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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

In This Issue

May 29, 2020; Vol. C, No. 18

[Farm Transition Grant Awards](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Farmers Lend Assistance](#)

[Order CT Grown Price Cards](#)

[Connecticut Grown Map](#)

[Sign-Up for Agricultural Management Assistance Program](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)



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Connecticut Department of Agriculture Awards Nearly \$548,000 to Farm Transition Grant Applicants

HARTFORD, CT – Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt announces that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has awarded 16 grants totaling \$547,784.41 to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives seeking to expand, diversify, and improve their existing operation.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how vulnerable our food system is. This year’s Farm Transition Grant awards were used to expand and diversify our local food systems, generate on-farm energy production, and the traditional

manage the risk in their expansion plans. Ultimately, these investments strengthen the agricultural economy and provide improved availability of Connecticut Grown products.”

Connecticut is home to more than 5,500 farms contributing more than \$4 billion to the state’s economy.

Farm Transition Grant recipients include:

A&Z Apiaries, Hampton

Equipment for honey extraction upgrades and hive expansion

DeSantis Farm, Middlebury

Building for expansion of pig production

Echo Farm, Woodstock

Multi-purpose barn for flower sales and vegetable washing, packing, and sales

Forest City Farms, Middletown

Free-standing refrigerated unit for improved food storage and safety

Geremia Greenhouse, Wallingford

Greenhouse for orchid production expansion

Howling Flats Farm, Canaan

Expansion of hog pasture and fencing for expanded hog production

Hytone Farm, LLC, Coventry

Anaerobic digester design and engineering

Muddy Feet Flower Farm, Ashford

Barn for expansion and diversification of flower production and products

Penfield Farm, Portland

Barn to expand emu production

Pleasant View Farms, Somers

Equipment for high-efficiency grain drying

Scantic Valley Farm, Somers

Infrastructure improvements and cooler for expanded flower sales and storage

Star Light Gardens, Durham

Various types of high tunnels for season extension and soil protection

Steadfast Farms, Bethlehem

Building to expand and diversify game birds for restaurant farm to table

Sub Edge Farm, Farmington

Equipment for salad mix production for commercial scale-up

Trifecta Ecosystems, New Britain

Equipment to increase indoor, year-round production of herbs and greens for urban accessibility

Upper Pond Farm, Lyme

Building for community food center for farm sales, CSA pick up, processing, and storage

The Farm Transition Grant Program is a competitive matching grant program with a maximum award of up to \$49,999 in matching funds. Funding is provided through Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation. Grant funds are

project have been received and approved, and site inspection by agency staff is conducted. Additional information about the program can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/Grants.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers



Farmers Lend a Helping Hand

Walnut Hill Community Church is one of many food pantries throughout the state seeing an increased demand from people experiencing food insecurity due to COVID-19. Storage space, especially refrigerated, during distribution has been an issue, but that was not the case yesterday.

CT Department of Agriculture staff facilitated a connection that brought the generous donation by Norm Bloom of a Copps Island Oysters refrigerated truck and driver to be onsite during Wednesday's distribution, which provided food to 530 families.

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>

[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](#).

FREE Hand Sanitizer Distribution

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, through a donation by Exxon Mobile to FEMA, has obtained a bulk container of liquid (not gelled) hand sanitizer for use by farmers at no cost.

No less than 1 gallon, not to exceed 5 gallons, can be taken in total by each business or organization.

You must bring your own containers. Once signed up a reminder email which shall include sanitizer labeling information will be provided.

Masks AND gloves are required at pick up. Questions should be texted to Jaime Smith at 860-573-1944 or emailed to Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

Date: Thursday, 6/11/2020 from 8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Location: [Hartford Regional Market](#)

[101 Reserve Rd, Hartford, CT 06114](#)

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4BA5AC2CA0F58-hand1>

AGRICULTURAL FAIR UPDATES

Visit CTAgFairs.org for an up-to-date list of active and cancelled fairs for 2020.

This listing is being regularly modified.

Utilize the [interactive map](#) to find an active fair near you.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Connecticut Dairy Farms Look to Coronavirus Food Assistance Program to Stem Losses After Disastrous Spring](#), CT Examiner, 5/23

[Farmers markets deal with COVID-19 modifications](#), The Day, 5/24

[The Many Benefits Of Shopping Local Farmers' Markets](#), Patch.com, 5/25

[Dairy Farmers' Surplus Milk Going to Those Who Need It Most Amid COVID-19 Pandemic](#), NBC Connecticut, 5/25

[Denison Farmers Market kicks off June 7](#), Patch.com, 5/27

[Massaro Community Farm "ramps" up for a busy season](#), Patch.com, 5/28



Sign-Up for Agricultural Management Assistance Program

Attention Connecticut agricultural producers: Would you like to do more to improve conservation on your farming operation? The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering eligible producers an opportunity to sign-up for FY2020 program funding through the Agricultural Management Assistance Program. AMA is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers to implement seasonal high tunnels, and to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control.

Eligible crop production includes – but is not limited to – field-grown ornamentals, fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards. Each eligible conservation practice has a Practice Payment Rate which is a fixed amount based on regional costs of a typical installation of that practice.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, to be eligible for FY2020 funding, they must be received by your local NRCS office by June 26, 2020.

To find out more, fill out eligibility forms, or obtain an application, contact your local USDA Service Center. Find one near you [here](#).

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.

The grant funding is intended to assist these markets in their efforts to support participating farmers, complete market enhancements, conduct marketing 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.

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

"We know Connecticut producers are facing a tough time now, and we are making every effort to provide much needed support as quickly as possible," said Clark J. Chapin, state executive director for FSA in Connecticut. "FSA is available over the phone and virtually to walk you through the application process, whether it's the first time you've worked with FSA, or if you know us quite well."

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

"We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply," Chapin said.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

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.

"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.

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](#)

Summary

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

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

Advertisements**For Sale**

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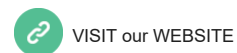
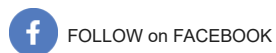
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5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039

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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