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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

August 6, 2020; Vol. C, No. 28

[National Farmers' Market Week](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Plant Science Day](#)

[Century Farm Awarded](#)

[Outstanding Young Farmer Named](#)

[2020 Farm-to-Chef Week](#)

[FarmUp Program](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



### 2020 CT Outstanding Young Farmer, Jimmy Bloom

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council selected Jimmy Bloom of Copps Island Oysters by Norm Bloom & Son, LLC as the 2020 recipient. He will represent the state at the 2021 National Outstanding Young Farmer Congress.



# NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK



## Farmers' Markets Recognized as Essential &

Today, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt marked National Farmers' Market Week by visiting the Farmers' Market at Broad Street in Hartford, one of the more than 105 farmers' markets in Connecticut. National Farmers' Market Week concludes on Aug. 8. A list of every farmers' market throughout the state can be found by visiting [www.CTGrown.gov/farmersmarkets](http://www.CTGrown.gov/farmersmarkets).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers' markets in Connecticut were declared essential in order to provide communities a dependable source of food. At the same time, market masters implemented innovative strategies to meet public health protocols to provide a safe shopping environment while connecting residents to delicious and nutritious local food.

"Connecticut's farmers' markets are the heart of our communities. Not only do our farmers' markets provide a dependable food source to all families, but they also ensure our most vulnerable populations have access to healthy, nutritious food by accepting SNAP benefits at some of the locations. During National Farmers' Market Week, we encourage all Connecticut residents to support their local farmers' market and enjoy Connecticut grown products," **said Lt. Governor Bysiewicz.**

Nearly 50 percent of Connecticut's municipalities host a farmers' market offering increased accessibility. In addition, 25 farmers' markets are authorized to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, many of which offer doubling programs that allow recipients to purchase more fresh, local produce to keep their families healthy.

In Hartford, the Farmers' Market at Broad Street is the largest market in the city. During the month of August, the Farmers' Market at Broad Street will be tripling SNAP/EBT benefits increasing the buying power for EBT users to fill their kitchen with local, fresh food. Approximately 40 percent of Hartford residents receive SNAP benefits.

"Farmers' markets are crucial to increasing access to fresh, healthy food in our communities that need it now more than ever," **said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt.** "They also provide a direct connection between consumers and our farm families who produce the food they eat helping to strengthen the relationship between urban, suburban, and rural communities. Please take the time to visit your local farmers' market in the coming days. Not only are you supporting a small business, you are leaving with some of the freshest produce in the state."

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture also administers the [Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#) (FMNP), which assists seniors over the age of 60 and women, infants, and children who meet certain eligibility guidelines with assistance to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and honey.

One key component of the program is to work with local partners to provide nutrition education. This encourages recipients to improve and expand their diets, as well as educate them on how to select, store and prepare fresh fruits and vegetables. Find recipe and storage ideas on the [GrowCTAg](#) Pinterest page.

**ATTENTION PRODUCERS/FARMERS**

If you experienced crop loss and/or structural damage during Tropical Storm Isaias, please let us know. We are compiling information to gain a greater understanding of the impacts in order to trigger a USDA disaster declaration.

Contact [AGR.COVID19@ct.gov](mailto:AGR.COVID19@ct.gov).

**COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers****2020 CENTURY FARM & OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER NAMED AT PLANT SCIENCE DAY**

The 110<sup>th</sup> annual Plant Science Day open house event hosted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) was held on Wed., August 5. For the first time ever, it was held as a virtual event and featured updates on the Station's research advances in agriculture, food safety, the environment, forestry, and public health. The full event, including presentations, demonstrations, plot tours and more, can be viewed online [here](#).

**2020 Century Farm of the Year: Fish & Kent Farm, Suffield, CT**

The site has been in agricultural use for 150 years and in the same family for more than a century. Andrew J. Fish, great-grandfather of the current owner, was in the Connecticut 12th Volunteers in the Civil War and purchased the farm in 1900.

Over the years the farmland and buildings has been utilized for tobacco, draft and riding horses, pigs, goats, strawberries and vegetables, and dairy. Currently, there are 8 acres of hay, hens, honey bees, and a small orchard, and 20 acres are rented to a local dairy farm for corn. A forest management plan was just completed for the approximately 45 acres of woodland, and trees will be harvested when lumber prices increase.

Watch the award presentation video [here](#).

Jimmy Bloom, along with his father at Copps Island Oysters, farm approximately 14,000 acres along the Connecticut coast from Greenwich to Stonington. Jimmy is part of a third generation oyster farming operation that has a dedicated focus not just on harvesting but also on continually regenerating beds in a sustainable fashion. Jimmy's love of shellfish farming began at the age of two, when he would accompany his father on the deck of his oyster boat. That began a life-long love of oyster farming that continues to this day. Jimmy has also served on the Board of the Fairfield County Farm Bureau and the Connecticut Aquaculture Advisory Council. This award recognizes Jimmy's commitment to agriculture in Connecticut, both in the present and the future.

Watch the award presentation video [here](#).

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### **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.

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### **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](#).

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### **CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS**

[Dan Haar: The unpredictable COVID-19 economy takes root](#), CT Insider, 8/1

[Photos: Socially distanced Westport Farmers Market draws hundreds](#), CT Post, 8/3

[Tornado touches down in Sharon, Lakeville, National Weather Service confirms](#), CT Post, 8/3

['Not your father's agricultural school': UConn working to develop chicken free of antibiotics](#), CT Post, 8/3

[Unlike many others, this CT brewery makes its beer almost exclusively from local ingredients](#), CT Insider, 8/5

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*This year, more than ever, CT restaurants and farmers need your support.*

### **2020 CT FARM-TO-CHEF WEEK**

Save the date for Connecticut's state-wide Farm-to-Chef Week scheduled for August 16-22, 2020. Open to all restaurants and food service businesses in the state, it invites participants to create a special Farm-to-Chef menu showcasing Connecticut Grown ingredients and beverages.

Visit [www.CTFarmToChef.com](http://www.CTFarmToChef.com) for more information on the virtual kick-off event happening Sunday, August 16, 2020. Additional news and updates can be found on the Facebook page [CTFarmtoChef](https://www.facebook.com/CTFarmtoChef).

To register, or become a sponsor of the event, visit <https://bit.ly/2UAMmak>. For additional details, contact Erin Windham at [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or 860-519-6083.

This promotion is an initiative of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-Chef Program, which connects farmers and producers of Connecticut Grown products with chefs and other culinary professionals.

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# CFAP

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. More than 40 commodities are covered.

Details: [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap)

Deadline: August 28, 2020

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## FARMUP PROGRAM

The CT RC&D is seeking information for their [FarmUp Program](#) this year, which is aimed at providing a diverse level of backend support for new (and now Veteran) farmers in Connecticut. They are looking to obtain, or generate a list of existing Beginning Farmers and Veteran Farmers across the state. If you or your organization have a list with this information, please reach out to [CTRCDCoordinator@CTRCD.org](mailto:CTRCDCoordinator@CTRCD.org).

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## 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](#)

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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](http://www.bludon.com)

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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](http://www.bludon.com)

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3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

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

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

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### **Wanted**

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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.

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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](mailto:clark.chapin@usda.gov). Application deadline is August 23, 2020.

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

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## **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, CCSU, 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](https://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

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