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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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Happy Hanukkah!

As you celebrate with your family this holiday season, here are some ways to incorporate Connecticut Grown products. From latkes to kugel, find recipes [here](#).

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



'Tis the Season to Shop Local

Consumers Can Support Local Farms at Holiday and Winter Farmers' Markets

The weather may be turning cold, but consumers can still find Connecticut Grown products this winter. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture encourages residents to support the agricultural businesses that will be vending at holiday and winter farmers' markets open throughout the state. A full list of open farmers' markets can be found [here](#).

"Connecticut's farmers are continuing to weather the challenges of 2020 by planting, growing, and harvesting for the future," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. "Our agency has worked with farmers' markets to implement guidance to minimize the spread of COVID-19, while ensuring access to the diverse agricultural products grown right here in our state. From honey, produce, and maple syrup to meats, eggs, and dairy, as well as fiber and value-added products, you can support local farm families while shopping for holiday gifts or weekly meals."

These markets are adhering to State of Connecticut COVID-19 guidance to ensure a safe, socially distanced shopping experience for vendors and consumers. Farmers' markets were deemed essential businesses by Governor Lamont earlier this year as a way to source food and other necessities while supporting small businesses.

Farmers' market managers, such as Dianne Trueb at Ellington Farmers' Market, have adapted their format and made significant changes to create a safe venue for shopping locally. Sales during the summer farmers' market were robust and heading into the colder months, the market moved to a new indoor location where more space affords easier social distancing.

With two indoor markets under their belt, Trueb shares that consumers and vendors are both thankful for the opportunity to attend the winter farmers' market and foot traffic is comparable to past years. In addition to changing locations, the Ellington Farmer's Market is counting the number of people in and out to stay within capacity limits, spacing vendors out by six feet or more, and everyone is appropriately masked.

from those growing in high tunnels or indoor spaces, along with beef, pork, chicken, and lamb, plus specialty foods such as hummus and Jamaican patties. One of the biggest draws in Ellington is the seafood vendor, who brings product straight from the docks in Stonington.

Every farmers' market is unique and the best way to know which vendors will be attending and what products will be available is to sign up for their weekly newsletter or visit their social media pages.

"Everyone is doing what needs to be done to stay safe and compliant," said Trueb. "Shopping at a farmers' market offers access to unique, high quality products while supporting your local community. And, you get to speak directly with the person who raised or made the food – you know exactly what you are getting."



Deer fencing on reclaimed land at Hidden Gem Orchard (*Photo by Jim Wargo*)

FARMLAND RESTORATION PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE IMPLEMENTED

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces a change to the Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) application process. Historically, the FLRP has accepted applications year-round. However, to streamline the

2021.

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.

One farmer who has used the program to great benefit is Jim Wargo of Hidden Gem Orchard in Southbury. He has undertaken three separate projects with the assistance of the Farmland Restoration Program to clear hedgerows and fields of invasive plant species, put up deer fencing to protect fruit trees, and install drainage to stop soil erosion and promote tree growth.

“[The Farmland Restoration Program] has been great as far as getting the land back in a condition to be farmed,” said Wargo. “It’s been a big help for me as a new farmer. I like it because it allows you to take control and manage the project. There’s no red tape to go through when choosing contractors.” Thanks to the program, Hidden Gem Orchard was able to begin marketing apples in 2020 to local farm stands and retailers.

For additional information on the program and how to apply, please click [here](#). All applications must be submitted electronically to 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.



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

[US Department of Agriculture approves request for disaster designation due to Tropical Storm Isaias, 12/2, FOX61](#)

[Preservation of Newtown's Castle Hill Farm 'a great legacy', 12/3, CT Insider](#)

[Christmas Tree Shortage Comes to Connecticut, 12/4, NBC CT](#)

['Farmington Farm Truck at Hein Farm' is a mix of traditional farm, mobile produce stand, 12/5, Hartford Courant](#)



GET
50% OFF*
All items + free shipping on ALL orders.

USE CODE: HOLIDAY50 *Sale ends 12/13

shop »

The banner features a dark wood background with various holiday-themed items including wrapped gifts, pine branches, oranges, and ornaments. A red bar at the top and bottom of the text area provides a strong contrast for the white and gold text.



Seeking Root Vegetables for Schools!

Put Local on Your Tray is helping schools source local ingredients no matter where lunches are being served. Our winter campaign, "*Rooting for Winter*" is **looking for growers and wholesalers with local root vegetable in any amount to connect with school buyers.**



From beets & carrots to parsnips, turnips & rutabagas we can connect you to a school that wants to **ROOT** for Winter!

Contact shannon.raider@uconn.edu with any questions & to connect with a local school market



BUILD YOUR NETWORK GROW OUR FUTURE EXPANDS

On December 12 from 2:00-4:00 p.m., the New Connecticut Farmers Alliance (NCTFA) will be hosting its semi-annual *Build Your Network Grow Our Future* event. Going virtual this year, the zoom event will be an opportunity for farmers who have been in agriculture for 10 or less years to come together to share challenges and strategies, be in community, and connect with service providers that can support their work. Adding a new component to their gathering this year, NCTFA will be introducing a new peer-learning and peer-leadership opportunity called *Farmer Circles* that will launch in early 2021.

To find out more about Farmer Circles, visit the NCTFA website at <https://newctfarmers.com/>. To register for the upcoming *Build Your Network Grow Our Future* event visit bit.ly/BYNGOF. For more information on the

HOW SMALL FOOD COMPANIES CAN GAIN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS VIRTUAL SEMINAR

Join Food Export Northeast and the state agricultural promotion agencies in New England and Delaware for an upcoming virtual seminar where you will learn about resources available to small food, beverage, and seafood companies looking to enter the international market space.

Hear from an industry expert on how exporting can help small businesses grow and their success from using USDA resources to gain access to international markets.

The event is **free** and takes place on **January 27, 2021**. Please register for the event [here](#).

If you have any additional questions on the event, please contact Amanda King at Amanda.King@ct.gov.

BUILDING FARM PROFIT INTO THE PICTURE

Have you been struggling to make your farm operation profitable without driving yourself into the ground? Our financial planning course will help you with the delicate balancing act that all farmers must succeed in: balancing healthy profits with healthy land and a healthy farm family and personal life. Take our [Holistic Financial Planning](#) online course and learn how to make financial decisions toward farm and family values and goals.

This 6-week course is intended for farmers with at least one season of management experience and some record of their farm's income and expenses (even if this information is stored on scraps of paper in a shoebox). This course will move at an intense pace, with time to catch up at the end. The bulk of the course happens on your own time, with discussions, readings, and assignments in Teachable, our online course platform. To add to the experience, live webinars will be held during the live instruction period — from January 11 to February 15, 2021, on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. ET. These webinars allow you to meet on a weekly basis to learn from presenters and ask questions in real-time. If you miss one, they are always recorded and posted for later viewing.

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

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](#).

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

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.”



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.raudales@uconn.edu and Leanne Pundt, leanne.pundt@uconn.edu.

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.



Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on November 11, 2020

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

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[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,

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.

Job Opportunities

35-R. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is **recruiting for (1) Agricultural Worker 1**. The Agricultural Worker will perform skilled agricultural tasks in the maintenance and repair of barns and animal holding areas; cleans, sanitizes, assembles, disassembles and operates equipment; feeds, waters and cares for animals; administers medications to animals under supervision; keeps records and prepares reports; performs related duties as required. The position is part-time, 24-hours a week, though the schedule of days and hours may vary and will require work on some weekends and holidays, depending on the animal care needs and quantity of animals.

Please use this link for more information:

<https://www.jobapscloud.com/CT/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=201125&R2=8934TC&R3=001>

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

Upcoming Events

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

NEW CT FARMER ALLIANCE PRESENTS:

BUILD YOUR NETWORK GROW OUR FUTURE

DECEMBER 12, 2-4PM

IT'S BEEN A TOUGH SEASON. CHAT WITH YOUR FELLOW FARMERS. SHARE CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSSES. CONNECT WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Register Here: bit.ly/BYNGOF



14 Free Webinars for New England Fruit Growers!

In an effort to provide fruit growers the same high quality educational opportunities we've seen in the past and because we're unable to host face to face meetings due to COVID-19, the Connecticut Extension throughout the New England region joined Forces to make a positive effort to develop a winter series of free webinars for fruit growers in the Connecticut Fruit Growers. Registrations is required for each webinar and public notification cards will be available. The 14 LL meeting starts and ends the remainder of the season will begin at noon and typically last until 1:30 pm.

Partners



The 14 webinars are available on demand. Download the registration card for each webinar and public notification cards will be available. The 14 LL meeting starts and ends the remainder of the season will begin at noon and typically last until 1:30 pm.

Webinar Schedule

- December 12 - Managing Stone Fruit: Diurnal Crops
Presented: Ron Perry, PhD
- January 12 - Homebased Small Fruit on Farmstead and Other Ventures: Ok Storage 101
Presented: Julie Smith, Extension and Parkton County, USA
- January 18 - Technology and Pricing Strategies for the Orchard Production
Presented: Bill Davis, MS
- January 25 - Blushery Tree Right Decision
Presented: Mark Langston, MS
- February 2, 3 & 4 - Cornell Winter Tree Fruit Training
February 2 - Color #1
February 3 - Color #2
February 4 - Color #3
Presented: Tracy B. Hadden and Dr. Pamela
- February 16 - Invasive Insect: Pear
Presented: Wing Ching Shiu, MS, Extension and Tracy B. Hadden, MS, Extension
- March 2 - Managing a Treeless Orchard with a High Tunnel
Presented: Suzanne Birtz, Ag Coach
- March 10 - Research Update on Early Season Fruit Pests
Presented: James Ward, Director of New York's 14th District
- March 17 - How to get the most out of Soil Management
Presented: James Ward, Director of New York's 14th District
- March 23 - Tree Size Volume, Water Use, and Nutrient Management
Presented: Tracy B. Hadden, MS
- March 30 - Network for Extension and Winter Operations (NFAW) 2019 Report
Presented: Suzanne Birtz, MS

Learn More & Register: <https://uconn.edu/hubspot/central/new-england-fruit-grower-series>

WEBINAR SERIES

LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

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

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