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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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Ben and Tim Learned, owners of Valley View Farm in North Stonington, CT, were recognized as the 2020 Outstanding Connecticut Dairy Farmers for the New England Green Pastures Award Program. Click [here](#) to read more.

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



Promoting Fall Agritourism

Governor Ned Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt toured Holmberg Orchards & Winery in Gales Ferry, CT, on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, to kick-off the official start of fall and promote fall agritourism activities.

Connecticut's orchards, corn mazes, pumpkin patches, and farm wineries offer residents an opportunity to engage in outdoor, seasonal activities at a time when many others have been cancelled. Attendees took a hay wagon ride through the orchard with scenic views and an update on the apple crop before enjoying apple cider donuts and apple cider made that morning.

Fourth generation owner, Russell Holmberg said, "We're really proud of what we do here to offer family friendly activities. Our retail stand is open year-round and in the orchard we have lots of space for people to spread out with masks on. There's been a tremendous amount of interest from people looking for something to do."

Direct to consumer activities such as pick-your-own have been a huge draw for those wanting to get out of the house, spend time with their family, and support local businesses. "Farms are continuing to be innovative and responsive to meet consumer demand," said Commissioner Hurlburt. "Make it a day trip to visit more than one spot and enjoy all that the state has to offer."

To find on-farm fall activities, visit www.CTGrownMap.com.



EMERGENCY FOOD RESOURCE INITIATIVE

Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt addressed attendees at the Price Rite, End Hunger Connecticut!, and Feeding the Children food distribution event on Thursday, September 24. Earlier in the day, Governor Lamont, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, and Commissioner Hurlburt announced a new initiative to provide emergency food resources to Connecticut's food pantries as the state continues to respond to the ongoing impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Under the initiative, food pantries in need of assistance can visit [CTPantryResources.com](https://www.ctpantryresources.com), where they can connect to resources on food procurement and distribution, volunteer assistance, shipping and storage supports, and more.

The website will also be used to facilitate statewide distribution of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers-to-Families Food Boxes.

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

[Maple View Farm Still Going Strong](#), Hartford Courant, 9/18

[Apple Picking Time](#), Patch.com, 9/21

[Cooler, money for 64 gallons of milk donated to Danbury pantry](#), NewsTimes, 9/23

[Connecticut Farm Finds Success Thanks to Conservation Efforts](#), Lancaster Farming, 9/23



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY DETECTED IN CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) announce the detection of single live adult spotted lanternfly, *Lycoma delicatula*, in West Haven, CT, and multiple live adults in Greenwich, CT.

and Vietnam. It attacks many hosts and has the potential to severely impact Connecticut's farm crops, particularly apples, grapes, and hops, as well as a number of tree species like maple. In the fall, adults can often be found congregating on tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus), willows and other trees. They will lay egg masses on trees and almost any nearby surface. Early detection is important for the protection of Connecticut businesses and agriculture. The public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest to ReportSLF@ct.gov. Submission of a photograph with any report is encouraged.

FARM CREDIT EAST PRESENTS WEBINAR TO REVIEW THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM AND FORGIVENESS

Join Farm Credit East on Wednesday, September 30 at 9:00 a.m., for a webinar that will present a recap and update on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness process.

While Northeast businesses and employees have benefitted from loans approved through the PPP, the second critical step is to achieve maximum forgiveness of the loan. This webinar will discuss the latest guidance from the Small Business Administration on Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness. Along with this review, consultants Keith Dickinson and Erin Pirro will answer attendees' specific questions about how to make sure they're ready to apply.

Agricultural businesses that received a PPP loan are encouraged to attend this free webinar. For more information and to register, visit FarmCreditEast.com/Webinars.

NORTHEAST CLIMATE ADAPTATION FELLOWSHIP

The Northeast Climate Adaptation Fellowship is open to commercial farmers in the Northeast U.S.* who grow vegetables and/or small fruit and to agricultural advisors who work with vegetable/small fruit farms in this region. **Application Deadline: October 1, 2020**

Climate change is bringing challenges for vegetable and small fruit growers. For farmers to reduce their risk, they need to adapt. To address this increasing need, the Climate Adaptation Fellowship was created. The 1-year program provides a peer-to-peer curriculum for farmers and advisors. Its framework is designed to integrate climate science with a land manager's knowledge.

Participants in the vegetable and fruit program will enhance their knowledge of climate impacts to vegetable and fruit farms in the Northeast. Accepted fellows will complete the program in pairs (farmers and advisors) to develop personalized farm adaptation plans and outreach materials to share with peers. Applicants interested in finding a partner to apply with should contact

ON FARM POULTRY PROCESSING WORKSHOP

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County's Agriculture Program welcomes you to join us for a zoom presentation on Tuesday, September 22 & 29th from 6:30-8:00 PM. This training addresses the needs for small-scale poultry producers wanting to process under the NYS 1000 bird exemption. New to Zoom? No worries, we can help you get signed up and familiar with Zoom prior to class.

We will cover the processing of birds and demonstrate proper techniques for dressing poultry along with reviewing requirements for selling poultry under 1000 bird exemption in New York State. Workshop participants will learn to recognize diseases of public health concern, take basic biosecurity measures, write and implement basic Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures, develop Good Manufacturing Practices and an understanding of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans, along with properly dispose of offal and management of waste water.

There is a \$25 fee per farm and pre-registration is required by September 18, 2020. Space is limited to allow for interaction and engagement of students. To pre-register contact Lynn Bliven by email lao3@cornell.edu. Once registered you will receive the Zoom link and handout materials for the training. Two people per farm may complete the training and receive a Certificate of Completion. At least one should be the primary insurance policyholder for those seeking insurance coverage.

For more information, call 525-268-7644 or visit our website at www.cce.cornell.edu/allegany.



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is urging farmers and producers to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), which will provide an additional \$14 billion dollars for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin September 21st and run through December 11, 2020.

CFAP 2 has been adapted to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers. Many more commodities will be eligible in CFAP 2 that weren't eligible in CFAP 1. Newly added commodities include hemp, tobacco, ELS cotton, broilers from non-contract poultry growers, shell and dried eggs, turkeys, bison, all classes of wheat, and many more. CFAP 2 also authorizes new payments for aquaculture farmers.

"We know the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the marketplace, and it is well received that there will be continued support for farmers in our state. It's important to highlight that this round of federal support has expanded to include the aquaculture and hemp industries. I encourage farms to contact their county USDA Farm Service Agency to enroll."

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of payment calculations:

- Sales Commodities, including specialty crops, tobacco, and aquaculture, use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.
- Price trigger commodities, including row crops, livestock and dairy, are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline from January through July.
- Flat-rate row crops that do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre.

CFAP 2 is subject to a payment limitation of \$250,000 per individual or entity. Special payment limitation rules will be applied to participants that are corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships (corporate entities), trusts or estates.

USDA is accepting CFAP 2 applications now through December 11, 2020. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center. Learn more at farmers.gov/cfap.

FEASIBILITY OF INSURING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Agralytica, which is working under contract for USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), invites producers to attend a virtual listening session on Wednesday, September 30, at 6 pm PT.

As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress required RMA to solicit feedback about improved crop insurance coverage options for farmers and ranchers selling to

and institutions). This includes discussing how existing crop insurance programs can be improved, as well as exploring the possibility of a new crop insurance program.

Any information/feedback provided will be made anonymous prior to inclusion in any report.

Please contact Andre Williamson, President of Agralytica, with any questions or to provide additional feedback regarding the feasibility of insurance coverage for local food producers at 240-432-0308 or awilliamson@agralytica.com. If you email, please include "Local foods insurance" as your subject line.

CONNECTION INFORMATION

Computer/app participants: Click on the link below and, if prompted, enter the passcode "local".

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372872344?>

[pwd=ZlZza2RBS3M0Zm9VeloxSXZXUHczdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372872344?pwd=ZlZza2RBS3M0Zm9VeloxSXZXUHczdz09)

Passcode: **local**

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

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.

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.)

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[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

28-R. Christmas Greens, wreaths, and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fund raisers and honoring fallen veterans. 203-457-1344

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

29-R. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is recruiting for (1) Connecticut Careers Trainee with a target class of Property Agent 1. This position works on all phases of the purchase of development rights ("PDR") to farmland, also known as agricultural conservation easements, and will coordinate with and provide outreach to municipalities, non-profit land trusts, and other organizations involved in farmland conservation, farmland access,

("ALE") program. For more information, click [here](#).

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