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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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Celebrate #CTGrown as #AWayofLife by using the hashtags on social posts, including the new logo on your product packaging labels, and updating to the new logo on your website to showcase that you are proudly producing, harvesting, and selling Connecticut Grown products.

See how you can be involved [here](#).

CONNECTICUT FOOD  
POLICY COUNCIL

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## Connecticut Food Policy Council Announces Launch of New Website and Action Plan

The Connecticut Food Policy Council is pleased to announce the launch of a new website and action plan to create a more resilient Connecticut food system. The website, [ctfoodpolicy.com](http://ctfoodpolicy.com), is a resource of food policy groups, food systems information and data, food benefits accessibility, and more to link economic development, environmental protection, and preservation with farming and urban issues.

The creation of a website is one of several actions currently being undertaken now that the board is fully appointed and meeting regularly. Prior years saw sporadic attendance and lack of quorums during meetings due to appointment vacancies leading to no actions moving forward.

“Our boards, councils, and commissions are invaluable in driving good policy and providing input to the agency,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “The Food Policy Council members each contribute a dynamic voice and opportunity to learn more about the unique communities they serve.”

Established in 1997 by the Connecticut legislature under Public Act 97-11, Section 21, this is the only statewide food policy council in Connecticut and is administratively supported by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Together with various partners throughout the state, they are charged with developing, coordinating, and implementing a food system policy. It is a collaborative mix of agricultural producers, agricultural organizations, and six state agencies including Agriculture, Administrative Services, Education, Transportation, Public Health, and Social Services.

As the Food Policy Council continues to identify the gaps in the food supply chain to better respond to the needs of Connecticut residents, the council members have developed a spending plan to utilize their annual allocation and draw down the accumulated budget. Included in this is funding for fellows, mini grants for market access, a study on the gaps, risks, and opportunities within the Connecticut Food System, and publication of those findings. The council has also partially funded work being performed by Hartford Food Systems on their food action plan.

Connecticut is home to more than a dozen food policy groups; each addressing different geographic locations and/or segments from consumers, production, and processing to food waste management and distribution. Food insecurity in Connecticut and benefit programs are an aspect of the food system that the council is beginning to develop work on, leveraging the state agency council membership.

According to Feeding America’s 2019 Map a Meal, there are 426,620 food insecure residents in Connecticut, or 11.9% of the population. In 2020, the Department of Social Services administered the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to serve an average of nearly 218,000 households per month, representing 467,764 individual participants and \$819,027,405 in total benefits. The Connecticut Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program served 43,777 individuals in 2020 with a total of \$36,250,000 on food and the

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), in partnership with the USDA, served 41,048 WIC participants and an additional 24,791 income eligible seniors and disabled adults to source fresh, unprocessed Connecticut Grown fruits, vegetables, and honey.

Comments, suggestions, and additions to the Food Policy Council website content are welcome and can be directed to Erin Windham at [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or Cyrena Thibodeau at [Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov](mailto:Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov).



### FINAL FMNP FARMER CERTIFICATION MEETING

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 is the **FINAL** certification meeting date which will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

**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 [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or 860-519-6083 or Haley Rowland at [Haley.Rowland@ct.gov](mailto:Haley.Rowland@ct.gov) 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](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov).\*\*\*

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## COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Producers

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### 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.

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### 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](#).

### **COVID-19 Vaccination & the Food and Agriculture Sector**

[Maple Sugarhouse Guidance](#)

[Equine Guidance](#)

[Equine Competition Guidance](#)

[Farmers' Markets](#)

[Farm Stores/Stands and CSAs](#)

[Food Safety](#)

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

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### **CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS**

[Your Favorite Seafood May Be Helping Clean Up Major Pollutants](#), 3/26, NBC CT

[CT Grown gets new logo](#), 3/29, Hartford Business Journal

[Pols take victory lap for pro-small business efforts at Newtown winery](#), 3/29, Westfaironline.com

[Reinventing School Lunch](#), 3/29, NBC CT

[Stonington Woman Named 2021 Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer](#), 3/30, Patch.com



### SHOP CONNECTICUT GROWN

The Connecticut Grown Store announces brand new merchandise showcasing the refreshed Connecticut Grown logo. Items are currently available for pre-order and will be mailed out by early May. Available items include t-shirts, hats, and baby onesies and bibs. Visit [connecticutgrownstore.com](https://connecticutgrownstore.com) to order.

COMING SOON: Point of Purchase cards and Connecticut Grown tents!

### FARM TRANSITION GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS NEXT WEEK

Applications for the Farm Transition Grant 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 [Farm Transition Grant webpage](#). Questions can be directed to Amanda King at [Amanda.King@ct.gov](mailto:Amanda.King@ct.gov). Various changes have been made since last year, including the creation of five separate categories for funding, listed below:

- **New Farmer Micro Grants:** To support new individuals/partnerships who have one full year to three years of production history and are seeking long-term careers that financially support them through farming and agriculture.
- **Infrastructure Investment Grant:** To support farmers in production for a minimum of three years with infrastructure to expand the farm's production and operation.
- **Research and Development Grant:** For farms to conduct research to assess the viability and development of a new product line, service, or market.

- **Innovation and Diversification Grant:** For the implementation of a new product or service for market or business expansion after a research and development phase has been explored.
- **Crisis and Emergency Response Grant:** To provide aid in response to disasters where federal support, insurance, and loans are unavailable or have been exhausted. *(This grant will not be initially available and will be announced as needed at a later date.)*

In addition to these new categories, 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.”



### **\$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.

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](#).

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### **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](mailto:mackenzie.white@uconn.edu) to request the WebEx link.

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### **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](#).

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### **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](#).

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# 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.

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## **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=m4cc93983f26e76bdbcbce39ae1774982b](https://ctdoag.webex.com/ctdoag/j.php?MTID=m4cc93983f26e76bdbcbce39ae1774982b)

Meeting number: 132 530 9056

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## 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 [email](mailto:DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov) us for assistance. Any questions or concerns can be directed to: [DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov).

For more information, visit the [DEEP Pesticide Management Program webpage](#).

[Apply for a private applicator exam](#)

[List of Recertification Meetings](#)



**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 [here](#).

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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](http://SharedWorkCt.com) and chat with our Virtual Assistant, Sherry.




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### **Ag Market Pricing**

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)  
*Prices last provided on March 29, 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](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

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

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

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### **Advertisements**

#### **For Sale**

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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](http://www.bludon.com)

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2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

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3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. [Sonpal's Power Fence](#) 860-491-2290.

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5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039.

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32-R. Modine Power-Vented propane heater, 240K BTU. Greenhouse/high tunnel heater. Brand new, still in box. \$1,600 Call 860-576-2277.

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

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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

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

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

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46-R. 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](mailto:lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com). Appointments available any time.

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47-R. Kuhn GMC 600 II HD, 3 point hitch disc mower, 7'10" working width, ready to mow. \$5,500. Durham, 860-638-9689.

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### **Wanted**

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

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### **Job Opportunities**

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The [Connecticut Department of Agriculture](#), Bureau of Regulatory Services is **recruiting for (1) State Veterinarian**.

This is a full-time [State Veterinarian](#) 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](#).

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### 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](http://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)*

THE NEW CT FARMER ALLIANCE PRESENTS:  
**TOWN HALL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**APRIL 1, 7:30-8:30PM**

FEATURING:  
 COME SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS WITH THE DEPT OF AG  
 LEARN ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S ONGOING PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND CAMPAIGNS

BRYAN HURLBURT, CT COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE  
 JAIMIE SMITH, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF AG DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

RSVP at [bit.ly/NCTFAtownhall](http://bit.ly/NCTFAtownhall)  
 All farmers welcome!

CONNECTICUT GROWN

Are you a landowner looking for someone to use your land?  
 Are you a farmer looking for land to buy or lease?

**FARM LAND MIXER II**

**JOIN US!**  
**Tuesday April 6**  
**6:30-8:30**

Join farmers, landowners, and service providers as we talk about opportunities to lease and own farmland in Connecticut.  
 Sign up at: [bit.ly/farmlandmixer](http://bit.ly/farmlandmixer)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
 American Farmland Trust  
 UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
 SOLID GROUND  
 Land Good

2021 Tri-State SARE Project Webinar Series  
**Improving Pasture Management for Sustainable Livestock Production**



Webinar 1: Friday, February 19th  
 Webinar 2: Wednesday, March 10th  
 Webinar 3: Tuesday, March 23rd  
 Webinar 4: Tuesday, April 6th



**WEBINAR 1**  
 Introduction to the development of a simple grazing plan  
 Jenn Colby (UVM), Susan Parry (PA NRCS), & Dairton Meeh (NH NRCS)

**WEBINAR 2**  
 Grazing plan calculations  
 Masoud Hanbessi (UMass), Sam Glaze-Corcoran (New England Grazing Network), & Jenn Colby (UVM)

**WEBINAR 3**  
 Mapping out your grazing plan  
 Jenn Colby (UVM) & Dairton Meeh (NH NRCS)

**WEBINAR 4**  
 Refining your grazing plan  
 Dairton Meeh (NH NRCS) & Susan Parry (PA NRCS)

All webinars will be held from 10 am to 12 noon

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers and will be comprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout sessions. By attending all webinars participants will have a sound understanding of how to help farmers create a grazing plan and/or work to develop a personalized grazing plan for their farm. Partaking in all webinars is encouraged, but not required.

For more information, visit <http://meatystems.uconn.edu/> or contact Rachel Beapada, Project Director at [rachel.beapada@uconn.edu](mailto:rachel.beapada@uconn.edu)

REGISTER HERE - <http://bit.ly/2021SARE>



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