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In This Issue

March 26, 2021; Vol. D, No. 12

2021 Outstanding Young Farmer

CT Grown Brand Launch

CT Dairy Promotion Grant

Pandemic Assistance for Producers

Meat Slaughter/Processing Webinar

Final FMNP Meetings

Ag Market Pricing

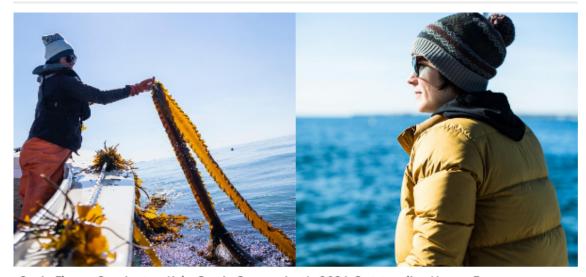
Advertisements

<u>Upcoming Events</u>



Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt visited Sam Smith at Grower Direct Farms in Somers, CT, which operates 45 acres of climate-controlled greenhouses to start Connecticut Agriculture Day, which coincided with National Agriculture Day, on March 23.

Watch the video here.



Suzie Flores, Stonington Kelp Co., is Connecticut's 2021 Outstanding Young Farmer.

Connecticut Agriculture Day Recognizes 2021 Outstanding Young Farmer and Ag Journalism Award Winners

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) and Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) celebrated National Agriculture Day on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, with a virtual ceremony to announce the state's 2021 Outstanding Young Farmer and Ag Journalism Award winners.

Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt welcomed attendees by highlighting the importance of agriculture, especially over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Everyone in agriculture worked together over the past year to ensure we come out stronger in the end," said Commissioner Hurlburt. "Our celebration of National Ag Week started on Monday with the reveal of the refreshed CT Grown brand and marketing campaign. Today, we acknowledge the next generation of farmers stepping up to lead the industry and recognize our media partners who helped shine a light on the essential work of our agricultural producers with their innovation and resilience."

The 2021 Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer award was presented to Suzie Flores, a former market development executive who owns and operates Stonington Kelp Co. with her husband Jay and three children. The vision for the farm began five years ago in 2016 and the following year was up and running through a partnership with GreenWave, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the next generation of ocean farmers. Today, the farm is one of the largest commercial seaweed farms in the state selling food grade sugar kelp to local restaurants and shops.

Sugar kelp is the only variety of seaweed that can be legally grown in Connecticut and has a slightly sweeter flavor. While the nutritional benefits of sugar kelp are well known, the positive role this native sea vegetable can have on the environment is what really drives Flores. Her farming methods highlight the importance of regenerative and sustainable farming for the ocean. Sugar kelp absorbs carbon and nitrogen from the water while it grows, directly addressing climate change and mitigating the impacts of ocean acidification.

The Agricultural Journalism awards recognize outstanding coverage of Connecticut agriculture by the news media for stories published in 2020. More than one dozen nominations were received and reviewed. Upon review the selection committee recognized the following four entries for their outstanding work:

Cate Hewitt, CT Examiner, "The Future of Farming"

- Jim Altman & Sean McKeever, Fox 61, "COVID-19 won't stop tradition at Pumpkintown"
- Ken Dixon, CT Post, "Scientists Doing Work with Duct Tape and Paper Clips"
- Brendan Crowley, CT Examiner, "Small Farms in Lyme and East Haddam are Building Barns and Moving Online"

Additionally, the program recognized the 2020 Outstanding Young Farmer, Jimmy Bloom of Norm Bloom & Son and the 2020 Century Farm of the Year, Fish & Kent Farm in Suffield, CT. Both were officially honored during the virtual 2020 Plant Science Day after the cancellation of the 2020 Ag Day at the Capitol at the start of the pandemic. The Century Farm award honors a farm that has been in family operation for at least 100 years and has great potential to be successful for another 100 years. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 Century Farm of the Year and due by May 1, 2021.

For more information about the CT Agricultural Information Council, or how to submit a nomination, please visit www.ctaginfocouncil.org.





CULTIVATING AWARENESS: THE NEXT GENERATION OF CT GROWN

"Delivering the best in branding and outreach, because our ag and aqua community is the very best." - Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt

On Monday, March 22 — on the occasion of Connecticut Agriculture Week 2021, at Geremia Greenhouses in Wallingford, we launched the next generation of CT Grown.

Following hundreds of hours of research — polling more than 1,700 consumers, producers and commercial partners, we are prepared to capture more than 100 million market impressions in the 12 months ahead.

How are we going to do that?

Very thoughtfully, with a producer-first focus.

As with the surveys, the focus groups, the soft-launch gathering, and eventually the launch event, everything about this campaign has first focused on the opinions and engagement of our farmers. We understand that before we can win the minds of consumers, we need a meeting of the minds with farmers.

To that end, in this newsletter you will find information fully outlining the campaign and six simple steps every member of the ag community can embrace to be part of the success ahead. We have also provided phase one tools, including multiple versions of the logos and a guide on how to use the new CT Grown brand and sub brands.

In the weeks ahead, this toolkit will grow to include CT Grown photos, video clippings and other resources such as order forms for signs, labels and stamps. On the newly launched <u>ctgrown.org</u> you will see that we are inviting site visitors to register for a consumer newsletter and we will have an events calendar, in addition to a link to our current and popular farm map.

On top of these tools, this campaign will include a multi-media approach from now through next March. We will be seeking earned media (as in all the great brand launch stories), and all forms of new media (digital, social, email, ad words) as well as mass media including broadcast and outdoors. Like many members of the ag community, we plan to stretch every dollar and get the best bang for our buck.

And... we are off to a great start. Our newly launched website has had more than 1,150 page views and our new Instagram account is already up to 1,200 followers who are very engaged and passionate.

More updates will be shared on a regular basis from the internal/external marketing team. Thank you for being great advocates on behalf of Connecticut agriculture/aquaculture!

Click for 6 Ways You Can Use CT Grown

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

Connecticut Grown program relaunched to promote state-grown foods, 3/22, Hartford Courant

<u>'CT Grown' logo updated as campaign reboots with a new focus</u>, 3/22, Republican-American

Refreshed "Connecticut Grown" campaign unveiled, 3/22, Fox 61

CT fruit and vegetable sales, which boomed during the pandemic, may not keep pace for long, 3/22, New Haven Register

Gilbert Farm Is Gearing Up for Spring, 3/23, NBC CT

<u>UConn to get \$500,000 grant from USDA to study egg safety at smaller farms,</u> 3/23, Fox 61

<u>Update on CT Grown with DOAG Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt</u>, 3/25, The River 105.9



\$6,500 IN DAIRY PROMOTION GRANTS AVAILABLE TO CT FARMERS

Connecticut Milk Promotion Board is pleased to contract with New England Dairy to offer a competitive dairy grant program to Connecticut dairy farm families and employees. Funding for this project was paid for by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board, with your checkoff dollars.

For 100 years, New England Dairy has worked in New England and Connecticut to celebrate all things dairy- farming, food, nutrition, and wellness. This program is one more way to sustain a vibrant dairy community and champion the work of Connecticut's dairy farm families and the nutritious foods they produce. Funded projects will be eligible for grant funds of up to \$1,500 annually to improve public perception of dairy farming and/or increase consumption of local dairy products. The total grant funding available is \$6,500. Grants are available for projects that will be completed before July 31, 2021.

The application is due on April 17 by 5:00 p.m. View application materials here.

WEBINAR: EXPLORING BEEF x DAIRY CROSSBREEDING

With volatility in milk prices and increased availability of sexed semen, many dairy farmers are able to satisfy their need for replacement heifers with fewer purebred matings. Crossbreeding lower-performing dairy cows to beef bulls offers an opportunity for dairy producers to diversify markets and increase revenues. However, much has yet to be learned about genetic selection of beef

bulls for crossbreeding, feeding protocols for crossbred calves, and other management strategies that ensure a high-quality, profitable meat product. Join UConn Extension Livestock Specialist Joe Emenheiser on Thursday, April 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.as he presents general information on beef x dairy crossbreeding and provides insight into research that is developing at UConn and with its regional partners.

Register today by emailing MacKenzie White at mackenzie.white@uconn.edu to request the WebEx link.

USDA ANNOUNCES 'PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR PRODUCERS' TO DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES MORE EQUITABLY

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on March 24 that USDA is establishing new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. The new initiative—USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers—will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new programs. The Department will also develop rules for new programs that will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers, timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel, among others. Existing programs like the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will fall within the new initiative and, where statutory authority allows, will be refined to better address the needs of producers.

USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has committed at least \$2.5 million to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will establish partnerships with organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

For more information, visit the USDA media page.

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Community Food Projects (CFP) is to support the development of projects with a one-time infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. CFPs are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) primary goals. The deadline for applications is May 4, 2021. The total amount of funding available is \$4.8 million.

Applicants must demonstrate the following:

- 1. They must have experience in the area of: a. community food work, particularly concerning small and medium-size farms, including the provision of food to people in low-income communities and the development of new markets in low-income communities for agricultural producers; b. job training and business development activities for food-related activities in low-income communities; and c. efforts to reduce food insecurity in the community, including food distribution, improving access to services, or coordinating services and programs.
- 2. Demonstrate competency to implement a project, provide fiscal accountability, collect data, and prepare reports and other necessary documentation;
- 3. Demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers, evaluators, practitioners, and other interested parties, including a plan for dissemination of results; and 4. Collaborate with one or more local partner organizations to achieve at least one of the hunger-free communities' goal.

For more information, visit the CFPCGP webpage.



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.

MEAT SLAUGHTER / PROCESSING WEBINAR

On Thursday, April 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) will present a webinar to address meat slaughter and meat processing. Presenters include Dr. Lynda Lilyestrom, George Slobodjian, Joshua Rupert, John Froelich, and David Brown. The three main presentations, each lasting about 20 minutes, will cover a range of topics such as grants of inspection, custom slaughter and retail butcher exemptions, and COVID-19 funding and loan guarantee programs to improve or establish slaughter and processing capacity. The third presentation will be followed a Q&A session.

Interested parties should register for the meeting using the meeting link and password below.

Meeting link: https://ctdoag.webex.com/ctdoag/j.php? MTID=m4cc93983f26e76bdbcbe39ae1774982b

Meeting number: 132 530 9056

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 webpage</u>.

Apply for a private applicator exam

List of Recertification Meetings

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>.



FINAL 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.

Below are the final certification meeting dates which will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Registration is now open at http://bit.ly/3qK3cjV. Please register at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

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

REUNIONES DE CERTIFICACIÓN FMNP

Todos los productores de frutas, verduras y miel que venden en mercados de agricultores productores certificados de Connecticut deben estar certificados con el Programa de Nutrición del Mercado de Agricultores (FMNP) del Departamento de Agricultura de Connecticut. Para ser certificados, los productores deben asistir a una reunión de certificación.

La certificación permite a las granjas aceptar los cheques FMNP por frutas frescas, verduras y miel de clientes de WIC y personas mayores elegibles para ingresos mayores de 60 años. Únase a nosotros para obtener su certificación, obtener más información sobre los fondos de subvenciones disponibles para su granja de servidores y como aceptar SNAP para expandir sus ventas.

Si necesita una formación en español, póngase en contacto directamente con nuestra oficina para obtener más información. 860-713-2503 o por correo electrónico a Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

FARMERS SOUGHT FOR INTERVIEWS FOR UNH STUDY ON FARM VIABILITY (\$50 INCENTIVE)

The Food Systems Lab at the University of New Hampshire is conducting a research study about increasing farm income and local and regional food production in New England. Participation involves a conversational interview (on the farm or virtual) that lasts about an hour. Participants will be offered one \$50 prepaid debit card per farm. BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented farmers are especially encouraged to participate. All types of farms and all ways of farming will be considered. To be considered for an interview, please fill out this 10-minute online survey: tinyurl.com/unhfarmersurvey. For questions, contact Dr. Ike Leslie at isaac.leslie@unh.edu or 603-862-2384.

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 <u>here</u>.

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 <a href="https://example.com/here/beauty-season-runs-new-months-new-mon

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 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.

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

<u>Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT</u> <u>New Holland Dairy Auction - New</u>

Prices last provided on March 22, 2021 Holland, PA

Northeast Regional Eggs New Holland, PA Hay Report

New England Shell Eggs USDA Mexico Canada Weekly

<u>Update</u>

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

46R. Lynn Blackmer, YOUR LOCAL NATIONWIDE FARM INSURANCE AGENT. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT & RI. Any type farm/any size farm. Discounts for being CT Farm Bureau member for those who qualify. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com. Appointments available any time.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

The <u>Connecticut Department of Agriculture</u>, Bureau of Regulatory Services is recruiting for (1) State Veterinarian.

This is a full-time <u>State Veterinarian</u> position, as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Sec. 22-26f ("State Veterinarian"), who will act as the state's chief livestock health official, and epidemiologist for the prevention and control of animal and poultry diseases. The overall duties and responsibilities of the State Veterinarian involve compliance with state and federal laws and regulations relative to the prevention and control of animal and poultry diseases and to reduce the risk to public health from such diseases that may be transmissible directly or from animal derived products.

Applications due by April 10, 2021. For more information, click here.

<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.

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 here for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

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







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