nursery plans to cut water waste by 40% with $20,000 grant, May 11, newstime
USDA NASS GEARING UP FOR 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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

Key Dates:

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

Sign up Here to be Counted
Governor Ned Lamont joined Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Katie Dykes on Thursday, May 5 to visit DeFrancesco Farm in Northford to tour the greenhouses and learn more about their environmentally friendly practices implemented, as well as Stewards of the Land Brewery, a CT Grown brewery situated on the family’s farmland.

DeFrancesco Farm, established in 1907 and soon to be fifth generation family farm, is an example of how many farms in Connecticut are already integrating sustainable, innovative technologies. They grow on more than 120 acres and have 10 acres of state-of-the-art open roof greenhouses in which they utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and biological insect controls to significantly reduce the use of synthetic pesticides. An innovative watering system has reduced their water consumption by 50 percent, and they heat the greenhouses using wood chips and a biomass furnace. The brewery was the first to be permitted as a CT Grown brewery and has a goal of recycling 100% of spent materials from the brewing process.

Activity in the greenhouses was at the peak of the season during the visit as the week leading up to Mother’s Day is their busiest of the year. Geraniums are their most sought-after product but with more than 100 different varieties, there is something to please everyone. Carts of plants were being readied to ship throughout the Northeast and New York to various retailers and sold at their farm stand next door.
If you haven’t shopped for Mom yet, it’s not too late. Support local businesses and farms with flowers for the table or to plant in the yard. For more inspiration from meal ideas to gifts from head to toe, visit CTGrown.org to find a farmers’ market, farm stand, or farm store near you.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY: NOW HATCHING

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has issued a Quarantine Order with defined restricted areas for the exotic pest spotted lanternfly, Lycorma delicatula (SLF for short). This insect has been detected in Connecticut with established populations detected in Fairfield and New Haven Counties and single individuals intercepted in numerous towns. The spotted lanternfly is a new plant pest to the United States and represents a threat to Connecticut’s environment, residential areas, and agricultural interests, particularly forests, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries. The purpose of this quarantine is to slow the spread of SLF within the state and provide for certification of Connecticut businesses for movement of regulated articles out of state and help protect the economic interests of the state’s agricultural industries by suppressing, controlling or eradicating infestations of spotted lanternfly in regulated areas, and provide by inspection or compliance agreement methods to permit the movement of regulated articles not infested with spotted lanternfly.

The quarantine order was renewed January 1, 2022, and will remain in effect until December 31, 2022, after which the quarantine may be renewed, rescinded by the Director, or replaced by the promulgation of regulations. View the quarantine order.

HOW TO IDENTIFY SLF

The spotted lanternfly eggs masses are laid on practically any surface including trees, stones, trash cans, side of a house, etc. during the fall. Egg masses are yellowish-brown in color, and most are covered with a gray, waxy coating prior
Spotted lanternfly eggs hatch in the spring and early summer. Early instar nymphs are black in color with white spots; fourth instars nymphs are red with black and white spots. You will see nymphs from April to October.

Adult spotted lanternflies are about one inch long and one half inch wide. Tan forewings that have black spots, while their signature colorful hindwings have lower red patches and upper black patches, separated with a white section in between. The red hindwings are mostly hidden unless the wings are spread. Adult SLF crawl, jump, or fly short distances. You will see adults from July to November.

WHERE IS SLF FOUND?

While tree-of-heaven, Ailanthus altissima, is a favored host tree, spotted lanternfly may be found on other trees including maple, walnut, and willow. It feeds on agricultural crops like apples, grapes, hops, as well as other fruit trees. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam. The adults tend to congregate on the tree-of-heaven and other host trees in the fall.

To identify Ailanthus altissima: click this link to view the tree-of-heaven identification fact sheet

Please check your vehicles for stowaways! Inspect your vehicles, trailers, and other items for SLF adults and egg masses when travelling through areas with known or suspected SLF populations. These insects are known to hitch a ride on vehicles and even clothing. Jump to: where SLF has been seen.
DO YOU WANT TO BE AN URBAN FARMER?

UConn Extension of Fairfield County and Green Village Initiative are hosting an Urban Farmer Training Course.

Taught by Jacqueline Kowalksi, UConn Urban Agriculture Extension Educator.

May–October 2022 @ 122 Arctic St, Bridgeport, CT

Course Schedule
- Tuesdays, 6–8pm:
  Class Instruction (beginning 5/3)
- May 14 & May 15:
  Garden cleanup and planting weekend (Rain dates: 5/21, 5/22)
- Fridays, 4–6pm:
  Rotating participation in garden maintenance and harvest
- Saturdays, 9am–2pm:
  Rotating participation in farmers market vending (beginning 6/18)

About the Course
- Meets once a week in person.
- Includes classroom topics and hands-on learning in the outdoor garden classroom.
- Opportunities to harvest, prep and sell vegetables produced in the class at a Bridgeport Farmers Market on Saturdays.

Cost: $200/person
To register contact GVI at: communitygardens@gogvi.org or (203) 612–4107.
Scholarships available.

DEEP CLIMATE RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM

https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportmay132022-5018565
new DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program. The federal government is making a historic investment in climate resilience with the rollout of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, with approximately $47 billion in funding available nationwide to help communities prepare for climate-related hazards. This grant program would make funding available for planning grants for Connecticut communities, to help them develop projects that can compete for federal resilience investments.

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

Learn More Here

TOTAL FARMER HEALTH COACH OPPORTUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

For more information and to sign up follow the link!

USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Learn more about the FRRCC nomination.

Find more information about the FRRCC.
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

You’re invited to the USDA and HHS virtual convening, Sustainable Livelihoods and Behavioral Health: Strategies and Partnerships to address Farm Stress and Suicide, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 17, 18, 19, 2022 from 1:00-5:00 pm ET. Throughout the past several years, the farm economy has faced tremendous challenges, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commodity prices have been low, markets and supply chains have been disrupted, and it is more and more challenging to ensure that farming is a sustainable livelihood. While mental health is a struggle many Americans face, there is a significant number of rural Americans working through tough mental health situations. This includes women, minority groups, veterans, and most of all, farmers and ranchers. Additional event materials can be found here.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AGRITOURISM

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

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

Sign Up Here
NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER INVESTS IN PROJECTS

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

- **June** – Dairy Processor Innovation Grant: Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.

- **October** – Dairy Farm Innovation Grant: Funding for dairy farms to take a holistic approach to implementing community- and climate-forward dairy production and business strategies.

For more information [follow this link](https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportmay132022-5018565).

USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMER'S MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM

The Farmer's Market Promotion Program (FMPP), funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. **Apply by May 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.**

To learn more [follow this link](https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportmay132022-5018565).
2022 Legislative Session Summary

LOOKING FOR AFFORDABLE CREDIT TO START OR GROW YOUR FARM? THE NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION IS HERE TO HELP!

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

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

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

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS:

**MICROLOANS**
- Up to $50,000 in Operating Loan funds and $80,000 in Ownership Loan funds, for a total of $100,000
- Repayment terms are 1-7 years
- Same uses as Operating and Ownership loans
- A streamlined application process with less paperwork

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

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

Farm operating expenses, including but not limited to, feed, seed, fertilizers, pesticides, farm supplies, repairs and improvements, which are to be expensed, cash rent and family living expenses. Other programs include farm storage loans, living expenses under the loans above, down payment loans, guaranteed loan program, and youth loans.
The 2022 scholarship application from Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is now live. The application deadline is June 1, 2022. This annual scholarship is for Connecticut students who are pursuing a career in agricultural education and/or have goals to further agriculture across the state.

Learn more here.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE GRANT

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

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

**Grant applications are due by October 27, 2022.**


---

**Ag Market Pricing**

- **Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT**
  - *Prices provided on May 2, 2022*
- **CT Farmers' Market Prices**
  - *Prices provided on October 22, 2021*
- **Northeast Regional Eggs**
- **New England Shell Eggs**
- **Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary**
- **Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA**

---

**Advertisements**

**For Sale**

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)
3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal’s Power Fence 860-491-2290.

50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

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

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


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


22-11. New Holland 259 hydraulic hay rake, $2,500; International 435 baler, housed, $3,500; Both good condition, ready to make good hay. Tim, 203-627-2398, nbffarm@gmail.com.

22-12. Logging services, forest management plans. Servicing all of CT. Fully licensed and insured. NRCS TSP. 860-398-1776, Josh Miller.

22-13. First cutting hay for sale. $5.00 per bale. 860-990-8060 text or call.
5/13/22, 1:44 PM

2022 Legislative Session Summary

4500’ plus 3.5’ wide Fruit-Zone Roll Premium Grade Bird Netting made of black colored polypropylene with a ¾ inch mesh (approximately 2.3#MSF), also called “side netting”. Can be cross-cut or parted into narrower widths for fruit zone netting/side netting. Was a 5000’ roll and we used about 220’. Asking $150 please. Located in Colchester, CT. Contact Rosemary or Tim: 860-531-9727

RJ Planter Model RJ600. 2 Row rotary planter, row distance 27” – 46”. Excellent condition. $4,100. Call 860-729-2741 or 860-716-1093.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

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

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

USDA Farm Service Agency Program Technician position available in the Windsor, CT office. The last day to submit an application is May 15, 2022. Apply Here!

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

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)
Sustainable Livelihoods and Behavioral Health: Strategies to Address Farm Stress and Suicide

TUESDAY | MAY 17
WEDNESDAY | MAY 18
THURSDAY | MAY 19
1:00 - 5:00 PM ET

This conferencing brings together the leadership of USDA, producer-serving organizations, and farmers and ranchers to discuss challenges, needs, and tools and resources to address farm stress and suicide.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement
For more information regarding this event, please contact partnerships@usda.gov.
www.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/partnerships

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND SOIL HEALTH TOUR
Featuring Fay Benson, Cornell University

These hands-on field workshops will use practical demonstrations to illustrate the value of healthy soil. Learn about soil health and the management practices you can implement to protect your land.

Monday, June 20th – Afternoon (Press Time TBD)
Wadswich County VT (Contact TBD)
Contact: Tracey Tweet at soilhealth@uconn.edu for more information

Tuesday, June 21st – 1:00 pm
Union Crop & Animal Research Education Farm – 80 Hwy 6, South Deerfield, MA 01373
This event will focus on soils for vegetable and crop production as well as pasture and grazing
Sponsored by: Northeast SARE

Wednesday, June 22nd – 1:00 pm
Wadswich Farm – 110 Wadswich Rd, Chepachet, RI 00309
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing livestock and poultry
Sponsored by: American Farmland Trust
Contact: Tracey Tweet at soilhealth@uconn.edu for more information

Thursday, June 23rd – 1:00 pm
Wadswich Farm – 110 Wadswich Rd, Chepachet, RI 00309
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing beef cattle
Sponsored by: Rhode Island Farm Bureau
Contact: Tracey Tweet at soilhealth@uconn.edu for more information

June 2, 2022
Hosted by
Running Brook Farms
215 Route 80
Killingworth, CT 06419

3-7pm Visit Vendors & Exhibitors
3-5pm Updates from the Field & Greenhouse Grower Panel Discussions
Hemp BMI
Reduced tillage for plant growth & soil health
Hemp Tour
Soil Health Rainfall Demo
5-7pm Social, Food & Live Music
Seed Swap + Store Sale

$15.00 PER PERSON
TICKETS, SPONSORSHIP, AND VENDOR/EXHIBITOR INFO AVAILABLE AT https://CTREC.ORG/HEMP

CONNECTICUT HEMP FEST

Copyright © 2022 Connecticut Department of Agriculture, All rights reserved.

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.