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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

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A statewide public awareness campaign is underway to encourage SNAP and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) WIC and Senior participants to visit farmers' markets and farm stands to purchase Connecticut Grown food. Find a SNAP and FMNP authorized market [here](#).



Connecticut Producers Urged to Enroll in Coronavirus Food Assistance Program *Deadline September 11*

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is urging farmers and producers to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to provide vital financial assistance to absorb sales losses and increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As of Monday, August 17, 2020, 100 applications for Connecticut producers have been approved totaling \$6.88 million in payments. USDA is accepting CFAP applications now through September 11, 2020. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center. Learn more at farmers.gov/cfap.

In response to comments and data received by the public, USDA announced on July 9 that it would make more than 40 additional specialty crop commodities eligible for the program. Nearly 60 additional commodities were announced on August 11, including additions to specialty crops and livestock along with the inclusion of nursery crops and cut flowers, aquaculture, and certain types of eggs.

In addition to these newly eligible commodities, USDA also expanded funding categories for several commodities and adjusted payment rates for others. A full list of these commodities, and their associated payment rates, can be found on our specialty crops, livestock, nursery and cut flowers, aquaculture, and eggs pages. These updates were made in two rounds, based on comments and data received from the public.

[COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers](#)

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THE JOURNEY

COVID-19 FARMWORKER TESTING

No community is immune to coronavirus, and that includes our farm workforce. The Department of Agriculture has been closely coordinating with state partners to assist farm operators and farm workers in efforts to minimize and control the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic.

COVID-19 testing and education is available through Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and local health departments. Additional questions and concerns regarding farm worker testing can be answered by clicking the link below.

Let's work together to keep our agricultural workforce and farm families healthy this harvest season.

COVID-19 TESTING FAQs

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

[Connecticut Grown Farm Map](#): online, interactive listing of open farm stands, farm stores and farmers' markets to access Connecticut Grown produce, dairy, meat, shellfish, greenhouse and nursery stock.

COVID-19 PRODUCER RESOURCES

Find the latest guidance on best practices, resources and updates related to COVID-19 visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/doag-covid>

List your farm, farmers' market or farm stand on CTGrownMap.com by clicking [here](#).

COVID-19 Farmers' Market Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Pick-Your-Own Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Farm Store & Store Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events available [here](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Dry conditions in Connecticut spark fire risk and farming challenges as drought continues](#), Hartford Courant, 8/14

[Demand for local food is high, but comes with some challenges](#), Republican-American, 8/16

[New program brings produce from Groton Family Farm to housing authority residents](#), The Day, 8/17

[Northford Farm Helps Feed Local Families](#), NBC CT, 8/17

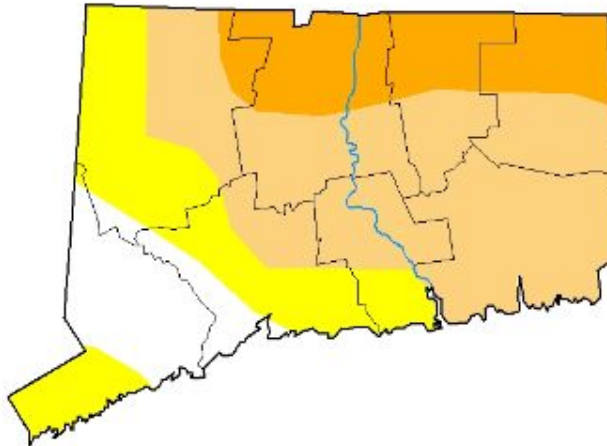
[Hayes, Delgado introduce new SBA-style loan program at USDA, TheFencePost, 8/18](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Connecticut

August 18, 2020

(Released Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	12.77	87.23	64.93	19.93	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-11-2020	12.77	87.23	34.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-19-2020	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 10-01-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	49.68	50.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-20-2019	81.79	18.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

CONNECTICUT DROUGHT ADVISORY

Northeast

On this week’s map, areas of the region—including central and western Pennsylvania, south-central New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, southeastern New Hampshire, and northern Maine—saw expansion and intensification of areas of drought in response to a combination of factors including short-term precipitation deficits, dry soils, and low streamflows. In the Finger Lakes region of New York, short-term rainfall has been spotty with some areas in the region reporting agricultural impacts (reduced hay yields). In Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, areas of Severe Drought (D2) expanded on the map in response to mounting precipitation deficits (4 to 8 inches) during the past 90 days and reduced streamflows. In southeastern New Hampshire, the Department of Environmental Services is reporting that numerous municipalities and community water systems have implemented mandatory outdoor water-use restrictions in response to the dry conditions. For the week, the region was generally dry with some light precipitation accumulations (generally <1 inch) observed in eastern and southern Pennsylvania, Upstate New York, and in eastern Maine. Average temperatures for the week were 2-to-10 degrees above normal. According to

2020 ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM GRANT

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is applying for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) Grant from the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Through this grant, Connecticut certified organic growers and processors can be reimbursed part of the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification. A list of certified organic growers and processors is available through USDA's Organic INTEGRITY Database at <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity>.

The program is administered on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

NEW this year: the amount reimbursed will be 50%, up to \$500, of the certification cost paid between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2020.

To apply, please visit the DoAg [website](#) for required materials. Completed applications are to be submitted electronically by October 15, 2020, to Amanda.King@ct.gov.

VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS: FEASIBILITY OF INSURING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress required USDA's Risk Management Agency to solicit feedback about improved crop insurance coverage options for farmers and ranchers selling to local food markets. The feedback received during a series of national listening sessions will help identify potential changes and/or additions to insurance options for producers supplying local markets. The Northeast Region's listening session is scheduled for September 1, 2020, at 12:00 PM EST. There are also separate sessions for producers by market channel, commodity and urban ag.

To participate, login in using the following:

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372872344pwd=ZEZza2RBS3M0Zm9VeloXhSXZXUHczdz09>

Passcode: local

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

WOMAN TO WOMAN: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

People who identify as women and own and/or manage agricultural land in Connecticut or Rhode Island: PLEASE JOIN AFT on August 26, 5-7 p.m. Eastern for "Woman to Woman: Creating an action plan for climate change resilience on your land, in your community, and in state policy." You'll hear from agricultural resource providers and women farmers, including:

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- Dr. Emily Cole, AFT New England Climate and Agriculture Program Manager
- Chelsea Gazillo, AFT Working Lands Alliance Director
- Local and state partners from NRCS

Find more info and register here: www.farmland.org/women.

FDA AND OSHA TEAM UP TO PUBLISH CHECKLISTS TO ASSIST FOOD INDUSTRY

Over the last several months, the FDA, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), have developed a number of resources to help food industry employers continue or resume operations safely. These resources complement the FDA’s long-standing requirements for food producers to protect the safety of the food they produce.

To assist the food industry as it navigates changes to operations related to COVID-19, the FDA has teamed up with OSHA to develop the “Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The checklist pulls from existing guidance provided by the FDA, CDC, and OSHA and serves as a quick reference to help the food industry assess employee health, social distancing, and food safety within workplaces as operations may be impacted by COVID-19.

For more information, you can visit the FDA’s Constituent Update on this topic: <https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-and-osha-team-publish-checklist-assist-food-industry-during-covid-19>

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)

Advertisements

For Sale

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.

5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039.

24-R. Seven foot International 3-point hitch cultivator. \$300. 860-779-2107.

Wanted

22-R. Orchard worker/manager needed. Experience worker preferred with equipment and orchard or farm experience. the right person could have a long-term opportunity. Please call 203-213-8833.

HELP WANTED: USDA Farm Service Agency is looking for loss adjuster contractors to work in CT. Knowledge of field and specialty crops preferred, but will train individuals with ag experience. For more info, click [here](#) or email clark.chapin@usda.gov. Application deadline is August 23, 2020.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



CONNECTICUT COMPOST WEBINAR SERIES

- August 26 | 4-6p**
Different Scales of Composting: From Municipalities to Farms
- September 9 | 4-6p**
Municipal Composting: Case Studies & Updates
- September 23 | 4-6p**
Advanced Composting: Building Quality with Recipes, Testing, Nutrient Management, & Environmental Planning
- October 7 | 4-6p**
Composting, Feedstocks, Equipment, Siting, Infrastructure, & Management
- October 28 | 4-6p**
Farm Composting: Case Studies & Updates

Register Online:
<https://bit.ly/compost-webinar>

Generous Sponsors: Sustainable CT, Farm Credit Northeast Ag Enhancement, Recycle CT, UConn Master Composter Program, American Farmland Trust, CT Recyclers Coalition, Fresh & Whole Composting, Council on Soil and Water Conservation, and CCAFA.

Planning Partners: CT NOFA, CT RCAD, CT DTEP, CCSU, USDA NRCS, UConn Master Composter Program, CT DDMG, American Farmland Trust, CT Blue-CDS, and Conservation Districts Center for Biotechnology and Composting Association of CT.



WOMEN FOR THE LAND LEARNING CIRCLE
WOMAN TO WOMAN: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE ON YOUR LAND, IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

WEDNESDAYS, 8/19 & 8/26, 5-7 PM ET

Register at tinyurl.com/WFL-CT-RI-Change 

Meet fellow women landowners and farmers in your area and get support to create an action plan to address the implications of climate change on your farm and in your community.

Open to anyone who identifies as a woman and owns and/or manages agricultural land in Connecticut or Rhode Island

American Farmland Trust  
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

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

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