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Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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When it comes to the COVID 19 vaccines, you might be asking yourself should I get it? Is it safe? Wanting to know more is a good thing.

Talk to your personal doctor or health team if you have questions, to help you make an informed decision about the COVID 19 vaccines. For more information, visit GetVaccineAnswers.org.

New Shelf-Stable Food Box Program Available

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, in partnership with The Salvation Army Southern New England Division, CT National Guard, CT Department of Social Services, and FEMA announce the availability of approximately 30,000

out a preliminary <u>interest questionnaire</u> for consideration no later than Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

"Addressing food insecurity remains a top priority as the state reopens," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "As the need for food boxes at testing sites decrease, we are able to restructure that program to address those areas of our state still seeing a steady influx of clients in need of food."

Organizations not affiliated with a larger food bank network and those who can act as a 'regional' food hub to a network of smaller organizations may receive priority. Each box weighs approximately 22 lbs. filled with nonperishable food. The contents vary but include items such as rice and beans, dehydrated milk, mac and cheese, and other canned goods.

Organizations can order by whole pallets only (64 boxes to a pallet). The pallets are sized 4' x 4'. A one-time delivery for the total boxes requested will be delivered. Multiple trailers can be requested provided your site has adequate storage space.

For more information, please visit <u>CTPantryResources.com</u> or contact Cyrena Thibodeau at <u>Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov</u> or 860-895-3094 with questions.



Larva of a box tree moth found in Connecticut. Photo Credit: Dr. Victoria Smith, CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) announce the detection of the box tree moth, Cydalima perspectalis (Walker), at a single retail nursery in Connecticut on boxwood imported from a nursery in Ontario, Canada. As of May 27, 2021, APHIS had confirmed the presence of box tree moth in three facilities in Michigan, one in Connecticut, and one in South Carolina. On May 26, 2021, APHIS issued a Federal Order to halt the importation of all host plants from Canada, including boxwood (Buxus species), Euonymus (Euonymus species), and holly (Ilex species).

The box tree moth is native to East Asia and has become a serious invasive pest in Europe, where it continues to spread. In 2018, it was found in the Toronto area of Canada. The caterpillars feed mostly on boxwood and heavy infestations can defoliate host plants. Once the leaves are gone, larvae consume the bark, leading to girdling and plant death.

If you bought a boxwood plant within the last few months, please inspect it for signs of the box tree moth. Box tree moth symptoms include green-black frass and silk threads on the host plant. The caterpillars are very cryptic and it is easier to look for the shiny abundant webbing or pupae. The box tree moth is a federally actionable/reportable pest, so please refer any findings to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at: CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov and include a photograph and location.

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

<u>Connecticut Grown Farm Map</u>: 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 <u>here</u>.

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.

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

<u>Loca Vore: State farmers sell their wares; amuse yourself with food and drink,</u> Republican-American, 6/1

<u>Pick-your-own berry farm opens for the season in Glastonbury</u>, WFSB, 6/2 <u>In photos: Old Greenwich Farmers Market brings out the shoppers</u>, Greenwich Times. 6/3

<u>Coventry farmers market, hailed as state's largest, opens on Sunday,</u> Journal Inquirer, 6/3

Connecticut Farms Get Boost in Business During Pandemic, NBC CT, 6/3



AG MARKETING & INSPECTION REP 1, AG DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Seeking two (2) full-time Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 (AMIR 1) positions to support grant program administration and website management for the agency.

DETAILS: https://bit.ly/3wXi7ux

DEADLINE: JUNE 16, 2021



FREE ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS FOR CONNECTICUT FARMERS

For those that are growing commercially, aka are a farm businesses, there is an opportunity for you to have consultations with some of the experts in the state surrounding a wide variety of topics.

Look at the different types of consultations that are available here: https://newfarms.uconn.edu/consultations/

These are free one-on-one consultations to Connecticut Farmers, with specialists in certain fields of knowledge. These consultations are intended for those who have been farming for 10 years or less, but folks can apply if they have been farming for a longer period of time.

Sign up for an consultation with an experts on the topics of

- Vegetable Production
- Livestock
- · Conservation and Land use
- Fruit production
- Flower production

The consultations will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis and are subject to the consultants availability. If all spots are filled, we will maintain a waiting list. Deadlines for sign ups are dependent on each consultant.

Again, please note: These consultations are intended for Commercial Farmers and Farm businesses. If you are homesteading, have a hobby farm, or simply love gardening, please access the <u>UConn Home and Garden Education Center.</u>

Sign up here: https://newfarms.uconn.edu/consultations/

NORTHEAST SARE NOW ACCEPTING GRANT PREPROPOSALS

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is now accepting preproposals for three grant programs: Research and Education, Professional Development and Research for Novel Approaches. The grant programs are aimed at improving sustainable agriculture and local food systems throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

submit full proposals will be contacted in mid-August with full proposals due on Oct. 26. More information about how to apply may be found at www.northeastsare.org/GetGrant.

A webinar about Northeast SARE and these grant programs will be offered on June 24 at noon. Although free, registration is required at: https://go.uvm.edu/nesarewebinar. The webinar will be live captioned.

Although anyone may apply, all projects must take place within the Northeast region, which includes the New England states, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Women; Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC); LGBTQ+ community members and personnel at minority-serving institutions, including 1890s and other historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions and tribal colleges and universities are encouraged to submit preproposals.

Northeast SARE is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and housed within University of Vermont Extension.

Questions about the grant programs should be directed to <u>northeastsare@uvm.edu</u>.

SIGN UP NOW FOR FARM CREDIT EAST'S WINERY BENCHMARK PROGRAM

The sign-up period for Farm Credit East's annual Winery Benchmarks program is now open. The Winery Benchmarks is a unique program for Northeast wineries to measure their businesses against wine industry peers. The program is now accepting registrations for the 2021 benchmark.

The program offers participants two report options: the Management Review report or an Executive Summary report. The Management Review report provides a highly detailed comprehensive report on every area of the winery business. The Executive Summary report requires less data for a reduced cost. It is ideal for wineries that are just getting started in the program and may not have all the data required for the more comprehensive report.

Registration for the 2021 benchmark is currently underway. Data will be required by June 25. A meeting for benchmark participants is being planned for August.

If you are a past participant or new to the program, contact your local Farm Credit East office to learn more. You can also contact the program's director, Gregg McConnell, at <u>Gregg.Mcconnell@farmcrediteast.com</u>.



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 <u>published the first notice of funding availability (NOFA)</u> (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

Treasury for debt collection for offset, will be published within 120 days.

Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides funding and authorization for USDA FSA to pay up to 120 percent of direct and 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.

USDA ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of up to \$4 million for grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Office) is accepting proposals for planning and innovation projects, and these grants are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

USDA will accept applications on <u>Grants.gov</u> until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 30, 2021.

A pre-recorded webinar will provide an overview of the grants' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application. The webinar will be posted at <u>farmers.gov/urban</u>.

\$76.9 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS' MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced the availability of \$76.9 million in funding for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP).

The FMLFPP program provides grants on a competitive basis for a wide variety of direct-to-consumer and local food marketing projects like farmers markets, CSAs, food hubs, and value-added product incubators. FMLFPP has two subprograms – the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local

More information on how to apply can be found on the <u>FMPP webpage</u> and <u>LFPP webpage</u>, where you will find requirements for submitting an application to the most recently updated FY2021 RFAs. The application window is currently open now through 11:59 p.m. EST on June 21, 2021.

\$15.3 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP

AMS also announced the availability of \$15.3 million for the RFSP program. Housed under the umbrella program, the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), along with FMLFPP, RFSP is a new program that supports foodshed-level approaches to developing regional food economies. The increase in funding pools for both the FMLFPP and RSFP program is part of Congress's ongoing efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local and regional food systems.

Administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the RFSP program provides competitive grant funding to support multi-stakeholder partnerships and encourage foodshed-level approaches to planning and developing local and regional food economies.

More information on the application process can be found on the <u>AMS RFSP</u> webpage. The FY2021 applications must be received before 11:59 p.m. EST on July 6, 2021. All submissions must be done through grants.gov.

Contact the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) grant specialists if you have any additional questions on the program details and application process. You can also join the RFSP Applicant Webinar happening on Tuesday June 8, 2021 at 2:30-4:30 p.m. EST.

Register in advance for the webinar <u>here</u>.



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.

VIRTUAL MEAT & POULTRY HACCP COURSE - JUNE 2021

A three-day, virtual course for International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP will be ehdl 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

- 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 <u>here</u> or contact Indu Upadhyaya at 860-786-8191 or indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu.

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.



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.

June 8: Catchup with CFT - A Community Update, featuring Elizabeth Moore, CFT Executive Director (rescheduled from May 25)

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.

Ag Market Pricing

<u>Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT</u> <u>New Holland Dairy Auction - New</u>

Prices last provided on May 31, 2021 <u>Holland, PA</u>

Northeast Regional Eggs New Holland, PA Hay Report

New England Shell Eggs USDA Mexico Canada Weekly

<u>Update</u>

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

<u>Summary</u> <u>Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -</u>

Boston

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -

<u>Eighty Four, PA</u> <u>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -</u>

<u>Boston</u>

Advertisements

- 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. <u>Sonpal's Power Fence</u> 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.
- 50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% 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.
- 53-R. Hereford cow/calf pairs. 2 years old with stout bull calves, bred back. Old Beech Farm. 860-693-2052.
- 54-R. Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com

Wanted

42-R. EZTRAIL kicker bale wagons, any condition. Cash paid. Call or text George, 860-918-5442.

Job Opportunities

The <u>Connecticut Department of Agriculture</u> (DoAg) is seeking two (2) full-time Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 (AMIR 1) positions to support grant program administration and website management for the agency. The positions will be based out of 450 Columbus Blvd in Hartford, 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A flex schedule is available for work-related schedule adjustments to attending industry meetings

and federally funded grant programs for the industry. Understanding and experience with website design and maintenance will be expected. On-farm site visits will be necessary, therefore the incumbents must have an understanding of agriculture production and seasonality. Writing reports and coordinating events and workshops will also be required. The ability to perform other related duties as required will be important.

Deadline to apply is June 16. For more information or to apply, click here: https://bit.ly/3wXi7ux

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Program is seeking qualified State Certified General Appraisers with the required education credentials and the experience to be part of our approved panel of Independent Fee Appraisers. They conduct appraisals for the land valuation of conservation easements pertaining to the purchase of development rights to farmland, in compliance with The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), and USDA-NRCS appraisal specifications.

Fee Appraisers must have a Connecticut Certified General Appraiser License and have completed the proper coursework required by USDA-NRCS appraisal specifications, to conduct appraisals for the Agricultural Land Easement component of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE). For further information you may contact Denise O'Meara, Property Agent 2, at 860-713-2511.

The USDA Farm Service Agency has a position open for a program technician on their loan team. This position is assigned to Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Business Center (BC), Connecticut State Office, New London County Farm Service in Norwich, New London County, Connecticut. The Program Technician responds to routine inquiries on procedures for Farm Loan Programs. Deadline to apply is June 11. For more information or to apply, click <a href="https://example.com/here-new-market-new

Interested in Advertising? Click here for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

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

Agriculture



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 tools 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

JOIN US VIRTUALLY THURSDAY JUNE 20TH 7-8PM

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





Plant Science Day 2021 Wednesday, August 4

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



portal.ct.gov/caes

Toll-Free 877.855.2237









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