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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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October 2, 2020; Vol. C, No. 36

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**Did You Know?** The Connecticut Field Pumpkin, one of the largest carving pumpkins, is also one of the oldest heirloom varieties in the United States with origins prior to 1700.

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

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## **CT Grown for CT Kids Week**

*Highlights National Farm to School Month*

October is National Farm to School Month – a time to recognize and celebrate the connections within communities to fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. With fewer than two percent of Americans living on farms, the U.S. population continues to be more removed from the agricultural practices that sustain them. Programs and activities surrounding farm to school help to bridge the gap while fostering new relationships.

"Farm to school is a holistic approach to engaging students in experiential learning about food and where it comes from. It is a farmer delivering local food to a student's lunch tray, as well as learning about that farmer and the communities that feed us; it's all encompassing," said Nyree Hodges, CT Farm to School Collaborative Coordinator. "The opportunities for cross-curricular integration are endless, even in a virtual learning environment. It bridges school and community by giving students agency to play an active role in improving our food system."

Here in Connecticut, October 5-9 is CT Grown for CT Kids Week. Started in 2006 as a joint effort between the State Department of Education and Department of Agriculture, this week aims to celebrate and support local agriculture, public education, and their community commitment to the importance of healthy, nutritious meals in schools. Each year, legislators, food service directors, farmers, and students gather through farm to school activities and consumption of local products.

“The Connecticut Farm to School program ensures access to nutritious, delicious Connecticut Grown food for students while increasing market access for farmers throughout the state,” said Agriculture Commissioner, Bryan P. Hurlburt. “CT Grown for CT Kids Week highlights the abundance of locally produced foods in an engaging and fun way for families to establish healthy eating practices.”

While many of the activities this year will look different due to COVID-19, it’s also an opportunity to honor all who contribute to feeding children and their communities – farmers, harvesters, food hub distributors, school nutrition professionals, educators and many others.

“You can’t learn if you’re hungry. Ensuring continued access to nutritious meals provides a critical lifeline and stability for children and households grappling with food insecurity, health crises, job losses, isolation, and adapting to new ways of learning,” said Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona. “In addition to teaching students about our food systems and where their meals come from, Farm to School month and CT Grown for CT Kids Week allows us to further celebrate the work of our farmers, food service heroes. and child nutrition partners to bring quality local foods to schools across the state – over 14 million since March.”

Students, families, and educators across Connecticut are invited to celebrate CT Grown for CT Kids Week by participating in the 5th annual HardCORE Apple and Pear Challenge. All you need is a Connecticut Grown apple or pear and to eat it down to its core. Post a photo or video to social media and use the hashtags #ctgrownforckids and #applecrunch to be involved. Educational toolkits and more activities are available on the Put Local On Your Tray website.

“One of the best ways to reconnect to nature and healthy living is to consume foods grown in your own environment. Our bodies are designed to have that proximal relationship with our food,” said Herb Virgo, Founder and Executive Director of Keney Park Sustainability Project. “CT Grown for CT Kids Week is a great way to educate students and their families on the importance of local food consumption while supporting the local economy.”

According to a 2015 USDA Farm to School Census, 70% of Connecticut schools surveyed participate in farm to school activities. They invested more than \$7.2 million in local food and 51% of the Connecticut districts surveyed

planned to increase local food purchases in the future.

In 2016, the CT Farm to School Collaborative (F2S Collaborative) was convened. The F2S Collaborative is a multi-stakeholder partnership whose function is to pursue projects together that no one partner could do alone. Participating organizations represent the variety of stakeholders needed for collaborative work on Farm to School, including: Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, UConn Extension, School Nutrition Association of CT, FoodCorps CT, New England Food & Dairy Council, Common Ground, and Hartford Food System.

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photo: Jerry Monkman

### **MAPLE BANK FARM PERMANENTLY PROTECTED**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg), with assistance from Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC), has permanently protected the Maple Bank Farm in Roxbury, owned by Cathleen and Howard Bronson. The conservation easement on over 50 acres of the eighth-generation farm was purchased using a combination of State and Federal funds. This ensures the farm is protected as an agricultural property forever and cannot be sold for development.

“How lucky Howie and I have been to work this wonderful land, to grow vegetables and fruit and to have pastures filled with sheep, cows, and pigs over the years,” said Cathleen. “Cultivating crops to provide to the welcoming community has been a joy. You all probably know farming includes being out in all kinds of weather, but best is the appreciation customers share with us about fresh greens for salad or the crisp bite into an apple just picked. Maple Bank

Farm has a lot of history!”  
Read more [here](#).

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## COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

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### 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.

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### 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](#).

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### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[CT politicians to tackle hemp growing laws in the state during special legislative session](#), 9/28, WTNH

[Extreme drought strikes portions of Connecticut as dry weather stretches into fall; rainfall down 11 inches in Hartford area](#), 9/28, Hartford Courant

[Drought Impacts Millions Across the State of Connecticut](#), 9/28, NBC CT

[Poll results: Best apple cider doughnut is found in Litchfield County](#), News Times, 9/29

[Southington project would pit solar energy against farmland](#), Hartford Courant, 9/29

[Ellington Historical Society To Open New Farm Exhibit](#), Patch.com, 9/29

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## HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR A RESILIENT FARM BUSINESS

Health insurance can play a critical role in creating a legally resilient farm business. [Farm Commons](#) is offering a free webinar on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. EST to help you plan ahead for your 2021 health insurance needs. They'll cover health insurance options available during the upcoming Open Enrollment Period, including how to shop for plans and apply for coverage, how to understand the different types of health plans available and

decide what's best for you, and how to get help paying for the costs of health insurance. They'll also talk about how to plan ahead to keep health insurance during life events and opportunities to enroll in coverage outside the Open Enrollment Period.

Sign up today for a clear-cut webinar that will help you and your family untangle the complexities of shopping for affordable health insurance. [Register Here](#)

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### **DEEP PESTICIDE EXAMS UPDATE**

Supervisor Exams are being temporarily administered at Lockwood Farm Pavilion, Hamden, weather permitting. Junior Operator exams will continue be administered in an online format. Private Applicator Exams will soon be available in an online format. Applications may be submitted through the mail, you will be given your test date and time by email. Any questions or concerns can be directed to: [DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov)

Other information can be found on their website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Pesticides/Pesticide-Management-Program>

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### **NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE AND EXPO OFFERING WEBINAR SERIES**

Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo is pleased to announce that they will offer a webinar series this fall, beginning Nov. 4 sponsored by New England Floriculture Inc., in order to deliver content relevant to greenhouse pests, diseases, biocontrols, PGRs, and sanitation. Although they regret having to postpone the Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo to 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, they hope that these webinars will provide important education (and pesticide recertification credit) for the greenhouse community in 2020. They have received pesticide recertification credits for the New England States and New York.

Visit <https://www.negreenhouse.org/virtual-series-schedule.html> for the dates/topics and registration information.

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## **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](mailto:Amanda.King@ct.gov).

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## FSA Farm Loans

• Real Estate • Operating • Youth Loans

Farm Loans through the USDA Farm Service Agency are available to agricultural producers who are not able to obtain commercial credit.

- Family farms
- Beginning farmers
- Those with no down payment
- Youth between the ages of 10-20
- Visit: [farmers.gov/funds](http://farmers.gov/funds)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Connecticut Farm Loan Office:  
238 West Town St  
Norwich, CT 06360  
860-887-9941

Carolyn Marlowe  
Farm Loan Officer  
Melanie Exley  
Farm Loan Assistant  
Skye Budney  
Farm Loan Program Technician



### 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

#### 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

### 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)



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

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24-R. Seven foot International 3-point hitch cultivator. \$300. 860-779-2107.

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25. Seed garlic, large 2.5" bulbs - 6 cloves/bulb \$15.00/2 lbs. 860-391-3466

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

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30. Bush Hog Single Long Shank Subsoiler, Model HDSS1L. Will go down 23" in ground. Cat. 1 & 2 hookups. Like new condition used very little. No rust. Weighs 276 lbs. Complete w/owner's manual. Paid \$1,100.00 new. \$850 obo. 203-283-1459 leave message or [cidermill5@yahoo.com](mailto:cidermill5@yahoo.com).

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31. John Deere Tractor Model 5225 w/542 loader. 1760 hours, good condition. With snow plow, forks, concrete balance block, two extra front wheels. Niantic. \$2,250.00 860-984-3196 call, no text.

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### **Wanted**

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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.

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26. Any type of animal trap to trap woodchucks. Email [cidermill5@yahoo.com](mailto:cidermill5@yahoo.com) or call 203-283-1459.

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### **Job Openings**

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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, and long-term land stewardship; assist with the Connecticut Farmlink Program; and assist with securing funding from the USDA Agricultural Lands Easement ("ALE") program. Closing Date: October 5, 2020. For more information, click [here](#).

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

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### **Upcoming Events**



# Culture and Resilience of Farmers in Your Community

## What Health and Other Professionals Need to Know to Support the Farming Population

A 3-part Webinar Series  
October 12, 18 & 26  
Noon - 1:30 pm

The Delaware and Maryland Eastern Shore coastal communities' farm enterprises are diverse and rich with tradition. They also face challenges to their health and well-being requiring support from health and other professionals. Yet, these professionals may not be confident in their ability to prevent or reduce impacts of stressors and increase resilience of the farming population.

This three-part webinar series is designed to increase your familiarity with the unique characteristics, history and culture of farmers, farming and their communities. The series will build your confidence in applying what you've learned to your resource building, outreach and network development to better serve the farming population.

Cost: \$15 for the three-part series  
Certificates of Completion Provided to those completing the program series  
State Work CEUs will be offered for Maryland participants

Register online at:  
<https://www.acesse.com/culture-and-resilience-of-farmers-in-your-community>

- Presenters:**
- Alexander E. Chan, PhD, UMPP University of Maryland Extension Specialist - Mental and Behavioral Health
  - Denise Jones, PhD, University of Maryland Extension, School of Public Health - Professor Emerita
  - Mark Rippstein, MS, WFC, FFC, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Extension Educator
  - Laura Wolinski, MS, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension & Dir. Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Center

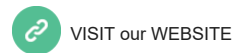
**Sponsors:**  
University of Delaware Cooperative Extension  
University of Maryland Extension  
Delaware and Maryland's Farm Stress Task Force



**Funding Provided by:**  
University of Delaware Sea Grant - Sustainable Coastal Communities



This program is being presented in part by the University of Delaware Extension Program, a service of the U.S. College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in partnership with the state. This notification is an equal opportunity practice. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office responsible for the event.



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