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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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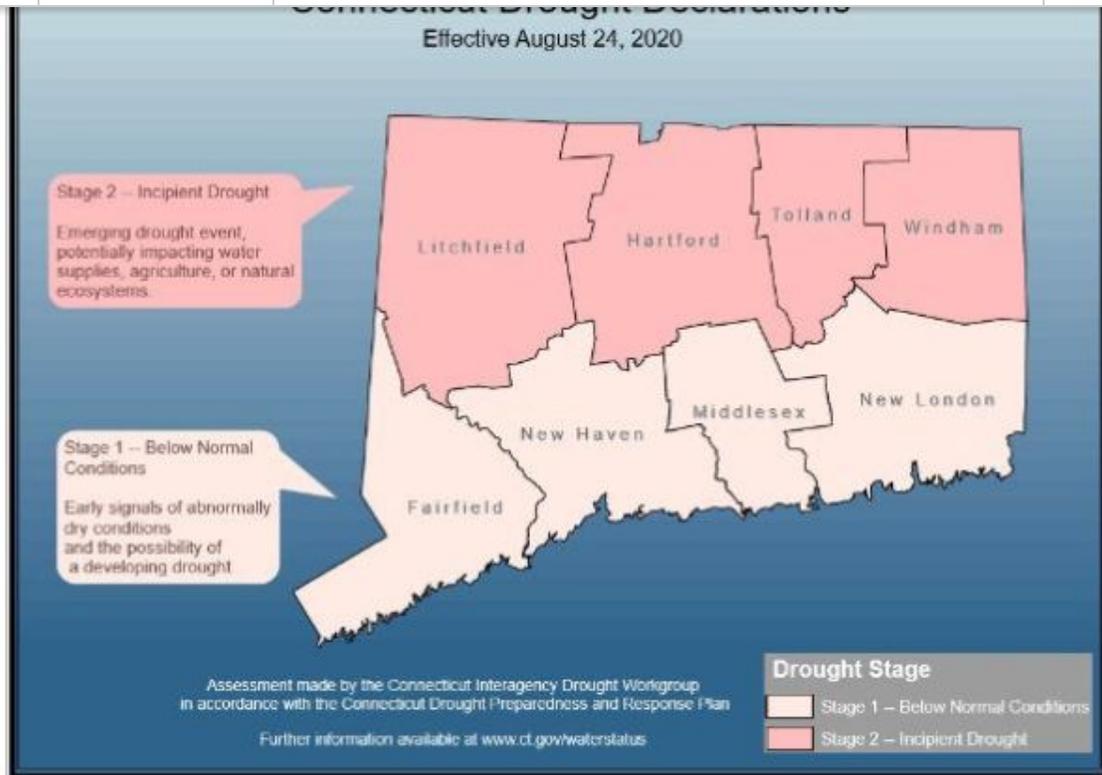
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USDA is accepting CFAP applications now through September 11, 2020. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center. Learn more at farmers.gov/cfap.

CLICK HERE FOR COVID-19 TESTING RESOURCES FOR YOUR FARM AND EMPLOYEES



Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup *Four Counties Experiencing Stage 2 Drought Conditions*

With precipitation across Connecticut three to seven inches below normal over the last 90 days, the state’s Interagency Drought Workgroup has announced that the four northern counties (Litchfield, Hartford, Tolland, and Windham) are experiencing Stage 2 Drought conditions. Under the state’s new drought plan adopted in 2018, Stage 2 has replaced the previously used “Drought Advisory” stage and identifies an emerging drought event, potentially impacting water supplies, agriculture, or natural ecosystems.

“We have experienced drier than normal conditions in the spring and summer,” said Office of Policy & Management Undersecretary Martin Heft, who chairs the Interagency Drought Workgroup. “The combination of precipitation shortfalls and an extended period of excessive heat has impacted the state’s water resources and increased demands upon them. Many water suppliers struggle to keep pace with increased consumer demand for outdoor water uses and impacts are also being experienced in the state’s streams and agricultural and forest lands. We must begin early steps now to mitigate the potential for harm should the drought become prolonged.”

Residents and businesses in Stage 2 counties are being asked to voluntarily take the following measures to aid in minimizing future drought impact:

- Reduce automatic outdoor irrigation
- Postpone the planting of any new lawns or vegetation
- Minimize overall water use by fixing leaky plumbing and fixtures

“Residents should not be alarmed, but should be mindful of their water consumption and take sensible steps to stretch water supplies and reduce impacts on other water uses and on the environment,” Department of Public Health Acting Commissioner Dr. Deidre Gifford said.

Tips on water saving measures can be found on the Department of Public Health’s website [here](#).

Stage 2 is the second of five stages of drought defined in the Connecticut Drought Response and Preparedness Plan. The Interagency Drought Workgroup classified the entire state as being at Stage 1 on June 19, when there were early signals of abnormally dry conditions. That stage is intended as a “heads up” regarding the possibility of a developing drought.

The decision to move to Stage 2 is based on an assessment of indicator data monitored by state and federal agencies, including precipitation, surface waters, groundwater, reservoirs, soil moisture, vegetation, and fire danger conditions. The state has experienced this level of drought four times in the past two decades, in 2002, 2007, 2010, and 2016. If conditions deteriorate further, the state could reach Stage 3, having reached that threshold only once before, in 2016.

The Interagency Drought Workgroup has moved the four northern counties to Stage 2 because precipitation shortfalls, reduced ground water levels, stream flows, and soil moisture impacts are especially pronounced there. Rainfall and droughts do not follow political boundaries, and impacts can be more severe at certain locations. Those who depend on private wells, fire or irrigation ponds, and other highly localized water resources should be especially mindful of local conditions, especially in places where previous droughts have affected supplies.

More information on the Interagency Drought Workgroup and the State Drought Plan are available [here](#).

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

FDA & OSHA TEAM UP TO ASSIST FOOD INDUSTRY DURING COVID-19

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

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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>

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

From website to farm to table, The Day, 8/23

Olde Mistick Village returns to its roots with its popular Garlic Festival, Connecticut Magazine, 8/24

'Danbury Cluster,' Farm Housing, Being Watched for Coronavirus, Patch.com, 8/25

From farm to ring, Connecticut fighter's work ethic feeds her success, Hartford Courant, 8/26

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FSA Farm Loans

• Real Estate • Operating • Youth Loans

Farm Loans through the USDA Farm Service Agency are available to agricultural producers who are not able to obtain commercial credit.

- Family farms
- Beginning farmers
- Those with no down payment
- Youth between the ages of 10-20
- Visit: farmers.gov/funds

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Connecticut Farm Loan Office:
238 West Town St
Norwich, CT 06360
860-887-9941

Carolyn Marlowe
Farm Loan Officer
Melanie Exley
Farm Loan Assistant
Skye Budney
Farm Loan Program Technician



CONNECTICUT FOOD SYSTEM ALLIANCE: DESIGNING RESILIENCE FOR FOOD & FARMING IN CONNECTICUT

Join the Connecticut Food System Alliance (CFSA) for Designing Resilience for Food & Farming in Connecticut: A Virtual Series to Collectively Shape the Future of Growing & Eating in Our State. They have four unique, but interrelated, sessions coming up in September and October with discussions shaped by their collective experiences. Join CFSA for one or all sessions. Here's what's in store:

- Successful Food Supply Chain Adaptations & Sustainability, Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 10 am.
- Assets & Gaps: What Do We Have and What Do We Need?, Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 1 pm.
- Funding & Policy: Building Long-Term Systemic Solutions, Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 10 am.
- Actionable Steps Toward the Future of Food and Farming, Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 6 pm.

Visit <https://ctfoodsystemalliance.com/virtual-summit-2020/> for registration links and important details about each session.

VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS: FEASIBILITY OF INSURING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

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/87372872344?pwd=ZEXza2RBS3M0Zm9VeloXhSXZlUHczdz09>

Passcode: local

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

2020 ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM GRANT

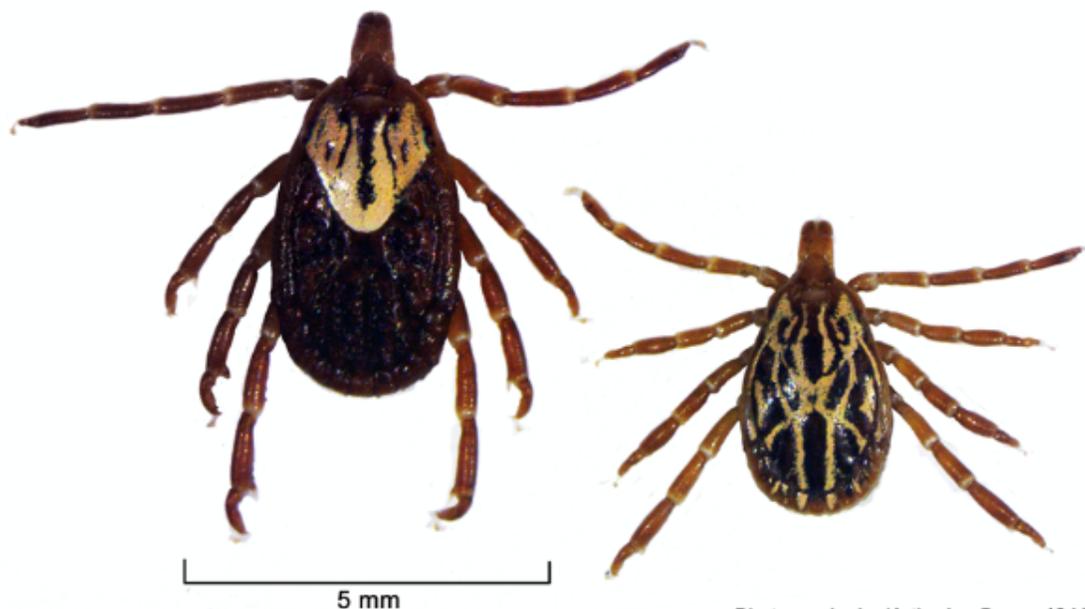
The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is applying for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) Grant from the USDA Farm Service Agency.

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.



Photographs by Katherine Dugas (CAES)

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The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) reports populations of the Gulf Coast tick, *Amblyomma maculatum*, in Fairfield County, and notes its potential to further establish in Connecticut and transmit pathogens of public health and veterinary concern. This is the first report of populations of the Gulf Coast tick in the northeastern United States.

The Gulf Coast tick is small to medium sized, body 3-7 mm long and 2-4 mm wide. It is distributed throughout Central and South American countries bordering the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. In the United States, its distribution was originally limited to the southeastern states bordering the Gulf of Mexico and the south Atlantic states. However, in recent decades, its range has expanded northward into the mid-Atlantic states with new populations reported from Delaware and Maryland.

The Gulf Coast tick is a three-host tick because each active life stage feeds on a different host. Larvae and nymphs feed on birds and small rodents and rabbits, while adults primarily feed on larger mammals including white-tailed deer, dogs, coyotes, skunks, and bears. They will also readily feed on humans. Gulf Coast ticks are involved in transmission of several pathogens of veterinary and medical importance, including *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis, a form of spotted fever, to humans, and *Hepatozoon americanum*, the causative agent of American canine hepatozoonosis, to canine species.

Detailed information about the CAES Tick Testing Laboratory, personal protection measures, tick control measures, and tick-associated diseases can be found [here](#).

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

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

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OPPORTUNITY FOR FOOD & FARMING IN CT
 A Virtual Series to Collectively Shape the Future of Growing & Eating in Our State

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 10am-12pm Successful Food Supply Chain Adaptations & Sustainability	SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 1pm-3pm Assets & Gaps: What Do We Have and What Do We Need for A Better Food System
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 10am-12pm Funding & Policy: Building Long-Term Systemic Solutions	OCTOBER 7, 2020 8pm-8pm Actionable Steps Toward the Future of Sustainable, Resilient Food & Farming

While each session informs the others, they can all stand alone. Attend one or attend all!




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