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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 15, 2021; Vol. D, No. 2

[2021 Legislative Proposals](#)

[Connecticut Grown Magazine Released](#)

[Phase 2.1 COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[CFAP 2 Additional Assistance](#)

[Northeast Dairy Innovation Center](#)

[CT Hemp Webinar Series](#)

[Food Export Northeast Virtual Seminar](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has compiled a resource directory to assist livestock owners who may be experiencing challenges in sourcing hay due to shortages caused by the severe drought conditions in 2020. Find a producer or reseller [here](#).

To be included in the directory, click [here](#).

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



2021 Legislative Proposals

The 2021 Legislative Session began on January 6, 2021, and in true pandemic fashion, things look very differently than in previous years. Legislators did not take the oath of office inside the chamber; instead, lawmakers gathered on the North lawn of the Capitol to be sworn in outside, following social distancing protocols.

In this unprecedented year, lawmakers are adjusting to a new legislative process filled with virtual meetings. The way the legislature convenes, holds hearings, and votes will all be transformed to meet the reality of a pandemic year. Legislators from both chambers are now able to vote remotely from their offices and public hearings will be held over Zoom.

While a large portion of the bills this year will be focused on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, many concepts this year will be revisited from the 2020 session which was abruptly cut short last March.

For the 2021 legislative session, the Department of Agriculture submitted four legislative proposals, each addressing multiple needs throughout one subject matter, pulling some content from executive orders and needs of the industry in response to COVID-19, as well as resubmitting important legislation from last session. In addition to our agency proposals, the department is tracking all legislation as it relates to agriculture and will be working with legislative and industry leaders throughout the session.

Our proposals are as follows and our full legislative package can be found [here](#):

- **An Act Enhancing CT Aquaculture:** The creation of a shellfish bed restoration program would reestablish Connecticut's important natural shellfish beds. This program would boost Connecticut's shellfish economy, which is one of the state's fastest growing agricultural segments. This proposal also intends to update the Connecticut Seafood Council membership to accurately reflect Connecticut's current aquaculture industry by including indoor aquaculture and kelp producers.

- An Act Enhancing Animal Welfare: This proposal updates statutory references, allows for temporary Animal Control Officer (ACO) contracting between towns, creates parity between regional and municipal pound standards, ensures that all animals being brought into CT receive a vet exam, and would increase Animal Population Control Program (APCP) reimbursement payments to veterinarians for spay/neuter, as well as increasing funding limits for the feral cat program.
- An Act Enhancing CT Agriculture: This proposal would add chicken eggs as an eligible food group through the state-funded CT Farmers' Market/Senior Nutrition Program. This simple addition will improve access and affordable nutrition in nutritionally at-risk individuals, acknowledge the diversity of products now available at farmers' markets, and respect demands by the program users. The proposal streamlines the Connecticut Grown marketing efforts and updates other agency statutory references. It also includes language to allow for the subdivision of future PDR easements. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proposing legislation which would increase access to the Farmers' Market/WIC program by eliminating signature requirements. This proposal also allows for the processing of rabbits for consumption and retail sale.
- An Act Concerning Technical Revisions to the States Hemp Program: Thanks to action taken in the September special session, our hemp program was amended to conform to regulatory requirements issued by USDA. USDA is expected to issue their Final Rules this spring and this bill would ensure we meet all necessary requirements at that time.

In addition to a robust legislative package, the agency will continue its work on the Governor's Council on Climate Change, COVID support and resources for farmers, and food systems work throughout the state.

Should you have any questions on DoAg's legislative concepts or the changes within the legislative process this year, please reach out to Kayleigh Royston, legislative liaison at Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov.

**The Capitol Complex is currently closed, however, every effort is being made to offer transparency during legislative session. Click [here](#) for the calendar of events to learn when hearings and meetings are happening and how to access them virtually.*



FOURTH ANNUAL EDITION OF *CONNECTICUT GROWN* MAGAZINE RELEASED

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) announces the release of the fourth annual edition of *Connecticut Grown*, a guide to the state's farms, food and markets. This edition reflects the resilience, strength, and innovation among Connecticut's agricultural sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout all of the challenges that 2020 presented – a global pandemic, invasive pests, and challenging weather including a tropical storm and severe drought – our agriculture and aquaculture businesses remained steadfast in their commitment to carry on the traditions of generations before them, while being nimble to enact change during these unprecedented times," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. "We are pleased to highlight in this edition some of the collaborations that took place to ensure the availability of a safe, abundant supply of agricultural products. The silver lining of 2020 was an increase in consumer demand and support for Connecticut Grown products and our farmers delivered in many ways."

Contents of the magazine include an overview of the state's food, farming, and agribusiness sectors, a glimpse at the leading ag products, and recipes to inspire creative cooking with Connecticut Grown foods. In addition, stories focus on efforts undertaken to help producers survive the severe disruptions to their markets, the formation of new partnerships to provide access to local food, and celebration of local food heroes who ensured the most vulnerable populations had food on their tables.

Available in print and digital, *Connecticut Grown* is a collaboration between the state and Farm Flavor Media, a division of Journal Communications, Inc. The magazine will soon be available at farmers' markets, farm stands and stores, and various other locations throughout the state. Consumers are encouraged to visit these locations to get their copy while shopping for Connecticut Grown products. For locations wishing to request copies for distribution, please click [here](#). No public funds were used in the publishing of the magazine.

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/Stand and CSAs](#)

[Food Safety](#)

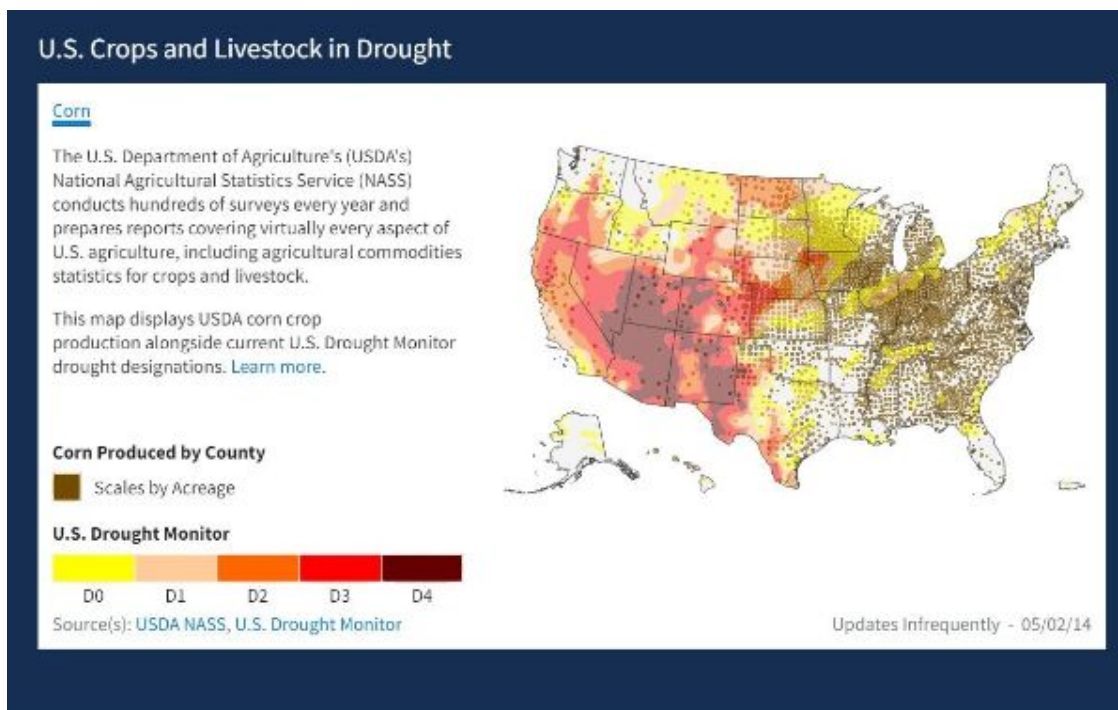
[Pick-Your-Own/Cut-Your-Own](#)

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Southington Farmland Gets Official Protection Status From State](#), 1/7, Patch

[Chester's Deep Hollow Farm Gets New Occupants Soon](#), 1/11, Patch

[Karabin Farms in Southington Now Permanently Protected](#), 1/12, NBC CT



NEW DROUGHT RESOURCE

The National Integrated Drought Information System has created a new website, [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov), which includes easily accessible and shareable information, up-to-date drought conditions and forecasts down to the county and city level, interactive maps and data that don't exist anywhere else, and a new "By Sector" section showing drought's impacts on different economic sectors.

CFAP 2 ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OPENS JAN. 19

USDA is providing additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program for certain agricultural producers whose operations were directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Visit farmers.gov/cfap for information on expanded eligibility and updated payment calculations.

The application period for CFAP 2 closed on December 11 for most producers. Under CFAP Additional Assistance, certain producers are now eligible to apply for CFAP 2 and others may modify existing applications. USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept new or modified applications from January 19 through February 26, 2021.

\$284 BILLION IN PPP FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) re-opened this week for small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the pandemic. This new round of federal funding includes \$284 billion in forgivable loans for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers.

Businesses working with community financial institutions (CFI) were able to apply for First Draw PPP Loans starting, Monday, January 11 and Second Draw PPP Loans

on Wednesday, January 13. For additional information on terms, participating lenders, eligibility, and applications, check the [U.S. SBA PPP website](#).

NEW CT FARMERS WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

Signups are open now for New CT Farmers' online [winter workshops](#) for 2021. In particular, please note that the first workshop, "[Affording Farmland](#)" with Will O'Meara, is on Monday, January 20. Description below:

Finding affordable farmland is often cited as one of the biggest barriers to farmland access. During the pandemic, the demand for farmland has surged, and farmland is often priced according to its value for rural estates or development. This session will dive into the mechanics behind accessing and affording farmland, from the most basic lease or purchase, to some of the more innovative methods farmers are using to secure their land tenure. We will discuss capital purchases and financing, collaborative models of farming, and the benefits of a range of farmland access methods.

VEGETABLE CERTIFICATE COURSE **Register by January 15 at 5:00 PM EST**

UConn Extension is offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course, beginning on January 20, 2021. It is a fully online course for new and beginning farmers who have 0-3 years of vegetable growing experience or no formal training in agriculture. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/Vegetable2021>.

The fee for the 7 online modules is \$149. A course description and registration can be found at <https://bit.ly/ExtensionStore>.

UConn Extension also has several other online programs and certificate courses available. They include:

- Ornamental and Turf Short Course
- CLIR Lifelong Learning Winter Classes
- Seafood HACCP Training
- Solid Ground Ag Mechanics Trainings

View course offerings [here](#).



NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, one of three [USDA Dairy Business Innovation Centers](#) (DBIC) in the U.S, is managed by Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The Northeast DBIC launched in February of 2020 and serves all New England states, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The Northeast DBIC provides support to dairy businesses through projects that promote the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products. Projects target dairy farms and processors while providing additional support through market research and technical assistance. The Center's investment and project strategy promotes innovation and resiliency for regional production of dairy products through four pillars:

1. **Environmental Resource Management:** water quality, forage and cropping strategies, and efficient utilization of resources
2. **Business Management:** business profitability, skill development, and future-focused strategy
3. **Animals:** breed/species that appropriately match business' production model and business goals
4. **People:** career satisfaction; appropriate compensation; ability to develop; and safe, dignified professional reputation

\$6.59 million was awarded by the USDA for the creation of the Vermont-based Northeast DBIC for projects extending through 2023. Half of the federal funding awarded for the Northeast DBIC will be granted to dairy farmers and value-added processors. Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up for the Northeast DBIC newsletter.

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://ctracd.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](#).

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

<u>Northeast Regional Eggs</u>	<u>New Holland, PA Hay Report</u>
<u>New England Shell Eggs</u>	<u>USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update (New!)</u>
<u>Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary</u>	<u>Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston</u>
<u>Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA</u>	<u>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston</u>

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.

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

Job Opportunities

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is recruiting for (1) Agriculture Marketing and Inspection Representative 1.

The AMIR 1 will independently perform a full range of tasks including inspections, investigations, and responding to complaints involving agricultural businesses, commercial and hobby farms, production and processing plants and retail facilities. The position is full-time, 40-hours a week, Monday - Friday, though the schedule of days and hours may require work on some weekends and holidays, depending on regulatory and inspection needs.

Closing date is January 27, 2021.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Connecticut Farmland Trust is seeking a detail-oriented, self-motivated team player with a passion for farming to join its team as a FarmLink Associate. Ctfarmlink.org connects people who own farmland with beginning farmers seeking land to lease or buy. The FarmLink Associate will assist with one of CFT's core programs, Connecticut FarmLink. The FarmLink Associate will be responsible for promoting the FarmLink program, performing direct outreach to farmers and landowners, administering the FarmLink website, and otherwise supporting the CT FarmLink program. Follow the link below to see the full job description. <http://ctfarmland.org/site/job-opportunities/>

This is a part-time, entry-level position with room for growth. Candidates of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until February 5, 2021 or until the position is filled. No phone inquiries, please.

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 in our region a high quality educational opportunity now when it's warm and because we're unable to hold face-to-face meetings due to COVID-19, our Extension Educators throughout the New England region joined forces to collaborate on this new winter series of webinars for commercial fruit growers. Registration is required for each webinar and public participation credit will be available. The 14 webinars start at 6 am, but the remainder of the sessions will begin at noon and typically last until 1:30 pm.

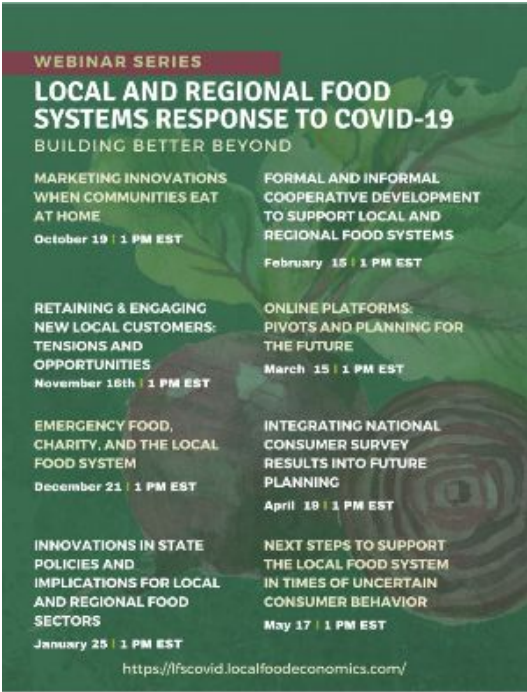
Partners:

- Connecticut Extension
- MAINE Extension
- UMass Extension
- Extension
- LICCONN
- EXTENSION

Webinar Schedule:

- November 11 - Managing State and National Citrus Diseases
Presenter: Ron Foster, PhD
- January 22 - Horticulture and Small Fruit on Farming and Other Ventures, CA
Presenter: Julie Decker, Extension and Farming Specialist, PhD
- January 28 - Using a Planning Strategy to Increase Production Profitability
Presenter: Bill Cline, PhD
- January 28 - Blending Two Ropes: Business and Farming
Presenter: Matt Longoria, MSW
- February 2, 3 & 4 - Cornell Winter Tree Fruit Meeting
February 8 - Online English Pear and Apple in the South
Presenters: Tony Reardon and Dr. Pamela
- February 26 - Invasive Insect Pests - Appraisal, Management, and Control
Presenters: Dr. Jeff Harker, PhD
- March 2 - Managing a Tractor: Advances in Pesticide Management
Presenter: Susan M. Metz, MS, PhD
- March 10 - Research Update on Early Season Insect Pests
Presenter: James Ware, PhD and Greg Reardon, MS, PhD
- March 17 - Research Update on Plant Pathogens
Presenter: Susan M. Metz, MS, PhD, Extension Educator
- March 23 - Tree Row Volume: Weeds, Water Management and more
Presenter: Terry Brantner, MSW
- March 29 - Research for Environment and Agriculture (RENA) 2020 Project Highlights
Presenter: Dr. G. David Rouse

Learn More & Register:
ag.umass.edu/hortnews/careers/new-england-winter-fruit-seminar-series



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 18th 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://ifscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

**AG SERVICE PROVIDER WORKSHOPS
WINTER 2021**

register at: bit.ly/NCTFAworkshops

Presented by the New CT Farmer Alliance

- **AFFORDING FARMLAND**
w/ Land for Good
January 18, 4-5:30pm
- **NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARM TO SCHOOL**
w/ Put Local on Your Tray
February 1, 4-5:30pm
- **FARM LOANS 101**
w/ Farm Credit East and the USDA's Farm Service Agency
February 15, 4-6pm
- **POLICY 101: BEING A FARMER ADVOCATE**
w/ Working Lands Alliance, CT Farm Bureau, and the CT Food & Ag Resiliency Coalition
February 21, 4-6pm
- **CHOOSING A BUSINESS STRUCTURE: ENTITY FORMATION FOR FARMERS**
w/ Legal Food Hub
March 1, 4-5pm
- **UConn EXTENSION: SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR FARMERS**
w/ The UConn Soil Lab, Fruit Crops Specialist, and Solid Ground
March 8, 5-6:30pm

Questions? Reach out to newctfarmers@gmail.com




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Instagram



Pinterest



Website

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