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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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## National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
DEDICATION



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture extends our sincere appreciation to the dedicated state and municipal animal control officers who care for those without a voice.



## **Celebrate New England Kelp Harvest Week, April 17-25**

Join restaurants, breweries, and cafes in celebrating southern New England's sugar kelp harvest from April 17 – April 25. This weeklong event will span from Greenwich, CT, to Westerly, RI, and will celebrate one of the region's most sustainable crops.

More than 50 dining locations have signed on offering the opportunity to support local farms and restaurants, and fight climate change all in one meal.

In addition, there will be live virtual events throughout the week with recordings available. Included will be a kelp cooking class with Chef David Stanbridge of Shipwrights Daughter with tips on how you can cook with kelp at home and a kelp cocktail class with recipe designer Jena Ellenwood and Brandon Collins of Continuum Distilling on how to create a kelp infused cocktail. Additional virtual sessions will include a panel discussion on the history and future of kelp; and the intersection of Koji and kelp, the fermenting of ocean veggies.

For more information, visit [www.newenglandkelp.com](http://www.newenglandkelp.com).

## 'COMPLETELY CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE' EXPLORES CREATIVITY AND RESILIENCE OF CONNECTICUT FARMERS

It's easy to take our food supply for granted while strolling through the abundant aisles of a grocery store. We do not often consider how our food gets to the store or where it comes from. A group of students in UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) is bridging the communication gap between agriculture and consumers in their documentary film, [Completely Connecticut Agriculture](#).

Zachary Duda, Jonathan Russo, and Alyson Schneider are agricultural advocates and vocalize the importance of the industry while inspiring others to do the same. All three are CAHNR Agriculture and Natural Resources majors, graduating in May. The students met as high school agriscience students, and later served together as state officers in the Connecticut FFA Association. The idea for the documentary about Connecticut agriculture formed while they were state officers. They received an IDEA grant from the UConn Office of Undergraduate Research to complete the film project. Production began in the fall of 2019 and culminated with the release on April 8 on their website <http://s.uconn.edu/ctagriculture>. The documentary is free for anyone [to watch](#).

The documentary features Stone Gardens Farm in Shelton, Common Ground High School in New Haven, the 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm in Bloomfield, and Arrowhead Acres in North Franklin for their work re-connecting consumers to agriculture. Through the documentary, we learn about their educational outreach. They connect with consumers and adapt farm outreach to meet their needs. The farms differentiate themselves with events, products, and their locations. Differentiation means that consumers remember the face connected with their food supply.

Uncommon commodities further connect agriculture and consumers, as the farms offer experiences and products that are not readily available – whether that's pick-your-own flowers, an event venue, or unique food products. Farms featured in the documentary for their uncommon commodities are March Farm in Bethlehem, Bush Meadow Farm in Union, and Podunk Popcorn & Dzen Tree Farm in South Windsor.

Learn more about Completely Connecticut Agriculture at <http://s.uconn.edu/ctagriculture> or watch the documentary at <https://youtu.be/HxLytSgnV5o>.

This article was originally published on [UConn Today](#).

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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**

[Celebrating ACO's during National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, 4/13, WFSB](#)

[Keeping Up with the Joneses, New England Farm Embraces Agritourism, 4/14, Lancaster Farming](#)

[Sugar kelp, a sustainable CT product, finds its way to restaurant plates - and local beer, 4/14, CT Post](#)

[Gifts of Love Farm Is Helping BIPOC Farmers Thrive, 4/14, NBC CT](#)

[Heroes on the half shell: New Haven filmmaker at work on oystering documentary, 4/15, CT Post](#)

['Dancing Daffodils': Pick-your-own daffodil experience at Halfinger Farms welcoming visitors, 4/15, WTNH News 8](#)

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### **AMS DELIVERS PRE-SOLICITATION NOTICE FOR TEFAP FRESH PRODUCE**

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be purchasing a fresh produce package for distribution through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The fresh produce package will contain a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Questions regarding this procurement should be directed to the following contacts:

LaShawne Brown, [lashawne.brown@usda.gov](mailto:lashawne.brown@usda.gov) or David Cottrell, [david.cottrell@ams.gov](mailto:david.cottrell@ams.gov).

View the entire Pre-Solicitation Announcement [here](#).

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### **DAIRY MARKETING & BRANDING SERVICES GRANT: RFA RELEASED**

Now releasing the second competitive grant opportunity through the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC). On April 27, the application period will open for the NE-DBIC's Dairy Marketing and Branding Services Grant Program. Funds will be available to established value-added dairy processors across the Northeast region (CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT).

Grant funds will be used to prioritize grantees hiring professional marketing/branding contractor(s) to develop strategy and/or content for their business. Up to 25% of the grant funds may be used to implement the strategy and/or content developed by the contractor. Projects funded by this grant will



increase the exposure and promotion of regionally produced dairy products guided by marketing/branding professionals.

Grants will range from \$10,000 - \$50,000 each with \$400,000 in available funding. Projects will require a 25% cash and/or in-kind match commitment.

Application Period: April 27 - June 8, 2021. [See the full grant opportunity here.](#)

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## PRODUCING THE BEST AGRICULTURE CENSUS

To ensure the every-five-year Census of Agriculture accounts for all agriculture and every producer in the United States, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the [National Agricultural Classification Survey \(NACS\)](#). The survey is a nationwide effort to identify potential farms so they can be included in the census of agriculture. Nearly 633,000 potential agricultural producers are receiving the NACS this spring. NASS asks everyone who receives the survey to respond by May 3. Every response matters. Even if the recipient believes the survey does not apply to them, they should respond online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) to at least the initial screening questions. Completed questionnaires may also be mailed back in the prepaid envelope provided.



**FOOD SYSTEMS  
LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

# WEBINAR: MAKING SENSE OF THE REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Tuesday, April 20  
3-4:15pm Eastern

[Register Here](#)

Explore what makes an impactful partnership, project and proposal from grant administrators, current grantees and past reviewers.

*Hosted by the Wallace Center in partnership with USDA-AMS, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Alaska Food Policy Council, New Mexico Farmers Market Association, Thornburg Foundation, and Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders*

## WEBINAR: EXPLORING THE USDA'S REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Wallace Center and its partners will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, April 20 to dig into the nuances of the USDA's Regional Food Systems Partnership (RFSP) grant and explore what makes compelling and successful partnerships + proposals.

The RFSP funding opportunity is a relatively new grant opportunity intended to support partnerships and collaboration that increase the impact and viability of regional food systems. In 2021, the COVID stimulus bill allocated a significant increase in funding and a reduction in match requirements, making this an important year to apply for this grant.

Register now to hear from USDA-AMS staff, current RFSP grantees, and past grant reviewers as they unpack what makes impactful partnerships, projects, and proposals and better understand if this is the right opportunity for you.

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### **CT 4-H FIGURES HONORED**

Rachael Manzer, a five-year volunteer with UConn's Granby 4-H Club of Granby, a UConn 4-H Alum, and former NASA astronaut teacher, won the Northeast Region 4-H Volunteer of the Year after being selected by UConn.

Rachael exemplifies science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in 4-H. She understands the importance and need for STEM and Agricultural Literacy, and she has increased opportunities for STEM learning by establishing the only 4-H VEX Robotics Program in New England. Rachael's efforts have not only expanded 4-H programming throughout New England (CT and MA) members participate, but also increased the visibility of UConn 4-H on the national level as the team participated at the World Competition and the NASA Cubes in Space Competition.

Rachael competed against nominees from the other northeast states for the Northeast Volunteer of the Year Award. She is moving forward for consideration as the National Volunteer of the Year Award.

June Zoppa, a 46-year volunteer of the UConn 4-H Program, has been selected by UConn as the Connecticut nominee for the National 4-H Lifetime Volunteer Award. She won the Northeast 4-H Lifetime Volunteer Award and now moves on to compete nationally.

June is an integral part of the 4-H community in Hartford County Connecticut. She is the only volunteer who serves or has served simultaneously on the Hartford County 4-H Advisory Board, Hartford County 4-H Fair Association, and the Hartford County 4-H Camp, Inc, Board of Trustees, while serving as a 4-H club leader. As new volunteers join the committees and boards, June has grown from their new ideas and ways of executing programming or operations. New and experienced volunteers speak about June's ability to sensitively work through challenges and create innovative solutions that propel Hartford County 4-H towards reaching its goals and achieving its mission.

Learn more about becoming a volunteer or enrolling your child in the UConn 4-H program at <http://4-H.uconn.edu/>.

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APRIL  
CT FARM TO SCHOOL  
COLLABORATIVE  
INVITES YOU TO  
THE APRIL SUMMIT  
TWENTY-EIGHT  
SAVE  
THIS  
DATE  
YEAR 2021  
TIME:  
9:30AM-11:30AM  
*Morning session*  
1:30PM-3:30PM  
*Afternoon session*  
LOCATION:  
VIRTUAL  
REGISTRATION TO FOLLOW

### 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](mailto:Nyree.Hodges@uconn.edu).

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### **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](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance).

[Details on the program here.](#)

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### **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](#).

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### **\$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](#).

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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](#).



### **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](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](#)

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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 April 12, 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**



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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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

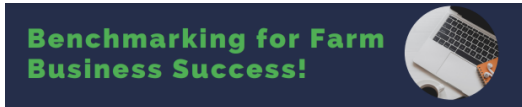
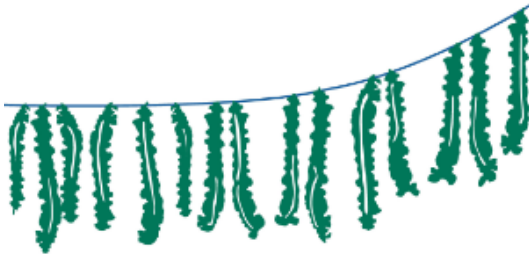
(click the image to be redirected to the event website)



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.



Please join UConn Extension for this instructive webinar on Wednesday May 5th at 11:00 AM. Chris Loughton, Director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East will discuss business benchmarking and its potential value for your agricultural enterprise. Chris will cover a number of topics related to benchmarking, including:

- What is "benchmarking" anyway?
- Why should I use benchmarks in my farm management?
- How can they help me improve my profitability?
- Where can I find benchmark data? And How can I use it?
- What should I consider next?

This webinar is recommended for any agricultural managers who wish to take their businesses to the next level of success. Regardless of size, how long you've been in business or whether you're happy with your current profit levels or not, benchmarking can help. Tune in to find out how.


**JOIN US  
VIRTUALLY  
WEDNESDAY  
MAY 5TH  
11AM- 12 PM**

**This webinar is free and open to all. To register, see below. For those who cannot attend live, it will be recorded and posted at <https://ctfarmrisk.extension.uconn.edu> following the session.**


*Chris Loughton is the Director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East. In his role there he is responsible for research and analysis of Northeast agriculture. He writes frequently about the junction between agricultural production, economics, and policy. He conducts outreach to the diverse agricultural communities of the region, and oversees Farm Credit East's customer education programs, including webinars, and live events. He holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Cornell University, an MBA from the University of Massachusetts, and a master's degree in applied and resource economics from the University of Connecticut. Chris grew up in Eastern Massachusetts, where he worked in his family's greenhouse/nursery business before joining Farm Credit East.*

**REGISTER TODAY**


Email MacKenzie White for the WebEx link  
[mackenzie.white@uconn.edu](mailto:mackenzie.white@uconn.edu)



**UConn**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXTENSION



**USDA**  
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**NORTHEAST  
EXTENSION  
RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**



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