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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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Cold weather can pose serious threats to the health of companion animals or livestock.

Here are [tips](#) from American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to keep your animals healthy and safe this winter.

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



## Making a List, Checking It Twice

### Shop Connecticut Grown Businesses for Last-Minute Holiday Gifts

If you are a last-minute shopper, Connecticut's agricultural and aquacultural businesses have something for everyone on your list – from colleagues and service providers to family and friends. The state's nearly 5,500 farms offer a diverse array of experiences, products, and food items that will suit any budget or need.

Stumped? Here are five ideas to help wrap up your holiday gift giving.

1. Connecticut Farm Wine: With more than 40 farm wineries located throughout the state, there is a red, white, or rose' to meet every palate. Many now offer online ordering, curbside pickup, or delivery so that you can grab a bottle, or case, of a favorite vintage. The state's award-winning farm wines are a great addition on your holiday table, or for an at-home New Year's Eve celebration. And, if you've really waited until the eleventh hour, a gift certificate sent electronically is a fast, convenient, and thoughtful option. Find a farm winery here: [www.CTGrown.gov/farmwinery](http://www.CTGrown.gov/farmwinery).
2. Shellfish: Connecticut's shellfish producers have rolled out holiday promotions to bring fresh oysters, clams, fish, and all the tools to enjoy them straight to your door. From shucking kits to Oyster of the Month Clubs or pre-packaged Oysters Casino ready to heat and serve, you can bring the sea home. Buy direct from one of the producers here: <https://shellfish.uconn.edu/seafood-sales/>.
3. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Membership: If someone on your list enjoys cooking and eating what's in season, a CSA membership is sure to be a hit. CSA's run the gamut from the popular fruits and vegetables to meat, dairy, and even cut flowers. Buy now and give a gift they will enjoy all season long. Find a CSA here: [www.CTGrownMap.com](http://www.CTGrownMap.com).
4. Sampler and/or Subscription Boxes: Producers have gotten creative and teamed up with neighboring farms to create curated boxes of fresh, local foods. Whether it is delivered to your door weekly or you pick up as needed, each box offers a unique way to try a variety of products including pork, beef, and lamb as well as yogurt, cheese, and milk. Find a farm offering box at [www.CTGrownMap.com](http://www.CTGrownMap.com).

5. Greenhouse/Nursery: Fresh flowers and greens are a beautiful addition as centerpieces or to remember loved ones no longer with us. Pick out a living tree or winter house plants for the green thumb on your list. Again, a gift certificate to a local nursery or greenhouse is never a wrong choice for those who enjoy gardening and outdoor home landscaping projects. Find a greenhouse or nursery here: [www.CTGrownMap.com](http://www.CTGrownMap.com).

Need more ideas? Stop by a local farm stand or farm store to see what's inside. Many are stocked with additional items for the season from local artisans that are sure to inspire and delight.

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### **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 at 10:00am to 11:30am**. Please register for the event [here](#).

If you have any additional questions on the event, please contact Amanda King at [Amanda.King@ct.gov](mailto:Amanda.King@ct.gov).



### **Producer Survey Responses Requested**

Attention Connecticut agricultural producers: Please respond to the Connecticut Grown survey being administered by Great Blue to guide our upcoming Connecticut Grown campaign by Monday, December 21, 2021. Click [here](#) to respond.

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## COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

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### 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.

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### 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](#)

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### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Christmas tree sales in Connecticut lit up this year as many, stuck at home, turn to live trees for cheer](#), 12/12, Hartford Courant

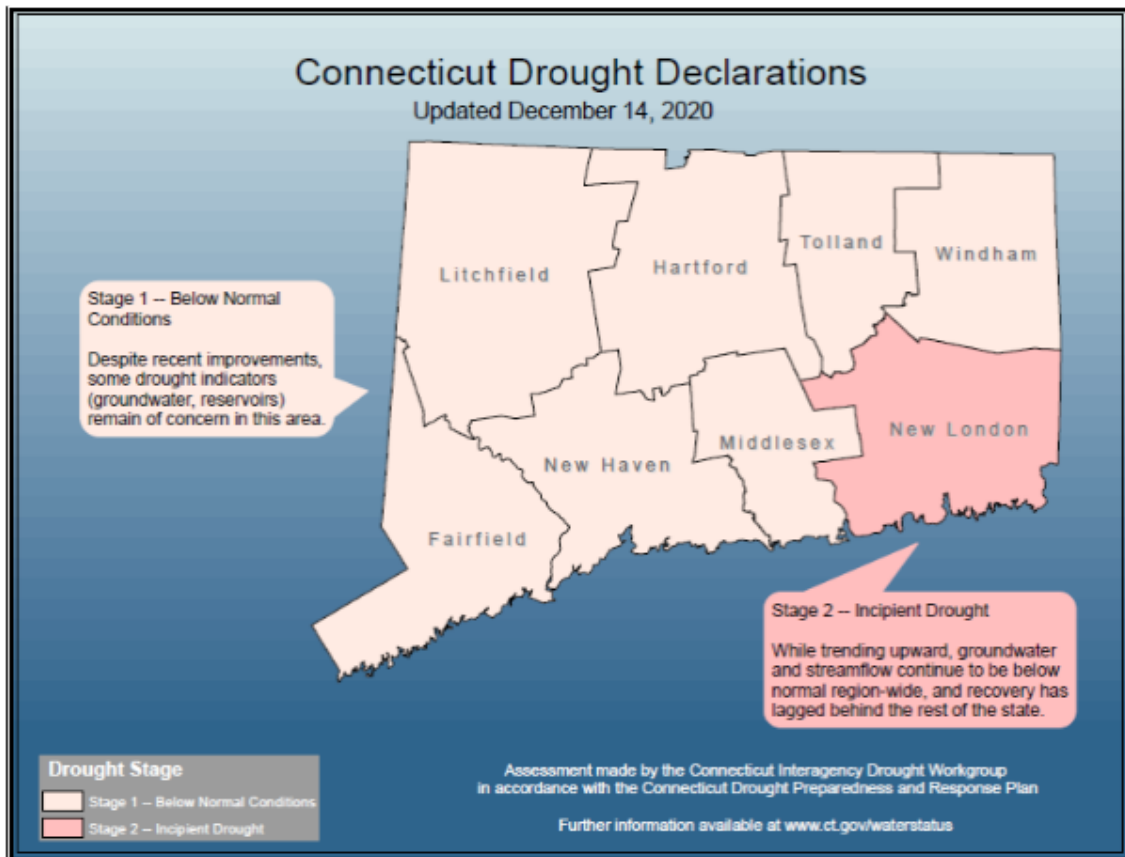
[Lebanon Tree Farm Closes for Season Due to High Demand](#), 12/13, NBC CT  
[Southington council OK's purchase of development rights](#), 12/14, My Record Journal

[Winter Farmers Market continues in Coventry, despite pandemic](#), 12/15, Journal Inquirer

[Truckload of milk coming to Norwich Saturday to help local families](#), 12/17, The Day

[Eggnog Lattes: Jolly & Beneficial](#) , 12/17, East Greenwich News

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## DROUGHT CONDITIONS IMPROVE ACROSS CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup voted on Thursday, December 10, 2020, to improve the drought stages designated in six counties. With these changes, all counties are at Stage 1, other than for New London County, which is at Stage 2. The changes are detailed below:

- New London County: Improve from Stage 3 to Stage 2
- Hartford, Tolland, Windham Counties: Improve from Stage 3 to Stage 1
- Litchfield and Middlesex Counties: Improve from Stage 2 to Stage 1
- Fairfield and New Haven Counties: Remain at Stage 1

The decision to leave only New London County at Stage 2 is based on the professional judgement of Interagency Drought Workgroup officials because southeastern Connecticut appeared to experience the most severe and most recent drought impacts. Out of an abundance of caution, residents and businesses in New London County are asked to continue voluntarily limiting unnecessary outdoor uses of water and to be diligent in detecting and quickly correcting any leaky plumbing.

Residents in all counties are asked to continue following best practices for water conservation and wise water use.

More information on the Interagency Drought Workgroup, as well as resources such as the State Drought Plan, are available here.

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## **USDA TO MEASURE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

Beginning in late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend several months gathering information about farm economics and production practices from farmers and ranchers across the United States, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2020 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 30,000 producers nationwide, between January and April in 2021. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2020 ARMS survey includes a version of the questionnaire focused on hog and pig production costs and returns. This year the survey also includes questions to help measure any impacts of COVID-19 on farms, farm and household finances, and off-farm employment. The agency will only publish data in an aggregate form, ensuring the confidentiality of all responses and that no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

The expense data gathered in ARMS will be published in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report in July 2021. That report and others are available at [nass.usda.gov/Publications](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications). More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS are available at [ers.usda.gov/arms](https://ers.usda.gov/arms). For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

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## **USDA TO CONDUCT 2020 LOCAL FOOD MARKETING SURVEY**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, beginning in January 2021. First conducted in 2015, this Census of Agriculture special study will look at local and regional food systems and provide new data on how locally grown and sold foods in the United States are marketed. The results will be available in November 2021.

The Local Food Marketing Practices Survey will ask producers about their production and local marketing of foods during the 2020 calendar year including the value of food sales by marketing channel such as farmers markets, restaurants, and roadside stands. Other questions seek information on the value of crop and livestock sales, marketing practices, expenses, federal farm program participation, and more.

Farmers and ranchers can fill out the survey conveniently online via a secure website, [www.agcounts.usda.gov](https://www.agcounts.usda.gov), or by mail. For more information about the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/go/local-food](https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/local-food).

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## **UCONN EXTENSION OFFERS BEDDING PLANTS WEBINAR SERIES**

A three-part webinar series on plant growth regulators, pests, and diseases on ornamental plants in greenhouses. Presentations are for commercial greenhouse growers (wholesale and retail) producing ornamental spring bedding plants, specialty annuals and herbaceous perennials.

One pesticide recertification credit has been approved for each one-hour webinar for all New England states. All webinars will take place from 12 to 1 PM EST.

- Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, Effective Use of Plant Growth Regulators, George Grant, GGSPRO Technical Specialist
- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, Research Update on Managing Greenhouse Insect and Mite Pests, Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State University
- Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, Diseases of Spring Annuals and Herbaceous Perennials, Margery Daughtrey, Cornell University

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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## 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](mailto:shannon.raider@uconn.edu) with any questions & to connect with a local school market



### 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 process, an annual deadline has been implemented. Applications for projects planned in the upcoming calendar year should be submitted by January 15, 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.

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

Questions regarding the FLRP can be directed to Lance Shannon: [Lance.Shannon@ct.gov](mailto:Lance.Shannon@ct.gov); or via phone at 860-713-2531 or 860-993-4088.

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### **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.

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### **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://cahnrconference.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](mailto:indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu).

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### **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](#).

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### **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](#).

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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](http://SharedWorkCt.com) and chat with our Virtual Assistant, Sherry.



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### **Ag Market Pricing**

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

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### **Advertisements**

#### **For Sale**

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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)

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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)

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3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

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5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039.

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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)



### 14 Free Webinars for New England Fruit Growers!

In an effort to provide Full Growers the same high quality educational content they've come to expect and because we are unable to host them for many months due to COVID-19, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the New England regional Full Growers are collaborating to develop a winter series of free webinars and programming for Full Growers. Registration is required for each seminar and pesticide reapplication credits will be available. The 14 webinars start at 6 pm, but the remainder of the sessions will begin at noon and typically last until 1:30 pm.

#### Partners



#### Webinar Schedule:

- November 13 - Managing Stone Fruit Diets and Diseases  
Presented by: Paul Perry, MSU
- January 22 - How to Manage Stone Fruit on Strawberry and Other Varieties, OK Storage Strategies  
Presented by: Joe DeWitt, UConn and Paul Perry, MSU
- January 28 - Tooling up for Spring Storage for Winter and Production  
Presented by: Paul Perry, MSU
- January 28 - Blueberry Tree Pruning Basics  
Presented by: Mark Langston, MSU
- February 2, 3 & 4 - Control Water This Fall and Next  
Presented by: Greg Gaudet, UConn
- February 8 - Control Water This Winter  
Presented by: Greg Gaudet, UConn
- February 10 - Innovative Water Pests  
Presented by: Greg Gaudet, UConn
- February 17 - Blueberry Tree Pruning Basics  
Presented by: Mark Langston, MSU
- February 20 - Network for Extension and Another Application (NANA) - Project Highlights 2021  
Presented by: Paul O'Connell, UConn
- March 2 - Managing Treeless  
Presented by: Kevin Magill, UConn
- March 20 - Research Updates: Early Season Insect Bites  
Presented by: James Wilson, UConn and Greg Gaudet, UConn
- March 27 - Insect Management: Orchard and Home  
Presented by: James Wilson, UConn and Greg Gaudet, UConn
- March 28 - The New Volume of the Fruit and Vegetable Handbook  
Presented by: Terry Sorenson, UConn
- March 30 - Network for Extension and Another Application (NANA) - Project Highlights 2021  
Presented by: Paul O'Connell, UConn

#### Learn More & Register:

<https://www.ct.gov/ctdoh/sectors/extension/new-england-winter-fruit-seminar-series>

**WEBINAR SERIES**

### LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

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

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



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Website

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