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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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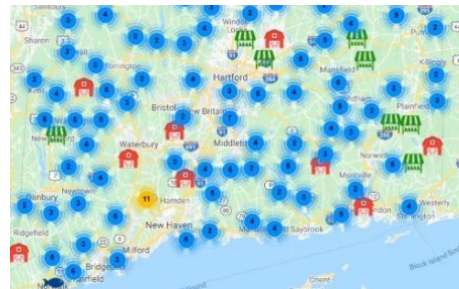
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NOW LIVE: An interactive, searchable map of farms, farmers' markets and farm stands at www.CTGrownMap.com.

[COVID-19 Crisis: We're Here for You](#)

As National Agriculture Week comes to a close there is no better time for us to express our gratitude to our food and farming community. Our strength as a community, state, and nation comes from those who continue to produce, transport, and ensure the safety of our food and farm products during the COVID-19 crisis.

The response of our agriculture community to meet the rapidly changing needs of the workplace and consumers has been remarkable. You have launched websites with online ordering, instituted curbside pickup or home delivery services, opened farm stands earlier than anticipated, and assured consumers that we have an abundant supply of Connecticut Grown food, fiber, flowers and shellfish. We applaud your hard work, dedication, and most of all, resilience during this uncertain time.

Last week our staff put out the call asking producers who were open with product ready to get in the hands of consumers to share their farm information with us. Many of you responded and our team began compiling a list to put on our website. Out of that grew a collaboration with the Northeast Organic

developing an interactive, online map that went live earlier this week and is available at www.CTGrownMap.com.

Our team has also been working diligently to develop and release a social media toolkit with recommended hashtags, images, and content to create a cohesive message and assist you in your promotional efforts at this time. Details on how to access the social toolkit are available below.

In addition to communications through the Weekly Agricultural Report and our social media channels, we are participating in, and organizing, virtual town halls to communicate vital information, answer your questions, and brainstorm creative ideas to enhance the availability and accessibility of food and agriculture products at this time.

Earlier this week, we shared information related to Governor Lamont's implementation of Stay Home, Stay Safe protocols including [Executive Order 7H](#), which required Department of Economic and Community Development's to provide a [guidance document](#) to determine essential businesses. Food and agriculture were identified as essential during the COVID-19 crisis enabling the continuation of day-to-day activities, albeit with modifications, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of you, your employees, and the public.

Here at the Department of Agriculture, we are also committed to protecting the health and safety of the public and our employees. Most of our staff is telecommuting with a limited number of employees working in the office. Please be aware that mail and messages sent to the office may receive a delayed response. We encourage you to use our online services when possible, and email AGR.COVID19@ct.gov with specific COVID-19 related issues. Please continue to communicate your questions and concerns to us.

We are here for you and together we will get through this.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

PRODUCER OUTREACH RESOURCES

Connecticut Grown Map: This joint effort promotes the availability of all Connecticut farmers who can provide food and farm products in this time of crisis. This service is available at no cost to the public and producers. To be included, or update your information, please fill out the online form available [here](#).

Social Media Toolkit: Download ready-to-use content, hashtags and images.

AGRICULTURE IS ESSENTIAL

Per [Executive Order 7H](#), '[essential business](#)', as it relates to food and agriculture, includes:

- farms and farmer's markets
- food manufacturing, processing, storage, and distribution facilities
- nurseries, garden centers, and agriculture supply stores

- All manufacturing and corresponding supply chains, including aerospace, agriculture, and related support businesses
- animal shelters or animal care or management, including boarding, grooming, pet walking and pet sitting
- providers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations, i.e. non-profits that provide food to at-risk populations
- liquor/package stores and manufacturer permittees (farm wineries and breweries)
- pet and pet supply stores
- commercial trucking
- veterinary and animal health services

COVID-19 RESOURCES

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

[Business services](#) – including tax filing extensions, business assistance and small business disaster relief loans

[Farmer Relief Fund](#)

[Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program](#)

[Essential Food and Agriculture Employee Work Permit](#)

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Commissioner Hurlburt on WDRC with Gary Byron, 3/18

[Local company delivers milk amid pandemic](#), WFSB, 3/19

[Dairy farmer working overtime to keep refrigerators stocked](#), NBC Connecticut 3/19

[Commissioner Hurlburt on WINY Radio](#) 3/20

[Commissioner Hurlburt on WNPR, Where We Live](#) 3/23

[Shoppers Turning to Local Farms for Food](#), NBC Connecticut 3/24

REQUEST FOR SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK APPLICATIONS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is seeking applications for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Projects cannot begin until after January 1, 2021, and must be completed by March 1, 2023. The maximum award is \$75,000.

Eligible applicants include universities and colleges, municipalities, registered nonprofits, state agencies, and Council of Governments.

A conference call on how to write and submit an application for the program will be held for new applicants on April 1, 2020 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Please call: 866-917-9738 Passcode: 88236281#. RSVP's are not required.

More info and complete application guidelines and forms are available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants, or by contacting Jaime Smith at 860-573-1944 or jaime.smith@ct.gov.



Looking for a farmers' market in 2020?

Farmers pursuing new/additional farmers' markets in 2020 are encouraged to provide information about the farm products they produce by completing this online form:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/CTDeptOfAgriculture/FarmersLookingForFarmersMarkets2020>

Information will be shared with all farmers' market managers throughout Connecticut who are looking for new farmer vendors.

As the list of markets looking for new farmers is assembled, the information will be shared with any farmer who completes the above online form.

Questions about selling farm products at a farmers' market can be directed to Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or by reviewing the relevant chapters of the [Farmers' Market Reference Guide](#).



Exhibit at the 2020 Big E

The Connecticut Building at the Big E offers a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture.

The 2020 Big E is scheduled to run from **September 18 - October 4, 2020.**

Online applications are available at <https://bit.ly/2wnPNXW> and are due by Friday, March 27, 2020.

Additional information is available at www.CTGrown.gov.

permanent position for a Bureau Director within its Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation. The position will be report to DOAG's central office located in Hartford, CT from 8:00AM – 4:30PM. The Bureau Director will report directly to the Commissioner's Office. For details on qualifications and application process, click [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 - 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

7-R. Black angus heifers, 23 months old. 3 available. Each to calf in or around May. Asking \$1,400 each. Call 860-212-5463

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

16-R. 4x5 Round bales. 1st cutting dry bales, stored inside. 2nd cutting silage bales. Located in Woodbury. Delivery available. 203-266-4067.

17-R. Greenhouse plastic - 4 rolls 24' x 100' brand new. \$125/roll; Pumpkin Bins - 1 time use \$4 each. Call Joe 860-659-0294.

19. Round hay bales for sale. You pick up. \$40 each. 203-490-7958 (Mary).

Wanted

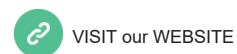
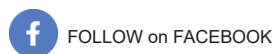
9-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

18-R. Wanted to buy: Used one row potato digger. Call 475-237-8448.

Job Opportunities

20-R. 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, https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Connecticut/news-releases/2020/stnr_20200213_rel_03 or email clark.chapin@usda.gov. Application deadline is April 15, 2020.

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



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