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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

March 4, 2020; Vol. C, No. 6

[Green Industry Report](#)

[Coronavirus Guidance](#)

[CT Grown Campaign](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Henry Gresczyk in front of the Gresczyk Farms display that was named Best in Show at the 39th Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show.

## Connecticut's Green Industry is Growing

*Accounts for 51% of Total Agricultural Production*

Last month members of the green industry, comprised of wholesale and retail nursery, greenhouse, turfgrass and sod producers; landscape architecture, design, construction, and maintenance firms; and distributors of lawn and garden products at wholesale and retail, gathered in the Legislative Office Building to announce the findings of the report by UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy, *Economic Impacts of the Connecticut Green Industry in 2017*.

The major findings were impressive – from contributing \$4.7 billion to the state's economy, a 27% increase since 2012, to nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod production accounting for 51% of all agricultural production (measured by gross sales) in Connecticut. However, it was noted that because business activities are so diverse and widespread, the industry is often underestimated in the public eye as a driver of the economy.

funded the study, which also reports the green industry supports 43,000 jobs in the state. CNLA President, Dustyn Nelson said, "The Green Industry Economic Impact Study is important on many fronts. It shows that our industry is growing and has great opportunities for younger generations to make a career. Legislators need to know the impact our industry has as they are creating legislation."

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## 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](http://www.CTGrown.gov).

### Coronavirus Guidance

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has received inquiries from producers regarding protocols related to the the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. As of today, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavrius) in Connecticut. However, as this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation we urge you to take necessary precautions and follow guidelines issued by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov).

The CDC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) have compiled helpful information on how to keep homes and workplaces safe from illness. This guidance and updated information on the state's response to coronavirus can be found by visiting [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus).

As additional guidance is released we will share that information with the industry.

### **Connecticut Food & Beverage Business Growth Summit**

Please join the Connecticut District Expo Council, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Connecticut Small Business Development Center for the inaugural Connecticut Food & Beverage Business Growth Summit. This summit will provide an opportunity for food and beverage businesses to learn

The event will be held Tuesday, April 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Eversource Energy, 107 Selden St., Berlin, CT. Registration is \$35 per person and includes lunch. For additional information on this event including agenda, registration, and speakers visit: <http://www.ctexporters.com/connecticut-food-beverage-business-growth-summit/>

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### **UConn Extension Hosting 4-H Goat Day**

UConn 4-H Goat Day is on Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena on the UConn-Storrs campus. This event is designed for youth ages 7-18, parents, leaders and adult goat enthusiasts from around New England.

UConn 4-H Goat Day features various workshops held throughout the day such as Dairy Goat Showmanship, Goat Knowledge and Crafts, Hoof Trimming and Milking. The workshops will be covering topics such as goat evaluation, management, health, nutrition, and goat products. Participants will gain knowledge about goats whether you are looking to purchase one or expand your farm. This is the perfect opportunity for 4-H members who have goat projects to learn more about goat care and management, while also learning about skills they can use during their future shows. Presenters include veterinarians, American Dairy Goat Association judges, goat owners and industry professionals.

Registration is due March 11th and can be found at [4-H.uconn.edu](http://4-H.uconn.edu). This event is sponsored by the UConn 4-H program.

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### **FSMA Produce Safety Rule/Produce Safety Alliance Approved Grower Training Courses**

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. A training session is scheduled for March 18 and 19 (snow date: March 20) at Hartford County Extension Center, Exchange Building, Suite 262, Building 4, 270 Farmington Ave, Farmington, CT. Registration deadline is Friday, March 6. Space is limited to 30 participants. [View flyer here](#) or [Register online here](#) \$50 registration fee. Contact: [Indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu](mailto:Indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu) with any questions.

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### **Enroll Soon in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers to enroll now in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. March 15, 2020 is the enrollment deadline for the 2019 crop year. ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American

The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.


For more information on ARC and PLC, download our [program fact sheet](#) or our [2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet](#). Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at [fsa.usda.gov/arc/plc](http://fsa.usda.gov/arc/plc). To enroll, contact your [FSA county office](#) for an appointment.

### **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.

The workshop will train you to get your point across in all types of settings including in person, in a town hall setting, online or when speaking to a reporter. 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](mailto: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](#)

Waynesburg, PA

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### **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](http://www.bludon.com)

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2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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

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

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

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#### **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](mailto:RyanM01@comcast.net) or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

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#### **Job Opportunities**

*Forge City Works Farmers Market Master; Part-Time Mid-April - End of October*  
The Market Master manages the weekly farmers market on Broad Street at

Hollow neighborhood which brings local and healthy produce to community residents and creates a meeting space for the community and the surrounding workers from the State Capitol, insurance companies, and offices.

Job Duties: Attract, retain and manage an excellent and diverse mix of local vendors; Expand the customer base of the market using various PR strategies and creative, low-cost marketing; Oversee market site and market day activities, including local food events, cooking demonstrations, special events and market stage entertainment; Recruit, train, coordinate and acknowledge market employees and volunteers; Create and maintain effective administrative systems; Ensure sound financial management and sustainability of the market; Develop and maintain market policies and procedures; Maintain website / database; Measure success of market and communicate it to both our internal and external community

Email cover letter and resume to: Cary Wheaton, [cary@forgecityworks.org](mailto:cary@forgecityworks.org).

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

### Upcoming Events



**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](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov)  
860-573-0323 (cell) or 860-713-2538 (desk)







Employee training and understanding how to properly insure your farm employees are critical components to farm profitability and risk management.

These four topics will be covered by one of the leading experts on farm risk management and occupational safety and health.

Presented by:  
 Matthew Ludwig, CSP,ARM,AINS,CPCU  
 Risk Management Services  
 Occupational Safety & Health  
 Nationwide

Nancy Barrett, UConn Extension Educator,  
 Will discuss Using Crop Insurance to Manage  
 Farm Risk and a Risk Management Program  
 Update

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from UConn Extension and is a cooperative effort of Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, UConn Extension, and the Risk Management Agency/USDA. These institutions are an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and program provider.

**Workman's Compensation**  
**Managing Risk: Employee Insurance and Liability**  
**Fleet Safety**

**WHEN**  
 Thursday March 19th, 2020  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Lunch provided

**WHERE**  
 Connecticut Farm Bureau Assoc.  
 78 Beaver Road Wethersfield, CT  
 1st Floor conference room

Free program. RSVP by March 16th  
 to [joann@cfba.org](mailto:joann@cfba.org) or call 860-768-1100

Additional info: Connecticut Farm Bureau Assoc.  
[www.cfba.org](http://www.cfba.org) (860) 768-1100



# 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.



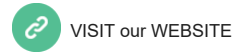
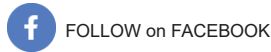
Visit [ctcrd.org](http://ctcrd.org) for more information.

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

Sponsors: Sustainable CT, Farm Credit Northeast, AgEnhancement, Recycle CT, UConn Master Composter Program, American Compost Trail, CT Regulators Call on Herb & Woody Composting and Compost for Soil and Water Conservation



Planning Partners: CT NOFA, CT SCB, CT DEER, CCSU, USDA NRCS, UConn Master Composter Program, CT DDMC, American Farmland Trust, CT River COG, NW Conservation District, Center for Ecotechnology, and Composting Association of VT



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