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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

In This Issue

February 19, 2020; Vol. C, No. 4

[Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#)

[CT Grown Campaign](#)

[Transition Grant](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Connecticut representatives are working to address a growing labor crisis in the agriculture industry.

Farm Workforce Modernization Act

Connecticut Representatives Vote to Pass

On December 11, 2019, Connecticut's representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 5038), a bipartisan bill that seeks to address the growing labor crisis in the agriculture industry by creating a new pathway to legal status for undocumented citizens working in the U.S. agriculture industry.

"Eastern Connecticut is home to some of the most productive dairy farms in the country – it's part of our heritage in New England," said Congressman Courtney. "Shortages in labor availability for them can cause ripple effects across our entire economy, and only serves to increase America's reliance on foreign food. We've got to find more ways to work together to get things done in Washington, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act is another example of the critical work we can accomplish here to help solve the real problems facing our agriculture industry. On behalf of Connecticut's hard-working dairy farmers, I was proud to help pass this bipartisan bill."

and I applaud our delegation's work to pass this bill and reform a broken system," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Connecticut Commissioner of Agriculture.

Representatives John Larson (CT-01), Joe Courtney (CT-02), Rosa DeLauro (CT-03), James Himes (CT-04), and Jahana Hayes (CT-05) voted unanimously in favor of the bill, which cleared the house by a 260-165 margin and now moves on to the Senate.

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Farm Transition Grant Application Deadline Extended

The application deadline for the 2020 Farm Transition Grant has been extended to February 25, 2020.

The purpose of the program is to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives. The program provides grants to up to \$49,999. Applicants must provide a one to one match.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

New Survey to Shed Light on Trade-offs Between Food Safety and Conservation Practices on Produce Farms in the Eastern United States

A group of researchers at Cornell University, the University of California, and the University of Rochester are working on a project to understand and model trade-offs between food safety and conservation practices used on fresh produce farms. The aim of the project is to help farmers develop management plans that minimize costs and optimize food safety and conservation outcomes. To ensure their models accurately reflect grower practices, costs, and needs, they are conducting a survey among fruit and vegetable growers in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast. If you are a grower in those areas, and are willing to spend 20 to 30 minutes to take their survey, they would really

e-gift card. If you are interested in participating please go to <https://bit.ly/2t6EQsO>.

For further information, please contact the project directors, Dr. Daniel Weller (Daniel_Weller@urmc.rochester.edu), Aaron Adalja (aaron.adalja@cornell.edu), or Patrick Baur (pbaur@berkeley.edu).

Northern Connecticut Agricultural Summit

Joan Nichols, Executive Director of the CT Farm Bureau Association will be the Keynote Speaker at The Northern Connecticut Agriculture Summit, "Farming for Your Future" scheduled for Saturday, February 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Asnuntuck Community College, 170 Elm Street, Enfield, CT.

The event is geared toward current and prospective farmers to raise awareness and provide educational seminars to those interested in farming. The schedule includes seminars on Hemp; Beekeeping Basics, Climate Change Impacts and Adaption Strategies, Social Media and Hydroponics. Other seminars scheduled are Pollinating, Farm Regulations & Permits, Raising Backyard Poultry, Farmland Access and Insurance, as well as improving soil health and information on available CT agriculture grants.

The agricultural summit is free of charge and includes a continental breakfast and vendor exhibits. Pre-registration is requested. Registration forms are available by calling Chris Casey, Event Coordinator at 860.698.6267 or email cwsmcasey@gmail.com, or on <http://www.enfield-ct.gov/1205/Agricultural-Commission>

Tomato Workshop: For Production in Soilless Media in Greenhouses

One-day educational program co-sponsored by UConn Extension, USDA Risk Management Agency and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Funding is provided by a grant from UConn Extension and a cooperative effort of UConn Extension and the USDA Risk Management Agency.

- March 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Jones Auditorium at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT


Five pesticide re-certification credits have been approved for this event for attendees from all New England states. For more information and to register online go to: <https://greenhouse.uconn.edu/workshop/>

Productive Conversations: Dairy Training Workshop

Do you think we can do a better job explaining why we do what we do as dairy farmers? Are you hesitant to engage in conversations with the average consumer? Misinformation abounds, but it's up to us in the agricultural community to set the record straight.

Join us at the upcoming "**Productive Conversations**" training workshop on Thursday, March 26 at the Tolland County Agricultural Center to learn how to lead positive conversations about the tough issues surrounding our industry, with a specific focus on water quality and the environment.

Lunch will be included. RSVP through the [Facebook event](#) or by emailing your name, farm name, and number attending to Annalise Kieley at AKieley@newenglanddairy.com



Seeking Industry Input
for Connecticut Grown Marketing Campaign

We want to hear from you.

Take our Connecticut Grown Producer Survey.

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 - Waynesburg, 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

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

4-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

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

May. Asking \$1,400 each. Call 800-212-3400

12-R. Unrooted succulents \$0.55 each, unrooted variegated ivy \$0.75 per 18 inch piece, 11 inch hanging basket pot with hanger \$0.75 each, slim jim flats \$0.55 each, 14 inch plastic clay wall planter \$3 each, 12 inch plastic clay oval \$2 each. Call Bill 203-430-8229

14-R. Honeybees: 5-frame NUCS, DEEPS only available first week of May. Jones' Apiaries LLC 860-677-9391

15-R. Need Honey Bee Pollination? Call Heritage Apiaries, Canton, CT. 860-805-7191

Wanted

9-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned

Ag Job Connection

13-R. A part-time Office Secretary position is available at the New Haven County Farm Bureau. The applicant should be able to maintain a small office in the home. The job averages 8-10 hours per week. A background or interest in agriculture will be viewed positively. The candidate will be responsible to the organization's board of directors. The candidate should be well organized with excellent interpersonal skills, fundamental computer skills, and the ability to work independently. Duties include: Overall management of the functions of the office, maintaining financial records and organizing meetings. For a complete job description, please call the office at 203-269-0151. Compensation will be based on experience. Please send resume and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the position to New Haven County Farm Bureau Inc., 870 Garden Rd., Orange, CT 06477 by February 26, 2020.

Upcoming Events

FREE WEBINAR

**Defend your Flock from Poultry Disease:
Know the Signs & How to Respond**

*Learn about preventing poultry disease with
USDA/APHIS vets and state poultry experts.*



Thursday, February 27, 2:30pm ET



Register at: bit.ly/APHISWebinar

CONNECTICUT FARM WINE
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

**2020 GROWER
EDUCATION**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Jonathan Edwards Winery
74 Chester Maine Rd.
North Stonington, CT 06359

Dr. Elsa Petit
Grape Trunk Diseases

Christian Moore
Vineyard Pruning Demonstration

Please RSVP by Friday, February 28, 2020
to Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov. Program is free to growers.

ctnofa 38th Winter Conference
OrganiConn 2020:
"Onward Together for a Resilient Future"

March 7 | Wesleyan University | Middletown

Keynote Speaker: **Niaz Dorry**
of the National Family Farm Coalition
& Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

30+ Food, Farm & Garden Workshops



join us
CONNECTICUT DAIRY
**STRATEGIC
VISION PLANNING**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
CT FOOD BANK, WALLINGFORD, CT

All Connecticut dairy farmers welcome. Discussion on how to make your checkoff dollars work now and in the future.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

RSVP's required: Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov; 860-573-0323 (cell) or 860-713-2538 (desk)



COMPOST CONFERENCE

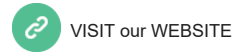
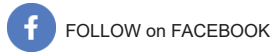
MARCH 23, 2020 | 8:30AM - 5PM
Hosted by Central Connecticut State University

This informative day will feature keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussion, networking, exhibitors, and a Q&A. This critical event will provide information and resources for farmers and municipalities to expand their leaf and/or manure composting operation to include food scraps. Focus of workshops will include the benefits to soil health, conservation, food waste management, and climate adaptation. Compost manufacturing and utilization are vital to producing healthy soils, clean air and water, and a sustainable society.



Visit ctcd.org for more information.

REGISTER AT [HTTP://CTNOFA.ORG/EVENT/CONNECTICUT-COMPOST-CONFERENCE](http://CTNOFA.ORG/EVENT/CONNECTICUT-COMPOST-CONFERENCE)



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