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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 16, 2020; Vol. C, No. 38

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Connecticut's shellfish farmers and fisheries are now eligible for \$1.8 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Assistance to Fishery Participants program through the CARES Act. Details [here](#).

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



## Revisions to Connecticut's State Hemp Plan Signed Into Law

Connecticut's budding hemp industry achieved another milestone on Tuesday, October 13, when Governor Lamont signed Public Act 20-2 into law which allows hemp growers to transition from a pilot program authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill to a state plan in compliance with the national regulatory framework established by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Interim Final Rule as directed in the 2018 Farm Bill. The ceremonial signing took place at Lasa Extract, LLC, a wholesale CBD extraction business in Suffield, CT, with Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Congressman Courtney, and other elected officials supportive of the public act.

"The future of Connecticut agriculture is both innovative and entrepreneurial," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "This is a fantastic bill and we appreciate the leadership of Governor Lamont, Congressman Courtney, and the state legislature to get this done in accordance with the USDA Interim Final Rule. By transitioning to our state plan, we can be sure the opportunity exists for businesses to be successful in the state."

In order to submit a state plan in compliance with the USDA Interim Final Rule, it was necessary for the General Assembly to act on proposed statutory amendments to the current state laws during a special session. Without an approved state plan, Connecticut's hemp growers would have had to apply for a federal license to grow hemp. With more than 170 licensed growers and processors and over 500 acres registered for hemp production, the program

was in jeopardy of expiring on October 31, 2020, when the USDA Interim Final Rule was scheduled to go into effect and pilot programs would no longer be permitted.

The new bill implements required USDA changes and combines the grower license and processor license into one combined “producer” license valid for three years, versus two, to simplify the licensing. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture also incorporated feedback received from growers during listening sessions to expand the information exempt from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to include test results and producer location information to provide more protection for growers’ crops.

Complete details on the revisions will be posted at [www.ctgrown.gov/hemp](http://www.ctgrown.gov/hemp).



### **NEW HAVEN RECEIVES NEARLY \$600,000 IN URBAN AG INNOVATION GRANT FUNDS**

Under the guidance of Latha Swamy, Director of Food Systems Policy, the City of New Haven is the first-ever recipient of not one, but two, grants from the USDA's newly-formed Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Out of nearly 600 applicants from across the county, they were chosen as one of three for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Planning Grant. This award was fully-funded at \$500,000 and will be utilized during the three-year period to develop a master plan to access land and opportunities to support the product and sale of locally grown foods, build community, improve public health and well-being, and provide economic

opportunity in areas that have vacant or underutilized land and low access to food.

Additionally, they secured \$90,000 under their Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) Projects to expand community-level composting and explore strategies to bring food waste composting to scale in New Haven, expand small-scale composting facilities, expand community garden and backyard composting and advance plans to bring the combined strategies to scale.

For more details, visit [foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov](http://foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov).

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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](#).

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

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

### **[COVID-19 Guidance for Pick-Your-Own & Cut-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**

[New law helps CT hemp farmers grow their business](#), 10/13, WTNH

[New Haven Lands \\$590k in Federal Food Grants](#), 10/13, New Haven Independent

[Fledgling Hemp Industry Primed to Grow](#), 10/14, CTNewsJunkie

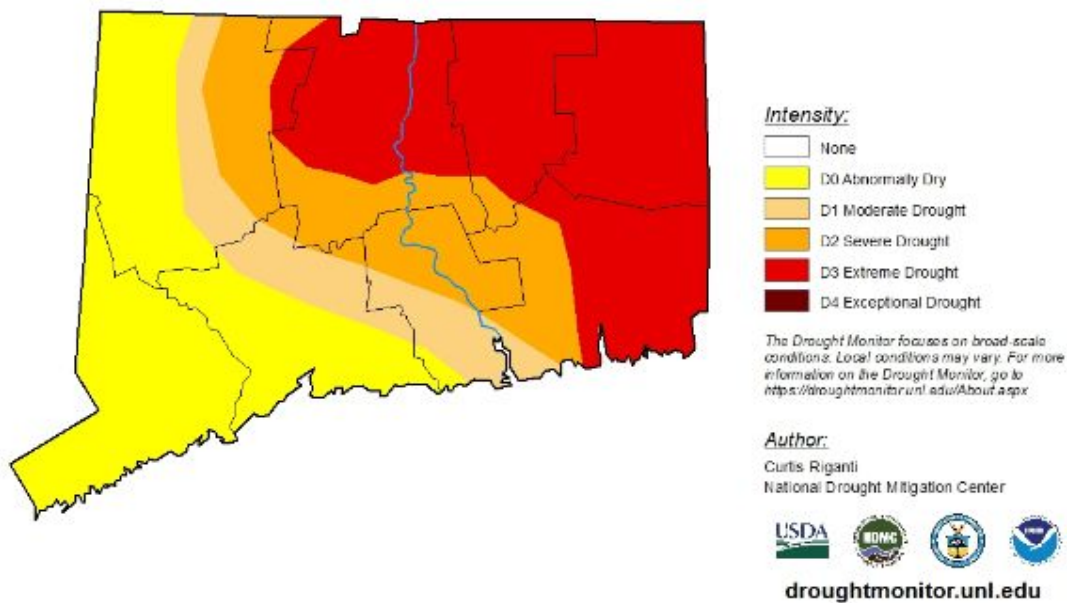
[Exploring the many colors of CT's Last Green Valley](#), 10/14, Boston Globe

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**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Connecticut**

**October 13, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### **SPORADIC DROUGHT CONTINUES IN NORTHEAST**

Outside of New England, temperatures were mostly near or several degrees above normal, while temperatures in New England were generally near normal or a few degrees cooler than normal. Rainfall from several storm systems led to above-normal rainfall in parts of northern New York, localized parts of northern New Hampshire and Vermont, and northern Maine. Elsewhere, rainfall was closer to normal or below normal. Severe drought decreased in coverage in parts Vermont and New Hampshire due to recent rainfall improving precipitation deficits. Meanwhile, severe drought increased in coverage in western Pennsylvania and New York, as short-term precipitation deficits worsened in tandem with decreasing streamflow and soil moisture.

Please visit the [Connecticut Drought Information Center](#) for more information.

### **UConn to Sell Beef at Middlesex Livestock Auction**

In lieu of an auction held on the UConn campus, UConn beef cattle will be sold at the Middlesex Livestock Auction (488 Cherry Hill Road, Middlefield, CT 06455) on Monday, November 2, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Program Director, UConn Livestock Units at [Mary\\_Margaret.Cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Mary_Margaret.Cole@uconn.edu) with any questions. Visit <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/join.php> to join the email list if you would like to receive a digital copy of the animal sale list when it becomes available. The list of animals UConn will bring to Middlesex will be posted mid to late October at [s.uconn.edu/beefauction](https://s.uconn.edu/beefauction).

## **SBA & TREASURY ANNOUNCE SIMPLER PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS**

The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, has released a simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process to provide financial and administrative relief to America's smallest businesses while also ensuring sound stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

SBA and Treasury have also eased the burden on PPP lenders, allowing lenders to process forgiveness applications more swiftly.

SBA began approving PPP forgiveness applications and remitting forgiveness payments to PPP lenders for PPP borrowers on October 2, 2020. SBA will continue to process all PPP forgiveness applications in an expeditious manner. Click [here](#) to view the simpler loan forgiveness application.

Click [here](#) to view the instructions for completing the simpler loan forgiveness application.

Click [here](#) to view the Interim Final Rule on the simpler forgiveness process for loans of \$50,000 or less.

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## **DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT OPEN**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began accepting applications for the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 for 2021 enrollment.

Signup runs through Dec. 11, 2020. DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. DMC payments triggered for seven months in 2019 and three months so far in 2020.

To determine the appropriate level of coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can utilize the recently updated online [dairy decision tool](#).

For more information, visit the [farmers.gov DMC webpage](#), or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](#).

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## **SEASONAL BUSINESS LABOR & IMMIGRATION WEBINAR SERIES**

Join Harris Beach, PLLC and Farm Credit East for an informational webinar series on seasonal business labor and immigration. The first of three webinars, titled "H-2B: Navigating the Maze," will be held on Tuesday, October 20 from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

In the first webinar, attorneys L.J. D'Arrigo and Brendan Venter will cover the 2021 process of applying for H-2B workers, as well as Department of Labor (DOL) and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requirements. There will also be a discussion on preparing for H-2B government audits. The H-2B visa is for temporary, non-agricultural foreign workers.

Two additional webinars titled "H-2A: Getting the Agricultural Workers You Need Legally" and "Permanent Foreign Labor Options for Seasonal Businesses" will be held on Tuesday, November 17, and Tuesday, December 15, respectively.

Visit [FarmCreditEast.com/Webinars](#) to register.

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## **WOMEN, FOOD & AGRICULTURE NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Women, Food & Agriculture Network (WFAN) is excited to share their annual conference details. Happening online November 6-7, participants will gather in a (virtual) space designed to foster connection and community. There will be seventeen different workshops, affinity groups, a movie night, yoga sessions, and more. More conference details, including registration, can be found [here](#).

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## **NORTHEAST SARE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR FARMER GRANT PROGRAM**

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 5:00 p.m. ET on Nov. 17. The Farmer Grant Program funds farmers to enable them to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture on production, marketing, labor, farm succession, social capital and other areas 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](http://www.northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant).

Questions about the grant program should be directed to Northeast SARE grant coordinator Candice Huber at [candice.huber@uvm.edu](mailto:candice.huber@uvm.edu).

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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.



The banner features the USDA logo (United States Department of Agriculture) in the top left corner. Below the logo is a horizontal strip of six small images: a white cow, a tractor in a field, a person in a greenhouse, a field of colorful flowers, a person milking a cow, and a person holding a container.

## 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](https://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



The logo consists of the USDA text above a stylized green and white wave graphic, with the text 'Farm Service Agency' and the website 'fsa.usda.gov' to the right.

### Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

UPDATED: October 7, 2020

[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**

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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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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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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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32-R. Modine Power-Vented propane heater, 240K BTU. Greenhouse/high tunnel heater. Brand new, still in box. \$1,600 Call 860-576-2277.

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33-R. Loyal compact manure spreader, ground driven, not PTO. 28 cu ft capacity. Excellent condition. Used couple of times. \$1,200. Call 860-576-2277.

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34-R. Salad Ace by Delfield commercial lettuce spinner/dryer. Used couple of times. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 860-576-2277.

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35. Vintage 1978 Troybilt horse Rototiller 7hp, Kohler engine, runs great. Original owner. \$595. 203-375-8303.

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36. New 50 gallon rain barrel, plastic with cover, spigot, down spout connector. \$45. 203-375-8303.

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

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**Upcoming Events**

**WEBINAR SERIES**

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

<p><b>MARKETING INNOVATIONS WHEN COMMUNITIES EAT AT HOME</b></p> <p>October 19   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>FORMAL AND INFORMAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS</b></p> <p>February 16   1 PM EST</p>
<p><b>RETAINING &amp; ENGAGING NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS: TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>November 16th   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>ONLINE PLATFORMS: PIVOTS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE</b></p> <p>March 15   1 PM EST</p>
<p><b>EMERGENCY FOOD, CHARITY, AND THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM</b></p> <p>December 21   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>INTEGRATING NATIONAL CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS INTO FUTURE PLANNING</b></p> <p>April 18   1 PM EST</p>
<p><b>INNOVATIONS IN STATE POLICIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SECTORS</b></p> <p>January 25   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM IN TIMES OF UNCERTAIN CONSUMER BEHAVIOR</b></p> <p>May 17   1 PM EST</p>

<https://ifscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

### 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, 19 & 26  
Times: 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, nature 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.

Look for the three-part series **Notification of Completion** provided to those completing the program series. **Social Work CEUs** will be offered for Maryland participants.

[Register online at: https://www.acesse.com/culture-and-resilience-of-farmers-in-your-community](https://www.acesse.com/culture-and-resilience-of-farmers-in-your-community)

**Presenters:**

- Alexander E. Chan, Ph.D., DMPT, University of Maryland Extension Specialist - Mental and Behavioral Health
- Deborah Dwyer, Ph.D., University of Maryland Extension, School of Public Health & Population Science
- Alaina Riggall, MS, ATC, ETC, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Extension Educator
- Luana Wollack, MS, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension & Dr. Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Center

**Sponsors:**

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension  
University of Maryland Extension  
Delaware and Maryland's Farm Stress Task Forces

**Funding Provided by:**

University of Delaware Sea Grant - Sustainable Coastal Communities

This program is being presented in partnership with the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Resources Extension Initiative. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office two weeks prior to the event.



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## UConn Beef Cattle to Be Sold at Middlesex Livestock Auction This Year



Monday, November 2, 2020

Middlesex Livestock Auction  
488 Clary Hall Road  
Middlefield, CT 06455

The list of animals will be posted mid to late October at [uconn.edu/beefauction](https://uconn.edu/beefauction).

*\*All future beef auction flyers will be sent digitally.\*  
Please join the beef auction email notification list, visit [animalsales@uconn.edu](mailto:animalsales@uconn.edu) or call 860-485-2413 if you are unable to join the email list!*

For further information, contact Mary Margaret Cole at [Mary\\_Margaret.Cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Mary_Margaret.Cole@uconn.edu)

## FOOD, FARMS, AND FORWARD THINKING



Wednesday  
October 21  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
via Zoom

New England farmland is vanishing at an alarming rate and the current food system presents consequences for individual health as well as the environment.

Learn more and ask questions of our expert panel from the New England Chapter of American Farmland Trust, Connecticut's Working Lands Alliance, and Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development.

For more information go to [www.granby-ct.gov/library](http://www.granby-ct.gov/library)  
Register under the Calendar of Events tab.

