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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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Did You Know? National Ice Cream Month is celebrated each year in July and National Ice Cream Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Celebrate with a scoop or two of your favorite flavor on July 19.



Students Idea Grant Will Showcase Innovative Agriculture in Connecticut

A group of students from the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) received an IDEA grant from the UConn Office of Undergraduate Research. Their project will help bridge the communication gap between agriculture and consumers. Approximately two percent of the population is involved in agriculture, but we all need to eat every day. There is a growing disconnect between agriculture and consumers because they are not involved in agriculture. Misinformation about food and agriculture is also increasing. Connecting consumers to farms expands their access to relevant information.

Zachary Duda, Jonathan Russo, and Alyson Schneider are producing a documentary film, *Completely Connecticut Agriculture: Agricultural Innovation*. Their goal is to show consumers examples of innovative agriculture in our state. All three students are Agriculture and Natural Resources majors in CAHNR, graduating in 2021. Jon has a double major in Sustainable Plant and Soil Systems. Stacey Stearns of UConn Extension is serving as their mentor, and other faculty and staff from UConn Extension are serving in advisory roles on the project.

Filming will take place later this summer and into the fall. Social distancing guidelines for COVID-19 revised some plans. The students selected fifteen farms to include in their documentary – and each of the farms showcases one or more of the three theme areas:

- Sustainable Food Supply,
- Consumer Disconnect, and
- Uncommon Commodities.

Film screening will be in the spring of 2021.



CONNECTICUT'S FARM WINERIES ARE OPEN FOR GUESTS

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt toured three farm wineries on Friday, July 17. Stops included Paradise Hills Vineyard & Winery and Gouveia Vineyards, both in Wallingford, and Rosabianca Vineyards in Northford.

While at each they learned more about the history and production of each family-owned business, the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and plans for the future as they continue to adapt through innovation and resilience.

Farm wineries are a key driver of tourism in the state and with ample outdoor space offer guests the opportunity to take in scenic vistas and award-winning wines while practicing proper social distancing and safety guidelines.

To find a farm winery near you, visit www.PassportToCTFarmWine.com.

RURAL RESILIENCE: FARM STRESS TRAINING



What is farm stress and how can you help? Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress and suicide, effectively communicate with people under stress, reduce stigma related to mental health concerns, and connect farmers and ranchers with resources.

Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America's farmers and ranchers, USDA's Cooperative Extension System,

Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union have worked together to bring this course online for the public.

Click [here](#) to register for the free course.

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](#).

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

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

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

[Small Business Spotlight: Modern Milkman connecting communities to farms](#), WTNH, 7/15

[Middletown Farmers Market aims to combat food insecurity during pandemic](#), Middletown Press, 7/15

[Bicyclists urged to ride for a cause to CT farms, or just take the car](#), CT Post, 7/15

[Water company buys farmland to protect Shenipsit Reservoir](#), Journal Inquirer, 7/16

[Local dairy farmers say uncertainty looms over Covid-19 economy](#), The Day, 7/17

[Local dairy farmers say assistance program a boon](#), Norwich Bulletin, 7/17

EVERSOURCE

Proud sponsor of **energize CT**
CONNECTICUT

We have partnered with our distribution and manufacturing partners to provide a no-cost instructor-led webinar to increase your knowledge on LED Grow Lights. We hope you will join us to learn more.

“Horticultural Lighting Training”

Presented by:
Energy Resource Solutions, Inc.
& Design Lighting Consortium

Thursday, July 23
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Training Overview:

There are ample energy savings opportunities in the agricultural industry that could help save you money and energy. From DLC qualified products to real-world applications, we will cover all things related to LED grow lights and how we can support your projects.

Sincerely,

Eversource Energy Efficiency

HONEY & MAPLE SYRUP PROPOSED REGULATION

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4-168(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the Connecticut Department of Agriculture hereby gives notice that it proposes to adopt a regulation concerning the production and sale of Honey and Maple Syrup. To review the proposed regulation, click [here](#). All interested parties who wish to submit comments, data, views, or arguments may do so in writing through the closing date of August 30, 2020. Click [here](#) for details on how to submit a comment.

HOW THREATENED IS NEW ENGLAND'S FARMLAND - AND WHAT ARE THE STATES DOING TO PROTECT IT?

A new study from American Farmland Trust – “Farms Under Threat: The State of the States” – provides groundbreaking new data that answer these questions. Join them for an upcoming webinar to dig into the findings for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Along with hearing from special guests from state agriculture departments, they'll be looking at the spatial and policy scorecard findings and talking

expand farmland retention and protection efforts. The webinars are free and open to anyone with an interest in learning more.

Focus on Connecticut on Monday, July 20 at 1 p.m.

To register, visit this link and click the state(s).

<https://farmland.org/farms-under-threat-state-based-webinars/>

For more information on the new report, please see [Farms Under Threat: The State of the States](#).



LIVE VIRTUAL DAIRY FARM TOUR FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

Connecticut Milk Promotion Board, in collaboration with New England Dairy, invites you to a live virtual farm tour at [Freund's Farm in East Canaan, Connecticut](#) on Wednesday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. for a live video tour and chat with dairy farmer [Amanda Freund](#).

Using video chat technology, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at life on a dairy farm. Learn firsthand how dairy farmers care for their cows, the land and environment, and their communities by producing a safe and nutritious product. Participants will have the opportunity to send questions to be answered live by the dairy farmer and dairy experts during the tour.

For details, or to register, click [here](#).

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION OWNER PASSES

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture extends sincere condolences to the family of Kathleen Jane (Noelle Todeshini) Scirpo who passed away suddenly in her home on Sunday, July 12. Kathy owned and operated the Middlesex Livestock auction for over 60 years. She was co-founder of the Connecticut Draft Horse Association and beef superintendent for the Durham Fair

Over the years she has faithfully reported the Middlesex Livestock Auction prices each week to appear in the Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report. She will be missed.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT \(not updated\)](#)

[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 - Eighty Four, 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

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