May 20 is #WorldBeeDay, a time to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. Pollinators play a vital role in agriculture - approximately 30% of the food and fiber crops grown throughout the world depend upon pollinators for reproduction.
Changing Covid-19 climate made the timeline feel more compact. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s (CT DoAg) legislative package was released by the Office of Policy and Management just days before the start of session and originally contained four separate bills.

Over the course of the session, through numerous meetings with legislators, lobbyists, committee meetings and multiple public hearings, the Departments agency package was combined into what became Public Act 22-54. This bill reconstitutes the Governor’s Council on Agricultural Development into the Governor’s Council on Agricultural Development and Innovation. This includes updating the appointments to reflect current industry, and charges the council to make recommendations on ways to increase agriculture in the state by developing innovative market opportunities, including urban agriculture, integration and adoption of new technologies, controlled environment agriculture, and diversification of products and opportunities. This bill also makes conforming language changes for service animals, updates the definition of aquaculture to include long lines and forms a working group with CT DoAg and the Town Clerks Association to develop a plan to create an online dog licensing portal.

In addition to the agency’s legislative proposal, several hundred bills passed both chambers and are ready to be signed by the Governor. Some of them include an increase to the gross sale limit for cottage food operations, the creation of a working group to study how CT’s existing hemp industry plays a role in the emerging cannabis industry, revising notice requirements for pesticide applications near lakes and ponds, and expands CT’s Clean Energy Program.

This session, the legislature crafted and voted on a one-year budget, to allocate the remaining American Rescue Plan Act Funds and make budget adjustments from last year. In February, Governor Lamont made his budget recommendations and from there, the legislature met with state agencies, non-profits, and the public to craft a $24.2 billion dollar state budget. Governor Lamont signed this budget last week, and it included significant investments in agriculture.

With remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, this budget increases the allocation for the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant program to $500,000 for FY 23. In its first cycle, DoAg received 59 applications for this grant, with over $962,000 in requests. The 13 grant recipients spanned the entire state and we look forward to increasing the number of grant awardees with this additional funding.

The Department will receive up to $14 million, through a combination of general fund dollars and bonding, to invest in climate smart agriculture and forestry practices. This will build off the work done in the Governor’s Council on Climate Change and Executive Order 3 last year, which charged state agencies to...
plays in Connecticut’s climate change strategy and how crucial Connecticut farms are to meeting our goals. There is additional funding for grants for food resource organizations for capitol improvements, funding to implement a farm manure management system, and funding to support the care of seized animals.

Over the next several months, CT DoAg will convene the dog licensing working group, meet with other agencies and organizations on the implementation of new programs and funding, and begin to prepare next year’s legislative agenda.

As always, should you have any questions on any of the legislation that passed this session, please reach out to Kayleigh Royston at Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov.

**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) was awarded a $500,000 grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as part of their Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) State Department of Agriculture projects in 2021. CT DoAg has partnered with various organizations to provide comprehensive programming to agricultural producers in need of support including UConn Extension’s Solid Ground and 4H programs, Agri-Safe, and Land for Good.

Mental health is one important component of overall health and well-being, just like physical health. But mental health conditions, resources, and conversations can still feel complicated and out of reach. In collaboration with UConn Extension’s Solid Ground, a video series with experienced farmers discussing the stressors they experience from urban farming to raising a family to succession planning, and even balancing all the daily demands is now available. **Farm Talk** features Steve Munno from Massaro Community Farm, Lauren Little from Lauren Little Edutainment and I Got Next Farmer Coalition, and Andromeda Macri of River Crest Farm. Additional videos including Farmer Stress and Solutions and What It’s Like: What to Expect if You Want to See a
Through the partnership with AgriSafe, CT DoAg is funding up to 205 seats for Connecticut healthcare professionals to access training at no cost to effectively care for a farmer’s total health. AgriSafe’s Farm Response online learning is a 3.5 hour continuing education module developed by national experts to provide appropriate mental healthcare for agricultural producers and their families.

**Crisis Hotline**
Everyone deserves access to the support they need, when they need it – and that includes mental health support. There’s often no one single cause for a mental health condition. Instead, there are many possible risk factors that can influence how likely a person is to experience a mental health condition or how serious the symptoms may be.

Starting July 16, 2022, call 988 for matters of mental health crisis. Calling 988 will connect you directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is staffed by trained crisis counselors 24/7, 365 days a year. In the meantime, if you or someone you know is in crisis, please continue to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or the Crisis Text Line by texting MHA to 741741.

To access more Farmer Mental Health Resources, visit [CTGrown.gov](https://www.ctgrown.gov) and click the tab under Featured Links on the home page.

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**CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS**
Preston farm family raises animals naturally, educates public, 5/18, The Day
CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program Announced at Andrew Avenue, 5/17, Patch.com
UConn Supports Connecticut’s Greenhouse Industry – An Integral Part of Agriculture, 5/16, UConn Today
Farms growing due to agro-tourism; grant aimed at strengthening that, 5/13, WTNH
GOVERNOR LAMONT VISITS FREUND’S FARM MARKET AND COWPOTS

On Thursday, May 19, Governor Lamont (center), Commissioner Hurlburt (left), and State Rep. Maria Horn (second from right), visited Ben Freund (second from left) and Theresa Freund (right) owners of CowPots, LLC and Freund's Farm Market in East Canaan, CT, to learn how this second and third generation farm family is using technology and innovation to diversify their operation in a sustainable manner.

CowPots are made using 100% renewable and recycled, composted cow manure from their dairy herd and are sold at their farm market and retailers nationwide. In 2021, CowPots, LLC received a Farm Transition Grant through CT Department of Agriculture to modernize their production line to increase capacity and efficiency to meet booming consumer demand for gardening supplies during the pandemic.

USDA TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY $6 BILLION TO COMMODITY AND
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments totaling approximately $6 billion through the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) new Emergency Relief Program (ERP) to offset crop yield and value losses.

“For over two years, farmers and ranchers across the country have been hard hit by an ongoing pandemic coupled with more frequent and catastrophic natural disasters,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “As the agriculture industry deals with new challenges and stressors, we at USDA look for opportunities to inject financial support back into the rural economy through direct payments to producers who bear the brunt of circumstances beyond their control. These emergency relief payments will help offset the significant crop losses due to major weather events in 2020 and 2021 and help ensure farming operations are viable this crop year, into the next growing season and beyond.”

For impacted producers, existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data is the basis for calculating initial payments. USDA estimates that phase one ERP benefits will reach more than 220,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,000 producers who obtained NAP coverage for 2020 and 2021 crop losses.

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool. For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.

Read the full Press Release here!
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
APPLICATION PERIOD: MAY 23 – JULY 3, 2022

The Women’s Business Development Council’s Equity Match Grant Program is designed to help Connecticut women-owned businesses grow! Grants between $2,500 and $10,000 will be awarded for clearly defined projects that will have a measurable impact on the business, its growth and profitability. The grant funds cannot be used towards operating expenses, payroll, or real estate improvements. Applicants are required to provide a minimum 25% match.

Eligibility

Businesses must:
• be at least 51% woman-owned
• have been established for at least two years
• have a record of annual sales/revenue in the last twelve months greater than $25,000 and less than $2,000,000
• be headquartered in CT, registered in the state of CT and owned by a CT resident
• be owned by a woman at least 18 years old

• be in good standing with the CT Department of Revenue Services (DDS) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
• have an established business checking account
• utilize a formal, digital bookkeeping/financial system (e.g., QuickBooks)
• be a for-profit business, or a non-profit that derives 75% or more of the organization’s revenue from a social enterprise

The following businesses are not eligible:
Child care businesses (see https://ctwbc.org/childcare-business/funding-for-info-on-funding-opportunities-for-child-care-businesses); businesses that have received a grant from WBDC in the last two years; medical marijuana; liquor stores and alcohol distributors; adult businesses such as strip clubs; vape retailing; tobacco shops and smoking lounges; businesses having to do with gambling; pawn stores andDirectoryName: /title/ Niches cash advances, check-cashing, or pawn shops; bail bond/collection agencies or services; and auction or bankruptcy or fire or "last-out-of-business" or similar sale

Match Requirement

Applicants are required to provide a minimum 25% match.

For example, if the business receives a $10,000 grant for the purchase of new software, the business must have invested $2,500 in their business over the past 12 months OR be able to invest an incremental $2,500 of their own funds in that purchase.

Information Sessions

For more information on the application process, register for a live or pre-recorded information session at ctwbdc.centerdirect.com

Thursday, May 26 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Thursday, June 2 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Monday, June 6 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Wednesday, June 8 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tuesday, June 14 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Thursday, June 16 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Wednesday, June 22 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Monday, June 27 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

What Previous Recipients are Saying

“The grant has given me the support I needed to grow my business. In the short amount of time since I received it, I have grown my clients, my space and online presence. More importantly, I feel confident in the success and continued growth of my company.”

“The WBDC Equity Match Grant allowed me to put in place systems that have streamlined and optimized our sales process. Without the extra ‘push’ of preparing to apply for this grant, I would have less specific financial data and fewer strategic plans to use to grow the business. It has also encouraged me to take the leap into hiring employees. I am grateful for WBDC, not just for the funds, but for the extra motivation.”

Stamford - New Haven - New London | ctwbdc.org | info@ctwbdc.org | 203-353-1750
Learn more at ctwbdc.org/equity-match-grant-program/
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 to hatching (USDA, 2019). They may appear wet or sticky when fresh. You will see eggs from September to May.

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. Their forewings 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 GV1 at: communitygardens@gogvi.org or (203) 612-4107.
Scholarships available.
RESOURCES FOR SPANISH SPEAKING FARMERS

Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust is announcing La Beca Braiding Seeds en Español. Please share this opportunity with the Beginning Spanish Speaker Farmers in your networks across the East Regions. La Beca Braiding Seeds en Español provides beginning farmers with resources, professional development in Spanish, and mentorship in Spanish to support their livelihood on land.

Link to the application (in Spanish): https://forms.gle/EAxscW8HTuyjMiAs6

The Application Deadline is May 30.

Nos unimos al Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust para anunciar esta oportunidad de La Beca Braiding Seeds en Español. Por favor comparta esta oportunidad con sus conocidos en el este de USA. Esta beca está dando la oportunidad a agricultores que hablen español de tener acceso a recursos económicos, desarrollo profesional y mentorías para proder así ayudarles a tener un sustento digno de la tierra.
GET READY FOR FARMERS' MARKET SEASON

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

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.
Avian Influenza (AI)

What is it?

- AI is a virus carried by migratory waterfowl, ducks and geese.
- Domestic poultry (chickens, turkeys, fowl) are susceptible and will become very sick.
- The virus is believed to originate in Europe and spread into Canada and the Atlantic Flyway through wild geese and ducks.
- Migratory bird flyways cross the United States. Connecticut is in the Atlantic Flyway.

CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CTState.gov

If you have sick or dying birds, please contact ctstate.vet@ct.gov or 860-715-2205

Biosecurity Basics
Protect Your Flock From Avian Influenza

- Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent contact with wild waterfowl and their droppings.
- Wash hands before and after working with birds.
- Change food and water daily.
- Provide disposable boot covers and/or disinfectant footbath for anyone having contact with your flock.
- Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility.

CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CTState.gov

If you have sick or dying birds, please contact ctstate.vet@ct.gov or 860-715-2205
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 RAYCOZA 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MICROLOANS</th>
<th>OPERATING LOANS</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP LOANS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Up to $50,000 in Operating Loan funds and $80,000 in Ownership Loan funds, for a total of $100,000</td>
<td>• Up to $400,000</td>
<td>• Up to $800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Repayment terms are 1-7 years</td>
<td>• Up to 7 years to repay</td>
<td>• Repayment terms are up to 25 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Same uses as Operating and Ownership loans</td>
<td>• Use funds for infrastructure, livestock, feed, seeds, equipment, labor, fertilizers, rent, family living expenses, etc.</td>
<td>• Use funds to purchase or enlarge a farm, make a down payment, promote soil and water conservation and protection, or pay closing costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A streamlined application process with less paperwork</td>
<td>• Funds can also be used to purchase, improve, or build structures related to the farming business</td>
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Farm operating expenses, including, but not limited to, feed, seed, fertilizer, pesticides, farm supplies, repairs and improvements which are to be expended, 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.
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, education, and extension professionals in the food and agricultural sciences. In 2022, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requests 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;
Grant applications are due by October 27, 2022.

Learn More Here!

Ag Market Pricing

- Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
  Prices provided on May 16, 2022
- New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA
- CT Farmers' Market Prices
  Prices provided on October 22, 2021
- USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update
- Northeast Regional Eggs
- New Holland, PA Hay Report
- New England Shell Eggs
- Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston
- Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary
- Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston
- 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

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

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

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

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

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

Job Opportunities

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

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportmay20200?e=[UNIQID]) for details on rates and submission.

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**Upcoming Events**

*(click on image below for info)*