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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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Visit a [farmers' market](#) to find fresh produce, dairy, poultry, and meat products to cook up some comfort food this weekend. Use Connecticut Grown ingredients to make everything from breakfast frittatas and chili to homemade mac and cheese and pie.

Visit our [Pinterest page](#) for recipe inspiration.

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



A Helping Hand

Education, Assistance, and Resources Available from Connecticut Department of Agriculture

It is often said that no day is the same in the life of a farmer. While the daily routine may change with the season, there are often unexpected challenges or obstacles to overcome.

The same can be said for the Department of Agriculture's State Animal Control Unit, which is responsible for investigating property damage, injury, and nuisance caused by dogs, enforcement of laws pertaining to licensing, inspection of pet facilities, and rabies control. They are also the only enforcement entity that investigates and makes arrests in association with complaints of animal cruelty and operate a large animal rehabilitation center, among other duties, including supporting municipal animal control officers and educating the public.

Amid routine inspections, Animal Control Officers (ACOs) respond to complaints, made by phone or email, to check the health and well-being of both domestic animals and livestock. Oftentimes complaints received are from neighbors concerned about underweight animals or poor living conditions. Once on-site, the first step is to assess the situation to determine if intervention is needed. In some cases, ACOs learn that the animal is already receiving care under the guidance of a veterinarian.

"Our intention is to work with the owners to educate them and provide a road map to improve the care of their animal," said Chief State Animal Control Officer, Jeremiah Dunn. "Removal is the last resort when all other options have been exhausted."

Dunn oversees a team of six ACOs to cover 169 towns. While appearances are not always what they seem, he and his staff recommend that if you are concerned about the welfare of an animal, make the report. An ACO will check the situation and if there is something that needs to be changed, guidance will be provided. Depending on the situation, that may involve a veterinarian to check for underlying health issues or outlining a feeding program.

The COVID-19 pandemic and a statewide drought has caused many disruptions, including financial hardship and feed shortages for some animal owners, however there are resources available. An increase in adoptions from shelters and rescues has opened space for owners needing to surrender, and pet food can be found in some food pantries. In addition, the Department of Agriculture has compiled a directory of hay suppliers available [here](#) and resources for equine owners and facilities [here](#). Livestock and domestic animal owners are encouraged to reach out if additional assistance is needed.

“We advise those experiencing tough times to reach out and we will help connect you with available resources at the local, state, and federal level to ensure the needs and well-being of the animals are met,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “As a community we need to support one another and be a voice for those who can’t speak.”

COVID-19 VACCINATION APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR CONNECTICUT AG EMPLOYEES

Connecticut agricultural businesses with at-risk employees may now begin the process of applying to the Connecticut Department of Public Health for COVID vaccines for their employees.

The state is rolling out vaccines in phases targeting most at-risk residents in priority order. Phase 1a, the first phase of the vaccine roll-out, targets health care workers, long-term care facility residents and medical first responders.

Phase 1b targets individuals 75 and older, individuals between 65 and 74, residents living in congregate settings and frontline essential workers including agricultural workers. [Open this link](#) to read more about Connecticut's phased COVID vaccination program.

State officials caution that applications for ag worker vaccines will be processed and scheduled later in Phase 1b and as vaccine supply is available.

Criteria

- Farm workers eligible for the vaccine must be at-risk for exposure to COVID-19 because of their work-related duties. The exposure risk includes on-site work that is in proximity of 6 feet or less to the public or to coworkers.
- Applicants must have an employer coordinator who can identify the individuals in their workforce who are eligible for Phase 1b.
- The employer coordinator should have a complete roster of individuals with their first name, last name, and email address.
- Only Connecticut addresses for organization will be accepted by the system.
- Applicants must agree to provide accurate and truthful information.

Application and Vaccine Process

- Upon receipt of the application, the Connecticut Immunization Program will review the farm's submission.
- If approved the Connecticut Immunization Program will contact your employer coordinator by email to register the farm. This process could take up to 3 weeks as Phase 1b will include large numbers of eligible residents.
- Once registered, the employer coordinator will upload the roster of eligible individuals.
- The individuals on the roster will then receive an email from the state inviting them to schedule a vaccination appointment once the supply has become available.

[Open this link](#) to apply for COVID vaccines for your at-risk farm employees.

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

[Nonprofit Builds Skills For Adults With Developmental Disabilities](#), 1/14, NBC CT

[Keep the chills away with fresh products from these five farmers markets](#), 1/15, CT Post

[Southington's Karabin Farm is now protected by the Community Farms Preservation Program to keep tradition alive](#), 1/15, WTNH

[Wallingford vineyard releases new wine this month](#), 1/17, Record-Journal

[AG: State seeks custody of 8 neglected horses seized from farm](#), 1/19, CT Post

Free Virtual Seminar with Food Export Northeast!
New England Goes Global:
How Small Food Companies Can Gain International Success

January 27, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.



Register [here](#).

**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.



2021-2023 FMNP FARMER CERTIFICATION MEETINGS

All fruit, vegetable, and honey producers selling at Certified Connecticut Grown Farmers' Markets must be certified with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). To be certified, producers must attend a certification meeting.

The certification allows farms to accept the FMNP checks for fresh fruits, vegetables, and honey from WIC clients and income-eligible seniors over the age of 60.

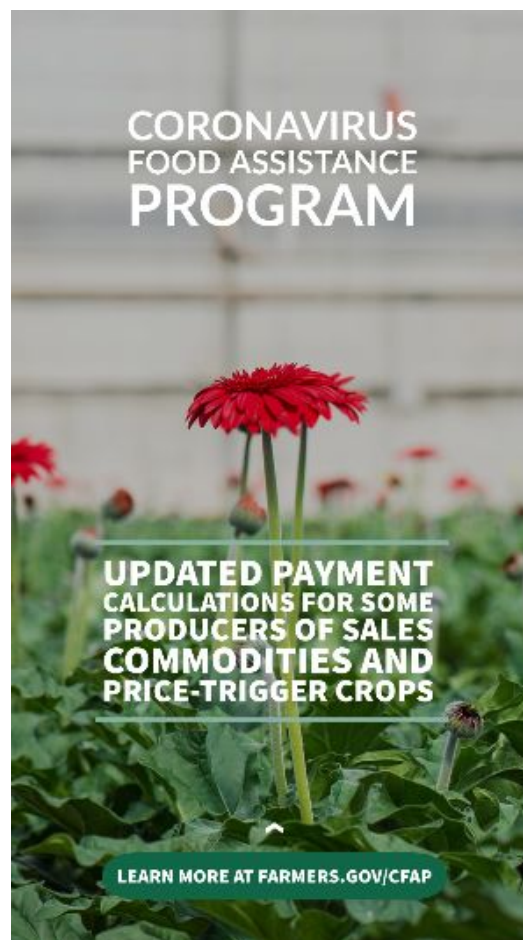
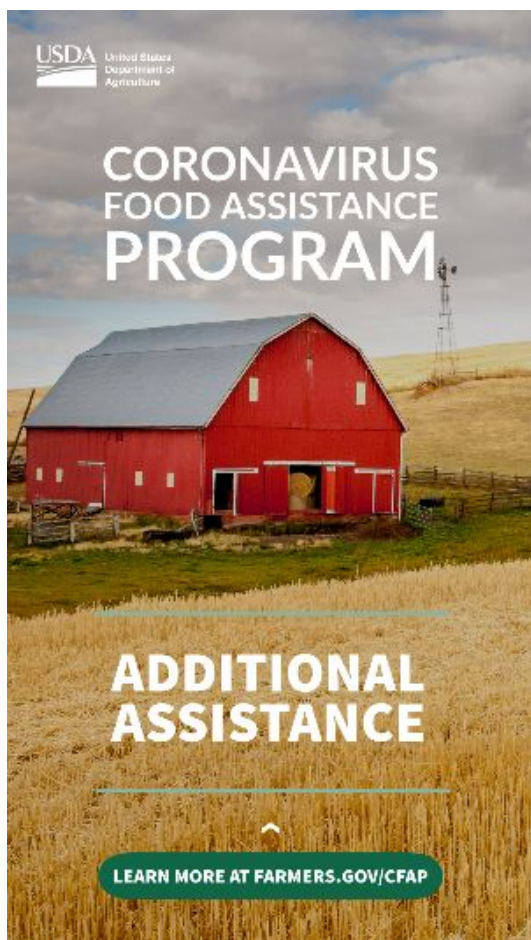
Below is the current list of meeting dates which will all be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

- Thursday, February 4, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 9, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 17, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Monday, February 22, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday, February 25, 2021, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration is now open at <http://bit.ly/3qK3cjV>.

Questions can be directed to Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-6083 or Haley Rowland at 860-895-3095.

Additional meetings may be added. Please check the agency website at www.CTGrown.gov throughout February and March for updates.



USDA OFFERS ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN PRODUCERS THROUGH CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program.

Producers who are now eligible and those who need to modify existing applications due to these updates can contact USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26. Some of these changes are being made to align with the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 while others are discretionary changes being made in response to ongoing evaluation of CFAP.

Expanded Eligibility for CFAP 2

- Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic are now eligible for assistance.
- Producers of pullets and turfgrass sod are also now eligible for CFAP payments.

Updated Payment Calculations for CFAP 2

- FSA has also adjusted the sales commodities calculation to take into account crop year 2019 crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program-Plus (WHIP+) payments to more accurately represent what a producer would have marketed if not for a cause of loss. This change impacts specialty crops, aquaculture, tobacco, specialty livestock, nursery crops and floriculture, for CFAP 2.
- Additionally, FSA adjusted the payment calculation for certain row crops for CFAP 2, specifically those where a producer had crop insurance coverage but not an available 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield.

CFAP 1 'Top-up' Payments for Swine

- FSA is providing an additional CFAP 1 inventory payment for swine to help producers who face continuing market disruptions from changes in U.S. meat consumption due to the pandemic.
- Swine producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will soon automatically receive an additional \$17 per head "top-up" payment.

Newly eligible producers can submit a new CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021, by contacting their local USDA Service Center. New applicants can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. Learn more at farmers.gov/cfap.

BRASS CITY HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD HUB SEEKS PARTNERS

The Brass City Harvest Regional Food Hub located in Waterbury, CT, is working to deliver fresh, local food to Connecticut consumers – especially seniors, the disabled, and low-income families.

They are seeking to forge new partnerships with the region's farmers, orchards, as well as producers and processors of meat, poultry, and dairy, to ensure access to fresh, local foods to increase food security.

Produce partners must meet Produce Safety Rule requirements, including one responsible person on the farm having completed the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training available through University of Connecticut Extension.

Brass City Harvest can also offer light processing and value-added food production for Connecticut farmers. To complement those efforts, they are also seeking a culinary professional to make prepared meals available for delivery or pickup.

Interested parties should visit www.BrassCityHarvestWaterbury.com or contact Susan Pronovost, Executive Director, at 203-982-2272.

\$284 BILLION IN PPP FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) re-opened 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.

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 second workshop, "[New Opportunities for Farm to School](#)" is on Monday, February 1. Description below:

Hear how new energy and partnerships are creating better pathways for gaining market access to school purchasing. This workshop will deconstruct the many barriers and perceived challenges to working with schools. School are the fastest growing components of farm to institution with many districts pursuing local relationships for menu items, taste tests and exploring new recipes.



DISTRIBUTION NETWORK CAPACITY STUDY FOR VALUE-ADDED DAIRY

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center seeks a contractor to conduct research of New England's distribution network capacity for value-added dairy products. This report shall include an in-depth discussion regarding New England's current distribution system, capacity, and geographic considerations to determine opportunities to get products to further and more robust markets.

View the RFP: [Distribution Network Capacity Study for New England Value-Added Dairy Products RFP](#)

Deadline to submit a proposal: February 15, 2021.

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.

Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up for the Northeast DBIC newsletter.

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](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update \(New!\)](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

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)

SOLID GROUND

AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES - 2021

JAN 30TH **POWER TOOL SAFETY & BASIC CARPENTRY**
 NEWVILLE HIGHER SCIENCE & BUSINESS, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM
 Gain hands-on practical knowledge on a variety of power tools and how to use them safely. Transferable carpentry skills that will help you on your farm projects.
[REGISTER HERE](#) [VIEW THE SCHEDULE](#)

FEB 6TH **BASIC ELECTRICAL FOR 12-VOLT SYSTEMS**
 NEWVILLE HIGHER SCIENCE & BUSINESS, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM
 Gain hands-on experience working with wiring and electrical systems. Workshop covers installation and hands-on practice on educational simulators, standard and troubleshooting electrical issues with equipment. [REGISTER HERE](#) [VIEW THE SCHEDULE](#)

FEB 20TH **SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 4-STROKE**
 NEWVILLE HIGHER SCIENCE & BUSINESS, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM
 Gain hands-on experience working with 4-stroke engines for use in farm, agricultural and maintenance equipment. Troubleshooting and repair techniques for a variety of farm equipment. [REGISTER HERE](#) [VIEW THE SCHEDULE](#)

MAR 13TH **BASIC ELECTRICAL; AC 120 RESIDENTIAL WIRING**
 NEWVILLE HIGHER SCIENCE & BUSINESS, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM
 Gain hands-on experience working with AC 120 residential wiring. Troubleshooting and repair techniques for a variety of residential wiring.
[REGISTER HERE](#) [VIEW THE SCHEDULE](#)

COST PER WORKSHOP \$25 - lunch is included SPACES ARE LIMITED SO REGISTER TODAY!
 If the courts prohibit this, you may request a refund for the next available date. If you are unable to attend, please contact us at 860-405-3800.

*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AGRICULTURE NO. 7000 IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT. THIS PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S COVID-19 PROTOCOLS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 860-405-3800. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 860-405-3800.

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://ifscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

New England Winter Fruit Meetings

14 Free Webinars for New England Fruit Growers!

Transfer of knowledge from growers to growers is one of the educational opportunities we know in New England 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 to create a series of 14 free webinars for growers. The series will be held throughout the winter months and will be available for registration. Registration is required for each webinar and positive identification credit will be available. The 14 free webinars start at 9 a.m. and the remainder of the series will begin at noon and typically end at 1:30 p.m.

Partners

Webinar Schedule

- November 11 - Managing Stone Fruit: Practical Session
 Presenter: Paul Finner, PhD
- January 12 - Handling and Marketing of Long-keeping and Other Varieties of Stone Fruit
 Presenter: John A. Smith, Extension and Partnership Director, USDA
- January 18 - Training and Planning Strategies for the 2021 Production Cycle
 Presenter: Bill Cullen, PhD
- January 25 - Blueberry Tree Pruning
 Presenter: Bill Cullen, PhD
- February 2, 3 & 4 - Control Winter Tree Fruit Pruning
 Presenter: Bill Cullen, PhD
- February 9 - Older Apple Trees: Allow Them to Prune
 Presenter: Bill Cullen, PhD
- February 16 - Insect-Prone Pests: Spraying and Control
 Presenter: Bill Cullen, PhD
- February 23 - Managing Trunk Diseases: Practical Session
 Presenter: Charles W. Davis and Greg Breda, Extension Educators
- March 2 - Research Update on Early Season Stone Fruits
 Presenter: Charles W. Davis and Greg Breda, Extension Educators
- March 9 - Research Update on Trunk Diseases
 Presenter: Charles W. Davis and Greg Breda, Extension Educators
- March 16 - Research Update on Trunk Diseases
 Presenter: Charles W. Davis and Greg Breda, Extension Educators
- March 23 - Research Update on Trunk Diseases
 Presenter: Charles W. Davis and Greg Breda, Extension Educators

Learn More & Register:
<https://www.ct.gov/extension/newenglandwinterfruitseries>

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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