Summer is officially underway as Connecticut farmers are picking early varieties of sweet corn in time for you to celebrate our nation’s independence this upcoming weekend. Whether you are planning a barbeque, heading to a campground or the beach, Connecticut’s farm stands and farmers’ markets have everything to fill your grill or cool you down. Find CT Grown at CTGrown.org.
Himmelstein Farm in Lebanon Permanently Protected

Sixteen Farms and 1,432 Acres of Farmland Preserved by Connecticut in Fiscal Year 2022

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) announces that during fiscal year 2022, which ended on June 30, a total of 16 farms and 1,432 acres have been permanently protected through the Farmland Preservation Program. Since the inception of the program in 1979 the state has protected 47,611 acres of farmland and more than 400 farms.

Closing out the fiscal year was the permanent protection of 32 acres in Lebanon, CT, owned by Frank Himmelstein. Established in 1913, Himmelstein Homestead Farm, a dairy farm until 2004, is recognized on the state’s historic register. Currently the land is in use by several farmers to grow field corn and hay, while Himmelstein utilizes three plus acres for organic vegetable production which he sells direct to consumer and through local markets.

“The goal has been to preserve the entire stretch of farm property along both sides of North Street, one of the few roads in town declared a scenic road,” said Himmelstein. “Protecting this parcel completes the preservation of the land along the road frontage and prevents the farmland from being developed for housing in the future.”

The 32-acre parcel abuts an additional 157 acres of the original homestead which was permanently protected by the Farmland Preservation Program in 2007. This is one of more than 40 farmland parcels protected in the Town of Lebanon totaling over 5,000 acres of farmland which will remain available for future generations.

“Protecting farmland is a collective effort requiring strong partnerships and
landowners who share a common goal, as well as partners and towns who demonstrate a high level of collaboration enabling us to leverage resources to maximize the success of the program."

At the close of this fiscal year, 57% of the PDR spending was contributed from non-State sources due to the program maintaining a high cost-share amount from partnerships. Permanently protecting prime and important farmland soils ensures a food and fiber producing land resource base for long-term availability of local, fresh farm products. In addition, farmland provides food and cover for wildlife, helps control flooding, protects wetlands and watersheds, and maintains air quality – all contributing to environmental sustainability and biodiversity.

For more information on Connecticut’s Farmland Preservation Program, visit our website for program overview, frequently asked questions, and contact information.

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**CT Agriculture Mental Health Survey**

**AG WORKER WELLNESS SURVEY**

Through a $500,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, under the Farmer Rancher Stress Assistance Network, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is seeking to make agriculture worker wellness resources more accessible to Connecticut's producers.

Research shows individuals who work in agriculture often face challenges with their mental health, but they go undiagnosed and untreated for many reasons. To better understand opinions and attitudes about mental health in every part of Connecticut agriculture, CT DoAg is launching a research study on mental health in CT’s agricultural industry. The agency will be working with
baseline analysis of the need for ag worker wellness services and insights on how to reduce the stigmas associated with mental health issues.

Responses to this survey will be used to inform expanded education and training opportunities for health care providers to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to readily recognize and address stress-related behaviors in Connecticut producers, ag workers, and their families.

Industry input is crucial to effectively meet the needs of our community. To ensure the study represents the full spectrum of Connecticut’s diverse agricultural community we request your help in distributing the online research survey. Share it with employees, friends, co-workers, business partners, members – in short anyone involved in Connecticut agriculture including fruit, vegetable and dairy farms, nurseries and greenhouses, aquaculture, horticulture, tobacco, ag-related businesses and more. The survey is available in both English and Spanish and all responses will remain confidential. Responses are requested by July 27, 2022.

SURVEY LINK

For more information on farmer stress support resources currently available in Connecticut, please click here.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS
From cow poop to gas, New Haven Register, 7/1
Stars, stripes, and sweet corn, Morning Ag Clips, 6/29
Your 2022 guide to Connecticut farmers markets, CT Insider, 6/28
Connecticut farmers' markets: There is one near you!, Yahoo, 6/27
Rising fertilizer prices hitting CT farms, parks, and gardens, Stamford Advocate, 6/27
Farms back zone change for commercial farm stores, New Haven Register, 6/26
Summer Series! Farm to School Lunch and Learn

Come join grantees from the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant program, CT DoAg, and the CT Farm to School Collaborative to a four week community of practice discussion series!

Every Wednesday in July from 12-1pm. Drop in when you can and join the conversation! We’d love to hear your successes and challenges and collaborate on solutions during the weekly topic discussions.

**Topic 1: Local Procurement Challenges and Successes**  
July 6 at 12pm  
[Register here for Topic 1]

**Topic 2: Garden Curriculums & Taste Tests**  
July 13 at 12pm  
[Register here for Topic 2]

**Topic 3: Family Engagement**  
July 20 at 12pm  
[Register here for Topic 3]

**Topic 4: Program Assessment/Evaluation**  
July 27 at 12pm  
[Register here for Topic 4]

Meetings will be recorded and sent out to registrants.

Questions: Please contact Cyrena Thibodeau at Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov or 860-895-3094.
I GOT NEXT FARMERS COALITION PRESENTS:

URBAN FARMING TRAININGS

When: July 16th & 23rd
8:30-4:00
Where: Keney Park Sustainability Project

TOPICS

• How to Choose and Use Cover Crops
• Using the Weather to Farm
• How to Determine the Quality of Produce;
• Soil Testing
• Plant Health & Companion Planting
• Vertical Gardening & Planting structures
• Foraging Edible & Medicinal Plants
• Making Regenerative Garden Amendments in the City

Kicking it off on July 16 and 23, the I Got Next Farmers are teaming up with Keney Park Sustainability Project and UConn’s Solid Ground program to provide two full days of training (with lunch included!) from 8:30am-4pm.

Can't make it to Hartford but still want to go? The trainings will also take place in Bridgeport on August 20 and 27, as well as in New Haven on November 12. These trainings will conclude with a Harvest Celebration at Keney Park.
Topics include:

- **Derrick Bedward**: How to Choose and Use Cover Crops, Using the Weather to Farm
- **Micro2life**: How to Determine the Quality of Produce, Soil Testing
- **Lauren Little Edutainment**: Plant Health & Companion Planting, Vertical Gardening & Planting structures
- **Samad Gardens Initiative**: Foraging Edible & Medicinal Plants, Making Regenerative Garden Amendments in the City

If you have any questions or problems signing up, please reach out to Rebecca.Toms@UConn.edu for assistance!

Sign Up Here!

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### NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

**BECOME A NE-DBIC GRANT APPLICATION REVIEWER**

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center is seeking additional reviewers for their pool. Seeking reviewers with knowledge in dairy farming, value-added dairy production, distribution, marketing and branding, business innovation, viability, and other related areas of expertise. Level of commitment is catered to the needs of the reviewer. We value having review committees that reflect the region, so please spread the word across the Northeast!

Learn more and sign up [here](https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportjuly12022).

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https://mailchi.mp/ct.gov/ctagreportjuly12022
Connecticut Shellfish Restoration Guide Open for Public Comment

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are seeking comments from the public on a discussion draft of the Connecticut Shellfish Restoration Guide. The Guide is the state’s first and most comprehensive plan to lay the foundation for shellfish restoration in Connecticut’s navigable waters and tributaries of Long Island Sound. The discussion draft was developed by a task force comprising state and federal agencies and non-profit organization partners with the input of a
Information on the Guide:

- Connecticut Shellfish Restoration Guide (full discussion draft)
- Summary (2 pages)
- Hard copies of these documents can be requested via shellfish@uconn.edu

WHEN to submit public comments:

The public comment period runs from June 8, 2022 to July 8, 2022. All comments are requested on or before July 8, 2022 at 5:00pm EST.

HOW to submit public comments:

You may submit comments on the Connecticut Shellfish Restoration Guide discussion draft via email to: shellfish@uconn.edu

WHAT kind of public comments:

The authors are looking for feedback on:

- Key information that is missing
- Proposed revisions to the Guide’s content, especially specific recommendations
- How the Guide will impact your specific shellfish-based line of work or activities
- If and how you and your specific affiliation may play a role in the implementation of the Guide and its recommendations

If you would like a response to your comments, please include your full name, email address and phone number in your email. Note that a response will not be sent until after the comment period has closed and the agencies have had time to review all submitted comments.

FARM CREDIT EAST SEEKS MODERN AGRICULTURE PHOTOS FOR CHANCE TO WIN $100

Farm Credit East is currently seeking creative images of modern Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products to fill the pages of its 2023 Agricultural Views calendar. Upload your picturesque images from the farm, woods or dock at FarmCreditEast.com/Calendar by July 31 for a chance to win $100.

Winning photographs will be featured in Farm Credit East's 2023 Calendar.
“For nearly two decades, we’ve received many photo submissions illustrating progressive agriculture operations,” says Kristie Matuszewski, Farm Credit East director of marketing and communications. “We look for fresh imagery that represents Northeast farming, horticulture, forestry and commercial fishing during every season, as well as shots that celebrate rural life in New England, New York or New Jersey.”

Winning photos are selected based on technical quality, clarity and composition, as well as photos that capture unique views of modern agriculture and life in the country. So take your camera out to the field, barn or dock, in the tractor cab, out on the open water, or into the woods, and send in the many views of agriculture enriching Northeast rural communities.

“Last year, we received more than 900 images from dozens of talented photographers. We look forward to reviewing this year’s entries,” said Matuszewski.

Only digital photos are accepted. Contest rules and an entry form, as well as inspiration from previous years’ calendars, can be found at FarmCreditEast.com/Calendar. The submission deadline is July 31, 2022.
The USDA recently released an urban agriculture toolkit, which provides resources for both producers and farm system partners. Tools include grants, loans, partnering with farmers markets and programs like WIC, crop insurance, and many other USDA services that can help urban farmers feed their communities.

Check out the new toolkit!

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TOP 5 THINGS FARMERS SHOULD DO BEFORE SUMMER

As Spring quickly escapes and the frenzy of Summer is thrown upon Connecticut farmers, there are a number of tasks that are suggested to help you, your business, and CT agriculture before the rush of farmers’ markets, special events, and increased customer visits to your farm overwhelm your days. With these five things completed, you’ll be ready to confidentially sell at market, feel represented, and tackle the season’s inevitable problems.

Check these off your list:

1. Update your listing on the CT Grown map
2. Fill out the Farmer Tax Exemption Permit and/or make sure necessary licenses/permits are up-to-date
3. Sign up for free consultations from UConn Extension’s Solid Ground Program
4. If you have not in the past, sign up to receive the Ag Census in the fall
5. Review Section II of the CT DoAg Farmers’ Market Reference Guide
The CT Grown map is an important way for consumers in the state to find farms and agricultural products. In partnership with CT NOFA, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is promoting this map through the #CTgrown campaign. Consumers are able to search for farms by town, product, organic certification, and more. When your listing is up to date, it ensures that happy customers find what they need and hopefully will keep coming back to your farm!

For newer farms, or farms that need special licenses for their operations, it's important to make sure you have your tax exempt permit and/or licenses up-to-date. There are a lot of costs associated with farming and as a large portion of sales are made through the warmer months, you should be ready to keep as much of that money as possible by getting your tax exemption ready, and avoiding fees for expired licenses, or perhaps adding value to your product because it is certified and licensed through CT DoAg.

Each season has new challenges with crop and livestock management that we can’t prepare for. Weather is only so predictable and there are always mysteries as to why production isn’t as high as we would like it to be. The best way to counter this is to sign up for the Solid Ground Free Consultation program. With a variety of experts (vegetable, hemp, soil, livestock, urban ag, etc.) you can sign up today for a free consult and schedule it for later, when you know you’re more likely to encounter issues at your farm. All consultants are available for on-site visits and will provide suggestions on how to improve your operation.

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. If you have not received these before, or are a newer farm, sign up to be counted! Even small plots of land count if $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. Future legislation depends on this information, so it’s important to make sure it is well informed!

And lastly, if you are selling at any of our amazing Connecticut farmers' markets this year, take the time to review some common requirements to sell at farmers' markets and keep our food safe. Starting in Section II this guide put together by CT DoAg helps you navigate the expectations for farmers vending at markets; whether you are selling meat, dairy, vegetables, fruit, or even added value products.

For more information about these and other resources the CT Department of Agriculture offers, please visit www.ctgrown.gov.
USDA ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE FOR ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY EXPENSES FOR SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced plans to provide up to $200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023. USDA’s new Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA’s broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

Specialty crop operations can apply for assistance for eligible expenses related to a 2022 food safety certificate issued on or after June 21, 2022, beginning June 27, 2022. USDA is delivering FSCSC to provide critical assistance for specialty crop operations, with an emphasis on equity in program delivery while building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions.

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.

For more information, click here.

THE POWER OF FOOD IN SCHOOL

Newman’s Own Foundation, with equity and strategic support from FoodCorps, is requesting proposals that support statewide and district-reaching organizations working toward every student having access to food education and/or nourishing meals in school. This grants program will prioritize Black, Indigenous, Multiracial and People of Color (BIMPOC) led organizations.
leadership development, educator engagement, ensuring adequate time to eat, supporting school kitchen infrastructure and scratch cooking, and increasing access to school meals.

Grants will support 501(c)(3) organizations in various stages of their systems change work. Grant review criteria will prioritize projects and organizations that are BIMPOC-led and honor the grassroots wisdom and expertise of local communities.

Newman’s Own Foundation has a pool of up to $450,000 set aside for this request for proposals. Grants will be in the range of $10,000–$50,000. Funding can be used for general operations or program support—whichever is identified as the higher priority for your organization.

Proposals will be accepted through August 15. For more information on this grant opportunity, click here.

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**URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION GRANTS**

The application period for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) competitive grants is open from **June 3, 2022 through August 2, 2022**.

Grants are divided into two categories:

1. **Planning projects** initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

2. **Implementations projects** accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor, and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs; emerging technologies; educational endeavors; and urban farming policy implementation.

In 2022, USDA is investing $14.2 million in new UAIP grants. Learn more or apply through this funding opportunity. For additional information, view the webinar or email UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov.

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**USDA REOPENS COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED RULE TO**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reopening the comment period for the proposed revisions to the makeup of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. A proposed rule seeking comments on the proposed amendments was published in the Federal Register on September 21, 2021. The new deadline for interested parties to submit comments is July 25, 2022.

The proposal would modify the number of Dairy Board members in two of the board’s 12 geographic regions. If adopted, the proposal will increase Region 8 (Idaho) representation from two members to three members and will decrease Region 10 (Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) representation from two members to one member. The total number of domestic Dairy Board members will remain the same at 36, and the number of regions will remain the same at 12.

Written comments must be received on or before Sept. 21, 2022. Comments may be submitted through the Federal e-rulemaking portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or emailed to Whitney.Rick@usda.gov. Comments should reference the document number AMS-DA-20-0060, the date of publication and the page number of the issue of the Federal Register. All comments submitted in response to this proposed rule will be included in the record and will be made available to the public.
The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Connecticut Foodshare’s Farm To Neighbors program designed to support both established and emerging farms is now live and accepting applications. This program allows Connecticut Foodshare to purchase food from Connecticut farms to provide to their partner programs. The application is one page and takes about five minutes to complete. The program is first come, first served.

Apply today at ctfoodshare.org or email farmtoneighbors@ctfoodshare.org.

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.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices provided on June 27, 2022

CT Farmers' Market Prices
Prices provided on October 22, 2021

Northeast Regional Eggs

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update
16 Farms Protected in Fiscal Year 2022

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary
Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

Advertisements

Walk behind Gravely tractor with sickle mower. $400. Very good, workable condition. (860) 875-8056.

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 qualify for discount. Cell: 860-377-8947 lblackmer@caluorinsurance.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.

**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**

Hartford/Tolland County FSA Hiring for Two Temporary Program Technician Positions

The Hartford/Tolland County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Windsor, CT is hiring two full time, Temporary Program Technicians (PTs). The deadline to apply is July 11, 2022. Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field level. These positions will support other offices in Connecticut and local travel will be required. Mileage reimbursement will be provided for use of a personal vehicle but government vehicles may be available for use. The
If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please share this information with them. To apply please submit a copy of your resume to Jule Dybdahl at Jule.Dybdahl@usda.gov.

Contact Jule Dybdahl at 860.871.4097 if you have specific questions regarding the position.

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Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)
I GOT NEXT FARMERS COALITION PRESENTS:

HARTFORD
When: July 16th & 23rd
8:30 - 4:00
Where: Keney Park
Sustainability Project

BRIDGEPORT
When: Aug 20th & 27th
8:30 - 4:00
Where: GVI's Reservoir Community Farm

NEW HAVEN
When: Nov 12
9:00 - 3:00 PM
Where: Common Ground's Farm & Garden Conference

HARVEST CELEBRATION
Meet the Farmers!
When: Nov 19 | 3:00 - 6:00
Where: Keney Park
Sustainability Project

Supported by:

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