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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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Now In Season: Peaches

Set aside time to pick-your-own or visit a farm stand or farmers' market to buy pre-picked Connecticut Grown peaches.

Find recipe ideas [here](#).



Planning Ahead for the Holidays

While most people are thinking of what to cook on the grill during the summer, it's never too early to start planning for the holidays. If you haven't given it thought yet, now is the time to connect with your local meat producer to ensure you don't miss out on your favorite cuts.

"From Connecticut Grown turkey and pork to lamb and beef, we offer a diverse array of meat production in the state," says Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "The COVID-19 disruptions in the supply chain with closure of processing facilities out west have shown how critical it is that we support our local meat producers. Placing your order now for the holidays is a great way to do that."

Thanksgiving may be four months away, but Katie Hermonot of Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm in Sterling says they are always taking orders for turkeys. "Customers can call now to reserve their Thanksgiving turkey," she says. Unlike some meat producers, Ekonk Hill typically processes their birds on-site the week leading up to the holiday for fresh birds.

Hermonot acknowledges the ability to be flexible due to the COVID-19 pandemic is important and they are ready to adjust as needed to continue serving customers this holiday season. The farm also raises beef, pork, lamb, and chicken, some of which is processed at a local USDA inspected facility allow them to sell it at retail by the cut.

At Sepe Farm in Sandy Hook, they raise Connecticut Grown lamb. Owner Pete Sepe says that processing is the biggest challenge right now. "As we move through the summer and into the cooler months, we are working to build our inventory," he says. "The sooner we know about special orders the better. We can take orders now for Thanksgiving – that would be awesome."

Sepe reminds consumers that in addition to the traditional loin roasts and leg of lamb, there are many other cuts including ground lamb and racks, as well as chops and stew meat that offer variety and high-quality taste.

Now is also a good time to think about stocking your freezer for the winter by investing in a bulk purchase of a quarter, half, or whole animal. Jonathan Eddy at New Boston Beef, LLC in Thompson, raises grass-fed beef which is showcased on the holiday table in the form of prime rib roast on Christmas Eve. This specialty cut is limited in supply, but he says, "We have appointments available this fall for purchases by the hanging weight."

A bonus of going this route is that customers can determine exactly how their order is cut and packaged. Right down to thickness of steaks and how much is turned into ground beef – perfect for chili on cold winter nights.

To place your holiday meat order from a local producer, visit

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers



2021 AFB AG INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Farm Bureau will award \$145,000 in startup funds to ten businesses. This national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies addressing challenges faced by America’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau and the Farm Credit Rural Investment and Innovation Workgroup will select ten startup businesses. The application deadline is midnight Eastern Daylight Time on July 31, 2020. Details [here](#).

ORDER YOUR CT GROWN PRICE CARDS



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture offers price cards to producers as available resources allow. Cards for Connecticut Grown products are full color, 5.5” x 7”, with space to fill in the name and town of the farm that grew/produced the item offered, and available at no cost to producers. Each pad contains 50 double-sided sheets.

To order, please

visit www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com.

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>

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

[The Coventry Farmers' Market looks a bit different this year](#), Hartford Courant, 7/20

[No EEE found in state mosquitoes yet](#), CT Post, 7/21

[LEAP, National Dairy Council encourage healthy eating, exercise in New Haven summer camps](#), WTNH, 7/21

[Sunflowers for Wishes still grows on](#), Norwich Bulletin, 7/21

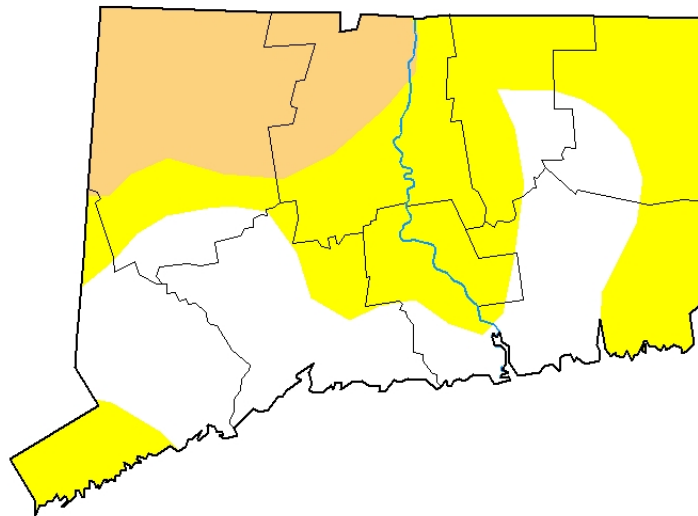
[COVID-19 Need Spurs Dairy-UConn Food Pantry Partnership](#), Farm Journal, 7/22

[Bridgeport farmers markets back up and running](#), CT Post, 7/22







[Niantic Farmers Market celebrates its 10th year](#), The Day, 7/23

Connecticut

Updated Thursday, Jul 23, 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>

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

CONNECTICUT DROUGHT INFORMATION CENTER

Status as of July 23, 2020: The entire state is classified as STAGE 1 -- BELOW NORMAL CONDITIONS

Connecticut is experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The Interagency Drought Workgroup 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.

Next update expected on or before 8/7/2020.

For more updates from the Connecticut Drought Information Center, click [here](#).



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.

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.

USDA UNPROCESSED F&V PILOT APPROVED VENDORS

In accordance with the [Eligible Vendor Requirements](#) for the Pilot Project for the Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, all approved vendors must maintain a list of current suppliers. In addition, as a vendor, you must be able to make your suppliers' current food safety certificates available upon request.

Vendors may add new suppliers with USDA approval. If you want to add new suppliers to your listing for the upcoming school year, please submit a new Attachment D that includes the required information for your new supplier(s), and copies of their current food safety certificates via email to SCPilotProject@ams.usda.gov. Please ensure your subject line reads:

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](#)

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.

23. Black Angus first calf heifer with 6-week bull calf. Asking \$1,700. Call 860-212-5463.

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.

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

CONNECTICUT 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 AgEnhancement, Recycle CT, UConn Master Composter Program, American Farmland Trust, CT Recyclers Coalition, Fresh & Wholesome Composting, Council on Soil and Water Conservation, and CCAFA.

Planning Partners: CT MOFA, CT RCAD, CT DEEP, CCSU, USDA NRCS, UConn Master Composter Program, CT DDAG, American Farmland Trust, CT Blue-CO2, New Conservation District, Center for Biotechnology, and Composting Association of CT.

WOMEN FOR THE LAND LEARNING CIRCLE

WOMAN TO WOMAN: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS




MONDAYS, 8/3 & 8/10, 4 - 6 PM ET

Register at tinyurl.com/WFL-CT-Protect

Connect with other women landowners working to protect their land from development. Get support from agricultural service providers on how to navigate your farmland protection options. Open to anyone who identifies as a woman and owns or operates agricultural land in Connecticut.

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

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