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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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May 14, 2021; Vol. D, No. 19

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Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt participated in the public service announcement video for National Prevention Week, coordinated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Department of Public Health, for a unified message across state agencies to demonstrate Connecticut's dedication to preventing substance use and promoting mental health and wellbeing. Watch the video [here](#).

May Is Mental Health Month: You Are Not Alone

During these challenging times it is important that we work together and let those struggling know they are not alone. In recognition of May is Mental Health Month and the 10th Anniversary of National Prevention Week (NPW) happening right now through May 15, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture is highlighting resources available to farmers to prevent substance use and promote mental health and wellbeing.

findings from a [national poll](#) showing that COVID-19 has taken a toll on farmers' mental health. A strong majority of respondents shared that the pandemic has impacted their mental health, and more than half said they are personally experiencing more mental health challenges than they were a year ago.

Most recently, AFBF launched a comprehensive, easy-to-use online directory of resources for farmers and their families who are experiencing stress and mental health challenges.

The Farm State of Mind website, www.farmstateofmind.org, has a directory to assist in finding crisis hotlines, treatment locators, tips for helping someone experiencing emotional pain, ways to start a conversation, free online trainings, and resources for managing stress, anxiety, or depression.

If you, or someone you know, are struggling with anxiety, depression, or another mental health challenge, you are not alone. Services available in Connecticut can be found at:

[Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Service Locator](#)

[UConn Extension: A Primary of Farm Stress Resiliency](#)



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

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.

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

[Tulips in bloom at new farm in Preston](#), The Day, 5/7

[Silverman's Farm in Easton sees uptick in Mother's Day business](#), News 12, 5/9

[New Milford hosts opening day for seasonal farmers market](#), News-Times, 5/10

[Eating in season: Bringing the CT spring harvest to your meals with New England Dairy!](#), CT Style, 5/10



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.

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

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.

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.](#)

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

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



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 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

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://ctrcd.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

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, onesies, and Point of Purchase signs are now in stock. Other items currently available for pre-order include t-shirts and hats. We anticipate shipping will begin in mid-June. Visit connecticutgrownstore.com to order.

COMING SOON: CT Grown Tents

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](#) 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](#)

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 May 10, 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

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.

Job Opportunities

UConn Extension's Sustainable Food Systems program is actively seeking to fill a part-time, six month position of Local Food Ambassador in Northeast Connecticut. This is an exciting opportunity for the right person who is versatile, responsive, and demonstrates an interest in local food and farms in Connecticut. Deadline is May 15. Details and application [here](#).

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)

Plant Science Day 2021

Wednesday, August 4

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Lockwood Farm
890 Evergreen Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518



CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

portal.ct.gov/caes

Toll-Free 877.855.2237

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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