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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

January 8, 2021; Vol. D, No. 1

[Farmland Preservation Success](#)

[Farmland Restoration Grant Deadline](#)

[Phase 2.1 COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Farmers' Market Management Seminar](#)

[Karabin Farms Protected](#)

[Free Agricultural Advising Sessions](#)

[Hemp Webinar Series](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Celebrate National Milk Day on Monday, January 11. Visit CTDairy.org to learn more about Connecticut's dairy farm families.

COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES (information on Connecticut's phased rollout)



Farmland Preservation Program Reaches Milestone

State of Connecticut Purchased Development Rights to more than 1,000 Acres in 2020

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) celebrates the success of the Farmland Preservation Program, which permanently protected 13 farms and more than 1,000 acres in 2020. This accomplishment was possible through strong partnerships with Connecticut Farmland Trust, USDA-NRCS, municipalities, land trusts, and most importantly, the farm families willing to engage in the program.

“It is especially remarkable to surpass the 1,000 acre milestone in 2020 amid all of the challenges that the year presented,” said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. “Last year reaffirmed the importance of a diverse and abundant food supply and by purchasing the development rights we not only ensure the land base for future generations to farm but a stable food chain for Connecticut residents.”

Farms were protected in the towns of Lisbon, Woodbury, Watertown, Voluntown, Middletown, Roxbury, Lebanon, Southington, and Thompson. The State of Connecticut achieved an overall 47% cost-share match receiving \$2.2 million in USDA ALE funds and \$487,900 from local partners.

Connecticut’s agricultural industry generates an economic impact of \$4.0 billion to the state’s economy. Securing working farmland is important to sustaining the agricultural systems currently in place and ensuring availability of farmland for young and beginning farmers in the future. This is especially important as the average age of Connecticut farmers continues to rise.

“The Farmland Preservation team preserved more farms and acres in 2020, the most tumultuous and challenging year in recent history, than in the previous year,” said Jaime L. Smith, Bureau Director. “We are excited to continue this work and progress into 2021. This program leverages a significant amount of dollars from our federal, non-profit, and municipal partners to preserve this precious, limited, natural resource in perpetuity.”

Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1978 to protect the prime and important farmland soils in the state in order to maintain and preserve agricultural land for the future. In 2012, the Community Farms Preservation Program was established to offer food-producing farms with local community support an avenue to permanently protect their farmland from future development. To date, the state has purchased development rights on 386 farms encompassing over 46,142 acres, with a goal of protecting 130,000 acres.

FARMLAND RESTORATION PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE JAN. 15

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces a change to the Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) application process. Historically, the FLRP has accepted applications year-round. However, to streamline the process, an annual deadline has been implemented. Applications for projects planned in the upcoming calendar year should be submitted by January 15, 2021.

The FLRP is a voluntary program to restore lands into active agricultural production with the main objective of increasing food and fiber production in Connecticut. The program focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan. Each application can qualify for a reimbursement payment of up to \$20,000.

For additional information on the program and how to apply, please click [here](#). All applications must be submitted electronically to Agr.Grants@ct.gov on or before January 15, 2021.

Questions regarding the FLRP can be directed to Lance Shannon: Lance.Shannon@ct.gov; or via phone at 860-713-2531 or 860-993-4088.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

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](#).

ALERT: Rollback to Phase 2.1 effective November 6, 2020

Find all updated guidance documents [here](#).

[Equine Guidance](#)

[Equine Competition Guidance](#)

[Farmers' Markets](#)

[Farm Stores/Stands and CSAs](#)

[Food Safety](#)

[Pick-Your-Own/Cut-Your-Own](#)

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[A Christmas Adventure at the Tree Farm](#), 12/27, Cranston Herald

[How to dispose of your Christmas tree? Give it to a goat, and other options](#), 1/01, Hartford Courant

[How to Recycle Your Christmas Tree Into Goat Food](#), 1/01, NBC CT

[Hebron business moves to Scotland](#), 1/04, Hartford Courant



**Virtual Agricultural Marketing
Conference & Trade Show**

February 24-25, 2021

NEW ENGLAND FARMERS' MARKET MANAGEMENT SEMINAR AT HARVEST NEW ENGLAND

Attention new or experienced farmers' market managers, join your peers from across the region on February 22 and 23 for workshops and discussions designed specifically for those managing farmers' markets. More information, including workshop descriptions and speakers, coming soon!

For more information, go to www.harvestnewengland.org.



KARABIN FARMS IN SOUTHINGTON PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is pleased to announce the preservation of Karabin Farms in Southington. The farm was protected through the state's Community Farms Preservation Program in conjunction with the Town of Southington, which contributed fifty percent of the funds to purchase the development rights.

"We are pleased to permanently protect 48 acres of prime and important farmland soils owned by Karabin Farms," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. "This collaboration between the Karabin family, Town of Southington, and State of Connecticut will insure continued availability of active farmland and farm-fresh products to the town and central Connecticut communities. The Karabin Farm is a great example of the diversity of agriculture – in production and locality – and a showcase for the future opportunities of agriculture in our state."

Read more [here](#).



FREE PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISING SESSIONS

UConn Extension's FREE One-on-One sessions are back again for 2021, and this year they are virtual! Stay tuned for more details.

Sessions taking place at the following times:

- Monday, February 8, 5-8 p.m. EST
- Thursday, February 18, 1-4 p.m. EST
- Tuesday, February 23, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. EST
- Friday, March 5, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. EST

Email mackenzie.white@uconn.edu with any questions.

2021 CONNECTICUT HEMP WEBINAR SERIES

Join the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, CT Hemp Industry Association, UConn Extension, USDA NRCS, and Connecticut RC&D for the 2021 Connecticut Hemp Webinar Series.

This webinar series for Connecticut hemp growers will cover pests, diseases, healthy soil practices, local policy and regulations, field trial results, as well as innovative techniques, and production markets. This event provides valuable resources for farmers seeking connections in the state, knowledge about local and regional issues, and opportunities.

For program details and registration please visit: <https://ctrctd.org/hemp/>. The first webinar of the series is on January 20, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. These webinars will be live, with opportunities to interact with other growers before and after the talks, and opportunities to ask the speakers questions.

HOW SMALL FOOD COMPANIES CAN GAIN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS VIRTUAL SEMINAR

Join Food Export Northeast and the state agricultural promotion agencies in New England and Delaware for an upcoming virtual seminar where you will

learn about resources available to small food, beverage, and seafood companies looking to enter the international market space.

Hear from an industry expert on how exporting can help small businesses grow and their success from using USDA resources to gain access to international markets.

The event is free and takes place on January 27, 2021. Please register for the event [here](#).

If you have any additional questions on the event, please contact Amanda King at Amanda.King@ct.gov.



THE CARROT PROJECT PRESENTS ONLINE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE

The Carrot Project will be hosting a four-part financial management series on January 13, January 27, February 3, and February 17 at 3-5 p.m. EST. Participants will learn what information they need, how to get it, and how to use it in order to plan quickly and evaluate their decisions in the midst of their season. They will understand common roadblocks and solutions to maintaining the effort during busy times and have an opportunity to work with their own numbers as part of a cohort group or one-on-one with a professional business advisor.

The Carrot Project's farm and food business programs are targeted to start-up and early-stage farm and food producers. Registration fees are on a sliding scale. Class size is limited. Priority will be given to businesses in RI, MA, and CT. Fishermen, aquaculturists, and small processors using local farm and sea ingredients are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

FREE WEBINAR: NAVIGATING THE PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS PROCESS

For small business owners experiencing confusion with the PPP loan forgiveness process, SCORE is offering a free webinar on January 20, 2021, at 12-1:30 p.m. EST with small business consultant and SCORE Mentor Josette A. Hill. Topics will include deadlines, eligible expenses, independent

contractors, application forms, covered period, calculating payroll cost, and much more.

Workshop presenter Josette A. Hill is the Founder of J.A.H. Financial Services, in Portland, CT. She is an accomplished Income Tax Professional, Coach, SCORE Mentor and highly sought-after Small Business Consultant.

Pre-registration is required, sign up [here](#).



Seeking Root Vegetables for Schools!

Put Local on Your Tray is helping schools source local ingredients no matter where lunches are being served. Our winter campaign, "Rooting for Winter" is **looking for growers and wholesalers with local root vegetable in any amount** to connect with school buyers.



From beets & carrots to parsnips, turnips & rutabagas we can connect you to a school that wants to ROOT for Winter!

Contact shannon.raider@uconn.edu with any questions & to connect with a local school market



USDA TO MEASURE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Beginning in late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend several months gathering information about farm economics and production practices from farmers and ranchers across the United States, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2020 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 30,000 producers nationwide, between January and April in 2021. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2020 ARMS survey includes a version of the questionnaire focused on hog and pig production costs and returns. This year the survey also includes questions to help measure any impacts of COVID-19 on farms, farm and household finances, and off-farm employment. The agency will only publish data in an aggregate form, ensuring the confidentiality of all responses and that no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

The expense data gathered in ARMS will be published in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report in July 2021. That report and others are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications. More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS are available at ers.usda.gov/arms. For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

USDA TO CONDUCT 2020 LOCAL FOOD MARKETING SURVEY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, beginning in January 2021. First conducted in 2015, this Census of Agriculture special study will look at local and regional food systems and provide new data on how locally grown and sold foods in the United States are marketed. The results will be available in November 2021.

The Local Food Marketing Practices Survey will ask producers about their production and local marketing of foods during the 2020 calendar year including the value of food sales by marketing channel such as farmers markets, restaurants, and roadside stands. Other questions seek information on the value of crop and livestock sales, marketing practices, expenses, federal farm program participation, and more.

Farmers and ranchers can fill out the survey conveniently online via a secure website, www.agcounts.usda.gov, or by mail. For more information about the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, visit www.nass.usda.gov/go/local-food.

UCONN EXTENSION OFFERS BEDDING PLANTS WEBINAR SERIES

A three-part webinar series on plant growth regulators, pests, and diseases on ornamental plants in greenhouses. Presentations are for commercial greenhouse growers (wholesale and retail) producing ornamental spring bedding plants, specialty annuals and herbaceous perennials.

One pesticide recertification credit has been approved for each one-hour webinar for all New England states. All webinars will take place from 12 to 1 p.m. EST.

- Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, Effective Use of Plant Growth Regulators, George Grant, GGSPRO Technical Specialist
- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, Research Update on Managing Greenhouse Insect and Mite Pests, Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State University
- Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, Diseases of Spring Annuals and Herbaceous Perennials, Margery Daughtrey, Cornell University

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Looking to save jobs? CT DOL Shared Work Program offers a solution. The Shared Work program is an **economic relief program** available to Connecticut employers who are experiencing business downturns. It is a great alternative to laying off employees. For more information, please visit us at SharedWorkCt.com and chat with our Virtual Assistant, Sherry.



Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on November 11, 2020

[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.

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

32-R. Modine Power-Vented propane heater, 240K BTU. Greenhouse/high tunnel heater. Brand new, still in box. \$1,600 Call 860-576-2277.

37. 24 ft. Morgan truck body, 102" wide with rail gate. Call 203-623-2694.

39-R. Honeybees: 5-frame NUCS, DEEPS only, available 1st week May. [Jones Apiaries LLC](#), 860-677-9391

Wanted

38. Kinkelder Sprayer Air Shear Nozzles and/or Kinkelder Spray Heads w/nozzles. 203-283-1459, leave message or email: cidermill5@yahoo.com.

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

Upcoming Events

(click the image to be redirected to the event website)



New England Winter Fruit Meetings

14 Free Webinars for New England Fruit Growers!

In an effort to provide fruit growers the same high quality educational opportunities we have in the past, and because we are unable to hold face-to-face meetings due to COVID-19, the Connecticut Extension throughout the New England region joined forces in a collaborative effort to develop a winter series of webinars aimed at improving the commercial fruit growers. Registration is required for each webinar and purchase recommendations credit will be available. The 14 webinars start on Oct. 19, and the remainder of the series will begin at noon and typically end at 1:30 pm.

Partners

The University of Maine Extension is a proud member of the UConn Extension network. We are committed to providing the highest quality of educational opportunities to our growers.

- Webinar Schedule**
- November 13 - Managing Stone Fruit Bacterial Canker
Presented: Ben Pover, PhD
 - January 22 - How to Avoid Fruit Thrips on Strawberry and Other Varieties of Strawberry
Presented: Julie Hill, Entomologist, Randolph Denney, PhD
 - January 24 - Training and Pruning Strategies for the Orchard Production Peach Tree
Presented: Bill Davis, MSU
 - January 26 - Strawberry Tree Pruning 101
Presented: Mark Langston, MSU
 - February 3, 3 & 6 - Cornell Winter Tree Fruit Meeting
 - February 6 - Older Apple Varieties: What to Watch For
Presented: Steve Kunkin, MSU
 - February 16 - Insect in your Pasta - Spotted Wing Drosophila, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and Spotted Lanternfly
Presented: Julie Hill, MSU
 - March 2 - Managing Trunk Rot
Presented: Richard Apple, Maggie C. and Paul Present, Susan Wilcox, Ag Canada
 - March 10 - Research Update on Early Season Apple Bots
Presented: James Wilcox, John and Lisa Wilcox, 14 Hour Produce
 - March 17 - Insecticide Resistance and Fruit Scab Management
Presented: Steve Mendenhall, Mike Hamilton, Linda Corbett
 - March 23 - The New Volume War: Is it Worth the Investment?
Presented: Terry Stappeler, MSU
 - March 30 - Network for Environment and Worker Application (NEFA) 2020 Project Highlights 2020
Presented: Lisa O'Rourke, MSU
- Learn More & Register:
<https://www.uconn.edu/extension/newenglandwinterfruitseries/>

WEBINAR SERIES

LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO COVID-19
BUILDING BETTER BEYOND

MARKETING INNOVATIONS WHEN COMMUNITIES EAT AT HOME
October 19 | 1 PM EST

FORMAL AND INFORMAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS
February 15 | 1 PM EST

RETAINING & ENGAGING NEW LOCAL CUSTOMERS: TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES
November 16th | 1 PM EST

ONLINE PLATFORMS: PIVOTS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
March 15 | 1 PM EST

EMERGENCY FOOD, CHARITY, AND THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM
December 21 | 1 PM EST

INTEGRATING NATIONAL CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS INTO FUTURE PLANNING
April 19 | 1 PM EST

INNOVATIONS IN STATE POLICIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SECTORS
January 25 | 1 PM EST

NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM IN TIMES OF UNCERTAIN CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
May 17 | 1 PM EST

<https://fscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

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