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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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August 27, 2021; Vol. D, No. 34

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LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAVE



Spotted Lanternfly populations have now been identified in Fairfield and New Haven counties. Inspect your vehicles and equipment for this



Supporting Connecticut's Farmers and Restaurants During Farm-to-Chef Week

Kick-off event on Saturday, August 28 with celebrity chef Chrissy Tracey

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces that 2021 Farm-to-Chef Week will run from Sunday, August 29 through Saturday, September 4. This special week encourages culinary professionals to use Connecticut Grown ingredients in new ways on their menus while educating residents and visitors about the diversity of farm products grown and raised in Connecticut.

“Connecticut’s farmers can always be counted on to deliver high quality, fresh food – from oysters in the Long Island Sound and milk year-round to Connecticut Grown fruits, vegetables, maple syrup, and honey. Farm-to-Chef Week celebrates that through the creative vision of Connecticut chefs,” said Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner. “I encourage Connecticut’s residents to visit a participating dining venue, enjoy a delicious meal, and support our local businesses – both farmers and eateries – who have weathered significant challenges but always deliver the best.”

Diners are encouraged to visit www.CTFarmtoChef.com to find a listing of participating dining venues located throughout the state. Click on a location to view their menu and see which farms they source ingredients from.

“We are really excited to participate in Farm-to-Chef Week again, especially after the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Eli Hawli, owner of Marketplace Hospitality, which has signed up seven dining venues to participate this year. “This past year has highlighted the importance of local businesses working together. As a chef-driven organization using fresh CT

Chris Pacheco, owner of Seacoast Mushrooms in Stonington, is a Connecticut farmer growing gourmet mushrooms sold at farmers' markets and dozens of restaurants throughout the state. "Collectively, we talk about supporting local farms and Connecticut Grown," he says. "Farm-to-Chef is a very real example of local businesses supporting each other in the community. It happens every day! We work together to produce and prepare food to feed the communities that helped to build our food-focused businesses. I find it inspiring to work with great chefs and restaurateur to ensure consumers have access to fresh, local foods. In my mind, the pandemic put CT GROWN in bold letters. Over the past year CT farms and CT chefs fed a lot of people through open air farmers' markets and chef prepared, ready-to-eat, at-home meals. I would say that our farmer/chef relationship has strengthened this past year – it became very personal for all of us – as we worked together to ensure our local communities were fed."

This year an in-person kick-off will take place on Saturday, August 28 at CitySeed's Wooster Square Farmers' Market at Conte West Hills Middle School in New Haven from 9 am to 1 pm. The event will include chef demonstrations with Christian "Chrissy" Tracey as well as Chef Poreyah of Vegan Ahava.

Tracey is a vegan chef for Bon Appetit Magazine and runs a company called Vegan Vibes Meal Prep in Connecticut. She is a CT 40 Under 40 recipient and contributes her excess resources as a business owner to providing low-income families with plant-based meals in New Haven County. Poreyah is from Southern Judea In Israel and went through CitySeed's Food Business Entrepreneurship program. Tracey and Poreyah will shop the farmers' market and prepare dishes using CT Grown ingredients. In addition to the regular vendors at the market, special guests New England Sea Farms and Bell's Shellfish will be there this week selling kelp and shellfish as well. Be sure to "Follow" our [Facebook page](#) for updates on this event.

Understanding the challenges that many restaurants faced over the past year due to COVID-19 and staffing shortages, sponsorships of Farm-to-Chef Week made it possible for a limited number of venues to sign up at no cost. Special thanks to the following organizations for their support of this initiative, including Highland Park Market, Farm Credit East, CT Milk Promotion Board, Bozzuto's, Sardilli, FreshPoint, Skyline Studios, LLC, and CitySeed.

DoAg launched the Farm-to-Chef Program in 2006 to help connect foodservice professionals with Connecticut Grown farm products. There is no cost to either farmers or chefs to join. Farm-to-Chef Week was started by DoAg in 2010 as part of its year-round Farm-to-Chef Program.



2021 ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE GRANT PROGRAM

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is applying for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) Grant from the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Through this grant, Connecticut certified organic growers and processors can be reimbursed for 50%, up to \$500, for the cost of receiving and maintaining USDA organic certification. A list of certified organic growers and processors is available through USDA's Organic INTEGRITY Database at <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity>.

The program is administered on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. The amount reimbursed will be 50%, up to \$500, of the certification cost paid between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

To apply, please visit the CT DoAg [website](#) for required materials. Completed applications are to be submitted electronically by October 15, 2021. Any questions, please contact Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

COVID-19 PRODUCER RESOURCES

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:

REGISTER FOR ON-FARM MOBILE VACCINATION SITE

Farms interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic for farm employees are encouraged to fill out the [DPH vans intake form](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Seth Bahler shows how the cow's milk at Oakridge Dairy Farm gets out the door.](#), 8/20, Journal Inquirer

[Tropical Storm Henri Left Local Farmers Hurting Once Again](#), 8/25, NBC CT

[The Spotted Lanternfly Could Wreak Havoc on Connecticut](#), 8/25, NBC CT



The advertisement features a green background. On the left is a white graphic of a canopy tent with the 'CONNECTICUT GROWN' logo and 'CTGrown.org' on its valance. To the right, the text reads: 'Now Available: CT Grown Tents', '10' x 10' King Canopy Tents', 'Order online at: www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com', and 'Pickup only'.



USDA TO INVEST \$50 MILLION IN NEW COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$50 million in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities for two-year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran

“Historically underserved producers face significant barriers in accessing USDA assistance for conservation and climate-smart agriculture,” said Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “USDA is committed to revising programs to be more equitable, and these producers deserve our support as they contribute to our vibrant and diverse agricultural communities.”

The projects should help historically underserved farmers and ranchers in implementing natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health
- Improve water quality
- Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern
- Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural land
- Build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities

Projects should remove barriers to access and reach historically underserved groups through a combination of program outreach and technical assistance in managing natural resources that address one or more of the following four NRCS priority areas:

- Addressing local natural resource issues
- Using climate-smart agriculture practices and principles
- Encouraging existing and new partnerships
- Developing state and community-led conservation leadership for historically underserved agricultural producers, including educating and training students for careers in natural resources management

Who Is Eligible Entities who provide outreach assistance to historically underserved groups are eligible, including:

- Native American Tribal governments and organizations.
- Nonprofit organizations
- Private and public institutions of higher education

Historically underserved producers include those who are considered beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers.

How to Apply

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 25, 2021. See the [grants.gov announcement](#) for details and application instructions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the details of the Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program as part of meetings with farmers and a tour of farms with Senator Leahy. In June, Secretary Vilsack committed to providing additional pandemic assistance for dairy farmers in an exchange at a hearing with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Leahy. Through the program, USDA will provide about \$350 million in pandemic assistance payments to dairy farmers who received a lower value for their products due to market abnormalities caused by the pandemic. The assistance is part of a larger package including permanent improvements to the Dairy Margin Coverage safety net program.

Additional details about the program are available and will be updated at the [AMS Dairy Program website](#).



EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY AND EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR GOAT AND SHEEP DAIRY SUPPLY CHAIN GRANT

The NE-DBIC is currently accepting applications from sheep and goat dairy farmers, processors, and industry associations for the Goat & Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant. The application is now open to applicants from across the Northeast region: Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in addition to New England states. Grant range: \$15,000–\$50,000 with a 25% match commitment. This funding is for projects that accomplish at least one of the following objectives related to goat and/or sheep dairy products:

- Increase consumer awareness
- Develop market channels and distribution opportunities
- Support innovative strategies to increase consumption
- Increase business revenues

diversification, research and development, operational improvements, or your other creative ideas!

Extended deadline to apply: September 30. Learn more [here](#).



**PUBLIC ACT
490**

Come learn about
**Public Act 490: Connecticut's Current-Use Tax Law for Farmland,
Forest Land and Open Space Land**
Tips for applying for, maintaining and transferring PA 490 land

Live Webinar

Wednesday September 8th, 2021

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Open this link [to register](#)

1 CEU CT Certified Forest Practitioners - CT DEEP

2 AICP-CM credits CT Chapter of the
American Planning Association



Registration fee: \$40 for non-CFBA members

Registration fee includes copy of CFBA 2020 PA 490 Guide

For more than 35 years Connecticut Farm Bureau Association has been the trusted source for guidance and information on Public Act 490.



Questions?
Call 860 768 - 1100 or email joann@cfba.org

CT FARM BUREAU TO HOST WEBINAR ON PUBLIC ACT 490

Join Connecticut Farm Bureau Association on Wednesday, September 8 from

CFBA Executive Director Joan Nichols will present tips on apply for, maintaining, and transferring PA 490 land. Join, upgrade, or renew your CFBA membership to attend at no cost. Non-CFBA members are welcome at \$40. All attendees will receive a complimentary 2020 PA 490 Guide.

For fees and registration click here:
[http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?
llr=alopmucab&oeidk=a07eif6zhafd81b9873](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=alopmucab&oeidk=a07eif6zhafd81b9873)

USDA ANNOUNCES DAIRY DONATION PROGRAM

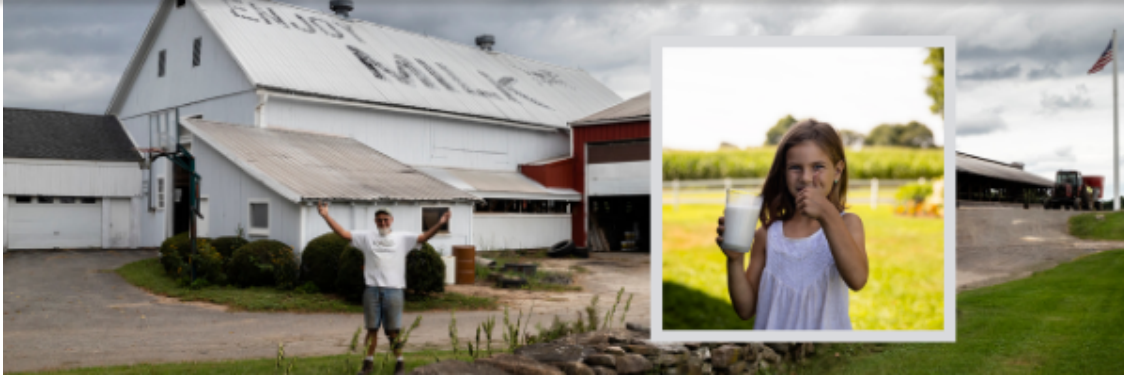
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh announced the establishment of a \$400 million Dairy Donation Program (DDP). The DDP, established by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, aims to facilitate timely dairy product donations while reducing food waste.

The establishment of DDP is part of \$6 billion of pandemic assistance USDA announced in March and follows last week's announcement of \$350 million Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program for dairy farmers on August 19. It is the second part of an over \$2 billion comprehensive package to help the dairy industry recover from the pandemic and improve or establish programs to make it more resilient to future challenges.

Under the DDP, eligible dairy organizations will partner with non-profit feeding organizations that distribute food to individuals and families in need. Those partnerships may apply for and receive reimbursements to cover some expenses related to eligible dairy product donations. DDP was inspired in part by the donations made by Michigan Milk Producers Association in conjunction with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in response to the Flint water crisis.

Dairy farmers, cooperatives, or processors that purchase fresh milk or bulk dairy products to process into retail-packaged dairy products and meet other requirements are eligible to participate. Costs reimbursed through the program include the cost of milk used to make the donated eligible dairy product and some of the manufacturing and transportation costs. Reimbursement of these costs is designed to help offset some of the costs associated with processing and donating eligible dairy products.

Program details are available at www.ams.usda.gov/ddp. Interested partnerships must apply by completing and submitting a Dairy Donation and Distribution Plan. Upon plan approval, partnerships will be able to submit claims and supporting documentation to obtain reimbursement for eligible dairy products donated since January 1, 2020.



CT DAIRY FARMER PROMOTION GRANTS AVAILABLE

Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy are proud to announce that we are offering a competitive dairy promotion grant program to Connecticut dairy farm families and employees. Funding for this project was paid for by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.

This program is one more way to sustain a vibrant dairy community and champion the work of Connecticut dairy farm families. Funded projects will be eligible for grant funds of up to \$5,000 annually to improve public perception of dairy farming and/or increase consumption of local dairy products. The total grant funding available is \$20,000. Grants are available for projects that will be completed before May 13, 2022.

For more information, or to apply, please visit CTdairy.org.

ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the [CT Grown Map](#) page. All agricultural businesses, farm stands, and farmers' markets are welcome to apply. There is no fee to participate and applications are accepted year round. To apply to be listed, visit the [CT Grown Map Google Form](#).

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on August 16, 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](#)

[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, local Nationwide Farm Insurance Agent. AFIS certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT & RI. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discounts. 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.

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

55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), our partner agency. Responsibilities will include working in conjunction with NRCS staff to provide outreach to ag producers for conservation planning and support. The candidate will also be expected to work closely with watershed organization managers in northwest Connecticut to coordinate the promotion of practices that create healthy soils and clean water quality in the region.

This position is full-time (40 hours a week) and is partially funded through a grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Please note the position is for a 12-month period with the anticipation, but no guarantee, that the grant will be renewed for a second or third term. Please send cover letter and resume to Cynthia Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Northwest Conservation District, 1185 New Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790 or via email to cynthiar@nwcd.org. Applications are due by October 1, 2021.

UConn Extension is seeking applicants for a full-time (11-month), non-tenure track Assistant/Associate Extension Educator, primarily based at the Fairfield County Extension Office in Bethel, CT. Extension Educators are community-based faculty who make a difference in communities by connecting community needs with university resources. Position level/rank will be commensurate with experience working with Extension. The successful candidate shall create an active 4-H youth development program with a focus on STEM, food, and agricultural literacy.

More information and application instructions are available at s.uconn.edu/urban4-hposition

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

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

8 regions
70+ farm CT stops!

2021 TOUR DES FARMS

JUNE 1- SEPT. 30

Ride to support farmers & food security!

Get your passport: Prizes, cue sheets, bike bib!

Tag!
@CTRC
#2021TDF
#BikeCTFarms

TOURDES FARMS PASSPORT
2021
Welcome!

TOURDES FARMS.ORG

WEBINAR

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 | 7 PM FREE!
Virtual STATEWIDE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM

HOSTED BY CT RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT'S CT FARM ENERGY PROGRAM

Are you a farm or rural small business who would like to reduce your energy consumption and costs?

Guest speakers will cover energy efficiency and renewable energy program options along with State & Federal incentives including: Energize CT, USDA REAP, ZREC, Metering, Tax Incentives, and C-PACE. Learn about the CT Farm Energy Geothermal Pilot and the CT Farm Energy Audit Program. The webinar will include a Q&A.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/CTFarmEnergy>
Questions? Call 860.345.3977 or email amanda@ctfarmenergy.org



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