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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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Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Willie Dellacamera of Cecarelli's Harrison Hill Farm, and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz display a sample box of what will be included in the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box.



## [Connecticut Agricultural Businesses Awarded USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Contracts](#)

Yesterday, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt met with Willie Dellacamera, owner of Cecarelli's Harrison Hill Farm, LLC, in Northford, who was recently awarded a USDA contract to serve Connecticut residents through the [Farmers to Families Food Box program](#).

As he inspected strawberry flowers for signs of damage from the recent below freezing temperatures, Dellacamera shared that the farm's history of attending farmers' markets in underserved populations played a crucial role in completing the application for the food box program.

"Former farm owner, Nelson Cecarelli, was one of the first to advocate for farmers' markets in urban locations to ensure access to fresh fruits and vegetables," he said. "We've had a long-time presence in cities such as Bridgeport and this was a natural fit to continue serving those residents at a time when farmers' markets are being cancelled or moving to virtual formats."

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz congratulated Dellacamera on the award. "Congratulations to Cecarelli's Harrison Hill Farm on their recent award. We are so appreciative of their efforts to continue the tradition of providing families in need access to fresh, local food," she said.

Dellacamera is one of three Connecticut-based businesses to receive vendor approval in the May 8 announcement by USDA authorizing 1.2 billion dollars worth of contracts for the new federal program established and funded through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. The program is a partnership with

fresh and wholesome food they need during the COVID-19 national emergency. “Our agriculture community continues to rise to the challenge to meet the needs of Connecticut families who are facing financial uncertainty and increased demand for food access during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “As farmers face market disruptions this provides a viable outlet to move product to assist those in need at a critical time.”

With 70 acres of land in production, including sweet corn, mixed vegetables, cold weather crops, and strawberries, Dellacamera will start distributing boxes during the last two weeks of the first period which ends on June 30. Boxes will be packed with a variety of in-season products including strawberries, lettuce, cold crops, beets, and peas to start.

During the first period he will distribute 2,000 boxes over two weeks to Common Grounds High School, East Haven Board of Education, Center for Food Equity and Economic Development, The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, and CT Foodbank in Wallingford. By June 1, Dellacamera will know if he has been accepted into subsequent periods that he applied for. He’s optimistic that will happen and ready to harvest, pack, and distribute 500 boxes per day, five days a week.

While the tight turnaround time for the application period was a potential deterrent for some Connecticut businesses those established relationships made it relatively easy for him to connect the dots.

Jiff Martin, UConn Extension Educator in Sustainable Food Systems, says “This is a really great story of how important building networks and trust over time is to ensure those relationships are in place when you need to respond quickly. Willie gets all the credit for having a vision, knowing where he could fill a need, and that it was a good fit for his farm operation.”

Martin provided guidance to other Connecticut producers interested in the program, organizing a virtual webinar to answer questions on the application process. She also worked with Willimantic Food Co-op in Willimantic connecting them with Stearns Farm and Sweet Acre Farm for product to be distributed to Covenant Soup Kitchen just two blocks away.

While the contract award provides peace of mind for Dellacamera as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupts other usual market avenues, he says, “It’s a win-win to collaborate with the towns and meet the needs of our neighbors. I hope this becomes a model for the future.”

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

**THIS FARM PRODUCT IS CONNECTICUT GROWN &  
PRODUCED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Farm Name) in

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City/Town), CT.



**CONNECTICUT  
GROWN**   
CTGrown.gov 

*Reference: Connecticut General Statutes §22-38 (c)*

Now In Stock & Ready to Ship

Connecticut Grown point of purchase (POP) cards for producers to identify product grown and produced in Connecticut are now available to reserve online. Cards have been redesigned to be two-sided with increased space for displaying product names and prices.

Cards are available at no cost to producers. They are in stock and ready to ship. Submit your order at [www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com](http://www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com).

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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](#).

**Farm Stand, Farm Store, CSA Guidance** available [here](#).

**Pick-Your-Own Guidance** available [here](#).

**Farmers' Market Guidance** available [here](#).

**Food Safety Guidance** available [here](#).

## **Access to Personal Protective Equipment**

The state has partnered with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association and its affiliate CONNSTEP to distribute infrared thermometers. They will be delivered to the municipalities in which the organizations are

Entities that would like to request a thermometer can fill out the forms located at [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://ct.gov/coronavirus) in the “Access to Personal Protective Equipment” section, or through the links provided below:

- **Small businesses:** Any small business in the state that has between 2 and 100 employees are eligible to receive one thermometer per physical address. Eligible businesses seeking to request thermometers should [click here](#).
- **Nonprofits:** Nonprofits located within Connecticut are eligible to receive one thermometer per physical address. To request thermometers for nonprofits, [click here](#). Social services and direct care nonprofits may request a thermometer through the process outlined [in this memo](#).

### Reopening Rules

Businesses and non-profits planning to open on May 20 (or during Phase 1) must certify with the state that they understand and will comply with these rules. The rules were developed by public health officials and the business community and include detailed information about physical distancing, hygiene, sanitizing, personal protective equipment (PPE), scheduling, and training. They were designed to protect employees and customers and begin the reopening of our state as safely and efficiently as possible.

**The mandatory self-certification process only takes a few minutes and can be found online at <https://business.ct.gov/recovery>.** Certification must be completed before a business can reopen.

After completing the certification, companies can download **Safety Signage** and a **Badge** to display at their place of business and post on their website or social media channels. Posting of these materials is completely voluntary.

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### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Griswold Farm Stand Sees Uptick in Business During Pandemic](#), NBC Connecticut, 5/11

[Preventing Spilled Milk — UConn Responds to the Dairy Dilemma](#), UConn Today, 5/11

[Groton community steps up to supports oyster farmers now struggling amid pandemic shutdowns](#), WTNH, 5/13

[Interview with Commissioner Hurlburt on Farmers, CT Food Supply, Dairy, Hunger, Food Lines and more](#), The River 105.9, 5/14

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### **NOW OPEN: Farmers' Market at the Connecticut Regional Market**

The Farmers' Market at the Connecticut Regional Market will be open this weekend under the operation of the Capital Regional Development Authority (CRDA). Farmer vendors will be present on Saturday and Sunday for wholesale orders from 5-6 am and 6-9 am for retail. The Farmers' Market will be filled with beautiful hanging baskets, flowering annuals and perennials, vegetable transplants, herbs, and more to get your garden started.

Shoppers should follow all social distancing guidelines and executive orders as issued by Governor Lamont, including wearing cloth face coverings.

For additional details, please contact CRDA directly at 860-527-0100.

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### **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](mailto: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

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](mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov).

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### **USDA POSTS RECORDING OF CFAP DIRECT PAYMENTS WEBINAR**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has posted a recording of the webinar for farmers, ranchers and other producers interested in applying for direct payments through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) held Thursday, May 14, at 1 p.m. ET.

The recording is available on the [Farmers.gov YouTube channel](#) for immediate viewing and is posted at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

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### **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 awareness of CT Grown, increasing access to farmland and farmland preservation, and improving food security in urban and rural areas.

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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### **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](#)

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

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

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