

[View this email in your browser](#)



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 18, 2020; Vol. C, No. 34

[National Farm Safety & Health Week](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Updated Agritourism Guidance](#)

[\\$14B Awarded in CFAP 2](#)

[Grant Opportunities](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Today would have been the official start of [The Big E](#), scheduled to run from Sept. 18 - Oct. 4. While that has been canceled, you can find your favorite building vendors through a virtual showcase [here](#)

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



Every Farmer Counts, September 20-26

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. The third week of September is recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.

“Every Farmer Counts” is the theme for 2020 National Farm Safety and Health Week, Sept. 20-26. The theme is to acknowledge, celebrate, and uplift America’s farmers and ranchers who have encountered many challenges over the past couple of years, yet continue to work hard to provide the food, fiber, and fuel that we need.

Here in Connecticut, our 5,500 agricultural businesses contribute more than \$4.0 billion to the state’s economy. Not only are they essential businesses, but they contribute to the overall quality of life for all residents with more than 380,000 acres in agricultural production.

“2020 has been a year full of challenges due to COVID-19, yet our agricultural producers remain optimistic and steadfast in their commitment to providing residents of Connecticut and beyond with essential services and access to an abundant, safe, and local food supply,” said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner of Agriculture. “Now is the time to remind farmers to prioritize their health and safety.”

The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association is hosting a complimentary online program highlighting On Farm Electrical Safety Training. Electricity is the sixth leading cause of injury-related occupational death in the U.S. On farm electrical accidents frequently cause serious personal injury to farmers and farm employees. Attendees will learn the most common and preventable situations and how to avoid them.

The program will review common-sense precautions for working with breakers, power tools, large equipment, and working around overhead and buried power lines that can be sources of preventable fires and accidents. Details [here](#).

“The health and safety of our farmers, their families, and employees cannot be emphasized enough. It is never too early to implement farm safety guidelines and protocols. Farmers should also be assessing and implementing farm emergency preparedness plans to ensure the farm is safe in the event of a natural or man-made disaster,” said Joan Nichols, CT Farm Bureau Association Executive Director.

In addition, AgriSafe is hosting nine free webinars during the week. Topics range from tractor safety and emergency preparedness to safety and health for

access the webinars.

*National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the **National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS)**, the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council. 2018 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is the most dangerous in American with 574 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.4 deaths per 100,000 workers.*

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

Connecticut Grown Farm Map: online, interactive listing of open farm stands, farm stores and farmers' markets to access Connecticut Grown produce, dairy, 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](#).

UPDATED: [COVID-19 Guidance for Connecticut Farmers' Markets](#)

UPDATED: [COVID-19 Guidance for Connecticut Farm Stands, Stores, and CSA](#)

UPDATED: [COVID-19 Guidance for Pick-Your-Own Farms](#)

COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events available [here](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

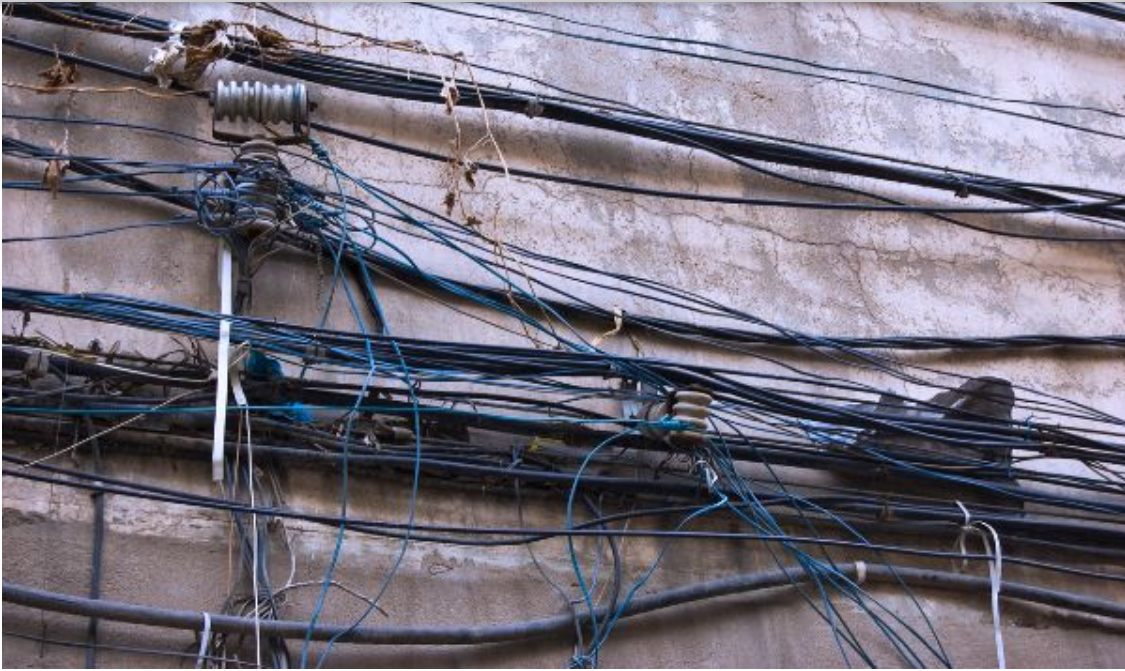
[Fall Traditions Change Course Amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic](#), NBC CT, 9/14

[COVID-19 isn't tipping the apple cart at Connecticut orchards](#), Fox 61, 9/15

[All ears: 7 corn mazes to pick from in Connecticut](#), CT Post, 9/16

[Little relief seen for state's drought](#), Journal Inquirer, 9/17

[One of CT's oldest farms now permanently protected in Roxbury](#), CT Insider, 9/17



ON FARM ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association is offering a complimentary on-line presentation Tuesday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m. for on farm electrical safety training.

Join one of our most popular and engaging speakers, Matthew Ludwig to learn about easy steps and strategies for preventing electrical fires and injuries on your farm. Matt shares real-life stories from farms where electrical accidents have occurred to help attendees assess potential risks.

This free program is open to all CFBA members.

Registration is required to participate. After the registration is completed, attendees will receive the link and participation instructions by email. Register [here](#).

CONNECTICUT LAWMAKERS ANNOUNCE LONG-AWAITED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SHELLFISH FARMERS

Today, the Connecticut Congressional delegation announced that after months of making the case to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue for expanded federal assistance to Connecticut shellfish farmers, the USDA has finally announced that shellfish farmers will be eligible for financial assistance through round two of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2). The announcement comes on the heels of [the delegation's most recent letter to USDA](#) this week urging them to provide Connecticut shellfish farmers access to round two of CFAP, as well as other forms of federal assistance.

In a news release issued today, USDA announced that an additional \$14 billion in Congressionally authorized funding will be made available to agricultural producers through CFAP 2, including to producers of aquaculture products.

pressing USDA and Secretary Perdue to expand the program ever since. “Congress authorized billions in federal assistance for our farmers, but USDA’s decisions on what to do with that funding for the past three months have put our Connecticut shellfish farmers in real financial jeopardy,” the delegation wrote in a joint statement. “The USDA blocked Connecticut shellfish farmers from access to CFAP back in May, they failed to include them in the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, and they denied them eligibility for Section 32 purchases even while approving other similar products. Today’s announcement is a step in the right direction, and it’s a good outcome on the heels of our Monday letter to Secretary Perdue, but our shellfish farmers should have had this this access from the start. USDA needs to move them to the front of the line for CFAP 2 assistance, and in the meantime we won’t stop pressing to grant them access to other streams of federal assistance.”

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program was authorized by Congress through the bipartisan CARES Act to provide direct financial relief to farmers and agricultural producers impacted by market disruptions brought on by COVID-19. In today’s news release, the USDA notes that the new round of funding in CFAP 2 will be used to support row and specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture, and many other commodities. Signup for CFAP 2 will begin on September 21, and will run through December 11. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*
(Photos by Kitty Prapayotin-Riveros (The CAES))



Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis* (nymph and adult female)
(Photos courtesy of CDC)

ASIAN LONGHORNED TICK DISCOVERED IN CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is reporting the first established population of the Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, in Fairfield County. The Asian longhorned tick is an invasive species that was initially discovered on a farm in New Jersey in 2017, raising public and veterinary health concerns, and has subsequently been found in at least 14 other states.

Asian longhorned ticks are reddish-brown. They are a three-host tick species as each active life stage feeds on a different host. Asian longhorned ticks are generalists, feeding primarily on the most abundant hosts in the environment. Larvae and nymphs parasitize birds and small mammals and adults parasitize large animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, cats, and wildlife (e.g., coyotes, gray foxes, groundhogs, white-tailed deer, raccoons, Virginia opossum). Feeding of the Asian longhorned ticks on humans has also been reported. In temperate populations, each female adult Asian longhorned tick can produce offspring—1,000 to 2,000 eggs at a time—without mating. That means individual animals could each host hundreds to thousands of ticks.

Detailed information about the Tick Testing Laboratory, personal protection measures, tick control measures, and tick-associated diseases can be found at the following websites:

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Tick-Office/Tick-Office/Information-on-Submitting-Ticks>

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/caes/documents/publications/bulletins/b1010pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/longhorned-tick/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p1129-tick-spreading-widely.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/animal-health/asian-longhorned-tick>

THE INS & OUTS OF COVID-19 TESTING FOR FARMS AND FARM WORKERS

As farms enter peak harvest season, the possibility of a second wave of coronavirus and “cluster” outbreaks among farmworkers looms. Farm owners and workers have the opportunity to get up-to-date, relevant information on topics such as coronavirus testing options by tuning into an online forum at 11 a.m., EST, September 22 offered on www.agrisafe.org.

The webinar, titled “Lessons Learned in Covid-19 Prevention Efforts among Agriculture Workers and Employers,” will address timely coronavirus issues, such as transmission, prevention, testing and contact tracing, all presented within the framework of production agriculture.

To register for the 90-minute webinar, go to the “Upcoming Events” section of the Agrisafe Network’s home page (www.agrisafe.org). A recording will be available afterwards at <https://learning.agrisafe.org>.

FARMER GRANT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) is now accepting applications for its Farmer Grant Program. Up to \$15,000 is available per project. Applications are due online at 5 p.m. ET on Nov. 17.

The Farmer Grant Program funds farmers to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques. Grants may not be used to help start or expand farm businesses. Application materials, including detailed instructions and supporting documents, are posted on the Northeast SARE website at www.northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant. Questions about the grant program should be directed to grant coordinator Candice Huber at candice.huber@uvm.edu.

A webinar that explains the program will be held on Oct. 6 from noon to 1 p.m. Register at <http://go.uvm.edu/farmergrantwebinar>.

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

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT

(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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

statewide
2020 TOUR DES FARMS
JUL. 1 - SEPT. 30

JOIN US FOR A FREE SUMMER LONG EVENT AS WE SUPPORT CONNECTICUT FARMS! BIKE, RIDE, OR ROLL AT YOUR OWN PACE WHILE PRACTICING PHYSICAL DISTANCING. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN DIGITAL RESOURCES INCLUDING A PRINTABLE OF TOUR DES FARMS PASSPORT TO BE FILLED OUT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FARM-FILLED GIFT BASKET!

8 ROUTES - 75+ FARMS

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1ST

TOURDES FARMS.ORG

EVERY FARMER COUNTS September 21-25, 2020 **National Farm Safety and Health Week Free Webinars** AgriSafe

MONDAY	September 21	Planting the Seeds of Tractor and Machinery Safety 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CDT	
TUESDAY	September 22	Seasonal Issues in Covid-19 Prevention Efforts among Agriculture Workers and Employers 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CDT Mental Health Innovations in Ag Communities 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm CDT	
WEDNESDAY	September 23	Planning Tools for On-Farm Safety and Health 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CDT Watch Your Way: Open Source Ag Health Tools 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm CDT	
THURSDAY	September 24	Emergency Planning for Farm Operations 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CDT Bioscience Protection: Issues in Agriculture, What to Watch and How to Respond 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm CDT	
FRIDAY	September 25	Safely in the Field: Addressing Workplace Sexual Harassment for Farm Workers 10:00 am - 11:15 am CDT Covering the Book of Ezra: Best Story Practices and the Importance of Book Reviews 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CDT	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.AGRISAFE.ORG/SAFE](#)

AgriHealth, ICA and NEC, NCI, NCI UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER, Southwest Center

- FOLLOW on FACEBOOK
- JOIN on PINTEREST
- VISIT our WEBSITE

Copyright © 2020 Connecticut Department of Agriculture, All rights reserved.

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).