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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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Looking for an upcoming agricultural event in Connecticut? From farmers' markets and pick-your-own daffodils to visiting with farm animals, there is plenty to see and do.

Find an event at CTGrown.org.

Gauging Interest on COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for Farmworkers

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, in coordination with Department of Labor and Department of Public Health, is developing a strategy on how to expand vaccination availability for farmworkers, including seasonal and migrant workers, to reduce their risk of COVID-19.

“This collaborative effort will help identify farms seeking on-farm, or centrally located clinics to facilitate the vaccination process of their farmworkers,” said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. “By creating an easy online form to assess the need, we can formulate a plan to best serve the industry.”

Farms interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic are asked to fill out one

form per farm location. Vaccine clinics will be staffed by a healthcare organization and a representative will contact farms to follow-up on scheduling a clinic, if appropriate. Filling out the form does not guarantee the availability of providing an on-farm clinic. However, direction will be provided to a nearby mobile vaccination site.

Vaccination clinics are free to all with no cost to the farm or employees present and willing to be vaccinated. Clinics will not be asking for insurance or identification.

If you are interested in making this available to your farmworkers, please click [here](#) to access the online portal to gauge interest from farms on COVID-19 vaccination for their workers.

I Got Next Farmers Coalition

FEEDING THE INNER CITY

I Got Next Farmers Coalition is a collective of experienced Urban Farmers and Small Businesses ready to purchase our Farm.

Our Asks

- 3-15+ Acres of fertile land for veg production (organic preferred) < 40 mins drive from Hartford area
- Farming Infrastructure on-site incl. water source & cold storage
- Funding & Land Acquisition Grant Assistance



CT FARMLINK FEATURED FARM SEEKERS: I GOT NEXT FARMERS COALITION

I Got Next is a Coalition of Urban farmers of color, small businesses, and nonprofits in the Hartford area who are working towards the same vision of a food-just society for people of color wherein they own the land from which they produce. They provide fresh, healthy produce and educational opportunities to all ages to reconnect our communities with the healing power of the earth.

I Got Next entities produce and vend specialized ethnic crops and a general broad diversity of vegetables and fruits including but not limited to: callaloo, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, bok choy, peppers (sweet and hot), eggplant, cilantro, butternut squash, lettuce, oregano, thyme, tulsi, korean mint, spinach, radish, scallions, collards, kale. They maintain a collective presence at farmers' markets, community centers

and community events in the Greater Hartford area including Windsor, Bloomfield, and various neighborhoods of Hartford and are planning on launching a CSA in 2021. They maintain contracts with the Hartford Public School System.

I Got Next additionally features two education-based businesses that service youth and adults to provide practical garden and farming instruction to the BIPOC community in-person and online. They wish to expand their current operations and pool their funds to purchase a farm as soon as they find the right fit and are able to secure grant and crowd funds.

Their core team includes:

- Manny Marte - Micro2Life LLC: Production Farmer, Farmer's Markets
- Zania Johnson - Micro2Life LLC : Farmer and Nutritionist
- Derrick Bedward - Farm Production Manager (Wholistic, International, 25+ years farming experience)
- Blessings Divine - Samad Gardens Initiative LLC (est 2020): Adult Education, Branding, Marketing & Communications, Music, Farming
- Sarah Rose Kareem - Samad Gardens Initiative LLC (est 2020): Adult Education & Programming, Herbs Farme, In-depth new grower Mentorship
- Lauren Little Edutainment LLC: Creative Youth Programming, Edutainment, Community Outreach, School Garden Demonstrations,
- Herb Virgo - Keney Park Sustainability Program: Programs Director, Specialty Crops, Beekeeping, Small Livestock

For more information and land leads, please contact Sarah Rose Kareem at samadgardensinitiative@gmail.com or 860-970-7284.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will be featuring a CT FarmLink profile on a regular basis to help connect farmland owners and farmland seekers. Visit ctfarmlink.org for details on the program or to create your own listing.

LATEST COVID-19 GUIDANCE

As Connecticut continues taking steps to protect residents from the spread of COVID-19, the state has established specific rules for various sectors to keep people safe. [Here are all of the rules currently in effect that apply for each sector.](#)

Most sector rules will be eliminated by May 19, 2021: Governor Lamont has announced plans to eliminate most of the state's COVID-19 restrictions for every sector by May 19, 2021, with the exception of certain mask requirements that will remain in effect. The changes will include:

Effective Saturday, May 1, 2021:

- The curfew for restaurants, entertainment venues, recreation venues, and theaters will be moved back one hour to 12:00 am midnight.
- Bars that do not serve food can open for service – OUTDOOR ONLY. Food is still required when serving alcohol indoors.
- The 8-person per table limit will be lifted – OUTDOOR ONLY. The limit remains in effect for indoor dining.

Effective Wednesday, May 19, 2021:

- All remaining business restrictions will end.
- Indoor masks will continue.
- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will issue recommendations for indoor and large outdoor events (e.g., concerts).

Get the latest information at ct.gov/coronavirus.

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](#).

Guidance documents are in the process of being updated. Once finalized, they will be available [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination & the Food and Agriculture Sector

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[CT LIVE!: Kellogg Dairy Center at UConn](#), NBC CT, 4/20

[Celebrate Earth Day At North Guilford Farm Nurseries Farmstand](#), Patch.com, 4/20

[Stonington commission approves agriculture uses in light industrial zone](#), The Day, 4/20

[CT LIVE!: Freund's Farm Market](#), NBC CT, 4/22

[Opinion: My Earth Day hero - 'one of the last dairy farmers in Fairfield County'](#), Stamford Advocate, 4/22

Old Lyme farm filling wholesale orders to be shipped all over New England, The Day, 4/22



SHOP CONNECTICUT GROWN

The Connecticut Grown Store is now offering a range of items showcasing the new CT Grown logo. Bibs are now in stock, and Point of Purchase signs are available for pre-order. Other items currently available for pre-order include t-shirts, hats, and infant onesies. We anticipate shipping will begin in May. Visit connecticutgrownstore.com to order.

COMING SOON: CT Grown Tents

MATCH FUNDS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COMPOSTING & FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

Through their Community Match Fund program Sustainable CT supports wide-ranging public sustainability projects and they have recently opened up a new round of funding through which they are seeking to support projects throughout Connecticut that create composting, food scraps recycling, and food waste diversion programs.

For all eligible projects Sustainable CT will provide 1-to-1 matching funds, up to \$7,500, meaning that for projects with a budget of \$15,000 or less, Sustainable CT will cover 50% of the costs. The other 50% of a project's costs are raised through public crowdfunding campaigns, which is done with the support of Sustainable CT's crowdfunding partner, Patronicity.

Anyone can lead a project and access this funding. Sustainable CT works with

municipal staff, schools, community-based organizations, informal groups, and individual residents. There is no 501(c)3 requirement and everyone with a relevant idea is encouraged to reach out to Sustainable CT. The program is non-competitive, there are no deadlines, no grant applications to submit, and a near-immediate turn around for approving projects. Any project that meets an objective eligibility criterion is automatically eligible and will be approved so long as funds are still available. Projects are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information visit www.patronicity.com/sustainablect, www.sustainablect.org/funding, or contact Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund program manager, Abe Hilding-Salorio at hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu or 860-249-6680.



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 or David Cottrell, david.cottrell@ams.gov.

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

DAIRY MARKETING & BRANDING SERVICES GRANT: RFA RELEASED

On April 27, the application period will open for the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (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.](#)



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 to at least the initial screening questions. Completed questionnaires may also be mailed back in the prepaid envelope provided.



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](#)

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

**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](#).



\$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](#).

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.

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 April 19, 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.

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

Upcoming Events

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

