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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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September 3, 2020; Vol. C, No. 32

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Fall harvest is underway throughout the state across many sectors - from chopping corn to harvesting grapes in our vineyards. Address farm safety protocols with employees to prevent injury, illness, or death. The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety has resources available at necasag.org.

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



Celebrate Fall Harvest Season

Shop for Connecticut Grown Products

While you might be missing the apple cider donut or bison burger that you would indulge in at your local agricultural fair, you can find all of that and more at farm stands and farmers' markets throughout the state. As Labor Day weekend approaches, heralding the unofficial end of summer for many, now is the time to make plans to visit a farm with your family and friends.

Fall is known as harvest season, and for good reason – Connecticut's farmers are producing and harvesting fresh, nutritious, and abundant supplies of local food and farm products for you to consume and enjoy.

"Take a moment to recognize the importance and contribution of agriculture," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. "There is so much in season now – buy local fresh products, go pumpkin or apple picking, visit a corn maze – celebrate and support local farms. Farms have set themselves up to be wonderful activities during the pandemic; you can be outside, remain socially distant, pick up really great products, and support your local businesses." There are many ways you can participate – seek out a new farmers' market, agritourism activity, or farm stand. You can even order online and have items delivered to your door. Orchards are ripe with apples, peaches, and pears ready for a pick your own excursion. A wide variety of vegetables are cropping up, including beans and beets, carrots and cauliflower, tomatoes and turnips, and many others in between.

While you are out and about, don't forget to pick up local eggs, milk, butter, meat, and seafood. Put it all together for a delicious weekend cookout and enjoy with a glass of Connecticut farm wine. Find a farm stand, winery, or market at www.CTGrownMap.com. Check out our [Pinterest page](#) for some great, and tasty, recipes to make with these Connecticut Grown products.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

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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

[Pick your own apples at these 3 CT orchards, 9/1, CT Insider](#)

['Celebrating Agriculture' celebrates 20th anniversary; Gov. Lamont to make remarks, 9/1, Fox61](#)

[Connecticut Announces Fall Foliage Forecast and Seasonal Experiences, 9/2, PR Newswire](#)

[In a World Without Ag Fairs, Still There Is Thorncrest Farm, 9/2, TriCorner News](#)

[Celebrating Agriculture on the WINY Morning Show, 9/3, WINY Radio](#)



SEPTEMBER 1 PROCLAIMED CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE DAY

The Celebrating Agriculture 20th Anniversary Kick-Off Event was held at Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm in Sterling on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, jump-starting a month long celebration, which will go through September 26.

Rick and Katie Hermonot of Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm hosted the event, which was attended by Governor Ned Lamont, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, and many local elected officials. Governor Lamont proclaimed September 1st as Celebrating Agriculture Day.

With the traditional Celebrating Agriculture Day at the Woodstock Fairgrounds canceled due to the ongoing pandemic, the event has been modified to a virtual format. This year, participants are invited to submit agriculture related videos, including farms tours, appreciation, and recipes. Videos and other information will be shared throughout the month on the Celebrating Agriculture Facebook and YouTube pages.

For more information on the 20th Anniversary of Celebrating Agriculture, you can visit the Celebrating Agriculture [Facebook page](#) or go to celebratingagriculture.org.



Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, September 20-26, 2020, has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

The theme for National Farm Safety and Health Week 2020 is “Every Farmer Counts”. This theme is one that reminds us that it is in everyone’s best interest to prioritize the health and safety of those who work so hard to provide our abundant supply of food, fiber, and fuel. Along with the theme for the week, the daily topics of focus are:

- Monday, 9/21: Tractor Safety & Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday, 9/22: Overall Farmer Health
- Wednesday, 9/23: Safety & Health for Youth in Agriculture
- Thursday, 9/24: Emergency Preparedness in Agriculture
- Friday, 9/25: Safety & Health for Women in Agriculture

Please visit www.necasag.org for further information, resources, and webinars related to this year’s campaign.

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.

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

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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.



DON'T MISS OUT

USDA is accepting Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (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.

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](#)

Advertisements

For Sale

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

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.

25. Seed garlic, large 2.5" bulbs - 6 cloves/bulb \$15.00/2 lbs. 860-391-3466

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.

26. Any type of animal trap to trap woodchucks. Email cidermill5@yahoo.com or call 203-283-1459.

Job Openings

27-R. The State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture (DoAg), Bureau of Regulatory Services has one (1) available opening for a full time Administrative Assistant. Click [here](#) for more information.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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You're invited to join New England Dairy's upcoming series of one-hour interactive farmer webinars. You'll learn tips to help you when you're talking about dairy with reporters, your neighbors, or engaging on social media.

You'll receive ready training with easy steps you can take to be more persuasive and efficient when you communicate.

Learn more and sign up for any of the free sessions below at: www.newenglanddairy.com/for-farmers/events



<p>Productive Conversations: Dairy Nutrition 101</p> <p>Tuesday, September 7 11 a.m. - noon</p> <p>We'll share an easy 5-step process you can use to share information in a way that may persuade people and change minds. We'll focus on dairy nutrition topics and messages you can use.</p>	<p>Productive Conversations: Reporters</p> <p>Tuesday, September 8 11 a.m. - noon</p> <p>Get out 5 tips for productive conversations with reporters, plus tips for interviews about dairy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Plus, hear directly from dairy farmers who have experience with media interviews.</p>	<p>Productive Conversations: Level Up Your Social Media Presence</p> <p>Tuesday, September 15 11 a.m. - noon</p> <p>Learn proven ways to increase your followers, create more engaging content, and reach people outside of the dairy industry. Plus, social media savvy dairy farmers will share their tips for success.</p>
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Sign up at: www.newenglanddairy.com/for-farmers/events

After you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the training.

Questions? Email Laura at Laura@NewEnglandDairy.com or call 800-233-0933.

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, Site, Infrastructure, & Management

October 28 | 4-6p
Farm Composting: Case Studies & Updates

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



LEARN HOW TO BEST USE COMPOST IN YOUR BUSINESS AND HOME. COMPOSTING IS A GREAT WAY TO REDUCE WASTE, IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH, AND INCREASE YOUR PROFITS. COMPOSTING IS A GREAT WAY TO REDUCE WASTE, IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH, AND INCREASE YOUR PROFITS. COMPOSTING IS A GREAT WAY TO REDUCE WASTE, IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH, AND INCREASE YOUR PROFITS.



Funding Provided by: CT DEP, CT DPH, CT DNR, CT DSA, USDA-NIFA, Connecticut Department of Program Evaluation, Vermont Forestal Trust, CT River GGG, NY Conservation Districts Center for Business Ecology and Community Resilience of VT

DESIGNING RESILIENCE FOR FOOD & FARMING IN CT

A Virtual Series to Collectively Shape the Future of Growing & Eating in Our State

<p>SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 10am-12pm</p> <p>Successful Food Supply Chain Adaptations & Sustainability</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 1pm-3pm</p> <p>Assets & Gaps: What Do We Have and What Do We Need for A Better Food System</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 10am-12pm</p> <p>Funding & Policy: Building Long-Term Systemic Solutions</p>	<p>OCTOBER 7, 2020 6pm-8pm</p> <p>Actionable Steps Toward the Future of Sustainable, Resilient Food & Farming</p>

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




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