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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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## OUTDOOR COOKING ADVENTURES

WITH *American Lamb*



The American Lamb Board (ALB) has launched the American Lamb Outdoor Cooking Adventures promotional contest, which challenges consumers to showcase their outdoor cooking prowess with American Lamb. The contest runs May 1 to July 31, 2021. Details [here](#).

## Connecticut Department of Agriculture Announces Updates to Farm Viability Grant to Better Respond to Current Agricultural Industry Needs

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the 2021 Farm Viability Grant (FVG) guidance is now available. Applications are due June 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

The 2021 program has been reenvisioned with a goal of funded programs which directly respond to a specific problem, interest, or need of the state's

agricultural industry. Projects are requested in the areas of urban agriculture, food systems, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and farmland access.

“The agency is committed to being responsive to the needs of the industry, including urban and underserved farmers,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “By retooling our Farm Viability Grant program to address specific focus areas we can ensure projects positively impact growth of the agriculture sector and access to Connecticut Grown products.”

New this year in 2021, four Questions of Focus have been developed. Applicants will choose a Question of Focus and submit a project proposal that responds to the question, developing a potential solution, or progress towards a solution for the priority area.

The four Questions of Focus are:

1. **Urban Agriculture:** Projects that focus on establishing or expanding support and resources for urban agriculture.
2. **Food Supply Chain:** Projects that would make kitchen space available to process CT Grown farm products or propose plans/development for construction of meat processing facilities/food hubs, co-op operations or increase market opportunities for CT farmers.
3. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Agriculture:** Projects which directly impact farmers in one or more of the following classifications: limited resource, BIPOC, veterans, people a part of the LGBTQ community, or people with a disability.
4. **Land Accessibility:** Projects that address land accessibility and pilots an effort to improve accessibility for new farmers, current producers looking to expand their operation, or supports succession strategies for farmers exiting agriculture.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants). Additional detail on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications will be submitted electronically via a Cognito Forms link.

A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants in learning about the new structure of the grant and application process will occur on May 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via a Microsoft Teams call.

Questions regarding the Farm Viability Grant can be directed to Amanda King at [Amanda.King@ct.gov](mailto:Amanda.King@ct.gov) or found online at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).

*The FVG is a matching grant program for Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments and agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that directly impact and/or foster agricultural viability. Funding for the Farm Viability Grant is provided through the State of Connecticut Agricultural Viability Grant Program, established in 2005 through Public Act 228-05, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation.*

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## **COVID-19 AG GUIDANCE RESCINDED IN RESPONSE TO LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS**

As Connecticut's coronavirus response efforts continue to roll out, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces that all COVID-19 guidance documents specific to agriculture have been rescinded. This falls in line with Governor Lamont's announced plans to eliminate most of the state's COVID-19 restrictions for every sector by May 19, 2021.

**Agriculture businesses, non-profits, and other organizations should follow the sector rules that apply to them. Private business owners can implement or continue to require social distancing and other measures as deemed necessary.**

"We applaud the efforts of Connecticut's agricultural businesses and non-profits for their flexibility and resilience to continue their essential work throughout the pandemic," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "This was critical to enabled continued access to Connecticut Grown products while mitigating the spread of coronavirus to employees and consumers."

Find the most current sector rules guidance at [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus).

The Department of Agriculture has archived information from various sources related to COVID-19, which can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>.

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## **CT MILK PROMOTION BOARD ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSUMER NUTRITION EDUCATION, MEDIA, RESEARCH, and FARMER ENGAGEMENT**

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board (CTMPB), administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, is pleased to announce new funding opportunities with up to \$500,000 available for programming in fiscal year 2021-22. These opportunities will align with their core focus which includes the vision of increasing purchases and expanding the access of milk and dairy products to consumers, retailers, institutions, and other applicable outlets. The funding will support the Board's mission to develop, coordinate, and implement promotional, research, and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and the consumption of milk and dairy products.

"These funding opportunities are the result of a series of strategic visioning sessions undertaken by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board in 2020 with input from the state's dairy farmers," said Paul Miller, Chairman of the CTMPB. "The board is dedicated to ensuring that dairy farmer dollars are being

effectively utilized to meet our five-year target of realizing an increase in dairy purchases and consumption throughout the supply chain in Connecticut.”

Details on the dairy grant funding opportunities can be found on [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).

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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.

### 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](#).

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

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#### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

9 Connecticut meal-prep services that will fill your fridge with gourmet meals, Hartford Courant, 4/24

New Hartford's Gresczyk Farms teams up with local stores to support businesses, Fox 61, 4/27

Actors Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick visit Manchester farm, Fox 61, 4/28

Mobile Clinics Organized to Vaccinate Farm Workers for COVID-19, CT Examiner, 4/30

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## CT FARMLAND TRUST TO OFFER WEBINAR SERIES

Connecticut Farmland Trust staff and guest experts will be offering a weekly series to share knowledge and learn from mid-May through mid-June. This series will help land stewards gain what they need about farmland preservation and also elevate how we think about land trusts. You can meet guests who will answer the questions, *How does farmland preservation work?* and *What else can a land trust do in addition to protecting land?*

Sessions will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on their specified date. There is no cost to attend, but donations to support the work are welcome.

May 13: **Farmland Conservation 101**, featuring CFT's Executive Director Elisabeth Moore

May 20: **Meet n Greet Farmers Who Preserved Their Land**, featuring three CT farmers

May 27: **Understanding Soils: A Key to Stewardship, Land Health, and Climate Resiliency**, featuring Conservation Scientist Kip Kolesinskas

June 10: **Public Act 490 Overview and Q & A**, featuring Joan Nichols, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association's Executive Director

June 17: **How Land Trusts Can Support Food Access**, featuring Connie Manes, Executive Director to Kent Land Trust

When you register for the event you can submit questions ahead of time, or submit a question during the talk. Each webinar has a different Zoom link.

To sign up for one of these webinars, visit Connecticut Farmland Trust's events page:

<http://ctfarmland.org/site/events/>.

If you want to register for all five of the "Ask an Expert" webinars at once, email [outreach@ctfarmland.org](mailto:outreach@ctfarmland.org) with the subject line "All Webinar Registration" and you will be sent your personal Zoom links and codes.

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## AMS SOLICITING TEFAP FRESH PRODUCE PACKAGES

The Agricultural Marketing Service has issued solicitation 2000007680, (12-3J14-21-B-0265) for the procurement of Mixed Fresh Produce.

Please note bids are due May 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Central Time. Bids must be submitted through the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM).

Questions regarding this procurement should be directed to David Cottrell, [David.cottrell@usda.gov](mailto:David.cottrell@usda.gov), 202-260-9183.

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## REGISTER FOR FARMWORKER VACCINATION CLINICS

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.

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. Responses will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2021.

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### **RecycleCT ANNOUNCES NEW GRANT HONORING LEE SAWYER**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the RecycleCT Foundation are pleased to announce a new grant opportunity, the Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant, which supports waste reduction and reuse in addition to recycling and composting efforts. The grant program is named in memory of former DEEP Chief of Staff Lee Sawyer, who died unexpectedly on Oct. 31, 2020. Lee was incredibly dedicated to the mission of DEEP, and was instrumental in the creation of the RecycleCT Foundation.

Nonprofit organizations and municipalities are eligible to respond to this competitive Request for Proposals requesting funds from \$1,000-\$15,000. Applicants can pursue funds in two categories: the first category for waste reduction or reuse projects, or the second for recycling or composting projects. Proposals for the Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant are due **June 30, 2021**.

Interested applicants can find the [Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant RFP](#) and link to the [online Lee Sawyer CWRR Grant Application](#) on [RecycleCT's webpage](#). A webinar will be scheduled in late May/early June to review the grant, help applicants understand the different categories, and how to submit their project budgets.

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### 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](http://connecticutgrownstore.com) to order.

COMING SOON: CT Grown Tents

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### 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](http://www.patronicity.com/sustainablect), [www.sustainablect.org/funding](http://www.sustainablect.org/funding), or contact Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund program manager, Abe Hilding-Salorio at [hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu](mailto:hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu) or 860-249-6680.

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### **RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS STARTING MAY 3**

The American Rescue Plan Act established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) to provide funding to help restaurants and other eligible businesses keep their doors open. This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

Eligible entities who have experienced pandemic-related revenue loss include:

- Restaurants
- Food stands, food trucks, food carts
- Caterers
- Bars, saloons, lounges, taverns
- Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars
- Bakeries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Breweries and/or microbreweries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Wineries and distilleries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Inns (onsite sales of food and beverage to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Licensed facilities or premises of a beverage alcohol producer where the public may taste, sample, or purchase products

Registration for the SBA application portal is now open. Applications will open on Monday, May 3, 2021, at noon ET. For more information, please click [here](#).

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

On April 27, the application period opened 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.](#)

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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.

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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](http://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance).

[Details on the program 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](#).

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

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)

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](mailto: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.

48. 3-660 lb. bulk bags of "Charcoal Green Soil D.Tox" brand wood-based Activated Charcoal Powder. \$300.00 each or \$750.00 for all 3. 203-283-1459; email: cidermill5@yahoo.com

**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)*

**CONNECTICUT HEMP**

**Webinar Series Part 1: For Growers**

**January 20 | 11:45am-1:15pm**  
Growing CBD Hemp: Regulations, Seed & Hybrid Selection

**February 17 | 11:45am-1:15pm**  
Growing Hemp Indoors: Planting, Propagation, & Clones

**March 17 | 11:45am-1:15pm**  
Growing Hemp Successfully: Transplanting into the Field, Soil Health, & Fertilizers

**April 7 | 11:45am-1:15pm**  
Hemp IPM: Diseases, Scouting & Management

**April 21 | 11:45am-1:15pm**  
Processing 101

**May 5 | 11:45am-1:15pm**  
Hemp IPM: Insect Pests & Weeds

Register Online: [www.CTRCD.org/Hemp](http://www.CTRCD.org/Hemp)

**Webinar Series Part 2: For Processors & Manufacturers**  
Hosted May - September 2021

Support is needed for this webinar series. Exclusive and Co-Sponsorships for each webinar are available on a first come first serve basis. More information about sponsorship is available at [www.CTRCD.org/Hemp](http://www.CTRCD.org/Hemp)

Event Sponsors For This Series: CT Department of Agriculture, CT Hemp Industry Association, UConn Extension, USDA NRCS, and Connecticut RCFO

**Benchmarking for Farm Business Success!**

Please join UConn Extension for this instructive webinar on Wednesday May 5th at 11:00 AM. Chris Laughton, 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.

**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.**

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

Chris Laughton 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 of science 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**  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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