

[View this email in your browser](#)



CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

In This Issue

August 14, 2020; Vol. C, No. 29

[CT Farm-to-Chef Week](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Mosquito-Borne Diseases](#)

[Drought Advisory](#)

[CFAP Additions and Extension](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Visit Connecticut's orchards to pick-your-own peaches and apples and enjoy an authentic farm experience while making memories with your family. Connecticut Grown apples and peaches taste great on their own, in a pie, or mixed in a salad. Find an orchard near you [here](#).



Support Connecticut's Farmers & Restaurants During Farm-to-Chef Week

Visit a Participating Location August 16-22

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces that 2020 Farm-to-Chef Week will run from Sunday, August 16 through Saturday, August 22. This special week encourages culinary professionals to use Connecticut Grown ingredients in new ways on their menus while educating residents and visitors about the diversity of farm products grown and raised in Connecticut.

"Connecticut's farmers have established strong relationships with dining venues to provide high quality, fresh foods to chefs and bakers throughout the state," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. "The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be challenging for both producers and restaurants as they face unprecedented circumstances and highlighted weaknesses in our food system. Farm-to-Chef Week is an opportunity for residents to show their support for these local businesses and help them overcome these challenges."

Diners are encouraged to visit www.CTFarmtoChef.com to find a listing of participating dining venues located throughout the state. Click on a location to view their menu and see which farms they source ingredients from. Reservations are encouraged, especially if you plan to dine in, or place an order for take out to enjoy at home.

In the Northeast corner of the state, ANYA in Thompson, joins the lineup of dining venues for the first time this year. Earlier this summer they started focusing on sourcing local food to incorporate in their regular menu and will be working with nearly one dozen local farms to create their Connecticut Grown menu.

Included on the menu will be tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, swiss chard, sweet corn, and cherry tomatoes from Betsy's Stand in Sterling, run by Betsy Molodich and her daughter, Katie Sweet. "It's really gratifying to see our farm listed on [ANYA's] menu along with neighboring farms," says Sweet.

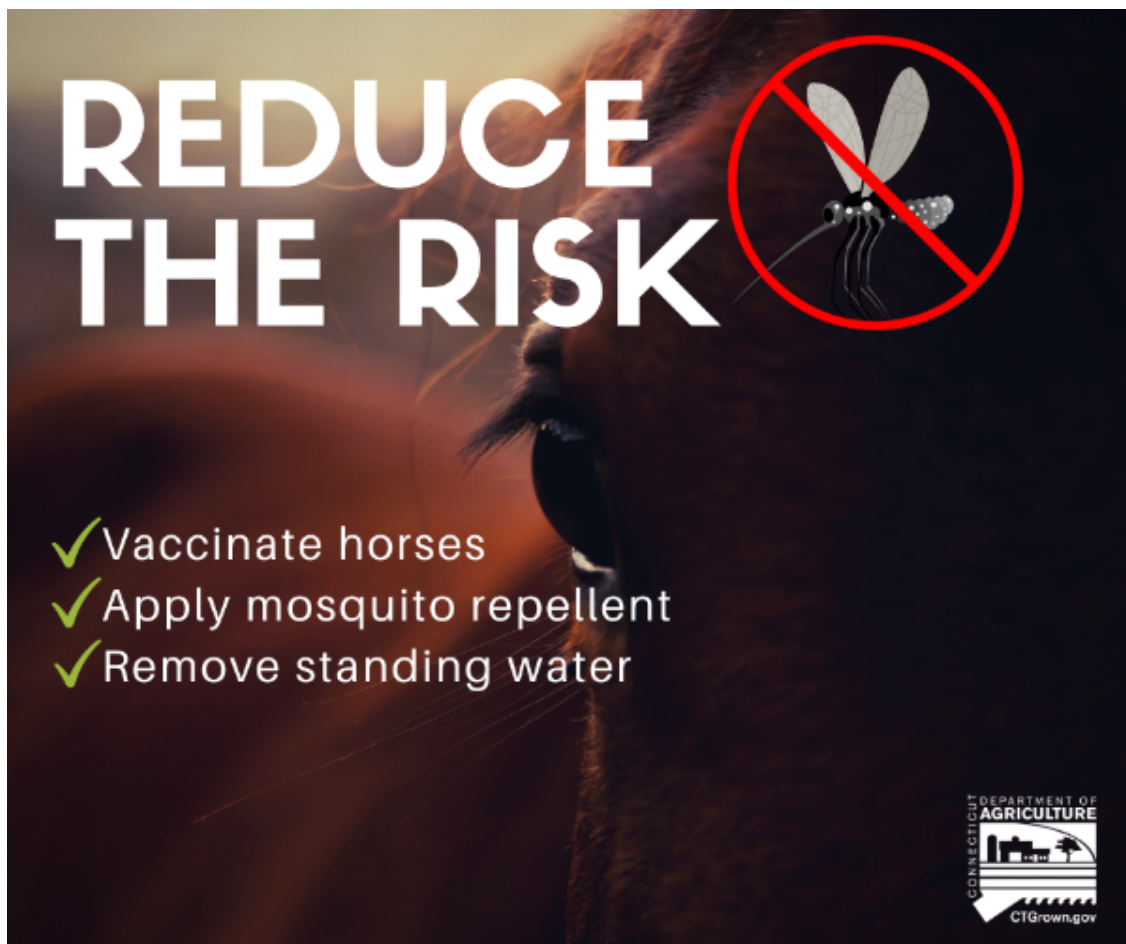
In lieu of the traditional in person kick-off with cooking demonstrations and tastings, a virtual kick-off will take place on Saturday, August 15 at 12:00 p.m. Chef Todd Wollenburg of Marketplace Restaurant and Bar in Avon will provide a restaurant tour and cooking demo via Facebook Live. Be sure to “Like” our [Facebook page](#) for updates on this event.

“Farm-to-Chef Week is important to show what local products are available,” said Executive Chef Guillaume Traversaz of Union League Café in downtown New Haven. “We are so appreciative of the farms we work with and the amazing job they do. Now is the time to support your local farmers and local restaurants during Farm-to-Chef Week.”

Funding for Farm-to-Chef Week is contributed through sponsorships and participating venues. Highland Park Market and Skyline Studios, LLC, are returning sponsors of this initiative in 2020.

DoAg launched the Farm-to-Chef Program in 2006 to help connect foodservice professionals with Connecticut Grown farm products. There is no cost to either farmers or chefs to join. Farm-to-Chef Week was started by DoAg in 2010 as part of its year-round Farm-to-Chef Program.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers



**REDUCE
THE RISK**

- ✓ Vaccinate horses
- ✓ Apply mosquito repellent
- ✓ Remove standing water

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CTGrown.gov

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is reminding the state's horse community to watch out for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). The mosquito-borne diseases affect horses, birds, and humans. Horses are the domestic animals most susceptible to infection with EEE and WNV viruses.

To date, the State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program has identified one town with EEE activity (Stonington) and eight towns with WNV activity (Bridgeport, Darien, Greenwich, Guilford, Newington, Norwalk, Stamford, Wethersfield).

Horse owners should review vaccination records with their veterinarians to ensure that EEE and WNV vaccinations are current. More frequent boosters are recommended in endemic areas. Animal owners should also take precautions to reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property, including eliminating standing water, brush piles, and removing equipment where water can collect. Water troughs should be emptied and cleaned at least once per week. Horses should be kept indoors at night when possible with insect repellent applied to reduce the risk of exposure.

If your horse is showing neurologic signs, i.e. hyperexcitability, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, head tilt, head pressing, incoordination, drowsiness, recumbency, colic, or death, it's important to call a veterinarian to determine a diagnosis and treatment. Subsidized diagnostic testing and necropsy services for neurologic horses and birds are available at the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL) at the University of Connecticut in Storrs for animals residing in Connecticut.

Neurologic diseases of domestic animals, such as EEE, WNV and Rabies, are reportable to the State Veterinarian at 860-713-2505. For more information, on animals and animal health, visit the state [website](#).

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>

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

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

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

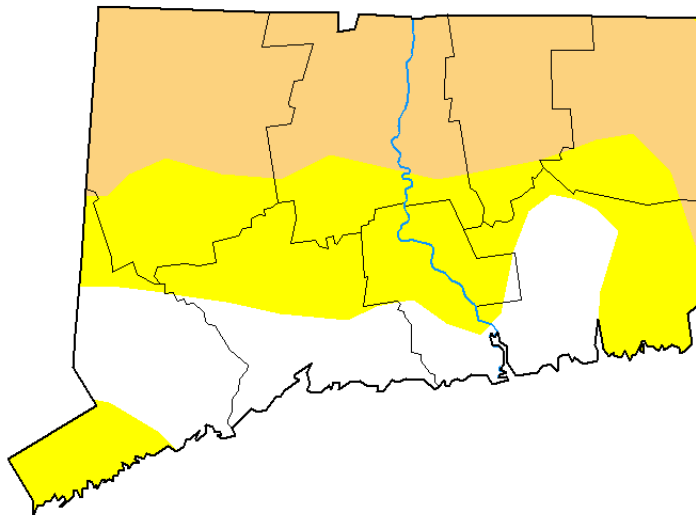
COVID-19 Farm Store & Store Guidance available [here](#).

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

[A Connecticut Town That Is More Than Its Magical Pizza](#), Forbes, 8/8
[EEE detected for first time this year in Connecticut](#), WFSB, 8/11

U.S. Drought Monitor Connecticut

August 4, 2020
(Released Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

CONNECTICUT DROUGHT ADVISORY

Status as of August 6, 2020: The entire state is classified as STAGE 1 -- BELOW NORMAL CONDITIONS. Connecticut is experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The Interagency Drought Work Group is meeting as needed to review conditions and make preparations in accordance with the [Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan](#). Some public water utilities have reached drought thresholds and have issued voluntary or mandatory conservation alerts. Plan to conserve water and follow state or local conservation guidelines if issued.

USDA ANNOUNCES MORE ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES FOR CFAP

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that additional commodities are covered by the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in response to public comments and data. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline to apply for the program to September 11, and producers with approved applications will receive their final payment. After reviewing over 1,700 responses, even more farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity for assistance to help keep operations afloat

commodities through June 22, 2020. The following additional commodities are now eligible for CFAP:

- Specialty Crops - aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley, persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.
- Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.
- Aquaculture - catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.
- Nursery Crops and Flowers - nursery crops and cut flowers.

Other changes to CFAP include:

- Seven commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for payments on marketing adjustments.
- Correcting payment rates for onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts, and watermelons.

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

WOMAN TO WOMAN: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

People who identify as women and own and/or manage agricultural land in Connecticut or Rhode Island: PLEASE JOIN AFT on August 19th and 26th, 5-7 p.m. Eastern for "Woman to Woman: Creating an action plan for climate change resilience on your land, in your community, and in state policy." You'll hear from agricultural resource providers and women farmers, including:

- Dina Brewster, Executive Director of Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association
- Dr. Emily Cole, AFT New England Climate and Agriculture Program Manager
- Chelsea Gazillo, AFT Working Lands Alliance Director
- Local and state partners from NRCS

CFAP PRODUCER WEBINAR AUGUST 19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will host a webinar on August 19 at 3 p.m. ET to discuss recently added commodities eligible for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Join the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) for detailed examples on specialty crops, nursery crops, cut flowers, eligible aquaculture and more. USDA has extended the deadline and is accepting applications for CFAP through September 11.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/31Rr0I3>.

USDA TO MEASURE SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION

During the first two weeks of September, growers of small grains around the country will receive survey forms from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The agency is taking a comprehensive look into the 2020 production and supply of small grains, which include wheat, oats, barley, and rye.

NASS will contact survey participants to gather information on their 2020 production and the quantities of whole grains and oilseeds stored on farm. As an alternative to mailing the survey back, and to help save both time and money, growers will have the option to securely respond to the survey online. Farmers who have not responded by August 30, 2020 may receive a phone call from a NASS representative who will help them fill out the survey form.

NASS will analyze the survey information and publish the results in a series of USDA reports, including the Small Grains Summary and quarterly Grain Stocks reports, both to be released September 30, 2020. Survey data also contribute to NASS's monthly and annual Crop Production reports, and the USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board's monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE).

All NASS reports are available online at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/>. For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

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

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

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.

24-R. Seven foot International 3-point hitch cultivator. \$300. 860-779-2107.

Wanted

22-R. Orchard worker/manager needed. Experience worker preferred with equipment and orchard or farm experience. the right person could have a long-term opportunity. Please call 203-213-8833.

HELP WANTED: USDA Farm Service Agency is looking for loss adjuster contractors to work in CT. Knowledge of field and specialty crops preferred, but will train individuals with ag experience. For more info, click [here](#) or email clark.chapin@usda.gov. Application deadline is August 23, 2020.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPOST WEBINAR SERIES

August 26 | 4-6p
Different Scales of Composting: From Municipalities to Farms

September 9 | 4-6p
Municipal Composting: Case Studies & Updates

September 23 | 4-6p
Advanced Composting: Building Quality with Recipes, Testing, Nutrient Management, & Environmental Planning

October 7 | 4-6p
Composting: Feedstocks: Equipment, Siting, Infrastructure, & Management

October 28 | 4-6p
Farm Composting: Case Studies & Updates

Register Online:
<https://bit.ly/compost-webinar>

Generous Sponsors: Sustainable CT, Farm Credit Northeast Ag@nancement, Recycle CT, UConn Master Composter Program, American Farmland Trust, CT Recyclers Coalition, Fresh & Wholes Composting, Council on Soil and Water Conservation, and CCAFA.

Planning Partners: CT MOFA, CT ROAD, CT DEEP, KCSU, USDA NRCS, UConn Master Composter Program, CT DOAG, American Farmland Trust, CT River COG, NW Conservation District, Center for Ecotechnology, and Composting Association of VT

WOMEN FOR THE LAND LEARNING CIRCLE

WOMAN TO WOMAN: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE ON YOUR LAND, IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

WEDNESDAYS, 8/19 & 8/26, 5-7 PM ET

Register at tinyurl.com/WFL-CT-RI-Change

Meet fellow women landowners and farmers in your area and get support to create an action plan to address the implications of climate change on your farm and in your community.

Open to anyone who identifies as a woman and owns and/or manages agricultural land in Connecticut or Rhode Island

American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FOLLOW on FACEBOOK JOIN on PINTEREST VISIT our WEBSITE

Copyright © 2020 Connecticut Department of Agriculture, All rights reserved.

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).