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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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Mike Gilman, co-owner of [Indian River Shellfish](#) in Madison, displays oysters that will be sold direct to consumer through dockside sales utilizing their new online ordering system.



[Grill and Garden with Connecticut Grown](#)

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, celebrations will look different than in years past, but you can still fire up the grill and enjoy local, Connecticut Grown food and beverages with your family.

Yesterday, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt stopped at Indian River Shellfish in Madison to learn more about the small, family-owned business working to grow the best oyster possible while preserving the habitat and environment in which they grow.

Indian River is one of many businesses that has adapted to meet the changing marketplace, now offering online ordering and direct to consumer sales with dockside pickup.

"We harvest oysters that day or the afternoon before so they are as fresh as can possibly be," said co-owner Mark Gilman. "It's been wonderful and the community has embraced it."

He shared that selling direct has been a rewarding experience to see and hear firsthand how customers are preparing and enjoying their oysters, clams, and lobsters. He said, "You don't get that connection when selling wholesale."

Gilman explained that there are many different ways to shuck an oyster and demonstrated how to do so safely.

In addition to shellfish, consumers can also turn to local farms for all of their meat, produce, dairy, and even farm wine and beer. Whether you plan to grill up burgers, smoke some ribs, dish out ice cream, or enjoy an adult beverage, you can support our local farmers.

abiding by the guidance in place, including social distancing and face coverings. Be sure to check with your destination in advance to confirm hours and rules.

It also looks like a great time to take advantage of the long weekend and forecast of sunny, warm weather to visit a greenhouse or nursery to purchase plants for your vegetable garden or perennials and annuals for flower beds and window boxes.

To buy Connecticut Grown food to put on your grill this weekend, visit CTGrownMap.com or [CT Seagrant's Seafood Sales](#) to find a producer near you. Place your orders now to ensure availability!

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

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

(Farm Name) in

(City/Town), CT.



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 order 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.

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,

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 located, and then the municipalities will contact the recipient entities to inform them of a time and location they can pick up their requested equipment. Entities that would like to request a thermometer can fill out the forms located at 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](#).

PPP Loan Forgiveness Webinar

For those agricultural producers who received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding, Farm Credit East is offering an informational webinar to prepare producers to apply for loan forgiveness. This free session will be offered Friday, May 22, at 9 a.m. EDT.

Farm Credit East will also be holding a Q&A session on Wednesday, May 27, at 9 a.m. EDT, for those producers who have specific questions and to review any additional guidance available at that time.

To register for either free, one-hour webinar or to participate in the Q&A session, visit FarmCreditEast.com/Webinars. For ongoing updates on tax provisions including updates on tax law changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic along with other helpful state and federal resources, visit our COVID-19 Resource Hub at FarmCreditEast.com/COVID19.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Hamden farm known for goat yoga transitioning to egg delivery amid pandemic shutdowns](#), WTNH News 8, 5/19

[UCONN 4-H delivers dairy products to needy families](#), Middletown Press, 5/20

[From The Farm: Nick Melillo On Connecticut's Unique Soil](#), Cigar Aficionado



NOW OPEN: Farmers' Market at the Connecticut Regional Market

The Farmers' Market at the Connecticut Regional Market is 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.

FARMERS' MARKET GRANTS AVAILABLE

Farm Credit East recently announced that it will be providing small grants to Northeast farmers' markets to support their promotion and development efforts. Interested farmers' markets must apply by June 8.

efforts, and/or host programs that support disadvantaged communities or improve access to fresh, local food.

Any farmers' market located within Farm Credit East's territory is eligible to apply. Grants will be offered up to \$1,000. Special consideration will be given to first-time applicants and markets supporting under-served communities with limited access to fresh, local food. Grant applications must be received by Monday, June 8 and applicants will be notified by June 15. Visit FarmCreditEast.com/FarmersMarket to learn more or to apply.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WEBINAR SERIES

As the country begins to reopen, Farm Credit East will be hosting an economic outlook webinar series to help Northeast producers plan their businesses for the remainder of the year. The first session, "COVID-19 Impact and Economic Outlook for the Northeast," will be hosted on Wednesday, May 27, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. EDT. This webinar is free to attend and will be followed by subsequent webinars that will provide a deeper dive into the economic outlooks for specific sectors of Northeast agriculture.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns have significantly impacted the U.S. economy and introduced a great deal of uncertainty. During the webinar on May 27, Dr. Ed Seifried, professor emeritus of economics and business at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., will give his take on the current state of the economy and what might be in store as the Northeast moves toward a gradual reopening.

"USDA COVID-19 Relief Programs and Impacts to the U.S. Food System" will be the second webinar in the series, presented by Farm Credit East and American Farm Bureau Federation Chief Economist, John Newton. This webinar will be held on Thursday, June 4, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. EDT, and is co-sponsored by the state farm bureaus in all seven states served by Farm Credit East.

Register for any of these free webinars by visiting FarmCreditEast.com/Webinars, where you can keep up-to-date on upcoming webinars as well as find recordings of past webinars.

DEADLINE EXTENDED: FARM VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 25

Due to the extended email disruption on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has elected to extend the Farm Viability Grant deadline to midnight on Monday, May 25, 2020. Additional information can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/Grants.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

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

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Waynesburg, PA](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

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

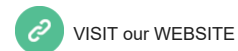
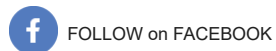
2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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.

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