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CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

CTGrown.gov The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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On Friday, March 19, Commissioner Hurlburt visited Aquila's Nest Vineyards. women-owned business, in Newtown, CT. He was joined by Governor Lamont, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz and other elected officials to see how the vineyard is preparing as the state begins COVID-19 to ease restrictions.



National Agriculture Week, March 21-27

Celebrate National Agriculture Week, from March 21-27, with the following activities highlighting the importance of agriculture in Connecticut.

CT Grown Brand Launch

To support its efforts to promote Connecticut's robust agriculture and aquaculture industries - with an economic of \$4 billion to the state's economy - the Connecticut Department of Agriculture is unveiling a new logo and branding for its CT Grown brand. These new assets will be rolled out as part of a comprehensive marketing campaign over the next year - an integral element to DoAg's initiative to promote all Connecticut-based products, from fruits and vegetables to seafood and wine, maple syrup and honey, dairy and fiber.

Due to limited capacity and adherence to COVID-19 restrictions, in person attendees will be limited. However, we invite all producers and service providers to join us for a livestream watch party to take part in the exciting announcement and learn how you can be part of moving the message forward.

Live Watch Party: Monday, March 22, 2021, at 12:45 p.m.

Register in advance to attend the live watch party here.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Ag Day at the Capitol

The CT Ag Information Council and CT Department of Agriculture invite you to attend Ag Day at the Capitol, on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. for a virtual celebration of National Agriculture Day and the following special presentations:

- Presentation of 2021 Outstanding Young Farmer
- Recognition of 2020 Outstanding Young Farmer
- Recognition of 2020 Century Farm
- · Agricultural Journalism Awards

To attend Ag Day at the Capitol, please click here.



AG/SOILS SUB WORKING GROUP ISSUES ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change are creating both challenges and opportunities for Connecticut agriculture and consumers. Over the course of 2020, Commissioner Hurlburt chaired the Agriculture/Soils Sub Working Group, which worked diligently with farmers and agricultural producers throughout Connecticut and New England to discuss climate change related issues surrounding agriculture and soils.

This effort is a result of Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3, issued in September 2019, which rejuvenated the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) and expanded its scope and responsibilities to include both mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change adaptation and resilience as follows: "the Council shall monitor and report on the state's progress on the implementation of carbon mitigation strategies, as well as on the development and implementation of adaptation strategies to assess and prepare for the impacts of climate change in areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, natural

resources, and public health."

The Working and Natural Lands Working Group evaluated the role of nature-based solutions (e.g., scaling up the preservation and restoration of forests and coastal wetlands, green and natural infrastructure, agricultural lands) in climate change mitigation and adaptation and how to best incorporate the economic, social, and environmental co-benefits of these solutions into Connecticut's climate change planning strategies.

The variables in rainfall, frost-free periods, temperature, snowfall, and severe weather events are major challenges. The state will have a longer, warmer growing season that will favor increased production, especially of specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables. An overall wetter climate, with short term droughts, will make water management a challenge. Longer warmer growing seasons and globalization will bring new pests and diseases that will require careful management, and increased research and support from the UCONN College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Connecticut, and the Northeast, will be one of the few parts of the U.S. with a climate suitable for both people and agriculture.

It will require farmers to continue to innovate in their production methods, infrastructure, marketing, and processing. Consumers will need greater awareness of these challenges, and to appreciate the contributions to local food security and economic diversity that farms bring to the state. This also requires our municipalities to allow the flexibility and resources needed to support them.

In January of 2021, the <u>GC3 released the Phase 1 Report: Near Term Actions</u>, which includes the immediate actionable items from all of the working groups. The following recommendations were the result of the AG/Soils Working Group.

The entire GC3 compiled Near-Term recommendations to be presented to the Governor earlier this year. The near term goals of the AG/Soils Working Group included:

- Reduce conversion of Prime and Important Farmland Soils, active agricultural land, forest land, and other soil landscapes that provide critical ecosystem functions and values/ goods and services such as groundwater recharge/discharge, protection of headwaters of cold-water streams, public water supply watersheds, floodplains and riparian areas, wetlands and wetland hydrology, support special habitats and migration corridors for species.
- Increase the adoption of on-farm energy production and reduce on farm energy usage through enhancing energy efficiency, renewable energy production, and renewable natural gas from anaerobic digestion, and composting.
- Improve soil health practices on all landscapes and off farms through technical assistance and training, education and outreach, and leveraging federal funding

- Build a sustainable and equitable food system through support for urban agriculture and strengthening state grant programs.
- Prepare farms for climate change by improving use of federal and state programs and better engaging and supporting socially disadvantaged producers, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).
- Address coastal acidification with a focus on impacts to the shell-fishing industry by developing research and monitoring and joining the International Association to Combat Ocean Acidification.

More information on these action items, and the Governor's Council on Climate Change can be found <u>here</u>. The Connecticut General Assembly is currently considering several pieces of legislation surrounding climate change initiatives and more information can be found on the <u>Connecticut General Assembly</u> website.

COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

<u>Connecticut Grown Farm Map</u>: 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.

Find all updated guidance documents here.

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

NEW: Maple Sugarhouse Guidance

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

<u>Local farmers prepare for second pandemic growing season</u>, 3/13, The Day <u>Hidden Gems Of Connecticut</u>, 3/14, Patch.com

Farm Transition Grant Restructured to Better Support Connecticut Agricultural

<u>Producers</u>, 3/17, Lancaster Farming <u>MAPLE WEEKEND: Connecticut sugarhouses open for tastings,</u> <u>demonstrations</u>, 3/18, Journal Inquirer

REGISTER NOW FOR FARMLAND MIXER II

If you missed last month's virtual Farmland Mixer, now is the time to register for the next one on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. This event is geared towards those looking to sell land, lease land, or buy land for farming.

Sign up here: bit.ly/farmlandmixer

If you are a farmer in the state that is looking for land to lease or buy, this is a great opportunity for you to talk to landowners and get other resources from service providers about how to prepare to lease or buy land. To make sure this event has the most impact possible, we are limiting the number of attendees early registration is encouraged. Some attendees will be asked to give a 3-minute pitch for the day of the mixer. Keep in mind that pitch slots are limited, so some attendees will only be permitted to listen. Developing your own pitch will be a helpful exercise for talking with farmers and landowners you meet at the mixer.

Service providers will also be present on the day of the mixer to answer questions that come up in conversations between farmers and landowners, and to direct you towards resources for taking the next steps.

If you have any questions about the event, please reach out to Will O'Meara at will@landforgood.org



PUBLIC ACT 490 WEBINAR

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA) will host a live webinar on PA 490,"Connecticut's Current Use Tax Law for Farmland, Forestland, Open Space Land and Maritime Heritage Land", on Wednesday, March 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Joan Nichols, CFBA Executive Director, will present a comprehensive overview of the law, tips for applying for and maintaining the classification, and information on transferring PA 490 land.

Registration is free to all standard CFBA members and \$40 for non-standard CFBA members. Join CFBA, or upgrade your membership, and the registration fee will be waived. All registrants will receive a copy of the 2020 CFBA PA 490 Guide. To register, visit www.cfba.org or call 860-768-1100.

UPDATE FROM THE CT DEEP PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

E-License, a new online licensing service, is live and accepting certification applications for Supervisory and Private Applicators. Follow the links to the specific credential you are interested in for instructions on submitting an application. Please use the online system for those credentials as we will no longer be accepting paper applications by mail.

We hope you like the convenience of this new system. If you are having any trouble, please <u>email</u> us for assistance. Any questions or concerns can be

directed to: <u>DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov</u>.

For more information, visit the <u>DEEP Pesticide Managament Program</u> <u>webpage</u>.

Apply for a private applicator exam

<u>List of Recertification Meetings</u>

FARM TRANSITION GRANT GUIDELINES UPDATED

Due to industry feedback, effective March 18, 2021, the 2021 Farm Transition Grant Guidance has been updated to remove the "10 year minimum" as part of the "long term written lease agreement" requirement for the Infrastructure Investment Grant, Research and Development Grant and the Innovation and Diversification Grant. The requirement is now that eligible applicants "include a long term written lease agreement between all necessary parties regarding the submitted project.

Grant applications will be accepted starting April 8 and due no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 15, 2021. For more information on the FTG and a link to the updated guidance, please visit the <u>Farm Transition Grant webpage</u>. Questions can be directed to Amanda King at <u>Amanda.King@ct.gov</u>.

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Connecticut's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is now accepting applications for the 2021 program year until Monday, March 22, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

This is a reimbursement grant for research with awards up to \$75,000. 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.



USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON FOOD PURCHASE PROGRAM, WILL HOST LISTENING SESSION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) seeks comments on the development, coordination, and implementation of a food purchase and distribution program intended to provide additional aid to nonprofits serving Americans in need of nutrition assistance.

Comments can be submitted through midnight ET on March 31, 2021, via <u>online portal</u> or by email to <u>AMSCOVIDStimulus@usda.gov</u>. They welcome feedback from all interested parties, and appreciate early response. Additional information is available on the <u>AMS website</u>.

In addition, AMS will host a listening session to provide groups and individuals an opportunity to share their views on how USDA can best serve people in need of food assistance as well as the industry through this program. All interested stakeholders are invited to attend. Stakeholders are also invited to register to provide oral comments during the session.

Registration will remain open until the start of the event, or until the session is full. Additional details <u>here</u>.

Looking for a farmers' market? Let us connect you.



LOOKING FOR A FARMERS' MARKET IN 2021?

Farmers pursuing new/additional farmers' markets in 2021 are encouraged to provide information about the farm products they produce and logistics about the type of market they're looking for by completing this online form: https://bit.ly/3a5r9LS

Information will be shared with all farmers' market managers throughout Connecticut.

As a list is compiled of markets looking for new farmers, that information will be shared with any farmer who completes the above online form in an effort to provide a match-making service between markets and farmers.

USDA PROVISIONS IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

On March 10, 2021, U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The legislation is a critical step in getting the U.S. economy back on track, getting children back to school, getting COVID-19 vaccinations to all Americans, and pulling millions out of poverty. Specifically, provisions within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will reduce hunger across the country, strengthen the food supply chain, invest in rural America, and provide long awaited support to

underserved, socially disadvantaged farmers.

Additional details here.

CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST SEEKS GIS CONSULTANT

Connecticut Farmland Trust seeks an experienced GIS Consultant to perform a suitability analysis to identify farmland across Connecticut that ranks as a high priority for land conservation. Please send proposals to kdoherty@ctfarmland.org by March 31, 2021 in order to be considered.

View the full Request for Proposals <u>here</u> and the memo listing potential data sources here.

Background: Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) is a statewide, nonprofit land trust with a mission of farmland preservation. CFT is beginning a strategic farmland conservation plan in order to prioritize our conservation efforts for the next several years. A central component of this plan will be an iterative spatial analysis and mapping process to identify which farms should be prioritized for conservation. Work will begin in April 2021 and continue for 4 to 6 months.



APPLY TO VEND AT THE FARMERS' MARKET AT THE CT REGIONAL MARKET

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 <u>here</u>.

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 23: Financial Considerations for Farm Succession Planning

March 30: Legal Considerations for Farm Succession Planning

<u>Register now!</u> 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. <u>Click here</u> for more information.



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

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.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.

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

<u>Update</u> (New!)

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

<u>Summary</u> <u>Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -</u>

Boston
Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -

<u>Eighty Four, PA</u>

<u>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -</u>
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. <u>Sonpal's Power Fence</u> 860-491-2290.
- 5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039.

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. <u>Jones Apiaries LLC</u>, 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

45. John Bean Sprayer, purchased from OESCO INC. in Conway, MA. 200 gal Stainless Steel Tank, John Bean 2 piston high pressure pump, Honda 8 HP engine, 3 paddle mechanical agitation, 100 feet high pressure hose & John Bean Model 785 Spray Gun fully restored by OESCO INC. & unused (\$499.00). Excellent condition. Sprayer is on skids. \$4,500 o.b.o. 203-283-1459, leave a message.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

<u>Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation</u> is seeking candidates to serve as the Executive Director (E.D.) of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF). To manage the business of the Federation including the staff and coordinate volunteer leaders to aggressively promote Farm Bureau programs and implement policy.

For more information or to submit a resume contact Mark Amato, President MFBF, mark@mfbf.net with a copy to Laura Abrams, laura@mfbf.net. The full job description can be found here.

University of Connecticut, UConn Extension is seeking an Urban Agriculture Assistant/Associate Extension Educator, primarily based in the Fairfield County Extension Office in Bethel, CT. Application deadline is March 24, 2021. Details and application information available here.

The <u>Rhode Island Land Trust Council</u> 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 <u>here</u>.

Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps

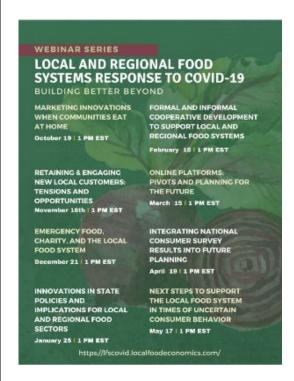
The application is now open to serve with <u>FoodCorps</u> for the 2021-2022 school year. As a FoodCorps AmeriCorps service member, you'll spend a year teaching kids about healthy food in schools through hands-on nutrition & garden lessons, promoting healthy school meals, and fostering a school-wide 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 <u>here</u> for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

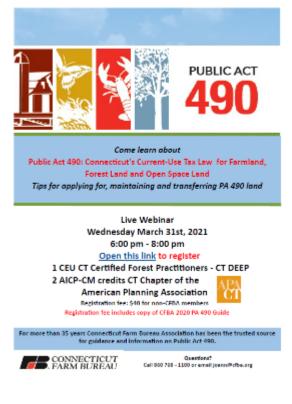
(click the image to be redirected to the event website)











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