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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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Thanksgiving is four weeks away - now is the time to place your order for a Connecticut Grown turkey or ham to dress your holiday table, order an apple or pumpkin pie, and gather up local produce and dairy products to make your sides. Find all the Connecticut Grown products for your feast [here](#).

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



Connecticut's FFA Chapters and Students Win National Honors

Cheers erupted in Caleb Peckham's home on October 27, opening night of the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo, as he was named the national winner in the Dairy Production – Placement Proficiency category. A seventh-generation dairy farmer from Woodstock, CT, Caleb graduated from Killingly FFA earlier this year where his SAE, or Supervised Agricultural Experience, focused on nearly all aspects of his family's Elm Farm, home of a 150 Holstein and Jersey milking herd.

During his SAE, Caleb managed and assisted with milking cows, managing the calf barn, working with the herd nutritionist to develop balanced feed rations the herd and heifer program, selecting sires for the breeding program, and a variety of field work. In addition, he took on added responsibilities as the family began bottling their own milk and launched a retail farm store, Farm to Table Market.

After winning at the state level, he applied to the national contest where he was named one of four finalists earlier this year. Competing against finalists from Georgia, Tennessee and Ohio was daunting and not without hesitation.

"I was happy to be named a finalist, but to win is such a huge accomplishment," he says. "To be recognized nationally is such an honor – to represent Connecticut and New England. Others don't think of Connecticut for dairy production and it's important to highlight that we are, just doing it differently."

Now in his freshmen year at SUNY Cobleskill pursuing a degree in dairy production and management, Caleb is quick to credit his FFA advisors for their support, especially Bonnie Kegler. He shares, "Mrs. Kegler worked tirelessly with me on this – I wouldn't be here without her."

As someone who professes to “eat, sleep and breathe” farm life, this accolade is another step towards his long-term vision of producing a quality product for the local community to enjoy while helping the farm be sustainable and successful alongside his family.

This year’s national event was the first to be held virtually, however, it was still filled with excitement and prestige for all attendees. Twenty Connecticut FFA students received the American FFA degree, the highest achievement in the organization, demonstrating their dedication to their chapter and state organization, effort towards their SAE project, and outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

Two chapters, Woodbury FFA and Housatonic Valley FFA, both received the 2020 National Chapter Award, achieving a one and two-star rating respectively.

The mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education. For more information, visit www.ctffa.org or www.ffa.org.

American Degree Awardees

Elizabeth Antonelli, Killingly; Danielle Cone, Lebanon Regional; Mari Cullerton, Housatonic Valley; Alexa DeAndrade, Storrs Regional; Olivai Drum Lebanon Regional; Sarah Gada, Lebanon Regional; Isabella Giansanti, Wamogo Regional; Emily Kern, Woodbury; Phillip Koenig, Wamogo Regional; Barbara Legeyt, Northwestern Regional; Sharlene Martin, Killingly; Erin Murray, Lyman Hall; Lauren Murtagh, Housatonic Valley; Ryan Nelson, Southington; Alexandria Aubrey Remesch, Lebanon Regional; Victoria Ross, Wamogo Regional; Maya Samuelson, Woodbury; Mikaela Shnieder, Wamogo Regional; Amanda Rathbone Sears, Lebanon Regional; Michael R. Wolf, Lebanon Regional



Left to Right: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, CT RC&D Agricultural Programs Director; Amanda Freund, Freund's Farm, Inc. Vice Chair, CT Milk Promotion Board ; Bill Davenport, Litchfield County UConn 4-H Educator, and Operation Community Impact Coordinator; Jeanne Davies, CT RC&D Executive Director

TOUR DES FARMS ANNUAL BIKE RIDE RAISES OVER \$3,500 FOR FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (CT RC&D) is a statewide nonprofit agriculture and environmental organization focused on sustainable Connecticut communities and rural prosperity. On July 1st, they launched their Annual Tour des Farms Program, a bicycle (2020 included motorcycle and car) ride designed to promote local farms and rural agriculture businesses, all while addressing food insecurity in our state.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, CT RC&D hosted a summer-long, statewide Tour des Farms event for riders to enjoy at their own pace and schedule. The event included eight regional routes, each featuring 6-10 farms throughout the state. That's over 75 farms getting direct support from their communities!

In lieu of the typical registration fee, CT RC&D asked participants to consider donating to the 2020 Connecticut Tour des Farms Program Fund. This year the program hosted over 300 riders and raised over \$3,500 in donations which was used to buy local farm produce to donate to CT Food Pantries (see more on CT RC&D's Social Media), as well as a direct cash donation to University of Connecticut Extension's Operation Community Impact (OCI).

The CT Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board have also been working with OCI to address community food insecurity issues and to reduce the amount of surplus milk that is being discarded due to the COVID-19 crisis by purchasing dairy products with donated funds and distributing to food pantries and meals sites throughout Connecticut. When the pandemic hit, OCI shifted into high gear and focused on dairy due to the

dumping of milk coupled with the desperate need for dairy by food pantries. The project expanded into a state-wide initiative, distributing over 12,000 gallons of milk, plus two full tractor trailer loads of ice cream, sour cream and yogurts to date.

Riders who completed their Tour des Farms passports and submitted them to CT RC&D were entered to win a CT specialty food basket generously donated by Bishop's Orchards of Guilford, CT, one of the farm stops on a Tour des Farms route.

With food insecurity on the rise and farmer sales channels drying up, this donation effort allows everyone to help our local farmers thrive while keeping our communities fed with healthy, fresh food.

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](#).

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](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Spotted lanternfly threatens trees, crops, 10/22, Journal Inquirer

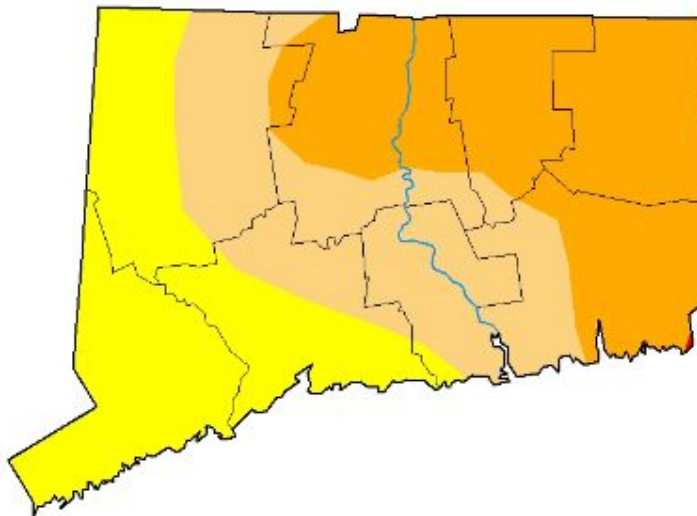
Ongoing Drought Taking A Toll On Apple Cider, 10/22, NBC CT

Farmers to Families Food Boxes set up in Enfield, 10/23, FOX 61

Maritime Climate and Diverse Styles Define New England Wine, 10/23, Wine Enthusiast

U.S. Drought Monitor
Connecticut

October 27, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 29, 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>

Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

DROUGHT DISASTER RELIEF

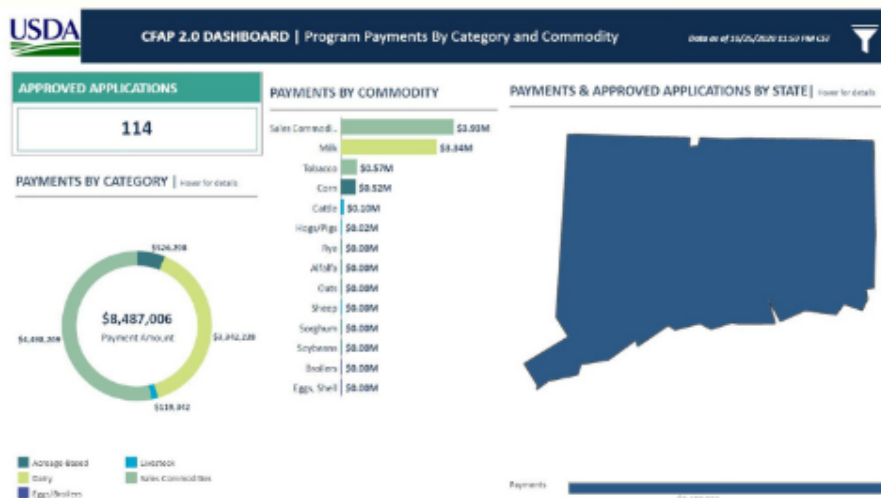
All eight counties in Connecticut are eligible for federal assistance per the drought declaration issued by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. For information on the drought and drought relief assistance for producers, please visit the [Drought Disaster Relief page](#).

SPECIALTY CROPS - AQUACULTURE - WOOL
DAIRY - LIVESTOCK - FLORICULTURE & NURSERY
BROILERS & EGGS - TOBACCO

CFAP 2: ENROLL TODAY

Deadline: December 11, 2020

Contact your local Farm Service Agency office to apply.



UConn Extension Receives Grant to Help Beginning Farmers

Beginning farmers in Connecticut are changing the face of agriculture. With their values driven, sustainable-minded farming practices, they are filling the direct-to-consumer marketplace with high quality food grown intensively on small parcels. Since 2012, UConn Extension, part of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, and its partners have responded to the growing number of beginning farmers with core training in production and business management. In recent years, it was clear that advanced-level beginning farmers (with 6-10 years of experience) were facing more complex challenges as they grappled with decisions about scale, diversification, infrastructure, and risk.

Starting this winter, UConn Extension and partners will respond to this emerging need with a new grant funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The grant is *Solid Ground 2: Weaving Together Expert Trainings and Peer Networks for Sustained Beginner and Advanced-Beginner Farmer Success in Connecticut*. It is a three-year project funded at \$525,000 that builds upon the accomplishments of the existing Solid Ground Training Program to deliver increasingly relevant, high quality trainings that respond to beginning farmer skill gaps at the appropriate level.

UConn Extension and its partners will work together to deliver exceptional training and networking opportunities that are practical, convenient, and

accessible. UConn Extension will serve as the administrative and communications foundation on the project. Two school-based agricultural education organizations will host Agriculture Mechanic trainings for beginning farmers. Front-line community-based organizations led by people of color will plan and deliver urban farming training in the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven. Two statewide non-government organizations with a strong base of beginning farmer members will work together to implement peer networking. A regional non-government organization will coordinate matchmaking events for farmland seekers. The structure of decision-making embedded throughout this project ensures that voices of color are empowered to steer training priorities.

Project leaders will strive to deliver services in a manner that ensures equitable access to learning opportunities. The project's overall approach recognizes the integrity and new knowledge that the beginning farmer community, and the organizations they belong to, can offer to the broader agriculture sector in our state.

For more information, please visit [the UConn CAHNR Extension website](#) or contact Program Specialist Stacey Stearns at stacey.stearns@uconn.edu.

WEBINAR: THE BANKRUPTCY CODE'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

How Chapter 12 Can Protect and Transform the Farm

Friday, November 6, 12:00 to 1:30 pm, Via Zoom: [register here](#)

While bankruptcy is often associated with negative connotations, filing for Chapter 12 relief can also present opportunity for farmers. Not only can it help farms avoid or recover from financial distress; it can also help save taxes due when transferring a farm, and greatly expand farmers' options to sell, transfer, or transform their operations.

If you or your organization advises, loans to, or works with farmers, join our free webinar to learn about this potent yet under-utilized tool. A panel of experts will share how the Chapter 12 option works, equipping you with information essential to advising the agricultural community in any state.

WEBINAR: USDA CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PART 2

What "Specialty Crop" Producers Should Know

Date: Friday, November 6, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please Join Farm Credit East, and the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency for a discussion of CFAP 2 focused on specialty crop producers, including floriculture and nursery crops, fruit and vegetable growers, aquaculture producers, tobacco growers, maple, and others.

Many specialty crop producers may be eligible for relief funds through CFAP 2. In this webinar, Farm Service Agency Program Specialists will review key details applicable to your operations, like eligibility requirements, payment limitations, records required, application procedures, and payment rates for each commodity. Time will be provided for Q&A. The program is open for applications now through December 11, 2020, so don't miss your window of opportunity!

To Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5892782402110364941>

VIRTUAL MEAT AND POULTRY HACCP CERTIFICATION COURSE

Tuesday, December 8th, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday, December 9th, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday, December 10th, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

This virtual, three-day International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP course will be on a zoom platform and will provide participants with the information they need to prepare a HACCP food safety program and also plan for a plant under USDA/FSIS Grant of Inspection. This course meets requirements for training of personnel responsible for HACCP plan development and implementation, including plan validation and verification activities.

Course registration fee (includes all course materials): \$425

You must pre-register. Space is limited. Registration materials must be received by November 23.

For more information and a tentative agenda, please visit [UConn - Food Safety - HACCP](#)

To register, go to <http://cahnrconference.uconn.edu/> and click on "Register for an event"

For further inquiries, please contact indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu

SBA OFFERS ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced October 22 that Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and private nonprofit organizations in Litchfield County, Connecticut as a result of drought that began on Aug. 18, 2020.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 3 percent for small businesses and 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov and should apply under SBA declaration # 16741, not for the COVID-19 incident.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than June 16, 2021.

STATE ANNOUNCES \$50 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Governor Ned Lamont has announced that he is creating the Connecticut CARES Small Business Grant Program to assist small businesses and nonprofits that have been impacted by the economic downturn caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The program will provide businesses and nonprofits in Connecticut that have fewer than twenty employees or a 2019 payroll of less than \$1.5 million with a one-time grant of \$5,000.

To fund the program, the governor is committing \$50 million from the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund, which utilizes federal CARES Act funding. The program will be administered by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). The grants can be used for payroll, rent, utilities, inventory, purchase of machinery or equipment, or costs associated with compliance of the ongoing Reopen Connecticut Business Sector Rules.

The governor is directing DECD to commit half of the funds to small businesses and nonprofits that are located in towns and cities designated as distressed municipalities.

DECD estimates it will begin accepting online applications the week of November 9, and all of the funds are anticipated to be disbursed by December 30. Information on eligibility requirements, upcoming webinars, and other aspects of the program will be published on the state's business portal at business.ct.gov.

FARM CREDIT EAST'S GENERATIONNEXT WEBINAR SERIES

A successful manager is required to master many aspects of the farm business. To help the next generation develop the necessary business and financial skills, Farm Credit East is hosting GenerationNext seminars virtually this winter, and currently seeks interested young leaders to attend. There will be eight, 90-minute sessions held online once per week starting December 2, covering a range of farm business management topics.

GenerationNext is optimal for those producers who will be the next generation operators of a farm business or for entrepreneurs starting their own business. The 90-minute web sessions will cover a range of topics, including leadership and management, human resource development, financial management, production economics, marketing, risk management, and farm transfer and estate planning.

Whether just entering into a management role or an experienced manager, participants will gain valuable insights from Farm Credit East farm business consultants and from their GenerationNext colleagues. For more information and to sign up, visit FarmCreditEast.com/GenerationNext. It is not necessary to have an existing relationship with Farm Credit East to attend. Contact your local Farm Credit East office, or call 800-562-2235 for more information or to sign up.

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 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.



HEARTCTGROWN PRESENTS

MARKETING YOUR FARM ONLINE

A virtual workshop to help you explore opportunities for your farm business through online customer interactions.

Includes presentations by Yoko Takemura of Assawaga Farm and Nick Weinstock of BOTL Farm.

NOVEMBER 2, 7 PM - 8:15 PM
REGISTER HERE: [BIT.LY/2TBCIRS](https://bit.ly/2TBCIRS)

Presented by:



EXTENSION

Funding for this workshop was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant Agreement Number AM19010UXXXXG101. The workshop and its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE WEBINAR SERIES

The Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo has announced 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 having to postpone the Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo to 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic is regrettable, the hope is that these webinars will provide important education (and pesticide recertification credit) for the greenhouse community in 2020. Pesticide recertification credits will be offered for the New England States and New York.

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

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices last provided on October 22, 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

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

WEBINAR SERIES

LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

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

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

UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ANIMAL SCIENCE

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.

*"All future beef auction flyers will be sent digitally!"
Please join the beef auction email notification list, visit uconn.edu/beef,
or contact us at 860-485-2411 if you are unable to join the email list!*

For further information, contact Mary Margaret Cole at Mary_Margaret.Cole@uconn.edu



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, 20 & 26
Noon - 3:30 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 assess 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.

Cost: \$15 for the three-part series

Continuing Education: Provided to those completing the program surveys

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, Ph.D., MPT, University of Maryland Extension Specialist - Mental and Behavioral Health
- Doreen Owen, Ph.D., University of Maryland Extension, School of Public Health - Professor Emerita
- Maria Ripstein, MS, ATC, FPC, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Extension Educator
- Luanne Williams, 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 Forces



Funding Provided by:

University of Delaware Sea Grant - Sustainable Coastal Communities



This program is being made open to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a member of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources's Learning Institution. This invitation 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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