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Left to Right, Nick DiGiolo of Sycamore Farm, Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Haddam First Selectman Bob McGarry, and State Representative Christine Palm.

On Wednesday Commissioner Hurlburt along with State and Local Officials visited Sycamore Farms. The farm was recently awarded a 2022 Farm Transition Grant from the Agency for the innovation and diversification category. Sycamore Farm currently raises hogs, laying chickens, meat chickens, grass-fed feeders, and Hereford/Angus beef cows herd. Hay is produced on the farm’s 63 acres as well as an additional 30 acres of leased hay land.
June is National Dairy Month
Celebrate with CT Dairy Farmers

June is National Dairy Month and Connecticut’s past is deeply rooted in over 200 years of history in the production of dairy in the State. Connecticut’s 90 dairies have a $2.2 billion impact on the economy of Connecticut, creating 5,000 jobs in the State and maintaining a herd of 19,500 cows in total to produce 2 million glasses of milk each day. Connecticut dairy farmers achieve their successes through modern technology, innovation, commitment to the industry and environment, and the support from the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board, administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, has awarded funding for $500,000 to continue the work of Connecticut Dairy which is focused on increasing sales and dairy consumption in the State.

It is through the funding from Connecticut Milk Promotion Board that Connecticut Dairy will continue to promote the health benefits, sustainability, and local impact by partnering with a marketing agency in a 12-month campaign to promote the industry through marketing efforts and consumer interaction.

In addition to the marketing efforts, the Board has awarded two grants focused on Farmer Engagement and Consumer Nutrition and Education. Through these grants, Connecticut Dairy will engage with both farmers and consumers. The focus of the Farmer Engagement is to engage farmers by providing tools to interact with consumers on social media, learn about dairy checkoff dollars, and co-sponsor events for consumers. The Consumer Nutrition and Education grant is focused on educating children and adults on the nutritional benefits of consuming dairy on a daily basis.

Learn more about Connecticut’s dairy farm families and where to find fresh, local, delicious milk and dairy products at www.CTDairy.org.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTICUT
The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds for projects that enhance competitiveness of specialty crops in Connecticut. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has allocated these funds to the states through H.R. 133 Stimulus Funding and CT DoAg will be passing through funds as competitive grants. Priority will be given to projects that respond to COVID-19 impacts.

There are no minimum or maximum limits on the amount of funds that can be requested for one project, but the average grant amount in the past has been between $50,000-$100,000.

The application deadline is Tuesday, June 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. to AGR.grants@ct.gov.

“Connecticut is pleased to offer eligible applicants an additional opportunity to fund initiatives which will benefit a wide variety of specialty crop producers who were impacted by COVID-19,” Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt said. “This is an opportunity to respond to risk and supply chain disruptions that were discovered and implement market adaptations with projects benefiting a variety of businesses.”

Eligible applicants include commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits. In addition, individual businesses and specialty crop producers will also be eligible as USDA provides funding under this program for entities that otherwise would not be allowable under the Farm Bill funded SCBGP.

The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. Specialty crops are defined as any fruit or vegetable, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Also included is honey, maple syrup, Christmas trees and processed foods/food products which are made of at least 50% specialty crops (excluding added water). An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop.

The project template, performance measures, and information required to apply are available online at https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/Publications/Specialty-Crop-Block-Grant. For more information on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, please visit the website, http://www.ctgrown.gov/grants and click on Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, or contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov or 860-573-0323.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS
FARMERS MARKETS: CT-grown and CT-made produce and goods are at the
How Connecticut wineries look to put pandemic behind them; new ‘Passport to CT Wine Country’ aims to help, 5/31, Hartford Courant
Real Food CT Guiding Gardeners From Seeding To Transplanting, 5/31, Newtown Bee

FREE Consultations from SOLID GROUND

FREE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION, LIVESTOCK, SOIL, LAND ACCESS, AND CONSERVATION CONSULTATIONS FOR FARMERS

Schedule a FREE consultation with one of our experts from UConn Extension! Schedule a consultation now before the season starts throwing problems at you left and right and feel a little more prepared on how to deal with pests, disease, soil health, and livestock production issues.

As part of our Solid Ground programming, funded by the USDA, we are able to offer these limited free one on one consultations, with specialists in certain fields of knowledge, to Beginning Farmers in Connecticut. They will meet you in person at a convenient time and follow up as needed with email, phone calls, or even a video field walk with you!

Please note: These consultations are intended for Commercial Farmers and Farm businesses. If you are homesteading, have a hobby farm, or simply love gardening, please access the UConn Home and Garden Education Center.

Sign up while they're available and here! https://newfarms.uconn.edu/consultations/
USDA TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY $6 BILLION TO COMMODITY AND SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCERS IMPACTED BY 2020 AND 2021 NATURAL DISASTERS

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...
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 is National Dairy Month!

- November 2022 – ag census mails out and data collection begins
- February 6, 2023 – response deadline

Sign up Here to be Counted

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**WBDC Equity Match Grant**

**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's 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 (DRS) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- have an established business checking account
- utilize a formal, digital bookkeeping/financial system (e.g., QuickBooks)
- be 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://ctwbd.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 retailers, tobacco shops and vending machines
- Businesses having to do with gambling, pawn shops and raffles, cash advance, check-cashing, or pawn shops
- Bail bondsmen, 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.ezenterdirect.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 my 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'm 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/
DAIRY MARKETING & BRANDING SERVICES GRANT

This grant program will provide funds for established value-added dairy processors and producer associations to access professional marketing and branding services to elevate value-added dairy businesses. Projects funded by this grant will increase the exposure and promotion of regionally produced dairy products guided by marketing/branding professionals. Funded projects will increase consumer awareness of products, develop market channels and distribution opportunities to increase product placement, support innovative strategies to increase consumption, and/or increase business revenues. Additionally, up to 25% of the grant funds may be used to implement the strategy and/or content developed by the contractor.

Grant range: $10,000 - $50,000, with 25% match requirement
Deadline: June 23, 2022

Learn more and apply here

Now Available: CT Grown Tents
10' x 10' King Canopy Tents
Order online at: www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com
Pickup only

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.
June is National Dairy Month!

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 WO

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 is 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
- Up to $50,000 in Ownership Loan
- 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, fertilizer, 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 loan, guaranteed loan program, and youth loans.
June is National Dairy Month!

https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportjune32022

### Ag Market Pricing

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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.

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 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.

22-15. 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

22-16. RJ Planter Model RJ600. 2 Row rotary planter, row distance 27” – 46”. Excellent condition. $4,100. Call 860-729-2741 or 860-716-1093.

22-17. Vicon pendulum 3 point fertilizer spreader with agitator and extension. 1,000 lbs. capacity. Used once, like new. $2,600.00. Call (203) 848-4582.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

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

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)
SOIL HEALTH TRAILER 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 (Exact Time TBD)
Windham County VT (location TBD)
Sponsored by: American Farmland Trust
Contact: Kristen Irvin at kirvin@farmland.org for more information

Tuesday, June 21st - 1:00 pm
UMass Crop & Animal Research & Education Farm - 89 River Rd, South Deerfield, MA 01373
This event will focus on soils for vegetable and corn production as well as pasture and grazing
Sponsored by: Northeast SARE
Contact Sam Corcoran at sgc@anr.umass.edu for more information

Wednesday, June 22nd - 1:00 pm
Walden Lane Farm - 33 Koebeke Rd, Dudley, MA 01571
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing livestock and poultry
Sponsored by: American Farmland Trust
Contact: Kristen Irvin at kirvin@farmland.org for more information

Thursday, June 23rd - 2:00 pm
Windmist Farm - 71 Weeden Lane, Jamestown, RI 02835
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing livestock
Sponsored by: Rhode Island Farm Bureau
Contact: Heidi Quinn at haquin@rifb.org for more information

Friday, June 24th - 9:30 am
Scantic Valley Farm - 327 9th District Rd, Somers, CT 06071
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing beef cattle
Sponsored by: Tri State SARE Project
Contact: Rachel Besquida at rachel.besquida@uconn.edu for more information

There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required for all events. Once registered, you’ll receive more information as the event approaches.

REGISTER HERE - https://forms.gle/YCJvwnnMhcsnWPwY8

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