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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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Our offices will be closed on Friday, December 25, 2020, and Friday, January 1, 2021, in observance of the holidays. The CT Weekly Ag Report will resume the week of January 4, 2021. Happy New Year!

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

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## **Warm Wishes this Holiday Season**

On behalf of the staff at the Department of Agriculture, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who supported and enhanced agriculture this year. 2020 exposed some of the toughest situations we have faced in many years. In spite of natural disasters, a global pandemic, and working remotely, we have been able to do great work together and forge ahead.

The resilience, innovation, and selflessness displayed by producers and partners was apparent in so many projects and endeavors that took place. You shifted gears and pivoted when needed to ensure communities were fed, maintained access to a diverse supply of agricultural products, and kept consumers, employees, and your families safe. Most importantly, your dedication and commitment to agriculture has kept our industry moving forward through the pandemic.

No matter what 2021 may bring – both joys and trials – we will face them together and continue to elevate Connecticut agriculture.

May this season of hope bring a happy closure to 2020 for you and your family.

**Happy Holidays and New Year!**

*Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner of Agriculture*

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## Virtual Agricultural Marketing Conference & Trade Show

**February 24-25, 2021**

### **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR HARVEST NEW ENGLAND**

The 8th biennial Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference and Trade Show which draws hundreds of farmers and farm industry members to idea-laden workshops and hear motivational speakers from across the region, will be held virtually for the first time. Mark your calendars now for February 24 and 25, 2021, and join your regional agriculturists for two half days of workshops!

This year's conference theme is *Diversifying for Agri-Businesses: Strategies for Weathering the Storms*. Kicking off the educational workshops on Wednesday, February 24 at 8:45 a.m. is conference keynote speaker and seventh generation farmer and author, Forrest Pritchard from Berryville, Virginia. His talk, entitled *Lessons from 2020, Opportunities for 2021*, will examine what the past year taught us not only about our operations, our markets and marketing, but most importantly, ourselves, and how farmers can use these lessons to sustainably pivot into 2021 and beyond.

Five additional workshops will follow on Wednesday and Thursday. These workshops will include farmers and experts from across the region, with a focus on product and market diversification. Information about all of the workshop, including workshop descriptions and speaker biographies, can be found at [www.harvestnewengland.org](http://www.harvestnewengland.org).

Harvest New England is also developing a New England Farmers' Market Managers Seminar to be held in conjunction with the conference. More details will be announced soon.

Registration is now open, and in 2021, the conference will be offered at no cost to attendees. Harvest New England recognizes that this year has been unprecedented for producers in many ways, and feels strongly that now more than ever, it's important to provide agricultural businesses throughout the Northeast with the tools to remain viable, cultivate innovators, and foster the next generation of farmers.

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## 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. 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/Stand and CSAs](#)

[Food Safety](#)

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

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#### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Farmers Markets: Keeping the Food Supply Chain Moving During COVID-19, 12/16, WSHU](#)

[Governor and Mrs. Lamont Host a Virtual Holiday Open House at the Governor's Residence, 12/20, State of Connecticut](#)

[Live Christmas Trees Spike in Sales as More People Seek Holiday Decor,](#)



## THE CARROT PROJECT PRESENTS ONLINE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE

The Carrot Project will be hosting a four-part financial management series on January 13, January 27, February 3, and February 17 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. EST. Participants will learn what information they need, how to get it, and how to use it in order to plan quickly and evaluate their decisions in the midst of their season. They will understand common roadblocks and solutions to maintaining the effort during busy times and have an opportunity to work with their own numbers as part of a cohort group or one-on-one with a professional business advisor.

The Carrot Project's farm and food business programs are targeted to start-up and early-stage farm and food producers. Registration fees are on a sliding scale. Class size is limited. Priority will be given to businesses in RI, MA, and CT. Fishermen, aquaculturists, and small processors using local farm and sea ingredients are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

## FREE WEBINAR: NAVIGATING THE PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS PROCESS

For small business owners experiencing confusion with the PPP loan forgiveness process, SCORE is offering a free webinar on January 20, 2021, at 12:00-1:30 p.m. EST with small business consultant and SCORE Mentor Josette A. Hill. Topics will include deadlines, eligible expenses, independent contractors, application forms, covered period, calculating payroll cost, and much more.

Workshop presenter Josette A. Hill is the Founder of J.A.H. Financial Services, in Portland, CT. She is an accomplished Income Tax Professional, Coach, SCORE Mentor and highly sought-after Small Business Consultant.

Pre-registration is required, sign up [here](#).



## 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



### 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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### **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](http://nass.usda.gov/Publications). More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS are available at [ers.usda.gov/arms](http://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](http://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](http://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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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.

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32-R. Modine Power-Vented propane heater, 240K BTU. Greenhouse/high tunnel heater. Brand new, still in box. \$1,600 Call 860-576-2277.

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

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#### **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 recordation credits will be available. The 14 webinars start on 10/19 and the remainder of the series will begin at noon and typically end at 1:30 pm.

**Partners**



**Webinar Schedule**

- November 13 - Managing State Fruit Disease Control  
 Presenter: Ben Pinner, PhD
- January 22 - Florida and Other Trends on Planting and Other Varieties of Stone Fruit  
 Presenter: Julie Hill, Extension and Randolph Denney, PhD
- January 24 - Training and Planning Strategies for the Beyond Production Peach Tree  
 Presenter: Bill Davis, MSU
- January 26 - Strawberry Tree Right? (Revised)  
 Presenter: Mark Langston, MSU
- February 3, 3 & 6 - Cornell Water Tree Fruit Meeting
- February 6 - Older Apple in 2020: What to do about it?
- February 16 - Insects in Tree Posts - Sprayed Wing Drizzle, Bees & Maine Stone Fruit Bag and Spotted Leaf Miner  
 Presenter: Julie Hill, MSU
- March 2 - Managing Trunk Diseases: Apple, Magnolia and Pear  
 Presenter: Susan Blinn, Ag Canada
- March 10 - Research Update on Early Season Apple Trees  
 Presenter: James Wynn, Virginia and Steve Wynn, Missouri
- March 17 - Insecticide Resistance and Fruit Scab Management  
 Presenter: James Blinn and Mike Hamilton, United Counties
- March 23 - The New Volume War: Is it a Fruit or a Nut? (Revised)  
 Presenter: Terry Shroyer, MSU
- March 30 - Network for Environment and Weather Application (NENA) - Project Tanager 2020  
 Presenter: Lisa O'Rourke, MSU

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

**WEBINAR SERIES**

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19**  
 BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

<p><b>MARKETING INNOVATIONS WHEN COMMUNITIES EAT AT HOME</b></p> <p>October 19   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>FORMAL AND INFORMAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS</b></p> <p>February 15   1 PM EST</p>
<p><b>RETAINING &amp; ENGAGING NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS: TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>November 16th   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>ONLINE PLATFORMS: PIVOTS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE</b></p> <p>March 15   1 PM EST</p>
<p><b>EMERGENCY FOOD, CHARITY, AND THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM</b></p> <p>December 21   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>INTEGRATING NATIONAL CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS INTO FUTURE PLANNING</b></p> <p>April 18   1 PM EST</p>
<p><b>INNOVATIONS IN STATE POLICIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SECTORS</b></p> <p>January 25   1 PM EST</p>	<p><b>NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM IN TIMES OF UNCERTAIN CONSUMER BEHAVIOR</b></p> <p>May 17   1 PM EST</p>

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



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