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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

In This Issue

April 9, 2021; Vol. D, No. 14

[Pandemic Assistance for Producers](#)

[Leave Hungry Pests Behind](#)

[Funding for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers](#)

[Cheesemakers Needed for Tradeshow](#)

[CT Farm to School Summit](#)

[Farm Transition Grant Open](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

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



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.



USDA Announces Pandemic Assistance for Producers to Distribute Resources More Equitably

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. This includes \$2 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. These cooperative agreements will support participation in programs offered by Farm Service Agency (FSA), including the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

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 CFAP will fall within the new initiative and, where statutory authority allows, will be refined to better address the needs of producers.

USDA has reopened sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021. This is part of a larger effort to reach a greater share of farming operations and improve USDA pandemic assistance. CFAP updates include reopening of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), additional payments for eligible cattle and row crop producers, and the processing of payments for certain applications filed as part of CFAP Additional Assistance.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA FSA office to apply. Find your local office at Farmers.gov/service-locator. A call center is also available to help with producers with CFAP 2 questions. Call 877-508-8364 for assistance.

Please visit farmers.gov/cfap to learn more about the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance for additional information and announcements under the USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.



USDA ENCOURAGES THE PUBLIC TO PROTECT PLANTS AGAINST INVASIVE PESTS IN APRIL

It is spring and people are spending more time outdoors. Many invasive plant pests are beginning to emerge and will become increasingly visible through summer. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has declared April 2021 as Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month (IPPDAM). The national outreach initiative enlists the public in the fight against invasive pests. These damaging invaders threaten our nation's food crops, forests and natural resources. IPPDAM aims to raise public awareness about this threat, which can devastate agriculture, livelihoods, and food security.

Invasive insects and plant diseases cost the U.S. an estimated \$40 billion each year in damages to trees, plants, crops and related eradication and control efforts. With your help, we can contain the threat of invasive pests and protect American agriculture and natural resources from the pests that threaten them.

Join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and visit the [Hungry Pests website](#) to learn more about invasive plant pests in your area and what you can do to stop them. To learn more about the International Year of Plant Health, visit [USDA's website](#) or follow #PlantHealth and #YYPH on social media.

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](#).

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](#)

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[110 years on a pig farm: CT family maintains tradition even during COVID](#), 4/5, Middletown Press

[How to Make Exploring Norfolk, Connecticut, Easy This Spring](#), 4/5, Patch.com
[Photos: How the Pandemic Affected Workers With Intellectual Disabilities](#), 4/6, NBC CT

[Filmmakers from UConn give a behind-the-scenes look at CT agriculture with new documentary](#), 4/6, News 8

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) announced the availability of \$2 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The funding was made possible by USDA's new Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, an effort to distribute resources more broadly and to put greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers impacted by the pandemic.

These cooperative agreements will support participation in programs offered by FSA, including CFAP and others that are part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Interested organizations must submit proposals by May 5, 2021.

Organizations can learn more at farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance.

[Details on the program here.](#)

NE DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER RECRUITING CHEESEMAKERS FOR TRADESHOW

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is recruiting cheesemakers to represent the high-quality cheese products from across the Northeast region at SIAL Canada, an international food and beverage trade show hosted annually in Toronto and Montreal. SIAL is an entryway to U.S. and international markets, hosting 25,000+ buyers from Canada, the United States, and 60 other countries.

NE-DBIC's 6-business Cheese Pavillion will be branded with the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center logo, and the cost of the Pavilion buildout is included. Each participating exhibitor will have a 5x10 foot space within the pavilion, complete with a front display counter with a cabinet and logo, and a rear display counter with a backlit logo.

The event takes place September 21-23, 2021, at the Enercare Center, Toronto. For more information, visit the [Vermont Official State Website](#).

CT FARM TO SCHOOL APRIL SUMMIT

The Connecticut Farm to School Collaborative has opened registration for the CT Farm to School April Summit. The Summit will take place on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

A lot has happened since the November Summit two years ago, where the Connecticut Farm to School Action Plan was created and has since been shaped and continued to move forward due to the efforts of many individuals.

REGISTER FOR THE APRIL SUMMIT HERE

Early registration is due by Friday, April 16, 2021, to receive something in the mail pre-summit.

For more information, please contact Nyree Hodges, Project Coordinator, at Nyree.Hodges@uconn.edu.



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 to order.

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

FARM TRANSITION GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

Applications for the Farm Transition Grant are currently being accepted and are 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. 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 deadline has been extended and is now due on April 30 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 15 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.

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](#).

FARMLAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Farmland Preservation Advisory Board is holding an informational meeting on the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) on Friday, April 16 from 9:00 to 10:50 a.m. The public can access the agenda and meeting information at the FPAB web page [Farmland Preservation Advisory Board \(ct.gov\)](#).



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](#).

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.

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

[Apply for a private applicator exam](#)

[List of Recertification Meetings](#)

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 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](#)

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.

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

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. Appointments available any time.

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.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

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](#).

Tree House is looking for an Orchard Manager for its Farm + Fermentory in Woodstock, CT. We're looking for an experienced arborist or orchardist who will help grow, maintain and harvest our acres of orchard fruit for cider + other production.

Apply here: [Orchard Manager - Tree House Brewing Company \(workable.com\)](#)

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

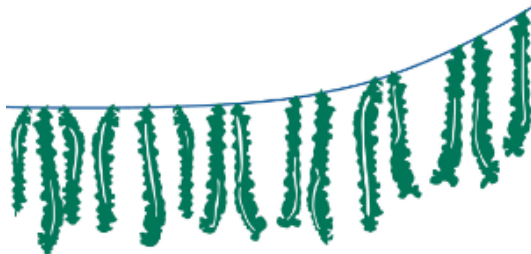
(click the image to be redirected to the event website)



APRIL 17 - APRIL 25, 2021

NEW ENGLAND KELP HARVEST WEEK

Join restaurants, breweries, and cafes in celebrating southern New England's sugar kelp harvest. This weeklong event will span from Greenwich, CT to Westerly, RI and will celebrate our region's most sustainable crop. Support local farms, support local restaurants, and fight climate change all in one meal.



New Frontiers:

EXPLORING BEEF X DAIRY CROSSBREEDING



Photo: Ashley Poland, Pysuda's Farm - 2019 Coward

With volatility in fluid milk prices and increased availability of sexed semen, many dairy producers 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 revenue. 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. **UConn Extension Livestock Specialist Joe Emenheiser** will present general information on beef x dairy crossbreeding and provide insight to research that is developing at UConn and with our regional partners.

JOIN US VIRTUALLY
THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH
1- 2 PM

Joe Emenheiser joined UConn CAHNR in the Fall of 2020 as an Assistant Extension Educator/ instructor in a joint position between Extension (75%) and Animal Science (25%). Emenheiser's area of specialization is livestock production, breeding and genetics, and meat quality improvement. Committed to blending his education with hands-on livestock and farm management experience, Emenheiser will connect with Connecticut farmers and work to understand their day-to-day issues in his Extension work and provide practical animal science education in the classroom.

REGISTER TODAY

Email MacKenzie White for the WebEx link
mackenzie.white@uconn.edu





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