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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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Attention CT Farmers, Producers, and Harvesters: Our rebranded CT Grown media campaign is underway and we want to make sure YOUR business is easy to find.

Click [here](#) to be added to an interactive map open to all agricultural businesses with direct to consumer sales and be included on [CTGrown.org](#).

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Awards Nearly \$350,000 in Farmland Restoration Grant Projects

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce that 23

main objective is to increase food and fiber production in Connecticut through restoring lands into active agricultural production. The FLRP focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan.

“Through the Farmland Restoration Grant Program, we can provide farmers an invaluable tool to reclaim and restore overgrown cropland and improve irrigation and drainage,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “Connecticut’s land base is finite, however, by increasing the amount of usable farmland acreage with a focused priority on human food production, we are positioned to further develop a robust food system capable of meeting the needs of all residents.”

Established in 2011, the FLRP has awarded more than \$4 million in funding to 252 prior applicants. The program assists farmers across the state by helping them to develop farm conservation and resource management plans to restore farmlands and reestablish use of the state’s prime and important agricultural lands.

Grants are awarded with a priority given to food producing agriculture, with human food production considered the highest priority. Whether the farmland has been preserved through an agricultural conservation easement is also considered, and also whether the farmland is state or municipally-owned, or managed by a non-profit organization with an educational mission. Livestock, livestock feed, livestock support production, and other agricultural uses may be considered based on land use, food production, and acreage to be restored.

The FLRP provides an opportunity to enhance the use of agricultural lands that are currently underutilized and helps farmers by providing restoration plans for restoration activities, and by paying up to 50% of the cost, or \$20,000, whichever is less. On state or municipal owned farmland under long-term agricultural leases of five years or more, the total state share may be up to 90% of the restoration costs on such lands up to \$20,000.

All the awarded 2021 FLRP grants are food-producing operations. Of those, 10 are on preserved farmland; four are on state or town-owned farmland; two are non-profit educational or charity organizations; and seven are primarily food-producing operations for gross annual sales greater than \$50,000. Work to be performed includes brush and tree removal; stone and stump removal; irrigation; fencing; land clearing; and well installation.

Awardees are: Scantic Valley Farm, Somers; Daffodil Hill Growers, Southbury; White Oak Farm, Inc., Stonington; Graywall Farm, LLC, Lebanon; Warrup’s Farm, Redding; Himmelstein Homestead Farm, Lebanon; Sun One Organic Farm, Madison; Massaro Community Farm, Woodbridge; Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Somers; Hidden Gem Orchard, Woodbury; Gifts of Love, Inc., Simsbury; Sub Edge Farm, Farmington; The Lewis Educational Ag Farm (LEAF

Heart Farm, Ledyard; Oakledge Farms, Lebanon; Cloverleigh Farm, LLC, Columbia; Shortts Farm, Newtown; Devon Point Farm, Stonington; Urbanowicz Farm, Enfield; and Muddy Roots Farm, Meriden.

The Farmland Restoration Program is made possible by Public Act 11-1, which allocated \$5 million in bond funds to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. For additional details and information on the program, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Farmland-Restoration-Program>.

Updated Farmers' Market Reference Guide Available



UPDATED FARMERS' MARKET REFERENCE GUIDE AVAILABLE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the release of the newly expanded and updated Farmers' Market Reference Guide. Together with our partners at the Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the updated guide offers answers to many questions regarding establishing and selling at Connecticut Farmers' Markets.

The guide is a complete resource for market managers and vendors, with over 36 sections addressing commonly asked questions, regulations pertaining to sales of products, and contact information for regulating agencies. The Reference Guide is viewable online and can be downloaded to your computer, mobile device, or printed.

[Access the Reference Guide now.](#)

**SEEKING CT GROWN PRODUCE FOR USDA-FUNDED FOOD BOXES
(TEFAP)**

Grown produce for TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) produce boxes.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is working with Aggrigator, a company out of CA, which was awarded a USDA TEFAP contract, to include CT Grown produce in their distribution of food boxes to Connecticut food banks. Aggrigator's contract award for Connecticut includes approximately 12,000 boxes over a 16-week period from June through September.

Boxes are required to contain at least four different types of produce with up to 3 lbs. of root vegetables. Ideally product should be packed in reusable plastic containers (RPC), although bins are also feasible. Product can be #2 quality.

Eligible producers include those that possess the following certification and are also able to meet all USDA audit requirements:

- USDA Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices certified
- Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) certification program audits (GlobalGAP, SQF, Primus GFS)

Producers should contact Aggrigator with their current and future product availability as soon as possible. Food boxes are scheduled to begin shipping around June 1. Co-packing of boxes will be within the region.

For more information or to respond with your product availability between June 1 and September 30, please contact farmers@aggrigator.com.



What You Need to Know:
COVID-19 Vaccination,
Mask-Wearing, and Social Distancing

[Click HERE for information](#)

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,

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

[How UConn's creamery turned to cheese during the pandemic](#), 5/16, CT Post

[Eastern Connecticut: Get Fresh At Farmers Markets](#), 5/18, Patch.com

[Bradley Mountain Farm provides hands-on learning with 'Goatee Academy'](#), 5/18, WFSB

[Healthful food feeds local economy](#), 5/19, The Day

[A Preview of Farmers' Market Season 2021](#), 5/20, WNPR

[Local Farmers are Adapting Amid Climate Change](#), 5/20, NBC CT



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>

USDA TO BEGIN LOAN PAYMENTS TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED BORROWERS UNDER AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SECTION 1005

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) today published the first notice of funding availability (NOFA) (PDF, 242 KB) announcing loan payments for eligible borrowers with qualifying direct farm loans under the American Rescue Plan Act Section 1005. The official NOFA will be published in the Federal Register early next week and USDA expects payments to begin in early June and continue on a rolling basis. A subsequent notice addressing guaranteed loan balances and direct loans that no longer have collateral and have been previously referred to the Department of Treasury for debt collection for offset, will be published within 120 days.

guaranteed loan outstanding balances as of January 1, 2021, for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as defined in Section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)). Section 2501(a) defines a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, which is further defined as a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Qualifying loans as part of today's announcement are certain direct loans under the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) and Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL).

To learn more about the loan payments to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, visit www.farmers.gov/americanrescueplan.



COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY COMPOST AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

\$2 million in cooperative agreements is available for local governments to host Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot projects. The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for

Learn more about the Cooperative Agreements [here](#).

VIRTUAL MEAT & POULTRY HACCP COURSE - JUNE 2021

A three-day, virtual course for International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP will be held on June 22, 23, and 24, 2021. This course will provide participants with the information they need to prepare a HACCP food safety program and also plan for a plant under USDA/FSIS Grant of Inspection.

If you work in a slaughter only facility, email indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu before registering.

During this course we will not prepare HACCP plan for your specific operation but provide resources and guidelines for you to successfully prepare a HACCP plan. This course meets requirements for training of personnel responsible for HACCP plan development and implementation, including plan validation and verification activities.

Instructors

- Indu Upadhyaya, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UConn Cooperative Extension
- Diane Hirsch, MPH, Food Safety Specialist, UConn
- Lori Pivarnik, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, University of Rhode Island
- Jason Bolton, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension
- Robson Machado, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. The \$425 fee includes all course materials. Registration materials must be received by May 31 at 11:59 PM. Registration link: <https://secure.touchnet.com>

For more information on meat and poultry HACCP courses, click [here](#) or contact Indu Upadhyaya at 860-786-8191 or indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS - ESSENTIAL PROTECTIONS WEBINAR

The U.S. Department of Labor's [Wage and Hour Division](#), the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), and the Employment and Training Administration [ETA | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#) will present a two-hour webinar for the Northeast Region's agricultural workers, employers, and other stakeholders on each agency's continued response during the coronavirus pandemic.

Agricultural workers and other stakeholders are encouraged to join the two-

Spanish. Attendance is free, but you must register using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trabajadores-esenciales-protecciones-esenciales-trabajadores-agricolas-tickets-153035436109>



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 closes June 8, 2021. [See the full grant opportunity here.](#)

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](#).



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.

**APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR CONSERVATION INNOVATION
GRANTS ON-FARM TRIALS**

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 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 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/.](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.

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.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on May 17, 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.

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.

up to 25% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

51. Two 1 year old all milk and grass/hay fed Hereford/Hereford Cross calves available. 8 to pick from. \$700 each. Delivery available for a fee depending on location. Leave a message for Scott @ 203-578-5495.

52. Bemus two row transplanter has 200 gal. plastic tank. Excellent working condition. \$750.00. 860-668-7917.

53-R. Hereford cow/calf pairs. 2 years old with stout bull calves, bred back. Old Beech Farm. 860-693-2052.

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)



Please join UConn Extension for this virtual discussion on Thursday June 10th. Tom Steen from Steen Consulting is a Master Trainer in Suicide Prevention, Postvention and Grief Support. Tom will lead an open discussion around this critical topic with a mixed panel of agriculture service providers, farmers, and mental health professionals.

This webinar is free and open to all. To register, go to

<https://s.uconn.edu/mentalhealthwebinar>

For those who cannot attend live, it will be recorded and posted at <https://ctfarmrisk.extension.uconn.edu> following the session.

**JOIN US
VIRTUALLY
THURSDAY
JUNE 10TH
7-8PM**

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/>

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



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