

[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

November 6, 2020; Vol. C, No. 41

[FMNP Extended Until November 23rd](#)

[Honey and Maple Syrup Registration](#)

[CT Farm Map](#)

[Phase 2.1 COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Drought Disaster Relief](#)

[Harvest New England Goes Virtual](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Congratulations to Brittani Burke, a 2020 graduate of Suffield Regional Agriscience, who was recently named Eastern States Exposition FFA Regional Star Farmer. She demonstrated knowledge of her diversified livestock production project where she manages, breeds, raises and markets her beef cattle, swine and sheep to solidify the win.

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



## Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Extended Until November 23 in Connecticut

*Continued access to fresh fruits and vegetables for WIC and Seniors at Connecticut farmers' markets*

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces that the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), for participants of Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and seniors over the age of 60 who meet income eligibility guidelines, has been extended until November 23, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, participants have an additional three weeks to redeem their checks at participating farmers' markets and farm stands.

"The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides those who are nutritionally at-risk critical access to fresh Connecticut Grown fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and honey," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "This program is vital to supplementing the diets of these individuals and families while expanding access to Connecticut farm products."

While the growing season is winding down, farmers' markets throughout the state are extending their season to serve their communities and accommodate the extension of the 2020 FMNP program. To find an authorized farmers' market or farm stand near you, please visit [www.ctgrown.gov/farmersmarkets](http://www.ctgrown.gov/farmersmarkets). The list of farmers' markets is updated frequently to reflect current market locations and operating hours.

More than 230,000 checks valued at three dollars each have been distributed this year to eligible WIC participants, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who live in congregate housing where nutrition services are provided.

Redemption of FMNP checks in 2020 has been significantly lower than in previous years, and it is DoAg's hope that this program extension will encourage continued use of the checks and benefit both FMNP participants and Connecticut farmers. Participating farmers have also been granted an extension to deposit the checks through December 15, 2020.

FMNP has been in effect in Connecticut since the 1980s, when Connecticut was chosen as one of 10 states to pilot the program. Congress subsequently instated the program nationally in 1992, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), which works to end hunger and obesity. The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is a federal/state partnership and administered by Connecticut Department of Agriculture. For more information regarding the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, please contact Erin Windham at [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or Haley Rowland at [Haley.Rowland@ct.gov](mailto:Haley.Rowland@ct.gov).



### **VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION FOR HONEY AND MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS**

Public Act 19-18 transferred the regulation of honey and maple syrup from the Department of Consumer Protection to the Department of Agriculture. The public act did not provide for the registration of honey and maple syrup producers, nor did it provide for labeling or sanitary standards for honey and maple syrup producers. The Department of Agriculture has received numerous inquiries related to registration, because honey and maple syrup producers may want to register their operations for market access purposes.

To facilitate market access, the department is accepting voluntary registrations at this time. Please go to our [eLicense system](#) to register.

If you have any questions regarding registration with DoAg please contact: [ag.licensing@ct.gov](mailto:ag.licensing@ct.gov) or 860-713-2512.

If you have any questions regarding regulatory requirements for honey or maple syrup, please contact: [agr.commodities@ct.gov](mailto:agr.commodities@ct.gov) or 860-713-2513

## 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](#).

**ALERT: Rollback to Phase 2.1 effective November 6, 2020**

**Find all updated guidance documents [here](#).**

[Equine Guidance](#)

[Equine Competition Guidance](#)

[Farmers' Markets](#)

[Farm Stores/Stands and CSAs](#)

[Food Safety](#)

[Pick-Your-Own/Cut-Your-Own](#)

---

### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Farm-To-Table Restaurants in Mystic, 10/27, Travel and Leisure](#)

[Checking in with Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, 10/27, The Packer](#)

[Connecticut's Hemp Program Gearing Up for Success, 10/28, Lancaster Farming](#)

[Hard Ciders & Apple Beverages Having a Revival, 10/30, Lancaster Farming](#)

[Interview with Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt of the CT Department of Agriculture, 11/3, The River 105.9](#)

[Sustainable Food Success Stories From Connecticut, 11/3, AgWeb](#)

[9 spots for craft beer or wine north to south along Route 2 in CT, 11/3, CT Post](#)

---

### CT GROWN OPINION SURVEY

Please watch your mailbox (or spam filters) — heading your way is a survey from the respected, Connecticut-based team of Great Blue Research. We have partnered with these 40-year experts to survey many audiences — including you: those closest to our mission



Hello! You are receiving this survey from GreatBlue Research. We are conducting an opinion survey on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Please be assured that your responses will remain confidential and be treated in accordance with data protection laws. All analyses will be conducted anonymously on an aggregated level. Please click the link below to begin. Your results are greatly appreciated!

and values.

We have heard from a few producers that Great Blue was not a recognized name/brand and we are making some adjustments in the survey push to ensure that the more-familiar Department of Agriculture is not just in the subject line, but if possible, the sender as well.

In the interim, please support us by looking for the first round of survey information and sharing your voice. Together, we are making decisions that will impact generations of Connecticut producers and the greater our clarity... the greater our success. Thank you!

---

### **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER HOSTS REGIONAL WEBINARS**

SBDC has partnered with Chambers of Commerce and several municipalities from throughout the state to offer 7 no-cost informative webinars on the PPP Loan Forgiveness Application, and provide a brief overview of the State's new CT CARES Small Business Grant Program being released by the CT DECD the week of November 9.

Join them to get your questions answered on the PPP Loan Forgiveness Applications and please share with businesses who could benefit from this in-depth review.

Upcoming Webinars:

Tuesday, November 10 @ 11:00 AM Hartford Region [Register Here](#)

Thursday, November 12 @ 11:00 AM Central Connecticut [Register Here](#)

---

### **HARVEST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW WILL BE VIRTUAL IN 2021**

We'll miss seeing you in person, but are excited to bring you the 2021 Harvest New England Conference with our new on-line format happening February 24-25, 2021. This unique marketing conference sponsored by your New England State Departments of Agriculture is for New England farmers interested in learning new marketing ideas or fine-tuning strategies for business success. Attended by hundreds of farmers from across the region, this will be the eighth biennial conference.

Look for more details, including keynote speakers and complete agenda, toward the end of November at [www.harvestnewengland.org](http://www.harvestnewengland.org).

---

## **WORKING LANDS ALLIANCE RELEASES UPDATED EDUCATIONAL GUIDES**

Working Lands Alliance – a project of American Farmland Trust – is excited to announce the release of two newly revised educational guides: [Planning for Agriculture](#) and [Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland](#) that have served as go-to resources for landowners, land trusts, municipalities, policymakers, and nonprofit organizations interested and invested in creating prosperous agricultural environments for farmers and farm businesses in the State. The updated versions of the guides were paid for by the CT Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act.

The 2020 revisions to the Planning for Agriculture guide include emerging agricultural trends and ways that town governments can plan and provide a supportive community atmosphere where agriculture can thrive.

The 2020 revisions to the Conservation Options guide include information about farmland protection, open space protection, updated information on federal and state farmland protection programs and answers questions many landowners have about protecting their land with an agricultural conservation easement.

“Connecticut may be small in size, but our agriculture industry is vast — so influential, in fact, that it contributes an impressive \$5.2 billion to the state’s economy each year. These guides provide the framework to ensure these great farm businesses remain viable for future generations and create opportunities for new and beginning farmers to operate and grow,” said Connecticut’s Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt.

To read the release in full and for information on obtaining hard copies of these guides, [click here](#).

---

## **APPLY FOR 2021 CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS**

Are you an agricultural producer wanting to conserve water or address water, air, or animal waste issues? Are you looking to reduce erosion; improve wildlife habitat; or maybe obtain a seasonal high tunnel? Maybe you just plain want to improve conservation on your farming operation. Sound like you? Then why not find out if you’re eligible for financial assistance through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

[The Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) is a voluntary program for those engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production – including organics. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. It also provides payments for implementing practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long-term production and sustainability.

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers to implement seasonal high tunnels, and to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control. Each eligible conservation practice has a Practice Payment Rate which is a fixed amount based on regional costs of a typical installation of that practice.

Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, to be eligible for current year funding you must ensure your application is submitted to your local NRCS office by November 20, 2020. Not sure how to begin? Visit the Getting Started section of our website, then establish records and fill out eligibility forms. NRCS staff will need to complete an assessment of resource conditions and practice feasibility prior to making a determination of program eligibility.

---

### **ONLINE COURSE: PREVENTIVE CONTROLS FOR HUMAN FOOD PART 2**

The URI Food Safety Education Program is offering the Preventive Controls for Human Food Part 2 course this November 18-19, 2020. The deadline to register is Wednesday, November 11.

This Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) Blended Training course was developed to provide an alternative for individuals to complete the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food course. The Blended course consists of 2 parts. Part 1 is online and Part 2 is instructor-led (virtually). Both parts must be completed in order to obtain the certificate.

The online portion of the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food blended course is a prerequisite for enrollment into Part 2, the Instructor-Led of the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food. The online portion is completed through IFPTI's Learning Management system and emphasizes key-point concepts from the participant manual. The online portion covers all of the information presented in the first two days of the traditional three-day FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food. Registration for Part 1 of this 2-part course is \$198 and the link for course registration is as follows: <https://lms.ifpti.org/#/online-courses/8fa8a76a-5a55-44b6-9cec-60d4f4aa784b>

For more information about this FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food blended course, click [here](#).

---

### **VIRTUAL MEAT AND POULTRY HACCP CERTIFICATION COURSE**

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

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

**Thursday, December 10, 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://cahnrcconference.uconn.edu/> and click on "Register for an event".

---

### **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](http://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.

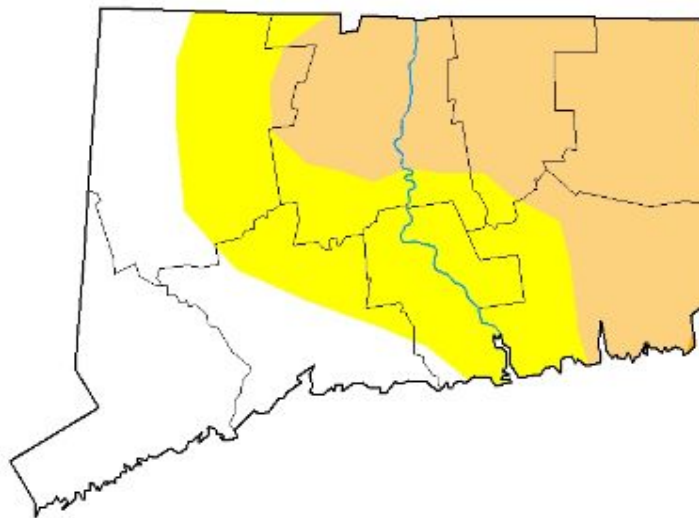
GenerationNext is optimal for those producers who will be the next generation operators of a farm business or for entrepreneurs starting their own business. The 90-minute web sessions will cover a range of topics, including leadership and management, human resource development, financial management, 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](http://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.

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

**November 3, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**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](http://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](#).

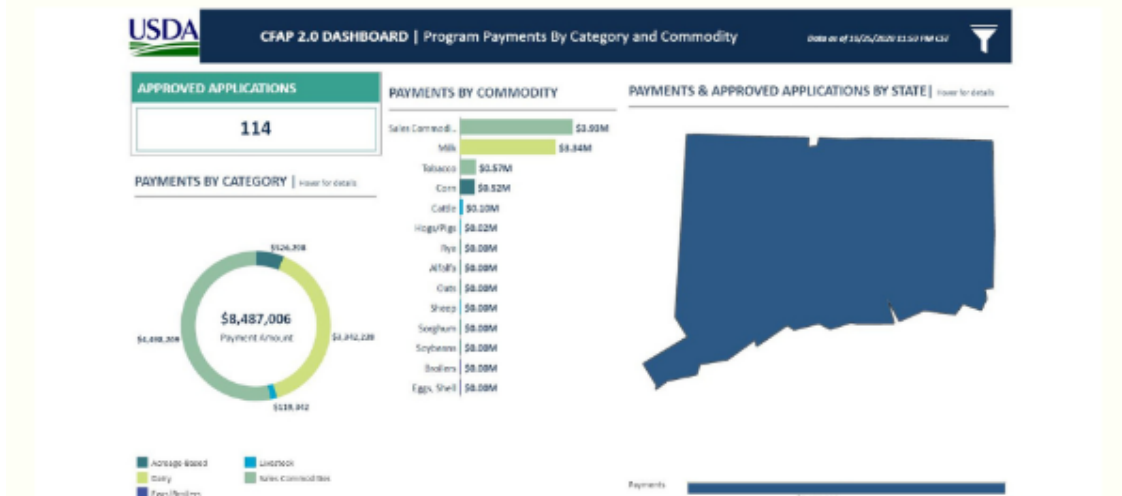
---

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.



## Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)  
*Prices last provided on November 6, 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](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)

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**  
THE FIRST IN A SERIES

Are you an urban farmer or interested in urban agriculture?

REGISTER HERE:  
[CTCtown.gov](http://CTCtown.gov)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020**  
9-11:00 AM

**USDA** **Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Connecticut** **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

A condensed narrative introduction to funding opportunities for producers, processors and marketers from state officials: USDA, CMA, FSA, DCD, BEA and many more as well as state opportunities for grow, develop, and begin farming in urban and suburban areas in Connecticut.

**OPENING REMARKS**  
Rissa Hurlburt, Connecticut, CT Department of Agriculture  
Cristopher Thomas, Deputy Commissioner, CT Dept. of Economic & Community Dev.

**SESSIONS**

- Improve soil health, improve efficiency and lower production costs, maximize plant health and disease resistance
- Support for beginning farmers historically underserved and retention of jobs
- Ideas about various and suggestions for developing a business objectives and to be profitable, online steps
- Processing needs, marketing of finished value added products from USDA Rural Development Programs
- Effective, efficient agriculture operations serving all farmers, reaches and agricultural success with USDA Farm Service Agency

Special thanks to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

[www.ct.gov/ctportal/portal/portal.action](http://www.ct.gov/ctportal/portal/portal.action)

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 15 | 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://fscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>



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 circumstances. 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.

Web. \$15 for the three-part series

Distribution of materials: Provided to those completing the program surveys

State Webinars: will be offered for Maryland participants

Register online at:

<https://www.ecoec.com/culture-and-resilience-of-farmers-in-your-community>

Presenters:

- Alexander E. Chen, PhD, UMPP University of Maryland Extension Specialist - Mental and Behavioral Health
- Denise Bowen, PhD D., University of Maryland Extension, School of Public Health - Professor Emerita
- Dennis Reynolds, MS, ATC, FPC, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Extension Educator
- Luanis Wehrlich, 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 brought to you in part by the University of Delaware Extension Program, a service of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We are an equal opportunity institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office that serves you in this area.



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](#).