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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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Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Commissioner Hurlburt visited Luke Zapadka of [Woodland Gardens](#) in Manchester on Wednesday to see what's blooming in greenhouses across the state right now, learn what challenges businesses are facing, and what opportunities lie ahead as COVID-19 restrictions ease.



Celebrate Mother's Day with Connecticut

Grown

Mother's Day is this Sunday, May 9, and what better way to show her that she's appreciated than with something special and unique from the farm? Here are a few of the promotions currently being run by the CT Department of Agriculture's refreshed CT Grown campaign to help inspire and delight mom's and mom-like figures this holiday with Connecticut Grown as "A Way of Life".

1. Wine down with mom this Mother's Day with a relaxing afternoon at a local Connecticut Farm Winery. With restrictions starting to lift, it's time to get outside with the family and celebrate mom. Find a farm winery at CTGrown.org and raise your glass to mom.

2. Show her that you know her with colorful flowers and vibrant greenhouse products. Want to go beyond Mother's Day? Pick up her favorite plant to bloom each year or sign up for a fresh-cut flower CSA subscription! Discover what Connecticut Grown has to offer at ctgrown.org

3. Connecticut Grown soaps and lotions are the GOAT (Greatest of All Time)! Show your appreciation for mom and leave her feeling relaxed with luscious goat milk soaps and lotions. Find a local producer near you at CTGrown.org.

Visit CTGrown.org for a full list of Connecticut Grown businesses and make sure to look for the Connecticut Grown logo at farmers' markets, garden centers, and grocery stores near you.

Producers: Are you listed on our interactive map in coordination with CT NOFA? Click [here](#) to enter your information for visibility in future promotions!



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SPOTTED LANTERNFLY
QUARANTINE ORDER IN CONNECTICUT**

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is announcing a public hearing notice for a proposed quarantine order with defined restricted areas for the exotic pest spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (SLF for short). This insect has been detected in Connecticut with established populations detected in Fairfield County and single individuals intercepted in numerous towns. The spotted lanternfly is a new plant pest to the United States and represents a threat to Connecticut's environment, residential areas, and agricultural interests, particularly forests, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries.

The purpose of the proposed quarantine order is to slow the spread of SLF within the state and provide for certification of Connecticut businesses for movement of regulated articles out of state and help protect the economic interests of the state's agricultural industries by suppressing, controlling, or eradicating infestations of Spotted Lanternfly in regulated areas, and provide by inspection or compliance agreement methods to permit the movement of regulated articles not infested with spotted lanternfly.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on May 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Webex concerning a quarantine order under CT General Statute Section 22-84 and current status of the spotted lanternfly in CT.

Information and the Webex link for the hearing will be posted on the [CAES' Spotted Lanternfly webpage](#). Written and oral comments will be accepted. Written comments should be submitted to Kirby.Stafford@ct.gov.



SIX WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE CT GROWN BRAND BRANCH OUT

1. Follow our social media channels and share content: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
2. Tag us in your posts/content.
3. Include our campaign hashtags in your content: #CTGrown and #AWayofLife
4. Visit our consumer-facing website, [CTGrown.org](#), and sign up for the newsletter to stay informed about the campaign.
5. Download the brand standards and logo packages at [CTGrown.org](#).
6. Add the logo to your product labeling.

Questions on how you can be involved? Contact Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

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.

Producers: List your farm, farmers' market or farm stand on CTGrownMap.com by clicking [here](#).

COVID-19 PRODUCER RESOURCES

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.

Find the most current sector rules guidance at 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>.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Urban Farm Manager Returns To His Roots](#), New Haven Independent, 4/30

[Eating Locally Grown Foods](#), WFSB Channel 3, 4/30

[Proposed tax break favors CT shellfishermen. But what does it mean for coastal communities?](#), Middletown Press, 5/2

[Preston farm allows you to pick your own tulips, create bouquets in time for Mother's Day](#), WTNH News 8, 5/4

[It's just not kindergarten without a garden](#), CT Mirror, 5/5

[Killingly High School breaks down how adding a 'hydroponics' and 'aquaponics' class encourages sustainability](#), WTNH News 8, 5/6

2021 FARM VIABILITY GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announced the 2021 Farm Viability Grant (FVG) guidance is 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. Four Questions of Focus have been developed and applicants will choose one to submit a project proposal that responds to the question, developing a potential solution, or progress towards a solution for the priority area.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at 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 or found online at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

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.



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 Kolesinkas

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 with the subject line "All Webinar Registration" and you will be sent your personal Zoom links and codes.

FARM CREDIT EAST GRANT TO SUPPORT NORTHEAST FARMERS' MARKETS

Farm Credit East recently announced that it will be providing small grants to Northeast farmers' markets to support their promotion and development efforts. Interested farmers' markets must apply by June 1.

Any farmers' market located within Farm Credit East's territory is eligible to apply. Grants will be offered up to \$500. Special consideration will be given to first-time applicants and markets supporting underserved communities with limited access to fresh, local food. Grant applications must be received by Tuesday, June 1 and applicants will be notified by June 15.

Visit FarmCreditEast.com/FarmersMarket to learn more or to apply.

FARM DOG OF THE YEAR CONTEST

The Farm Dog of the Year contests celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers in producing nutritious food for families and their pets across America. Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the 2022 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest, supported by Purina.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year's worth of Purina dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in January 2022. Up to four regional runners-up will each win \$1,000 in prize money.

[Click here to submit your application.](#)



CT RC&D SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

CT RC&D announces the 2021 Scholarship Award Program. Under the

program, (2) \$500 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors or college students attending school in Connecticut. Deadline is May 30, 2021.

Check out the requirements and application at the [CT RC&D website](#).

CT RC&D AWARD NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

CT RC&D is accepting award nominations for the Linda B. Krause Award for Excellence in Conservation Collaboration and the Norma O'Leary Award for Excellence in Agriculture Innovation. Applications must be received by May 30, 2021.

More information can be found here: <https://ctrctd.org/about-us/scholarships-awards>



APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS ON-FARM TRIALS

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking proposals through June 21 for Conservation Innovation Grants On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials. Through the program, NRCS and partners collaborate to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact.

NRCS is seeking proposals that address at least one of the following four On-Farm Trial priorities:

- Climate-smart agricultural solutions
- Soil health demonstration trial

- Irrigation water management
- Management technologies and strategies

NRCS will accept proposals from the following eligible entities:

- Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture
- Non-government organizations with experience working with agricultural producers
- Non-federal government agencies

Visit the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website and view the [On-Farms Trials funding announcement](#). For more information on CIG On-Farm Trials, please visit the [On-Farm Trials webpage](#).

USDA GRANTS FOR FOOD PRODUCERS AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of \$92.2 million in competitive grant funding under the 2018 Farm Bill's Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). The LAMP grants are funded through the Farmers Market program as part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative. USDA launched this initiative in March to address shortfalls and disparities in how assistance was distributed in previous COVID-19 assistance packages, with a specific focus on strengthening outreach to underserved producers and communities and small and medium agricultural operations. These grants support the development, coordination and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and enterprises and value-added agricultural products.

USDA encourages projects that assist underserved local and regional agricultural businesses, producer networks and associations, and local and tribal government in responding to COVID-19 disruptions and impacts. Funding is not contingent upon applicants directly addressing these issues.

For more information about grant eligibility and previously funded projects, visit the [FMPP webpage](#), [LFPP webpage](#) or [RFSP webpage](#) or contact us at USDAFMPPQuestions@usda.gov, USDALFPPQuestions@usda.gov, or IPPGrants@usda.gov.

CT MILK PROMOTION BOARD 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.

Details on the dairy grant funding opportunities can be found on www.CTGrown.gov/grants.



SHOP CONNECTICUT GROWN

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

COMING SOON: CT Grown Tents

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, bakeries, breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Applications opened on Monday, May 3, 2021. For more information, please click [here](#).

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 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

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.

49. RJ Planter - Model RJV600 2 row rotary planter used on tobacco 3 years, low acreage. Excellent condition \$4,400. Call 860-729-2741.

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)







CT FARM ENERGY GEOTHERMAL PILOT PROGRAM

Providing FREE Geothermal FARM ASSESSMENTS

CT FARM ENERGY GEOTHERMAL PILOT PROGRAM

Spring is here and we are booking May consults now. Eligible farms and ag based rural small businesses can receive a free geothermal site assessment and report. Here's your chance to see how geothermal may play a role on your farm. <https://ctfarmenergy.org/ct-farm-energy-geothermal-pilot-program/>

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