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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

September 11, 2020; Vol. C, No. 33

[Connecticut Grown Apples](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[157 Acres of Farmland Protected](#)

[Drought Advisory](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Byron Gallup, thirteenth generation owner of Gallup Farm in Voluntown, recently protected the first of four parcels of the farm through the Farmland Preservation Program. Read more below.

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



You might not be able to bob for apples this fall, but you can visit an orchard to pick your own apples. Connecticut is home to more than 65 orchards with more than 60 apple varieties suitable for snacking, salads, sauces, desserts, and more.

Like many businesses, orchards are adjusting operations to keep guests and employees safe while meeting COVID-19 requirements. From wearing masks and increasing the number of handwashing stations to extending hours and advising guests of protocols through websites and social media channels, producers are committed to providing consumers with an opportunity to enjoy a favorite fall tradition. Most importantly, visitors should take the time to inquire about requirements and changes before heading to the orchard to be properly prepared.

Becky Clark at Clark Farms at Bushy Hill in Granby says, “People are responsive and dealing with the changes made. We’ve worked with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and local health department to ensure the safety of visitors. While some activities may not be available, we are doing the best we can.”

In addition to pick your own, the farm offers an onsite café for breakfast and lunch. Their apple cider donuts are a customer favorite and new this year will be the addition of hard cider. They are starting to press apple cider this week and will start the first batch of hard cider thereafter.

The spectacular weather over Labor Day weekend drew strong numbers of visitors to Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry as families sought out safe, socially distanced, outdoor activities.

In addition to apple picking, the farm offers a farm store, sweet and hard cider, fruit wines, baked goods and more. “There’s a lot of interest in picking and as a retail farm that’s a good thing for us,” says Russell Holmberg. “Our apple crop is on the average side this year, it’s never a perfect year, but we have ended up with high quality fruit that sized up well. There are plenty of really nice apples to pick.”

Clark encourages apple picking as an opportunity for guests to enjoy a break from how fast life moves. “This is a family experience - take pictures, soak in the fresh air, and enjoy your time together.”

To learn more about Connecticut’s orchards, apple varieties, and recipes, visit www.ctapples.org.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

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

[Students get hands-on farming experience, college credit in Bridgeport](#), CT Post, 9/4

[MOLLUSK MASTERS OF MYSTIC: PART TWO](#), Ink CT, 9/6

[Obesity crisis: Industrial farming outweighs willpower, experts say](#), The Hour, 9/9

[Local Farmers Are Getting Creative Amid Climate Change](#), NBC CT, 9/10



VOLUNTOWN DAIRY FARM BEGINS JOURNEY TO PRESERVATION

Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT), in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg), is pleased to announce completion of the first phase of a

Conservation Services (USDA-NRCS), CT DoAg, and CFT. The first portion of the farm to be protected encompasses 116 acres.

The farm, which is surrounded by the 26,000-acre Pachaug State Forest and a 150-acre protected farm, is being preserved in four pieces to provide flexibility when it eventually becomes time to transfer or sell the property to the next generation of farmers. Smaller portions of land are more affordable and more practical for new and young farmers. For now, Gallup Homestead Farm will continue producing milk for wholesale.

“Permanently protecting this 116-acre easement would not be possible without the stewardship of the Gallup Family, a 13th generation dairy farm in Southeastern Connecticut,” said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. “We recognize the importance of our state’s agricultural history and remain committed to sustaining it for future generations to come.”



STANLEY BONIEWSKI FARM PROTECTED AND READY FOR NEW OWNER

Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) and Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) are pleased to announce the preservation of Stanley Boniewski Farm in Middletown. This 41-acre farm was protected in concert by the Town of Middletown, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), CT DoAg, and CFT. “We are very proud of preserving the farm,” said Andrew Chiaravallo, co-owner of the farm. His family bought the farm during the Depression. Today, Andrew and co-owner Bonnie Scheidler lease the land to a farmer who uses the property to pasture non-milking dairy cows and raise hay.

Like many farms in Connecticut, the farm is nestled between forested land and a

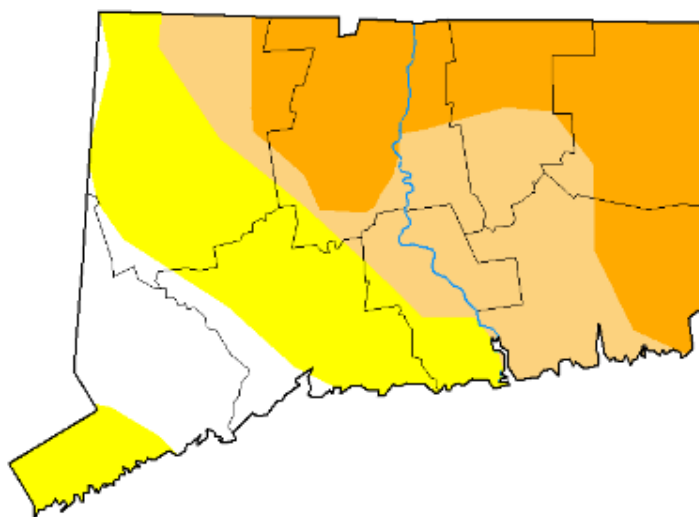
a new farming operation. The landowners' current goal is to continue leasing the property, but they aim to soon sell the land. By using CT FarmLink, a program run by CT DoAg and CFT that connects farmland seekers with farmland owners, Andrew has found candidates to buy the farm.

"This is a great story showcasing the collaboration between local, state, and federal partners to ensure that all communities -- not just rural -- benefit from the protection of farmland to ensure access to local foods," said Agriculture Commissioner, Bryan P. Hurlburt. "It also highlights the importance of the CT FarmLink program in assisting new farmers in finding farmland and transitioning to property ownership."

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1978 to protect the prime and important farmland soils in the state in order to maintain and preserve agricultural land for the future. To date the program has permanently protected more than 375 farms encompassing over 44,000 acres.

U.S. Drought Monitor Connecticut

September 8, 2020
(Released Thursday, Sep. 10, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

CONNECTICUT DROUGHT ADVISORY

Northeast

The western fringe of Pennsylvania reported 1.5 to 3.5 inches of precipitation, as did a few patches across West Virginia, the lower Northeast, and southern New England. Most locations recorded several tenths of an inch of precipitation from central New England and central New York southward, with little or none falling farther north. Conditions generally persisted from last week, except in parts of Maine and adjacent locales, where D1 and D2 conditions expanded.

2021 MASTER GARDENER CLASS GOES ONLINE

Garden harvests are underway, and it's a great time to plan ahead for next year. Apply now for the 2021 UConn Extension Master Gardener Program. The deadline for applications is Friday, October 16, 2020.

The 2021 class, that runs January through April, will be entirely online. Subject matter includes basic botany, plant pathology, soils, entomology and other aspects of gardening such as plant categories, native plants, and pest management.

For more information, visit the UConn Extension Master Gardener website at www.mastergardener.uconn.edu, where both the on-line and paper application are located.

USDA TO MEASURE QUARTERLY COLONY LOSS

In October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be collecting information about colony loss in the honey industry throughout the United States. The Quarterly Colony Loss survey will be conducted over the period of September 2020 through October 2020. This survey collects information about colony inventory and loss from more than 400 producers with honey bee colonies in the Northeastern Region of the United States.

In this survey, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about their colonies. To ensure all survey participants have an opportunity to respond, NASS interviewers will contact producers who do not respond by mail or online to conduct telephone interviews.

Survey results will be published in the annual Honey Bee Colonies report to be released in August 2021. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/. For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 800-498-1518.

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.

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(Please be advised that Middlesex Livestock Auction prices are updated as often as possible but may not represent the most recent data.)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)[New England Shell Eggs](#)[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)[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

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