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CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Version en español disponible en línea en CTGrown.gov.

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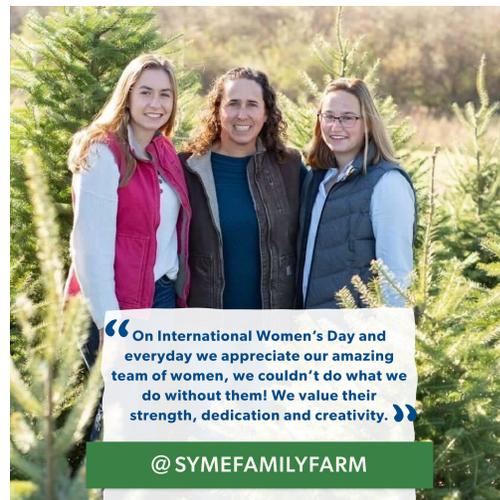
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Women's History Month ag fact: According to the 1978 Census of Agriculture, 393 Connecticut farms had female operators. By 2017, there were 2,708 farms in Connecticut where the primary operator was female!

Learn more about Connecticut's female farmers by following us on our social channels or visiting CTGrown.org.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Animal Population Control Programs See Record Response to Reduce Pet Overpopulation

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Population Control Program (APCP) has received record response for their programs to reduce pet overpopulation. A change in statute now allows up to 20% (increased from 10%) of the yearly APCP income to be made available for the feral cat grant program, which assists Connecticut non-profit rescue groups with the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats.

Established in 1995, APCP has provided benefits to more than 250,000 animals and is funded by an annual surcharge on Connecticut dog licenses, the \$45.00 adoption fee, proceeds from the sale of the “Caring for Pets” commemorative license plates, and donations.

In fiscal year 2023, CT DoAg has received and issued a record number of applications from feral cat organizations for the feral cat grant program. More than 1,700 voucher requests were received with 1,480 vouchers issued for fiscal year 2023, up from 780 in fiscal year 2022. Since 2007, the APCP has averaged a 98% compliance rate for benefits issued through Connecticut non-profit organizations for feral cats.

Joan Lamont, Founder/President at C.A.T.S. Northeast, Inc. in North Windham has experienced the results of the feral cat program come full circle in her role at the rescue, as well as running a spay and neuter clinic, and as animal control officer for Windham. She shared, “It’s a great program and when utilized properly to spay and neuter an entire feral cat colony, the animals will no longer reproduce, helping to stop a rising cat overpopulation. We are already seeing a decreased need for vouchers in our area thanks to this program.”

“There is a demonstrated demand for the resources provided by the Animal Population Control Program, and this is an example of how a legislative proposal sought by the agency to make a difference is doing just that,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We appreciate the opportunity to work with residents, non-profits, and participating veterinarians to reduce pet overpopulation and ensure animal health is maintained.”

The Animal Population Control Program also announces that the Low-Income Pet Sterilization Program has issued all available funds and will be closed for the remainder of the current fiscal year. This program helps CT residents to vaccinate and sterilize their pets using a participating Connecticut veterinary practice. To be eligible for benefits, recipients must be a Connecticut resident and on one of six public assistance programs outlined in C.G.S. Sec. 22-380e and approved by Department of Social Services. The Low-Income Pet Sterilization Program will reopen on November 1, 2023.

For program status updates, please visit our website: www.ct.gov/doag/apcp.



Spencer and Kristen Luthy of Maplewood Farm in Harwinton received a 2022 Farm Transition Grant to purchase a 2'x 6' flue evaporator with a steam hood for their sugarhouse. Established in 2016, Maplewood Farm focuses on high quality syrup production with a smaller product base of fresh eggs and vegetables. Their maple syrup operation began with just 45 taps and 11 gallons of syrup.

By 2021, their maple syrup operation had expanded to over 400 taps across 8 properties and production of 80 gallons of syrup per year. Looking to scale up to 500 taps in 2023 and 650 in 2024, Maplewood Farm realized that their existing evaporator was keeping them from achieving efficiency, scalability, and product diversity.



Installation of the new evaporator and steam hood has tripled their average boiling rate from 20 gallons an hour to 60. This increase in efficiency has contributed to the production of 60 additional gallons of syrup, raising annual production to 140 gallons.

By producing much greater quantities of maple syrup, the farm is not only able to supply their farmstand and five stores throughout the state, but also expand into other avenues of sale and acquire additional wholesale customers. As a result, Maplewood Farm's maple syrup has also been incorporated into a craft beer produced by Black Hog Brewery in Oxford, desserts made at an ice cream shop in Burlington, and cocktails at Continuum Distillery in Waterbury.

This weekend, March 18 and 19, kicks off Maple Weekend in CT. Many sugarhouses will be open for tours and selling their products. Maplewood Farm will be open for visitors on Saturday, March 18 from 1-5 p.m.

For a complete list of Maple Weekend participants, [click here.](#)



[Egg prices are expected to drop in 2023, here's what it means for CT](#), CT Insider, 3/15

[Barn birthing unit collapses in Canaan, killing 2 pregnant cows, narrowly misses farm workers](#), Fox 61, 3/15

[USDA warns of invasive spotted lanternfly threat in CT; asks residents to report sightings](#), Hartford Courant, 3/12

[Caius Farm Brewery opens in Branford this weekend](#), The Middletown Press, 3/10

2023 Farmers Market Manager Meetup

Registration is now open for the 2023 Farmers Market Manager Meetup

El registro es ahora abierto para los 2023 Reunión de gerentes de mercado de agricultores

Sign up now!  Regístrate ahora!



FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM MEETINGS FOR MARKET MANAGERS AND CERTIFIED FARMERS

Spring is here and that means our farmers' markets are preparing for another season. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is looking forward to promoting your markets and providing outreach on benefits programs to increase participation.

What does that mean for our market managers? This year, through funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Benefit Delivery Modernization Grant, the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is transitioning to an electronic platform. To ensure a smooth transition, ALL market managers will need to attend one of our Market Manager Meet-ups before receiving their annual agreement to participate in the program.

Join us on April 10, 2023, at the Connecticut Ag Experiment Station Jones Auditorium in New Haven from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Additional dates will be added.

We will go over listing your market with CT DoAg, eFMNP regulations and requirements, SNAP, doubling incentive programs, and more. The day will include a chance for new and seasoned farmers' market managers to network as well.

Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/FMMMeetup> and will close 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Questions can be directed to CTFMNP@ct.gov.

FARMER CERTIFICATION & TRAINING

All fruit, vegetable, and honey producers selling at Certified Connecticut Grown

The certification allows farms to accept the FMNP benefits for only Connecticut Grown fresh fruits, vegetables, fresh-cut herbs, and eggs for WIC participants and income-eligible seniors over the age of 60. Seniors may also use their benefits for honey. Attend one of the below farmer certification meetings to become certified, learn about the SoliSYSTEMS platform, grant funds available, and accepting SNAP to expand sales.

To ensure a smooth transition, ALL certified farmers, farmers' markets, and distribution partners will be required to attend an in-person training to participate in the program.

Following are the current certification dates for farmers, which will be held in person across the state.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM

Hartford County Extension Center, 270 Farmington Avenue, Building 4, Exchange Building - Suite 262, Farmington, CT, 06032

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 2 PM to 5 PM

Litchfield County Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT, 06790

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM

Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT, 06438

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 2 PM to 5 PM

New London County Extension Center, 562 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT, 06360-6599

Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM

Windham County Extension Center, 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT, 06234-1729

Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 2 PM to 5 PM - TENTATIVE

Tolland County Extension Center- 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT, 06066

Friday, March 31, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM

Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/eFMNP>. Registration must be received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Please note that you will receive meeting information the day before the meeting.

Questions can be directed to Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-6083 or Ally Hughes at Allison.Hughes@ct.gov or 860-500-8918.

QUEER FARMER SKILLSHARE SERIES STARTING MARCH 19

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better stewards not only of the land we tend but the lives we touch.

La cohorte de agricultores cuir de Cultivemos organizó una serie de talleres designados para conectar trabajadores agrícolas con recursos y conocimiento para ser mejores cuidadores de la tierra y de toda la vida que tocamos.

The Queer Farmer Skill Share Series will consist of **five events between March and May – with a mix of in-person and virtual formats**. These resources are for every agricultural worker and it is our intention to hold all of the sessions with Spanish interpretation.

La serie de talleres de agricultores cuir consistirá de cinco eventos entre marzo y mayo, con una mezcla de eventos en persona y eventos virtuales. Estos recursos son para cualquier trabajador agrícola, en inglés y en español.

We are thrilled to announce that the first skill share of the season will happen on Sunday, March 19 at 2:30pm (in a little over a week!), and will be led by Lee Hennessy, of Moxie Ridge Farm, and Baylee Drown, of Long Table Farm. The workshop is entitled, **Funding Your Farm: Grants and More**, and can be attended in-person at Long Table Farm in Lyme, Connecticut or on Zoom.

Estamos muy emocionados de anunciar que el primer taller será el domingo, 19 de marzo a las 2:30 pm (¡en poco menos de una semana!). El taller será dictado por Lee Hennessy de Moxie Ridge Farm y Baylee Drown, de Long Table Farm. Este taller será sobre financiamiento para tu granja: subvenciones, becas y más. Si planeas participar en persona ve a Long Table Farm en Lyme, Connecticut. También podrás conectarte a través de Zoom.

Full details about the event, including information about its facilitators can be found below. **In the coming weeks more details will be sent out regarding the remaining skillshares and ways to support our work!**

Los detalles del evento, incluyendo información sobre los presentadores están a continuación. También en las próximas semanas más detalles sobre los otros eventos y maneras de apoyar nuestro trabajo serán enviados próximamente.

[Funding your farm: Grants and more](#)

Financiamiento para tu granja: subvenciones, becas y más

Date, time and location:

Sunday, March 19

1pm pot luck and farm walk at 256 Beaver Brook Road, Lyme, CT 06371

2:30-4:30 Zoom and in-person Presentation

A la 1 arrancamos con una comida colectiva (cada quien trae un plato para compartir) y una caminata. La dirección de la granja es: 256 Beaver Brook Road, Lyme, CT 06371

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235655911?pwd=WkdjRXpuUERqYVdHU3NEVy9JNWo0UT09>

Do you want to get better at winning grants for your farm? Or maybe you want to start a farm, and need to figure out how you'll pay for that? Learn from two queer Northeast Farmers who have won multiple regional, state, and federal grants and started with no financial assets who have gone on to build successful, first generation, regenerative farm businesses. Lee Hennessy and Baylee Drown will share with you the lessons they have learned with creative farm financing strategies, including grants, loans, and crowdsource funding. This workshop will be available in person, on Baylee's Long Table Farm in Lyme, CT as well as on Zoom. The in person portion will be preceded with an optional potluck and farm walk.

*Cultivemos, the Northeast network for cultivating farmer well being, is a project managed by the National Young Farmers Coalition. Through Cultivemos several cohorts were created with a mandate of advancing network building among each of their respective communities.



TICK-BORNE DISEASE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SURVEY

Lyme disease and other illnesses spread by ticks represent a significant risk to agricultural workers in Connecticut. The Connecticut Emerging Infections Program (CT EIP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invite you to participate in an important, 5-minute survey on tick-borne disease education and prevention.

Your input will inform public health agencies as they create tick-borne disease prevention materials specifically for the agricultural community. Please email TickNET@yale.edu with any questions or comments.

[Complete the Survey](#)



CONNECTICUT FARMER-TO-FARMER SOIL HEALTH COHORT PROGRAM

The New England Climate and Agriculture team at American Farmland Trust is offering a 1-year peer-to-peer soil health planning program for small-scale Connecticut farmers. Participants will:

- Receive \$2000 in financial assistance
- Build a community with other farmers
- Receive support from peers and service providers to craft a soil health plan for their own farm
- Learn from regional experts about the science and practice of building soil health, and planning approaches for soil health and climate adaptation
- Receive an on-farm visit from a soil health specialist
- Learn with a specialist how to collect soil health samples and complete a field soil health assessment

This course runs from September 2023-September 2024, with most program activities concentrated into the winter months. Most classes take place virtually on Zoom, with one scheduled one-on-one field visit and one group field trip to a local farm.

Participants who complete soil health plans that comply with the technical specifications required by NRCS will have the option to have their soil health plans submitted to their local NRCS office for cost-share consideration (financial assistance to implement the plan).

Space in this program is limited. Applicants will be selected based on interest, farm operation criteria, and best fit for the cohort. This program is not limited to but will prioritize small-scale producers, urban farmers, and farmers who have been historically underserved by USDA programs.

Applications are open from March 1-May 15 and take 20-30 minutes to fill out. [Click here to apply.](#) Questions? Contact Caro Roszell, croszell@farmland.org.

CT FSA PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program

Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) enrollment opened Jan. 23, 2023 and runs through June 2, 2023.

PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers who participated in previous USDA pandemic assistance programs may receive additional assistance through PARP if they exhibit a revenue loss after factoring in other payments.

Who is Eligible?

PARP provides financial assistance for producers who suffered at least a 15% decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to 2018 or 2019. PARP helps address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. Producers must meet additional FSA eligibility requirements including but not limited to AGI limitations.

For more information: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp>



Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two enrollment opened Jan. 23, 2023 and runs through June 2, 2023.

ERP Phase 2 is a tax year-based certification program that provides assistance for producers who suffered a loss in revenue due to necessary expenses associated with losses of eligible crops (excluding crops intended for grazing), due in whole or in part, to a qualifying disaster event that occurred in the 2020 or 2021 calendar year.

Who is Eligible?

ERP Phase Two covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to a qualifying

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crops intended for grazing. Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions. Producers must meet additional FSA eligibility requirements including but not limited to AGI limitations.

For more information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-relief/index>



Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program

Farm Service Agency will accept On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers (FSCSC) applications for calendar year 2023 from February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

Enrollment for calendar year 2022 closed January 31, 2023.

Did your specialty crop operation recently incur on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023? You may be eligible for financial assistance through USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC).

For more information: <https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/food-safety>



Conservation Reserve Program

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-ups open Feb. 27, 2023 and run through Apr. 7, 2023.

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in CRP agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

Continuous CRP

In addition to the CRP general enrollment period, producers at any time can participate in CRP continuous enrollment period, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is also available in the Continuous signup.

For more information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>

GROWERS NEEDED FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY ADOPTION SURVEY

Carnegie Mellon University is seeking growers to participate in a survey about nanotechnology adoption. The project, titled "**Developing a Mental Model for Grower Agricultural Nanotechnology Adoption**", is focused on understanding how growers who produce food for human consumption would think about adopting nanotechnology for agriculture.

The intent is to understand how growers think about this emerging type of technology so that it can be developed with their concerns and needs in mind. In brief, nanotechnology is being developed to deliver agrochemicals, like fertilizers and pesticides, more efficiently to reduce waste and improve farming efficiency. This study involves a semi-structured 40-minute interview conducted virtually via Zoom. There is no preparation necessary to participate in the interview and all published results will be de-identified to protect your privacy. There is no compensation for participating in this study. However, the information gathered is critical to the development of this new technology and your responses will help direct research and communication efforts moving forward.

If you are interested, please **contact Ben Therrien** (btherrie@andrew.cmu.edu), a graduate student in the departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Engineering & Public Policy, with any questions or to schedule an interview.



FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES SURVEY

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Team and personnel from the Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) at the University of Vermont would like to understand the costs and the barriers of beginning or expanding food safety practices on farms and in packinghouses to make educational materials more relevant to fruit and vegetable growers and packers. To do this, we have developed a survey to collect food safety information from fruit and vegetable growers across the country.

What are the Goals of this Survey?

To understand:

- what steps growers have taken toward adopting food safety practices on their farm,
- the costs of adopting food safety practices (both one-time and reoccurring), and
- where growers have questions about food safety.

Why Should You Participate?

The detailed information that is provided will allow future educational materials to be tailored to specific challenges that growers are facing.

Who Should Participate?

We are looking for feedback from people involved in fruit and vegetable production and packing, including those who have and who have not adopted food safety practices. This survey should be completed by someone who has knowledge about the operation's produce safety practices (e.g., equipment, finances, supplies, training, market distribution, third-party audits).

Participation is voluntary and anonymous. It will take 10 – 30 minutes to complete the survey, depending on the farms' food safety practices.

By completing this survey, you can choose to be entered into a raffle to win a \$75 prepaid credit card. Ten participants will randomly be selected to win. The raffle will be held when the survey closes, approximately May 1st. If selected, you will be contacted to confirm your mailing address and acknowledge acceptance of the \$75 prepaid credit card.



STILL TIME TO RESPOND TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Farmers and ranchers still have time to be counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the deadline for submitting the ag census has just passed, NASS will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the spring to ensure all farmers and ranchers take advantage of the opportunity to be represented in the widely used data.

NASS will continue to follow up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their ag census either online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail as soon as possible.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 mandates that everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete and return it, even if they are not currently farming. The same law requires NASS to keep all submissions confidential, use the information for statistical purposes only, and publish aggregate data to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow USDA NASS on Twitter at [@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass).



The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation is pleased to announce that the pre-application period of the NASDA Foundation - EPA Historically Underserved Farmers Grant application period is now open. The NASDA Foundation expects to award up to 16 sub-awards to organizations in the EPA's Ohio-Tennessee Region to help underserved farmers improve water quality, habitat resilience and information exchange to benefit Gulf of Mexico Watershed ecosystems. Awards are expected to range from \$75,000 to \$225,000 in total funds with a duration of up to three years. The pre-application period will run from March 1 – April 15, 2023.

The awards will be used to implement programs to prevent or reduce water pollution. The states within the Ohio-Tennessee region are Kentucky, Tennessee and portions of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

The following organizations and groups are encouraged to apply: beginning farmer organizations, conservation districts, institutions of higher learning, local state government agencies, non-government organizations and non-profit organizations with influence on underserved farmers, tribal nations, and veteran farmer and rancher groups.

Applicants will be notified in May 2023 if they are invited to complete the full application. Successful sub-awardees will be notified in July 2023 and projects will begin in August 2023.

“It is outstanding to see the state departments of agriculture collaborating with local organizations to communicate this opportunity to underserved farm communities,” NASDA Foundation Senior Director Chris Jones said. “I am excited about the continued partnerships these grants will help foster, the improvement of the Gulf of Mexico Watershed ecosystem, and the impact these projects will have on future generations.”

For more information, please visit nasda.org/epa. Technical assistance questions can be directed to the NASDA Foundation at epagrants@nasda.org or (571) 418-6426.



HEMP AND CANNABIS EVENTS

Univ. of Maine: Hemp online course

1 hr sessions in the evening online with the instructor, then 2 hrs on your own.

Every Tuesday for 5 weeks, starting March 7, 14, 21, 28, & Apr 4

Course is taught by John Jemison, University of ME agronomy professor/extension
jemison@maine.edu

Connecticut Cannabis Expo- Xpocanna: March 25-26 at Mohegan Sun

<https://xpocann.com/event/connecticut-cannabis-expo/>

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**NORTHEAST****DAIRY BUSINESS
INNOVATION CENTER**

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER MARCH UPDATES

NE-DBIC has extended the deadline for the Dairy Processor R&D Innovation Grant. The application deadline is now March 30.

You can get all the grant details here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/grants/dairy-processor-innovation-grant>

The Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant is now open.

Pre-applications for Tiers 1 and 2 are open now. A single-stage application for Tier 3 processors will open in April. You can get all the grant details and view a recording of our informational webinar here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/grants/existing-dairy-processor-expansion-grant>

The Central New York Grazing Conference is on March 25

Dairy farmers can learn about adaptive grazing management, innovative farming techniques, and what practices other successful grazers are implementing on their farms at the Central New York Grazing Conference.

This conference is hosted in partnership with NE-DBIC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and PASA Sustainable Agriculture. You can [register through Cornell Extension](#).



NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE AND EXPO

Save these dates for the Northeast's premier horticultural event on **November 8 and 9, 2023 in Manchester, New Hampshire!** Don't miss this great opportunity to learn, share and connect with other industry professionals!

Please note the new location at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Manchester, NH. The hotel is located among the shops and restaurants of Elm Street in the downtown area.

Educational sessions focusing on advanced biocontrol, disease management, business and marketing, greenhouse vegetables, and perennial production, and sessions in the Spanish language will be offered. Come visit vendors at the trade show with three dedicated hours each day of the program.

The biennial Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo is co-sponsored by New England Floriculture, Inc. - a group of grower representatives from the Northeast, augmented by University and Cooperative Extension staff in each state who specialize in greenhouse crops and management.

Exhibit space and sponsorship opportunities are available! Visit the website for more information (<https://www.negreenhouse.org/sponsor.html>) or contact Cindy Sherwood at (802) 448-9063 or sales@delaneymeetingevent.com.

USDA ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available up to \$7.5 million for grants through its Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. **USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 27, 2023.**

Planning Projects

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

awarded funds to conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan to establish a cooperative for small-scale agricultural producers serving low food access markets in Harris County, Texas.

Implementation Projects

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors. For example, the Moka Urban Agriculture Initiative used 2022 awarded funds for a project to increase local food access and provide culturally relevant options that create economic opportunities for urban farmers. The project will help to reduce food insecurity, improve health and establish outdoor spaces for food production in Missouri.

Webinar

A pre-recorded webinar on Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants | USDA provides an overview of the grants' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application.

More Information

OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. The grants are part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:

- Creating and managing a [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) to advise the Secretary on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban agriculture.
- Reopening the [People's Garden Initiative](#). People's Gardens across the country grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient, local food systems; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife and greenspace for neighbors.
- Providing [cooperative agreements](#) that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.
- Providing technical and financial assistance through conservation programs offered by [NRCS](#).
- Organizing 17 Farm Service Agency urban county committees.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and



AGRICULTURE BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVITED To APPLY TO EXHIBIT IN THE CT BUILDING AT BIG E

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building at The Big E, September 15-October 1, 2023, with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service.

This is a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture to over one million attendees who come through the Connecticut Building. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, and Harvest New England Day will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the exhibitor guidelines, and submit a completed application by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023**. Licensed Connecticut farm wineries interested in having their wines available by the glass will be receiving a separate application to participate.

[Guidelines and Application here.](#)

For more information, please contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov, or 860-573-0323.



Farm Succession School

For senior farmers and farm partners in **Connecticut**, like Chris, who are looking toward retirement and farm transition.

Three-day winter course:
February 7, February 28, March 28



FARM SUCCESSION SCHOOL - STILL TIME TO REGISTER

As you know, the biggest hurdle in farm succession planning is getting the plan done. The **Farm Succession School** is for senior farmers and farm partners in Connecticut, like Chris, who are looking toward retirement and farm transition.

This **three-day winter course** is for senior farmers who are ready to do the work and dig into creating a farm succession plan.

This curriculum is designed to help farmers think through the many aspects of succession planning, clarify vision and goals, get next steps on paper and review necessary documents to provide for a smooth transition. Sessions include ample time to share and learn from other farmers facing similar questions. There is also homework and assistance available between sessions. Farmers do not need to have an identified successor to participate in this course.

Farm Succession School meets at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Route 30, Vernon, CT.

Tuesdays from 9:30am - 3:30pm

March 28, 2023

[Learn more and register](#)

Additional Support Opportunities

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We've helped hundreds of farmers and partners find innovative solutions that keep their farms in farming, provide a meaningful legacy and address the financial, legal and business challenges involved in transferring a farm to a next generation family member or unrelated successor. Low or no-cost assistance is available. Costs vary depending on your needs and available funding, with always a sliding scale option. Complete this [Farm Succession Form](#) or call us at 603-357-1600 to initiate a no-cost informational session.

Connecticut Farm Succession School is in partnership with UConn Extension and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, this work is supported by the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Grant, grant no.: 2021-70035-3555, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

[Learn More](#)



2023 NEW ENGLAND LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD SEEKS NOMINEES

Are you a New England farmer or forestland owner improving soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat on your working land? Apply for the 2023 New England Leopold Conservation Award[®].

[Sand County Foundation](#) and national sponsor [American Farmland Trust](#) present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 25 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In [New England](#) the \$10,000 award is presented with, [New England Forestry Foundation](#) and [Wildlands Woodlands Farmlands & Communities](#).

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wildlife habitat on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, *[A Sand County Almanac](#)*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Landowners may also nominate themselves. The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA.

The application deadline date is July 18, 2023. Email applications to award@sandcountyfoundation.org. Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and forestry conservation leaders.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

Prices provided on March 6, 2023

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New](#)

[Holland, PA](#)

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)

Prices provided on October 27, 2022

[Lancaster Farming Hay Market](#)

[Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly](#)

[Update](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -](#)

[Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction](#)

[Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -](#)

[Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -](#)

[Eighty Four, PA](#)

Advertisements

[Advertisement space can now be purchased online. Click here to have your posting added.](#)

For Sale

Slightly used, very clean, 4-gallon white plastic buckets and matching lids; HDPE, food-grade. Bucket \$3.75, Lid \$1.00. Email for photo/dimensions. Minimum 50, please. Pick up in Lyme, CT, or large quantity delivered. bill@fatstonefarm.com (3/17/23)

Kinkelder sprayer 100 gallon tank. 3 pt.hitch (cat.2 hookup).This is the heavy duty model requiring 45 h.p. to operate. Have both Orchard Heads & Big Row crop head.

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For Sale: 1972 MF 135 \$4500; 1987 SAME CORSARO 70 \$4500; KORVAN 9000 Over the Row Blueberry picker \$15000 OBO; Call Pedro 860-368-1564 or Mike 860-508-0776 (3/31/23)

HONEYBEES - 5-FRAME NUCS, DEEPS only Available 1st week May JONES' APIARIES LLC PH 860-677-9391 (5/5/23)

Rain Flo irrigation pump. Four-inch discharge. New condition. Please call 860-841-3082.

Dried Sawdust / Different Grades, \$20 per yard. You pick up or delivered with additional charge. 860-642-7084. Blue Slope Sawdust.

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

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

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

Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. [Sonpal's Power Fence](#) 860-491-2290.

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.

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

Wanted

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

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Employment Opportunities

position. The Resource Preservation Unit ensures that farmland remains available for agricultural use in perpetuity through the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and the Community Farms Preservation Program. This is a full-time, 40 hours per week, hybrid position (telework and in office) located at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 703, Hartford, CT. Application closes at 11:59 PM on March 30, 2023. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

The **State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture (DoAG)**, is seeking one (1) part time, durational Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 (AMIR 1), position to administer one or more promotional programs which ultimately support Connecticut's agricultural sector. The AMIR 1 could be expected to assist in managing a variety of state and federally funded programs for Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation. Candidates must have the understanding and experience in project management, including writing reports, coordinating events and workshops, and an understanding of agriculture production and seasonality. Application closes at 11:59 PM on March 27, 2023. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. (CT RC&D) is seeking an **Agricultural Programs Coordinator**, part time, 15 hours/week. Responsible for overseeing and coordinating agricultural programs and initiatives aimed at improving agricultural production and sustainability. For more information, visit their [website](#). To Apply: Email cover letter, detailing degree, experience, professional qualifications, and resume to employment@ctrctd.org by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 17, 2023.

Do you have a passion for agricultural and public health? Are you a student who is currently applying to or enrolled in a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program? If so, an internship with the **United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)** may be right for you!

We are now accepting applications for the [Saul T. Wilson Jr. Internship program](#). Through this program, you will gain valuable, real-world experience in promoting and protecting the nation's agricultural animal health. For example, on any given day, you might work in a pasture collecting statistical information, spend time in a laboratory analyzing data, or conduct routine tests alongside seasoned veterinarians, among many other tasks.

Selected Saul T. Wilson, Jr. interns receive tuition assistance from USDA—up to \$7,500 per year for undergraduate studies and \$15,000 per year for graduate studies. After you successfully complete the program and have your DVM degree, you may be eligible for a permanent position as a Veterinary Medical Officer. Learn about the many benefits of working with us at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/careers>.

Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) is seeking a people-oriented, self-motivated team player with a passion for farming to join its team. The **FarmLink Coordinator** will assist with one of CFT's core programs, CT FarmLink. This is a full-time position

Upcoming Events (click on image below for info)

SOLID GROUND
A Program Of UConn Extension

AGROECOLOGY SERIES

IPM IN HIGH TUNNELS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2023 @ 12:00-1:30PM
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM
PRESENTER: DR. ANA LEGRAND
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ana will explore using beneficial insects and other biocontrol agents for insect pest management in high tunnels. This presentation will review arthropod predators and insect parasitoids available for growers to purchase and release against key pests in high tunnels. She will also address the benefits and limitations of these biocontrol agents plus discuss other tools such as microbial pesticides.

ECOLOGICAL GROWING

THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023 @ 6:30-8:00PM
CT AG EXPERIMENT STATION, WINDSOR, CT
PRESENTER: NIGEL PALMER
AUTHOR: THE AGROECOLOGICAL GROWERS GUIDE TO GARDEN AMENDMENTS

Nigel will begin by introducing concepts of mineral and biological soil characteristics required to grow healthy crops. Exploring both short and long term strategies for improving plant health, and benefits of having healthy plants. He'll focus on short term plans, finding out the trace minerals needed and applying them in correct proportions that influence the phases of plant development using foliar sprays. Hands-on demo making mineral amendments and foliar feeding with time for Q&A.

NO-TILL FIELD DAY

SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023 @ 1:00-4:00PM
TOBACCO ROAD FARM, LEBANON, CT
PRESENTER: BRYAN O'NIARA
AUTHOR: NO-TILL INTENSIVE VEGETABLE CULTURE

Bryan will share a wealth of knowledge on his no-till practices with a focus on long term strategies for fertilization and overall soil health. He will demonstrate his customized and mechanized pieces of equipment for both dry amendments and foliar fertilizers. These specialized tools can be absolute game changers for saving on labor and maximizing efficiencies on your farm.

USDA UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Green Village Initiative | USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture | Connecticut RC&D | ctnofa Creating an Organic CT Since 1982

REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR](https://tinyurl.com/urbanagtour)

URBAN AG CONSERVATION TOUR

APRIL 29TH 1-3PM AT RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM

SPANISH TRANSLATION PROVIDED

LEARN ABOUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HIGH TUNNELS, RAISED BEDS, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, AND OTHER CONSERVATION PRACTICES!

USE THIS QR CODE TO REGISTER AND SIGN UP FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE EVENT!

Get your soil tested for heavy metals on site!

1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT | REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR](https://tinyurl.com/urbanagtour) | 203-612-4107 | INFO@GOGVI.ORG

Green Village Initiative | USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture | Connecticut RC&D | ctnofa Creating an Organic CT Since 1982

REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR](https://tinyurl.com/urbanagtour)

TOUR DE CONSERVACIÓN AGRÍCOLA URBANA

29 DE ABRIL 1-3PM EN RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM

TRADUCCIÓN AL ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE

Conozca las oportunidades en financiación federal para proyectos de túneles altos, camas elevadas, sistemas de riego, y para otras prácticas de conservación!

USE ESTE CÓDIGO QR PARA REGISTRARSE E INSCRIBIRSE PARA EL TRANSPORTE AL EVENTO

Obtenga un análisis de metales pesados para su suelo!

1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT | REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR](https://tinyurl.com/urbanagtour) | 203-612-4107 | INFO@GOGVI.ORG

Tolland County Agricultural Center's TACK & TAG SALE

WHERE: Tolland Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Ave Vernon, CT

WHEN: Saturday, April 29th 8am – 4pm
** RAIN DATE ** Sunday, April 30th

Interested in renting space? Email TAC_Events@outlook.com for info!

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POULTRY WORKSHOP

SAVE THE DATE

04.26.2023

(NO FEES REQUIRED)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Heather Goodman
heather.goodman@uconn.edu



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