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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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Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Jason Jakubowski of Foodshare, Governor Lamont, Michael Young of Guida's Dairy and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt distributed half gallons of milk at Rentschler Field on Wednesday.

[Securing the Supply Chain](#)

Dear Agriculture Producers, Stakeholders and Organizations, Coronavirus has highlighted the shortfalls of our supply chain starting with hand sanitizer and toilet paper shortages at the onset. There is no mistaking that food is abundant but our supply chain is fragile. Over the past week we have heard from the nation's meat producers with indications of potential shortages of beef, poultry, and pork as processing facilities face closures due to COVID-19. Dairy farmers continue to experience challenges as cooperatives implement production quotas as processing and storage facilities reach maximum capacity as market access remains disrupted.

Earlier this week, Governor Lamont asked me to lead the effort to consolidate our food supply chain here in Connecticut to better facilitate the movement of food from Connecticut's agricultural producers to retail and food bank distribution centers.

While this is a somewhat unusual role for the Commissioner of Agriculture, I

President at Wholesome Wave.

In this additional role I will be addressing four areas - food insecurity, food systems, food distribution, and food availability - while aligning with other current efforts in a collaborative effort with other agencies, partner organizations, and outside groups to make food more available for families in need across Connecticut.

I will be working closely with Dr. Deidre Gifford, Commissioner at Department of Social Services to coordinate on maximizing the use of Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP). We have already partnered to provide free, wireless SNAP terminals to farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers. Details on this program are below.

Throughout all of these uncertain times, I remain humbled at the generosity and responsiveness of our entire agricultural community. Farmers are helping fellow farmers opening up new avenues to move product when none existed. Just as importantly, you are helping within your communities.

This past Wednesday was unofficially dubbed "Dairy Donation Day" by our staff as various efforts took place throughout the state to move milk and dairy products into the hands of those in need. In fact, six of the state's eight counties received dairy donations to be distributed to their food pantries and feeding sites. I had the opportunity to see first-hand the impact of those donations.

While at Rentschler Field for the Foodshare distribution of milk donated by Guida's Dairy, I learned that nearly 75% of the those surveyed were experiencing food insecurity for the first time ever. That is a staggering statistic. To date, more than 25,000 gallons of milk and 28,000 pounds of dairy products have distributed. The amount of coordination this took is impressive and would not have happened without those who stepped up to provide leadership, organization, and a willingness to help their neighbors.

As your Agriculture Commissioner I am continuing to work on your behalf with our congressional delegation to leverage federal support to assist you through these unprecedented times and encourage you to continue submitting your suggestions, thoughts and concerns to AGR.Covid19@ct.gov for our team to address.

Be well and stay safe,
Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner of Agriculture

[COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers](#)



Download the [#CTGrown Social Media Toolkit](#)

Sample post: Looking for fresh #CTGrown food? Our farmers are ready to fill your fridge with food to grace your table while you #StayHomeStaySafe. Find a farm stand or market on www.CTGrownMap.com #StayHomeBuyCTGrown #CToysters

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](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Connecticut Dairy Farmers Face Major Crisis Amid COVID-19](#), NBC Connecticut, 4/24

[Connecticut farms provide local connection to food sources](#), The Ridgefield Press, 4/23

[Exploring America's relationship with oysters](#), CBS News, 4/25

[Harbor Harvest market opens in Huntington with produce delivered by catamaran](#), Newsday, 4/25

[Westport Farmers' Market Online Pilot Project Successful](#), Fairfield's HamletHub, 4/28

[Southington farm feeds those in-need during pandemic with community-supported agricultural program](#), WTNH News 8, 4/28

[Foodshare continues food distribution in East Hartford](#), Fox 61, 4/29

[CT Dairy Farm Makes Large Milk Donation to Food Distribution site at Rentschler Field](#), WTNH News 8, 4/29

[Dairy Donated to People in Need in Connecticut](#), NBC Connecticut, 4/29

[Cheshire's Dietrich Gardens Sees Uptick in Business as People Turn to Gardening to Cope with COVID-19](#), NBC Connecticut, 4/29

FREE SNAP TERMINALS FOR FARMERS AND FARMERS' MARKETS

The Connecticut Departments of Agriculture and Social Services has partnered to provide free, wireless Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP) Point of Sale (POS) terminals to farmers' market and direct marketing farmers. Terminals are currently available and expenses will be covered through September 2021.

Interested applicants should email a complete Letter of Intent/Request Form to Crystal Morris-Crenshaw, Crystal.Morris@ct.gov.

A deadline for submitting materials has not been identified however, the program will be closed once funds are exhausted.

Please be aware:

1. A Letter of Interest cannot be submitted unless you are already approved by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to accept SNAP. This approval is through the issuance of an FNS number provided by the USDA. If you do not yet have an FNS number, you can begin the process here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/farmer-producer>
2. Additional paperwork will be necessary after submitting the initial Letter of Intent before a SNAP terminal is provided. Phase two of this process will be conducted through the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Additional information can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/SNAP-POS-Terminal-Grant>.

Questions not addressed in the [FAQ's](#) can be directed to Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

FARM VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 21

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is excited to announce a second round of funding available through the Farm Viability Grant. Grant guidelines and applications for this spring cycle of funding can be found [online](#). Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 21.

The Farm Viability Grant provides matching funds to Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments, and/or agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that foster agricultural viability. Examples of projects include establishing new marketing outlets for farmers, enhancing

The maximum award is \$49,999. Applicants must provide a 40% match through cash or in-kind services.

New for this spring cycle of funding, applicants can request up to 25% of the grant award cover the cost of salary and fringe for staff who are directly related to the execution of the project.



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RESPOND ONLINE

There's still time to respond! USDA NASS' National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS) was recently mailed to potential producers in preparation for the 2022 Census of Agriculture. NASS needs to hear from everyone who received the form to ensure that all ag activity in the United States is counted in the upcoming agriculture census. Recipients are asked to respond securely online at agcounts.usda.gov.

Not sure the survey applies to you? Please complete and submit the first four questions. Didn't receive the 2017 Census or the NACS and believe you should have? Sign up to be counted at www.nass.usda.gov. All information reported is kept confidential: www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality. For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov/go/nacs.

WINERY ONLINE MARKETING WEBINAR

In a webinar sponsored by Farm Credit East's Winery Benchmarks program, Sandra Hess, founder of DTC Wine Workshops Consulting Agency, presents

With social distancing measures in place, many Northeast wineries report strong online sales. This is the perfect time to fine-tune your strategy with this two-hour workshop discussing established methods to improve online wine marketing.

Northeast winery owners and wine industry leaders are encouraged to sign up for this free webinar. Subsequent programs will be exclusive to Farm Credit East's Success Strategies: Winery Benchmark and wine trail study participants. Register for the webinar at www.FarmCreditEast.com/Webinars. For more information about the winery benchmarks program, please contact your local Farm Credit East branch office or Gregg McConnell at 607-435-2229 or Gregg.McConnell@FarmCreditEast.com.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

[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 - Waynesburg, 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

21-R. Hanging baskets - wholesale flowering annuals. Potted Proven Winners, geraniums, deck pots, mixed baskets and more! Dzen Brothers Farm 860-648-1355.

The State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agriculture Development and Resource Conservation is recruiting for multiple Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 (AMIR1) positions. The incumbent will be accountable for independently performing a full range of tasks for the development of agricultural businesses and production. Application Deadline: April 30, 2020. [Apply here](#).

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



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