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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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Sunset Farms in Naugatuck sells their organic vegetables at the farmers' market on the Green in Naugatuck.

Courtesy Republican American

Connecticut Farmers' Markets Open and Ready to Serve

From Andover to Windsor, Connecticut has nearly 100 farmers' markets and one can be found in almost any town, seven days a week. The popularity of the markets mirrors the benefits - fresh, local products, friendly farmers that are the face behind the food you're buying, and a community gathering place for everyone to enjoy.

"While COVID-19 has altered the way farmers' markets are operating in order to adhere to social distancing measures, vendors are reporting strong sales as consumers seek to support local farmers," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner. "Connecticut farmers are committed to feeding local families and an abundant variety of products from flowers,

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture continues to reinforce that farmers' markets can operate in a safe capacity throughout the pandemic and has issued guidance on how to do so. Markets should work with their local health department to ensure everyone's needs are being met

Nearly all farmers' markets in Connecticut are certified CT Grown and affiliated with the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). FMNP serves participants of Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and seniors who are over the age of 60 and meet income eligibility guidelines with checks to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey. To find a farmers' market that accepts FMNP checks, please visit the FMNP page: [Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs](#)

Farmers who want to participate in farmers' markets should visit the [Participating in Connecticut Farmers' Market](#) page. Information on how to establish a market in Connecticut should review our [Establishing a Farmers' Market in Connecticut](#).

To find a farmers' market near you, click [here](#).

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



FARM DOG OF THE YEAR

Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the [2021 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest](#), with support from Purina. This is the third year of the contest, which celebrates farm dogs that work alongside farmers and ranchers to produce nutritious food for families and their pets across America.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year's worth of Purina dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in January. Up to four regional runners-up* will win \$1,000 each in prize money.

Eligibility guidelines and submission requirements are available at <https://fb.org/2021farmdog>. Farm Dog of the Year nominations, which include written responses to questions, still photos and a video clip (optional), must be received by Aug. 20, 2020, for consideration.

FARMER STRESS SUPPORT RESOURCES

Dealing with stress in agriculture? Check out the many free resources available to help you or a friend in need. <http://ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu/agstress.php>

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 visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/doag-covid>

List your farm, farmers' market or farm stand on CTGrownMap.com by clicking [here](#).

UPDATED: COVID-19 Farmers' Market Guidance available [here](#).

UPDATED: COVID-19 Pick-Your-Own Guidance available [here](#).

UPDATED: COVID-19 Farm Store & Store Guidance available [here](#).

COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events available [here](#).

Has your agribusiness or farm adopted new ways of doing business to continue serving Connecticut residents through COVID-19? We want to highlight those who have modified their operations to protect their workforce and consumers, give back to their community, and continue pushing forward in a COVID-19 world.

Send photos/stories to rebecca.eddy@ct.gov. We look forward to sharing your story.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Raising a glass to Connecticut wineries reopening](#), Fox61, 7/1

[North Stonington winery adjusting to post-pandemic business model](#), WTNH, 7/3

[CitySeed Reemerges](#), New Haven Independent, 7/6

[CT scientists doing work with 'duct tape and paper clips'](#), Register Citizen, 7/6

[Naugatuck Farmers Market Returns For New Season July 8](#), ThePatch.com, 7/6

[Strawberry Fields Forever: Your Guide to Berry Picking in CT, Summer 2020](#), Hamlet Hub, 7/7

Farmer to Food Pantry Cooler Grant Program



The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board, in collaboration with New England Dairy, is launching the Farmer to Food Pantry Cooler Grant Program.

This pilot program provides Connecticut dairy farmers with the opportunity to apply for a one-time grant to provide a Connecticut food pantry with a cooler for keeping milk and dairy foods cold.



Learn more and submit your application at <https://tinyurl.com/farmertofoodpantry-application>

This project was funded by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.



USDA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL SPECIALTY CROPS ELIGIBLE FOR CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released an initial list of additional commodities that have been added to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and announced other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data. Producers will be able to submit applications that include the new commodities on Monday, July 13, 2020. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for CFAP through Aug. 28, 2020. USDA expects additional eligible commodities to be announced in the coming weeks. Changes to CFAP include:

- Adding the following commodities: alfalfa sprouts, anise, arugula, basil, bean sprouts, beets, blackberries, Brussels sprouts, celeriac (celery root), chives, cilantro, coconuts, collard greens, dandelion greens, greens (others not listed separately), guava, kale greens, lettuce – including

(green), pineapple, pistachios, radicchio, rosemary, sage, savory, sorrel, fresh sugarcane, Swiss chard, thyme and turnip top greens.

- Expanding for seven currently eligible commodities – apples, blueberries, garlic, potatoes, raspberries, tangerines and taro – CARES Act funding for sales losses because USDA found these commodities had a 5 percent or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for marketing adjustments.
- Determining that peaches and rhubarb no longer qualify for payment under the CARES Act sales loss category.
- Correcting payment rates for apples, artichokes, asparagus, blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, garlic, kiwifruit, mushrooms, papaya, peaches, potatoes, raspberries, rhubarb, tangerines and taro.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) and [Final Rule Correction](#) and at www.farmers.gov/cfap.

USDA TO FORECAST FRUIT PRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct a forecast survey for 2020 tree fruit (apples and peaches) and cranberry production during August, 2020. The survey will collect information about acreage and projected production from more than 1,000 growers in the Northeastern region of the United States.

In these surveys, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about apples, peaches and cranberries, depending on the state and version of the questionnaire. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online. NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the August 12th, 2020 Crop Production report. All previous publications are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 800-498-1518.



Resource Conservation
& Development

statewide

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[TOURDES FARMS.ORG](https://www.tourdesfarms.org) 

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

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

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

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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

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

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