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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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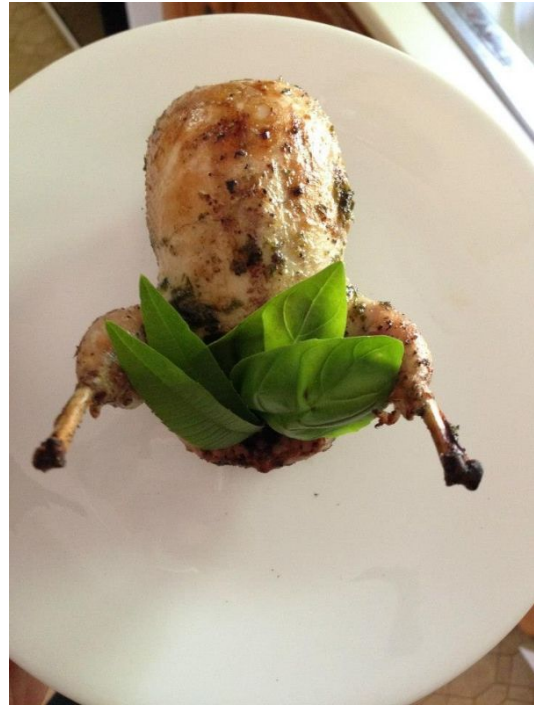
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To stop the spread of COVID-19, Connecticut needs everyone to do their part. One way you can help yourself and your community is by downloading the COVID Alert CT app, which notifies you if you have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID Alert CT is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. You will get an alert if you were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Details [here](#).

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



Transition Grant Assists Veteran Farmers

When Marine Corps Veteran Jared McCool and Navy Veteran Alex Granitto, owners and operators of Steadfast Farms in Bethlehem, joined forces they did so with the ambition to combine their love of the outdoors with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. “If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life,” says Alex.

While the farm focuses on game birds, including Northern Bobwhite Quail, Chukar Partridge, Chinese Ringneck Pheasant and Pigeons, they also raise rabbits, a variety of egg laying chickens, meat chickens, and a herd of dairy goats. From the beginning there was a long-term idea to process game meat in Connecticut as a way to diversify their revenue stream thus mitigating risks, and support restaurants and grocery stores in the tri-state region as well.

Learning about and applying for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s Farm Transition Grant couldn’t have come at a better time states Jared. Their grant award provided the funding necessary for a new building to not only raise, but process, their own game birds onsite in a facility that meets USDA inspection guidelines. Ensuring the facility meets USDA requirements will enable them to offer processing to other local poultry producers, a service that is lacking in the region.

Additionally, it will shorten the supply chain for local restaurants to reduce costs and ensure product availability at time when these businesses are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jared says, “We’re a small farm focusing on the community but like to think we have an impact beyond that.”

The Transition grant is allowing them to scale up and grow at an accelerated rate. Their live game bird operation will raise close to 9,000 birds this year,

while the meat bird operation was designed to grow out 20,000 birds every eight weeks when running at peak capacity.

Staying true to their core, Jared and Alex earmark a percentage of sales from every bird sold to sponsor a one-day hunting event for veterans and first responders. Now in its fourth year, the Vets and Friends Hunt, has seen an uptick in donations from local businesses and an increase in interested participants.

As members of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, they are working to create a Connecticut chapter to raise awareness of agriculture as viable employment for veterans while strengthening rural communities and creating sustainable food systems. Both credit their military backgrounds for providing the skill set to tackle the day-to-day challenges of farming.

“In the military the only constant is change,” says Alex. “In farming there are a million variables and you need to roll with the punches. That helps us persevere when times get tough.”



UCONN 4-H RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer is defined as someone that donates their time to participate in a cause or program. UConn 4-H is the Extension youth development program and has thousands of volunteers across Connecticut that help us provide

programming to over 18,000 youth, annually. Jack and Mavis Collins of Enfield have been volunteering with the UConn 4-H program for a combined 90-years.

The Hartford County 4-H program recognized Jack for his 55 years of service and Mavis for 35 years of service on Sunday, November 8, with a socially distanced presentation at the Collins' Powder Hill Dairy Farm followed by a county-wide virtual ceremony.

Jack was a member of the Merry Moo-ers 4-H club as a youth and started volunteering while he was an animal science student in the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Mavis grew up on a dairy farm in England and came to the United States with the International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) Program. Both volunteered while their four children were 4-H members and have continued serving the program.

The true impact of the 90-years of volunteerism that Jack and Mavis have given to 4-H is in the youth that have benefitted from their dedicated service. All are welcomed into the Collins family and 4-H is part of their lives. They have served as teachers, role models, and mentors. Jack and Mavis share their love of animals and help youth grow into the best versions of themselves.

“The volunteer resumes of Jack and Mavis Collins go far beyond their service as club leaders to the Merry Moo-ers 4-H Club and the Powder Hill 4-H Equestrian Club,” says Jennifer Cushman, the UConn Extension 4-H Educator in Hartford County. “They have volunteered with the Fair Association, at the 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm, 4-H Camp, and the International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE). Their contributions to the dairy cattle program area have made the best better for thousands of 4-H youth dairy project members.”

Since 1970, Carol LeBlanc has been a UConn 4-H Volunteer with the Snoopy's Pal 4-H Dog Club, located in Suffield.

The Hartford County 4-H program recognized Carol for her 50 years of service on Saturday, November 7, with a socially distanced presentation in front of the 4-H Club followed by a county-wide virtual recognition ceremony on Sunday, November 8.

She is deeply committed to implementing the motto of 4-H which is to “Make the Best Better”. Carol continues to adapt her club programming to accommodate all youth, to provide new opportunities for youth to learn and develop their dog skills and self-confidence, as well as to ensure that youth are maximizing and enjoying their 4-H experiences.

UConn 4-H is the youth development program of UConn CAHNR Extension. 4-H is a community of over six million young people across America who are learning Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), leadership, citizenship, and life skills through their 4-H project work. 4-H provides youth with the opportunity to develop lifelong skills including civic engagement and healthy living. Learn more about becoming a volunteer or enrolling your child in the UConn 4-H program at <http://4-H.uconn.edu/>.

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

[Something's Open: Whole Harmony](#), 11/5, WFSB

[Create a Satisfying Cheeseboard](#), 11/10, WFSB

[Residents encouraged to support local businesses when preparing holiday meal](#), 11/11, WFSB

[As COVID Reduces School Demand, Farmers in Southeast Connecticut Learn to Adjust](#), 11/12, CT Examiner

[Connecticut market prepares for winter](#), 11/12, The Packer

[Tree farms battling two challenges as holiday season nears](#), 11/13, The Day

WEBINAR: THE FIRST IN A SERIES

Are you an urban farmer or
interested in urban agriculture?

REGISTER HERE: CTGROWN.GOV



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

9-11:00 AM

Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Connecticut



URBAN AGRICULTURE OPPORTUNITIES WEBINAR SERIES

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic & Community Development are pleased to partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies to present a webinar series available to farmers, producers, nonprofits, and municipalities for Urban Agriculture projects.

The first webinar is scheduled for November 18 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. with a focus on all the tools and funding opportunities each agency has to support agriculture in urban areas in Connecticut. The intention is to better inform farmers and producers of what available programs with a question and answer session to follow. For a complete list of speakers and agenda, click [here](#). Future webinar details will be posted soon.

Each webinar in the series is available at no cost, however, registration is requested. To register for the November 18 webinar, please click [here](#).

Looking to save jobs? CT DOL Shared Work Program offers a solution. The Shared Work program is an **economic relief program** available to Connecticut employers who are experiencing business downturns. It is a great alternative to laying off employees. For more information, please visit us at SharedWorkCt.com and chat with our Virtual Assistant, Sherry.

SharedWORKCT.com
Working Downturns Into Upturns

APPLY TODAY: CONNECTICUT CARES SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

The Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) will start accepting applications for the Connecticut CARES Small Business Grant Program today, November 13, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. Small businesses and nonprofits in Connecticut with a 2019 annualized payroll of less than \$1.5 million OR 20 or fewer employees can receive a one-time grant of \$5,000. All funding will be disbursed by the end of December and will not require repayment.

The grant can be used for rent, payroll, utilities, inventory or complying with the CT Reopen Business Sector Rules. Full details including eligibility requirements, a schedule for virtual office hours, FAQs, other resources, and the application can be found here.

The \$50 million program, funded from Connecticut's portion of the federal CARES Act, will provide aid to small businesses and nonprofits that continue to be negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The grant application will only be available for a limited time. DECD anticipates closing the application by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, November 19, 2020 but this is highly dependent on demand. Businesses are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

USING POINT OF SALE FOR YOUR FARM BUSINESS

HeartCTGrown presents a virtual workshop on November 18, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to help you explore more payment options to ease transactions and expand your customer base. The workshop includes presentations by Bri Casadei of Terra Firma Farm and Grow NYC.

The training is free to attendees. Register here.

CONNECTICUT HEMP WEBINAR

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) has scheduled two webinars to explain the update to the CT Hemp Law and the new Hemp Producer Application. USDA Farm Service Agency (USDA) will explain requirements for creating a farm record and registering hemp lots. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will describe the results of their 2020 research, and DoAg will summarize the results of the 2020 growing season. At the end of the presentations, DoAg, CAES, and USDA will have time to answer questions.

Webinars will be offered on December 1, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and December 3, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Both webinars will cover the same information, and one will be recorded for future viewings.

For information on how to access these webinars, click here and scroll to the second and third pages.

NEW ENGLAND APPLE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS

James Bove, manager of Chapin Orchard in Essex Junction, Vermont, was unanimously elected to the board of directors of the New England Apple

Association at its October 20 meeting. He joins new members Giff Burnap of Butternut Farm, Farmington, New Hampshire; Russ Holmberg of Holmberg Orchards, Gales Ferry, Connecticut; and Al Rose of Red Apple Farm, Phillipston, Massachusetts, bringing the total number of board members to 11.

Continuing as Association officers are chair Ned O'Neill, vice-chair Mo Tougas, and secretary-treasurer John Rogers. Other board members include Heather Faubert, Ellen McAdam, Steve Rowse, Chuck Souther, and Gordon Waterman.

For more information, contact Russell Powell, russ@newenglandapples.org.

SURVEY: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CONNECTICUT VEGETABLE PRODUCERS

Zachary Duda, Alyson Schneider, and Jonathan Russo are conducting a study at the University of Connecticut on changes brought on by this pandemic and how they influenced the decisions vegetable producers have made in Connecticut.

They want to analyze the adaptability of producers in Connecticut and ultimately produce a research paper formed on the results of this survey. The survey itself asks no personal information, and is 100% voluntary. The questions seek to understand the marketing strategies of vegetable producers and how COVID-19 impacted them. Your consent is noted when you fill out and submit the survey, however, more information about your rights as a participant can be found at the top of the form.

The survey can be found here; [The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Connecticut Vegetable Farm Market Systems](#) and all results will be submitted when you click the submit button at the end. The deadline to fill out the survey is November 30, 2020. More information about the study as a whole can be found here: [Participant Information Sheet](#).

SARE PROGRAM SEEKING INDIVIDUALS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The [Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\)](#) program is seeking individuals to serve on its Administrative Council (AC). The 20-member governance committee sets program policies for Northeast SARE, participates in the grant review process and makes final award decisions for all grant programs. In 2020, it approved \$6.2 million to fund 108 grant projects across the Northeast, including 22 grants awarded directly to farmers to conduct research on their farms. Council members include farmers, agency personnel, Extension and nonprofit staff, researchers, industry representatives and others from across the Northeast.

Currently, Northeast SARE is seeking to fill three open seats representing:

1. agricultural lending and farm financial management;
2. non-profit organizations engaged in environmental work; and
3. for-profit agricultural businesses/industry.

Interested individuals should submit (preferably as one PDF file) a letter describing their interest in serving on the Council, a resume and a short description of the business or organization where they work. Please send this information to Northeast SARE director Dr. Vern Grubinger at vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu by December 4, 2020. Email with questions or go to www.northeastsare.org/NortheastSAREAC to learn more about the Council.

CROP GROWERS TO HOST WEBINAR ON DAIRY MARKETS: 2020 AND BEYOND

COVID-19's global impact on foodservice markets has caused dramatic price swings in dairy markets. To help producers prepare for the year ahead, Crop Growers LLP, Farm Credit East, Yankee Farm Credit, and AgChoice Farm Credit are hosting two webinars to analyze 2020's impact on dairy markets, look at current and future dairy markets, and discuss risk management strategies.

Dairy producers of all sizes as well as the service providers who support them are invited to join Farm Credit East and Yankee Farm Credit on Tuesday, December 1, at 12 noon EST, or join AgChoice Farm Credit on Thursday, December 3, at 12 noon EST. Both webinars will cover similar information and are free to attend. Visit CropGrowers.com to learn more and register.

THE H-2A VISA PROGRAM: GETTING THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS YOU NEED, LEGALLY

Farm Credit East is pleased to cosponsor Harris Beach's webinar on getting legal ag workers with H-2A on November 17 at 9:00 a.m. This 90-minute webinar is the second in a series that cover a handful of topics including the 2021 H-2A process, H-2B employer compliance and what constitutes "agricultural" employment. Qualification for H-2A and H-2B, navigating the DOL's "Single Employer Test" in H-2A and addressing dairy farms and H-2A will also be covered.

[Click here](#) to register.

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: AgLicensing@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 or 860-713-2513.

VIRTUAL MEAT AND POULTRY HACCP CERTIFICATION COURSE

Attend a virtual, three-day International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP course. It 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.

Dates are as follows:

Tuesday, December 8, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

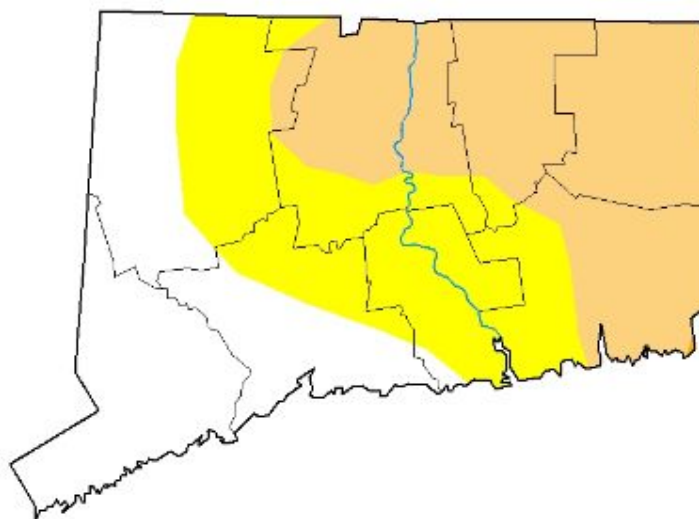
Wednesday, December 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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".

U.S. Drought Monitor Connecticut

November 10, 2020
(Released Thursday, Nov. 12, 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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/N.O.A./N.W.S./N.C.E.P.



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

DROUGHT DISASTER UPDATE & RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Precipitation over the past few weeks has improved short- and long-term precipitation deficits. Drought intensity and coverage has lessened throughout the state.

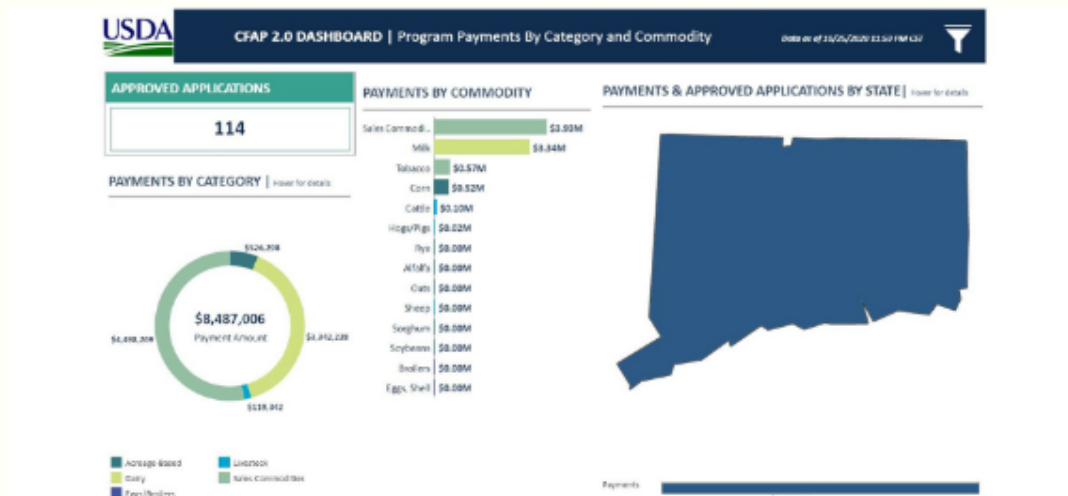
All eight counties in Connecticut are eligible for federal assistance per the drought declaration issued by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. For information on the drought and drought relief assistance for producers, please visit the [Drought Disaster Relief page](#).

**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 11, 2020

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[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

(click the image to be redirected to the event website)



I CARTCGROWN PRESENTS

USING POINT OF SALE FOR YOUR FARM BUSINESS

A virtual workshop to help you explore more payment options to ease transactions and expand your customer base. Includes presentations by Sri Casadei of Terra Firma Farm and Grow NYC.

NOVEMBER 18, 7 PM - 8:30 PM
REGISTER HERE: [BIT.LY/2TRLNRY](https://bit.ly/2TRLNRY)



Nothing for this workshop was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service through grant agreement number 2019-02000-01. The workshop and its contents are solely the responsibility of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

WEBINAR THE FIRST IN A SERIES

Are you an urban farmer or interested in urban agriculture?

REGISTER HERE:
[BIT.LY/2TRLNRY](https://bit.ly/2TRLNRY)



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

Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Connecticut



A virtual keynote introduction of funding opportunities for producers, processors and more. Hear from stakeholders USDA, UMA, USA, UCD, SEA and many more as we discuss approaches to grow, develop, and begin farming in urban and suburban areas in Connecticut.

OPENING REMARKS

Roxa Rubinoff, Commissioner, CT Department of Agriculture
Governor Thomas, Deputy Commissioner, CT Dept. of Economic & Community Dev.

SESSIONS

- **Improve** health, income efficiency and water conservation practices, farm health and season extension
- **Processing** needs, marketing of the food, value added products from USDA Rural Development Programs
- **Support** for aquaculture farmers, hydroponic/indoor use of production space
- **Effective** on-farm water culture, drought resistant farm practices and agricultural water use with USDA Farm Service Agency
- **Ideas**, consultation and suggestions for developing a business plan and how to collaborate, farm steps
- **Access** to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Webinar content recorded and will be posted on CT.gov/agric.

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

RETAINING & ENGAGING
NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS:
TENSIONS AND
OPPORTUNITIES

November 18th | 1 PM EST

EMERGENCY FOOD,
CHARITY, AND THE LOCAL
FOOD SYSTEM

December 21 | 1 PM EST

INNOVATIONS IN STATE
POLICIES AND
IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL
AND REGIONAL FOOD
SECTORS

January 25 | 1 PM EST

FORMAL AND INFORMAL
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND
REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

February 15 | 1 PM EST

ONLINE PLATFORMS:
PIVOTS AND PLANNING FOR
THE FUTURE

March 15 | 1 PM EST

INTEGRATING NATIONAL
CONSUMER SURVEY
RESULTS INTO FUTURE
PLANNING

April 19 | 1 PM EST

NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT
THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM
IN TIMES OF UNCERTAIN
CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

May 17 | 1 PM EST

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



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