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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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The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the Farmers' Market at the CT Regional Market.

The 2021 farmers' market season runs from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Stall use agreements are available for periods of three months up to a full season. Applications and information can be found [here](#).

Governor Lamont Announces Plans to Ease Some COVID-19 Restrictions in Connecticut

Governor Ned Lamont announced that in the coming days he plans to revise some requirements that were implemented in Connecticut in the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when it comes to those relating to capacity levels and travel restrictions.

The governor stressed that while some of these restrictions are being eased, all of the protocols that relate to face coverings, social distancing, and cleaning measures are being maintained, and people and businesses are urged to continue adhering to those health and safety procedures.

“While it is encouraging to see the number of cases in our state gradually going down and people getting vaccinated at rates that are among the highest in the nation, we need to continue taking this virus seriously to mitigate its spread as much as possible,” Governor Lamont said. “Please continue to wear face coverings in public and when around other people outside of your households, maintain social distancing, and keep washing your hands and cleaning surfaces. Connecticut has made tremendous strides to combat this pandemic, and we don’t want to lose the progress that we’ve made.”

For the full text and timeline of protocols that will be revised, click [here](#).



CIG

Conservation Innovation Grants

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Connecticut, has announced the availability of funds for competitive grants through the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program. CIG seeks to spark the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers and other landowners.

The program enables NRCS to work with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the state’s most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) to agricultural producers, into government technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector. CIG generally funds pilot projects, field demonstrations, and on-farm conservation research.

CIG awards are made through a competitive process. Projects may be single or multi-year but may not exceed three years. Projects must involve [EQIP-eligible](#)

agricultural producers or landowners, and at least 50% of the total cost must come from non-federal matching funds, including in-kind contributions.

Second Signup for USDA-NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a second signup for the agency's [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#).

Enrolling agricultural land helps secure the future of the nation's food supply, prevents it from being developed or going to a non-agricultural use, and provides public benefits including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat, and protection of open space.

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forest land. Native American Tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to purchase conservation easements.

The ACEP Program has two components, one for Agricultural Land Easements (ALE), and one for Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE).

To learn more, visit the [Connecticut NRCS webpage](#).

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](#).

NEW: COVID-19 Vaccination & the Food and Agriculture Sector

[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

[An Urban Farm Bucks Business Trends, and Traditions, In Danbury, 2/26, Patch](#)

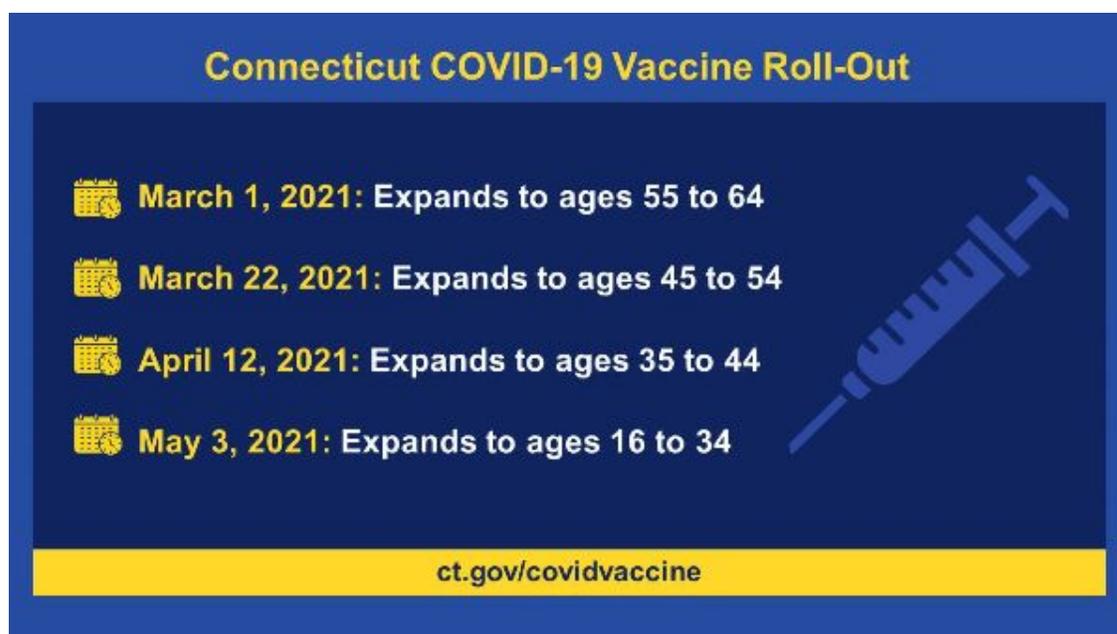
[From East Lyme to Cambridge and Back, Ostfeld Promotes Sustainable Farming, 3/1, CT Examiner](#)

[Hartford's Mercado Popular is promoting local farmers, community art and homemade goods through pop-up markets, 3/1, Hartford Courant](#)

[Simsbury Restaurant to Hire Farmer, 3/1, Patch](#)

[A sweet adventure at Blue Slope, 3/2, The Day](#)

[A New England Grain Renaissance, 3/3, The Connecticut Examiner](#)



The graphic features a blue background with a yellow banner at the top and bottom. The title "Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out" is in yellow. A large blue syringe is on the right. Four calendar icons are on the left, each followed by a date and age group expansion.

Date	Expansion
March 1, 2021	Expands to ages 55 to 64
March 22, 2021	Expands to ages 45 to 54
April 12, 2021	Expands to ages 35 to 44
May 3, 2021	Expands to ages 16 to 34

ct.gov/covidvaccine

FARM BUSINESS PLANNING & BUDGETING WEBINAR

URI Cooperative Extension, the RI Small Business Development Center (RISBDC), and UMass and UConn Cooperative Extension invite you to these 1 hour webinars - to get you thinking more about your farm-based business, whether you are well-established or new.

Join us Thursday, March 11 from 4 to 5 p.m. for Session 2: Budgeting & Financial Planning. In this free session, we'll work through a budgeting/one-page financial planning tool to help farm business owners get a handle on their historical revenue and costs (by revenue stream) and plan for the year(s) to come.

Presenters: Josh Daly, RISBDC & Andy Radin, URI Ag Extension

Register at this link: <https://www.risbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=70410024>

FREE FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING WEBINAR

Land For Good is offering a FREE webinar series for farmers and farm families to learn the basics of farm succession planning, how to get started, where to find resources, ask questions of succession planning experts, and get support on this challenging process. Farmers from across New England of all farm sizes and enterprises are welcome.

March 16: Getting Started With Your Farm Succession Planning

March 23: Financial Considerations for Farm Succession Planning

March 30: Legal Considerations for Farm Succession Planning

Register now! Registration gives participants access to all of the webinars in this series, plus class worksheets and resources, as well as access to recordings of webinars. Click here for more information.



MULTI-BUSINESS DAIRY AGRITOURISM GRANT - DEADLINE EXTENDED

The first competitive grant round through the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is going live! The Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant will fund projects to dairy farmers, processors and producer associations throughout New England, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Projects that support multiple farmers and processors will be eligible for grant funds of \$10,000 - \$25,000 for the development and marketing of

geographically contiguous agritourism activities designed to raise awareness and consumption of regionally produced dairy products.

Applications are due by April 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EST. [Click here](#) for more information.

PPP LOANS AVAILABLE TO SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH MARCH 10, 2021

In order to reach the smallest businesses, The U.S. Small Business Administration will offer Paycheck Protection Program loans to businesses with fewer than 20 employees and sole proprietors only from Wednesday, February 24 through Wednesday, March 10, 2021. President Biden has also announced additional program changes to make access to PPP loans more equitable.

Find a Lender:

1. [Get matched with a lender](#)
2. [Search for lenders in your area](#)

Identify a loan:

1. First Draw PPP Loans: If you have not received a PPP loan before, First Draw PPP Loans are available to you.
2. Second Draw PPP Loans: If you have previously received a PPP loan, certain businesses are eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan.



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. Join us to get your certification, learn more about available grant funding for your farm, and accepting SNAP to expand your sales.

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

- Wednesday, March 9, 2021 from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 3 p.m. - 5 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 Haley.Rowland@ct.gov or 860-895-3095.

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Connecticut's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is now accepting applications for the 2021 program year. The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop. The complete definition of specialty crops can be found on the USDA's [website](#).

Eligible applicants include commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits. The USDA wants to see as many entities as possible benefit from these dollars during the three years in which the project can take place. As a result, individual farms or businesses are encouraged to apply and partner with other eligible applicants rather than apply themselves.

This is a reimbursement grant for research with awards up to \$75,000. Completed applications must be sent to AGR.Grants@ct.gov by 4 p.m. on March 19, 2021. For more information on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and an example application, please visit the website, www.ctgrown.gov/grants and click on Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, or contact Haley Rowland at 860-895-3095 or haley.rowland@ct.gov.

WEBINAR SERIES: IMPROVING PASTURE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Tri-State SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) Project is offering a webinar series on improving pasture management for sustainable livestock production. The next webinar is on Wednesday, March 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This project is a professional development opportunity for agricultural service providers and farmers provided by the Northeast SARE state programs in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers. By attending all webinars, participants will have a sound understanding of how to develop a personalized grazing plan.

For more information, visit <http://meatsystems.uconn.edu/> or contact Rachel Bspuda, Project Director, at rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu. 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 March 1, 2021

[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

40-R. Bobcat 853 skidsteer. 1994 with 7,500 hours. Comes with 5' power angle snowplow \$9,500. Backhoe attachment available \$3,500. 860-648-1355

41-R. Straw - small square bales, 45-50 lbs. 860-675-9252, please leave message.

43-R. 24' Aluminum Body with rail gate, 16' Aluminum beverage body, tractor tires and rims 15.5R38. 203-623-2694

44. Kuhn GMC 600 II HD, 3 point hitch disc mower, 7'10" working width, ready to mow., \$5,800. Durham, 860-638-9689

Wanted

42-R. EZTRAIL kicker bale wagons, any condition. Cash paid. Call or text George, 860-918-5442.

Job Opportunities

The [Rhode Island Land Trust Council](#) seeks a strategic and experienced leader to work with the Board to promote and grow the organization. The Executive Director will be a conservation advocate and champion able to partner with a strong grassroots network of land trust leaders, organizations, and community members across Rhode Island and New England. Details [here](#).

Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps

The application is now open to serve with [FoodCorps](#) for the 2021-2022 school year. As a FoodCorps AmeriCorps service member, you'll spend a year teaching kids about healthy food in schools through hands-on nutrition & garden lessons, promoting healthy school meals, and fostering a school-wide culture of health. Service members earn a stipend, a year's worth of training and professional development resources, and a network of passionate food educators and school nutrition leaders. This is a great opportunity for folks who are committed to food justice, inspired by strong local communities, and creative in the face of a challenge- like serving during a pandemic.

FoodCorps is accepting applications until all service member positions are

filled. First round interviews will begin as early as mid-March. Learn more and apply at www.foodcorps.org/apply.

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**
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-1PM
Gain hands-on practical knowledge on a variety of power tools and how to use them safely. Foundations expertise and in that will easily adapt to your farm projects. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- FEB 6TH** **BASIC ELECTRICAL FOR 12-VOLT SYSTEMS**
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-1PM
Learn theory, test it and troubleshoot of 12 volt systems. Work shop concepts, diagnosis and hands on practice on various 12 volt systems in vehicles and recreational vehicles. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- FEB 20TH** **SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 4-STROKE**
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-1PM
Gain hands-on experience working on 4 stroke engines as well as fuel filters, big air filters and carburetors and how to troubleshoot on a variety of equipment. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- MAR 13TH** **BASIC ELECTRICAL; AC 120 RESIDENTIAL WIRING**
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-1PM
Learn safe and basic knowledge about wiring in homes, garages, sheds as well as testing and troubleshooting to determine the cause of residential wiring. [REGISTER HERE](#)

DEPT PER WORKSHOP \$25 - Lunch is included. SPACES ARE LIMITED SO REGISTER TODAY!
If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a refund for the registration fee. [CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO](#)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF OUR EVENTS. BY THE STATE OF CT, WORKING LANDS COOPERATIVE COVENANTS THAT COVER FARMERS' RIGHTS AND PROTECTS AGAINST UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERT WORKERS' RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE AND COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN TO BE LEGAL IN ALL STATES.

PLEASE DON'T ASK US TO VIOLATE ANY FEDERAL LAWS. YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND.

UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, LIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CT GROWN **USDA**

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/>

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

SOLID GROUND
A Program of UConn Extension

AGROECOLOGY SERIES

- TO TILL OR NOT TO TILL**
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23RD, 2021
6-8PM ON ZOOM [REGISTER HERE](#)
PRESENTER: ANDREW MEFFERD
EDITOR: GROWING FOR MARKET MAGAZINE
ONE DROP FARM CORNVILLE ME
DIP INTO THE TRIPS AS WELL AS THE TRIPS OF NO-TILL. EXPLORE TECHNIQUES FOR OPERATING OF ALL SIZES AND SKILLS TO GET STARTED OR EXPAND YOUR PRACTICES.
- ON-FARM COMPOSTING**
THURSDAY MARCH 18TH, 2021
[REGISTER HERE](#) 6-8PM ON ZOOM
PRESENTER: JAMES MCSWEENEY
AUTHOR: COMMUNITY-SCALE COMPOSTING SYSTEMS ARLINGTON, MA
ON-FARM COMPOSTING FOR BOTH SMALL TO MID-SIZE FARMS. EXPLORE SYSTEMS AND TIPS TO PUT BEST INTO PRACTICE BY YOUR OWN FARM.
- ECOLOGICAL GROWING**
SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY MARCH 27TH, 2021
PRESENTER: WAYNE YOUNG
HIGH HILL ORCHARD - MERIDEN CT
EXPLORE HOW ECOLOGICAL GROWING CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO SUPPORT RESILIENT AND PRODUCTION. LEARN HOW BUILDING SOIL HEALTH LEVERAGES OTHER NATURAL SYSTEMS TO RESIST TO MANAGE PESTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.

These trainings are supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2020-7020-9-02703.

USDA **UConn** COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, LIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

New England Dairy Nutrition Conference (Virtual)

Thursday March 11, 2021
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

FREE WEBINAR

RSVP for Zoom Link to: sue@mysta.mobi

NFAFA is partnering with UConn, U of Maine, URF, UMass, UNH, UNM and Cornell for a Virtual Dairy Seminar on Thursday, March 11. This event will provide top notch speakers on timely topics impacting dairy herd management.

Co-Hosted By

AGENDA

- 10:00 am Call to Order, Review agenda, meeting procedures
- 10:15 am Labor Management: What New England Dairy farms need to know in 2021
Justin Davling, Ph.D. - University of Rhode Island
- 11:00 am Cower Cows: Successful Management and Use
Richard Zentz, Ph.D. - University of New Hampshire
Gunnar Kolbjørnsen, Ph.D. - Cornell University
- 12:00 noon Sponsor Recognition & Break
- 12:45 pm Factors to Consider for Profitable Grazing of Cows
Bill Miller, Ph.D. - The Ohio State University
- 1:30 pm Feeding and Managing for Milk Components
Tom Driksen, Ph.D. - Cornell University
- 2:15 pm Celebrate: The Foundation of the Future
Peter Fickson, Ph.D. - University of New Hampshire
- 3:00 pm Adjourn

Speakers:

- Justin Davling, Ph.D. - University of Rhode Island
- Richard Zentz, Ph.D. - University of New Hampshire
- Justin Davling, Ph.D. - University of Rhode Island
- Tom Driksen, Ph.D. - Cornell University
- Robert Zickerson, Ph.D. - University of New Hampshire
- Mike Zimmerman - Executive Director - mzimmer@nfafa.org
- Sue VanVoorburgh - Executive Assistant - sue@mysta.mobi

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