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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

In This Issue

December 4, 2020; Vol. C, No. 44

[Dairy Farmers Donate Coolers to Pantries](#)

[Disaster Designation for Tropical Storm Isaias](#)

[Phase 2.1 COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Farmland Restoration Application Deadline](#)

[Farm Succession Training](#)

[Young Farmer Grant](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Connecticut's greenhouse growers are bursting with seasonal ornamentals, including poinsettias in an array of red, pink and white to complete your holiday decorating and gift giving.

Photo courtesy of Glendale Farms, Milford, CT, a third-generation family-owned farm.

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



Dairy Farmers Help Local Food Pantries Prepare for Busy Holiday Season

21 Food Pantries Receive Refrigerated Coolers and Funds to Stock with Dairy Products

As food pantries across the state prepare for the increased demand of the holiday season on top of already elevated participation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 21 Connecticut food pantries now have increased capacity for holding fresh, refrigerated dairy products thanks to the Connecticut Dairy Farmer to Food Pantry Cooler Grant Program.

Through the grant program Connecticut dairy farmers nominated food pantries to receive refrigerated coolers that will keep dairy products cold and safe for distribution to families in need.

The Connecticut Dairy Farmer to Food Pantry Cooler Grant Program was driven by the dairy farm families of Connecticut who recognize and embrace their role in feeding and supporting their communities during both good and challenging times. The program was launched by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board in coordination with New England Dairy. The grant provided 21 food pantries (full list below) across the state with refrigerated coolers and funds to initially stock the coolers with dairy products for their communities; each cooler can hold 64 gallons of milk.

Despite decline in unemployment numbers across the region, families are still struggling to get back on their feet. A recent [survey](#) from Consumer Reports found that one in five American grocery shoppers has used a food pantry since March.

“Having the ability to safely store milk and other fresh dairy items for distribution to our clients will assist us greatly in each pantry’s efforts to offer nutritious food to families in need. Our dairy farmers play a vital role in keeping our community healthy and we are grateful to them for this generous donation,” shares Louise Riley with Fishes and Loaves in Canaan whose pantry was nominated by dairy

farmer Amanda Freund.

“There’s a big need at food pantries across the state and through this program we hope that more families will have access to nutritious dairy products,” said Paul Miller, chair of the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and owner of Fairvue Farms who nominated The Second Star of Jacob pantry in New Haven.

Fran Murphy with the North Branford Food Pantry grew up on a dairy farm in northeastern Connecticut and learned at a young age how hard much hard work and dedication it takes to face the everyday struggles of farming. “Not only are we honored to be receiving the cooler, we are humbled that a farmer whom we have never met would sponsor us. This gesture shows that there is much good left in the world, that as hard as farmers workday in and day out, they still find a way to give to others,” shared Murphy. “I have always been amazed at the willingness of farmers to give back to the community consistently.” Dairy farmer Ned Ellis nominated the North Branford Food Pantry.

“As more families turn to food pantries for support during the pandemic, refrigeration is the biggest challenge when distributing dairy. We know that dairy is an essential and nutritious part of a balanced diet, and many pantries don’t have the refrigeration they need to keep milk cold and safe. This grant program helped farmers address the local need for milk and dairy products,” said Heidi Harkopf, registered dietitian with New England Dairy.



SHOP CONNECTICUT GROWN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt visited Syme Family Farm in Broad Brook today to highlight Connecticut Grown products for the holiday season and encourage residents to support local Christmas Tree farms.

Christmas Tree farms throughout the state are seeing an abundance of visitors as families seek a fun, safe experience while taking part in traditions of the holiday season. This is also the time to consider a Connecticut Grown gift for family and friends. From honey and maple syrup as stocking stuffers or bottle of wine from a farm winery, you can support Connecticut farms in a variety of ways. Cheese, pies, and oysters can all be purchased to be part of your holiday gatherings or give the gift that keeps on giving with a CSA membership to a farm for cut flowers, fruits, vegetables, or meats. And, our fiber producers have blankets, mittens, hats, and sweaters that will keep you warm on the coldest of days.

To find a tree farm near you, click [here](#). To find a Connecticut farm, visit CTGrownMap.com.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE APPROVES REQUEST FOR DISASTER DESIGNATION DUE TO TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS

Governor Ned Lamont announced December 2 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved his request for an agricultural disaster designation as a result of damage sustained from the impact of Tropical Storm Isaias in Connecticut in early August. The designation means that farmers in the state are eligible to be considered for certain federal disaster assistance, such as emergency loans, to cover production losses they experienced as a result of the storm.

The USDA approved the disaster declaration for five of Connecticut's eight counties, including Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham Counties. However, farmers in the remaining three counties – Fairfield, Litchfield, and Tolland Counties – will still be eligible for the emergency assistance since those areas are named as contiguous disaster counties.

To apply, farmers should contact their closest [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) office](#). FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator. All applications for disaster assistance under this declaration must be submitted within the next eight months.

“Any bit of relief from the damage sustained during this storm will be a benefit to these small business owners,” Governor Lamont said. “I appreciate the USDA for approving this designation, and I encourage any farmers who’ve experienced damage from the tropical storm to contact their nearest FSA office

and apply for assistance.”

“Connecticut’s agriculture producers have weathered a number of challenges this year, including Tropical Storm Isaias,” Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt said. “The USDA disaster declaration will provide much needed assistance to ensure they have the resources available to continue their farming operations.”

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

[Families out getting Christmas trees at local tree farms, 11/27, WFSB](#)

[Christmas Spirit Thriving At Dzen Tree Farm, 11/28, NBC CT](#)

[Christmas tree farms popular in pandemic; where to find one in Connecticut, 11/29, FOX61](#)

[Dairy farmers help local food pantries, 11/29, The Register Citizen](#)

[Only in CT: Farmers Across the State Team Up to Make Fleece Blankets, 12/1, NBC CT](#)

LAST CHANCE: Cyber Monday Deals

GET

40% OFF*

**All items + free shipping
on ALL orders. Spend \$50+, get FREE
baseball hat.**

CODE: CYBER40

shop »

**Sales ends 12/6*



**VEGETABLE SEEDLING & TRANSPLANT PRODUCTION IN
GREENHOUSES WEBINAR SERIES**

UConn Extension is offering a webinar series for growers producing vegetables and herbs as seedlings or transplants in heated greenhouses. Topics include transplant uniformity, root-zone management, organic fertilizers, disease and pest control.

One pesticide certification credit has been approved for three of five one-hour

webinar for New England states.

For program description and online registration, click [here](#). For more information, contact Rosa E. Raudales, rosa@uconn.edu and Leanne Pundt, leanne.pundt@uconn.edu.

FARMLAND RESTORATION PROGRAM DEADLINE IMPLEMENTED

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces a change to the Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) application process. Historically, the FLRP has offered a rolling application deadline; however, to streamline the process, an annual deadline has been implemented. Applications should be submitted by January 15, 2021 for projects planned in the upcoming calendar year.

The FLRP is a voluntary program to restore lands into active agricultural production with the main objective of increasing food and fiber production in Connecticut. The program focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan. Each application can qualify for a reimbursement payment of up to \$20,000.

For additional information on the program and how to apply, please click [here](#). All applications must be submitted electronically to the email address Agr.Grants@ct.gov on or before January 15, 2021.

Questions regarding the FLRP can be directed to Lance Shannon: lance.shannon@ct.gov; or via phone at 860-713-2531 or 860-993-4088.

2021 FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE REMOTE GROWER TRAINING COURSE

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge that includes emphasis on co-management of food safety and environmental management goals, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.' This course will be taught remotely on a Zoom platform as per the remote delivery guidelines established by PSA.

Course registration fee (includes all course materials and certificate): \$50

Please register by December 28 by [clicking here](#) or by visiting <http://cahnrcconference.uconn.edu/>.

For more information, please visit [Produce Safety Grower Course_UConn](#) or contact Indu Upadhyaya at 860-786-8191 or indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu.

FARM SUCCESSION TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS WHO SERVE FARMERS

With a grant from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), Land For Good will host unique training opportunities for professionals across New England who support farmers in transfer and succession planning. They will hold a training in each New England state in January 2021, which will bring together a diverse group of farm service providers and professionals concerned about farm succession and transfer planning. These trainings will be designed for extension staff, conservation groups, mediators, farm link programs, land trusts, and non-profit agriculture service providers who play succession advising and support roles in their state to learn skills, understand each other's work, and build a referral network in the state.

These one-day, cross-disciplinary trainings will focus on: succession planning basics; networking and team methods; soft issues (family communications, goal-setting, assessment); and case clinic practice, as well as discussions on how to identify client needs, find other providers, communicate disparate content, and problem solve with other providers. They will explore how to effectively support a farm succession planning process using a team approach.

For training dates and other information, please [click here](#).

YOUNG FARMER GRANT PROGRAM

The National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers) is partnering with Chipotle to offer \$5,000 grants to help young and beginning farmers and ranchers start up and grow their businesses. Young Farmers will be offering 50 grants to a new cohort of young farmers and ranchers – forty-five awards will go to businesses already in operation, and five to projects starting in 2021.

Young Farmer Grants are designed to provide a flexible financial boost to young farmers building long term careers in agriculture. This fund can be used for anything that will further your goals as a farmer, even if that means just getting started. The goal of this fund is to provide financial assistance for any cost that currently limits your ability to start, run, or grow your operation in the way you'd like.

Applications are open until January 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. EST. To learn more information, please [click here](#).

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.



DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) by Dec. 11, 2020. This program provides direct relief to producers facing market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

Producers have several options for applying for the CFAP 2 program by the Dec. 11 deadline. Producers can find eligible commodities, payment rates, calculations and options to apply on farmers.gov/cfap

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

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)

New England
Winter Fruit Meetings



14 Free Webinars for New England Fruit Growers!

In an effort to provide fruit growers the same high quality educational opportunities we have in the past, and because we are unable to hold face-to-face meetings due to COVID-19, the Connecticut Extension throughout the New England region joined forces in a collaborative effort to develop a winter series of webinars aimed at improving the commercial fruit growers. Registration is required for each webinar and purchase/information credits will be available. The 12/11 meeting starts at 6 pm, but the remainder of the sessions will begin at noon and typically end at 1:30 pm.

Partners



Webinar Schedule

- December 11 - Managing State Fruit Disease Control
 Presenter: Ben Pinner, PhD
- January 22 - How to Assess and Treat Fruit on Strawberry and Other Varieties of Strawberry
 Presenter: Julie Hill, Extension and Randolph Denno, PhD
- January 24 - Training and Pruning Strategies for the Orchard Production Peach Tree
 Presenter: Bill Clark, MSU
- January 26 - Strawberry Tree Pruning Basics
 Presenter: Mark Langston, MSU
- February 3, 3 & 6 - Cornell Winter Tree Fruit Meeting
- February 6 - Older Apple Varieties: Where do they belong?
 Presenter: Steve Kunkin, UConn
- February 16 - Insects in Tree Posts
 - Sprayed Wing Drizzle, Bees & Winter Insect Control and Spotted Leaf Miner
 Presenter: Justin Beck, UMaine
- March 2 - Managing Trunk Diseases on Apple, Magnolia and Pear
 Presenter: Susan Blinn, Ag Canada
- March 10 - Research Update on Early Season Apple Bites
 Presenter: James Ward, Virginia and Steve Borden, UMaine Extension
- March 17 - Insecticide Resistance and Fruit Scab Management
 Presenter: Steve Blinn and Mike Hamilton, UMaine Extension
- March 23 - The New Volume War: Is it a Fruit Grower's Problem?
 Presenter: Terry Shroyer, MSU
- March 30 - Network for Environment and Weather Application (NEW) for Project Agriculture 2021
 Presenter: Lisa O'Connell, UConn

Learn More & Register:
<https://www.uconn.edu/extension/2021/new-england-winter-fruit-webinar-series/>

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/>

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