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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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States from September 17 through October 3 to see Connecticut agriculture on display. From fruits and jams to farm wineries and maple syrup, come see why Connecticut Grown is a way of life.



Birch Mill Farm Named 2021 New England Green Pastures Connecticut Dairy Farm of the Year

Submitted by Sheila M. Andrew, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist, University of Connecticut

Katlyn and Tim Kinsella of Birch Mill Farm have been selected as the 2021 New England Green Pastures Connecticut Outstanding Farm. Birch Mill Farm is located in Falls Village in the bucolic northwest corner of Connecticut. They are proud first generation dairy farmers and along with their young family, Emma and Henry, they milk 45 cows made up of Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Holsteins.

Tim and Kate grew up in the agriculture community, both their grandparents are retired farmers and as kids they raised and showed purebred dairy cows and were very active in 4-H and FFA. After high school Tim went to work full time on

opportunity to rent the farm and purchase his 28 young stock. Those young stock along with the five milk cows they already owned became the foundation for their now, herd of 100 head consisting of 50 mature cows and young stock.

They maintain a 22,500 rolling herd average and they are proud of the latest DHI test of 82 pounds of milk per cow. They maintain high quality milk with average SCC far below 100,000 cells/mL. They have bred several Excellent Brown Swiss cows and are particularly proud of a favorite Brown Swiss cow who's daughter has ranked in the top 100 for Heifer G-PPR. The secrets to their success is their commitment to high quality forage, cow comfort with the installations of water beds in their tie stalls, and a strong focus on hygiene in housing and milking time routines.

They are farming at a rented facility with 25 acres and rent an additional 500 acres. This additional land base supports a secondary hay business. Their forages consist of 100% BMR corn, grass and alfalfa. They use cover crops and have recently explored the feeding potential of this crop.

They have a strong commitment to the dairy industry and support local school activities and are involved in the local FFA and 4-H programs. They have leased calves to 4-H youth and Kate just became co-chair of the Goshen Fair Dairy Committee.

Over the last 12 years, they have focused on updating facilities to ensure cow comfort, hygiene and high quality milk, along with making high quality forages. The Kinsella's consider themselves to be relatively 'risk adverse' and they make sure that all new investments will be economically sound. They are positive and resilient and maintain a can-do attitude that shows in all aspects of the farm. They look forward to moving their farm to the next level and they are great representatives of the sustainability of dairy farming in Connecticut. We congratulate Kate and Tim Kinsella on their achievements.

This article originally appeared in UConn Extension news.

USDA INVESTS \$700 MILLION TO SMALL PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, DISTRIBUTORS, FARMERS MARKETS, AND SEAFOOD PROCESSING VESSELS AND PROCESSORS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will soon publish Requests for Applications (RFAs) for new grant programs - the [Pandemic Response and Safety \(PRS\) Grant](#) program and the [Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant](#) program - to support agricultural stakeholders who haven't yet received substantial federal financial assistance in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. These grant programs will provide assistance to small businesses in certain commodity areas, including small scale specialty crop producers and processors, shellfish, aquaculture and other select producers, meat and other processors, distributors, farmers markets,

eligibility and to prepare to apply for funding. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants and \$50 million is available for SPRS. All of these new programs are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

View the full announcement [here](#).

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: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>.

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

[Woodbury farmers lose crops from Ida flooding, 9/5, Fox 61](#)

[Small Business Spotlight: The Modern Milkman, 9/7, WFSB](#)

[A Food Hub Provides an Oasis in a Food Desert, 9/8, NBC CT](#)

[Weston farm helps families put healthy meals on the table, 9/8, News 12](#)

[Apple-picking is here: Where you can fill your basket in New London, Windham counties, 9/8, Norwich Bulletin](#)

[Repeated Heavy Rains & Flooding Create 'Devastating' Conditions for CT Farmers, 9/8, NBC CT](#)



FARM AID SEEKS CT GROWN ITEMS FOR VENUE

Farm Aid is looking to purchase the following items from local Connecticut farmers for Farm Aid 2021 on September 25, at Xfinity Theatre, 61 Savitt Way, Hartford. Delivery is needed on Wednesday, Sept. 22 or Thursday morning on Sept. 23.

Items and quantities needed:

- 305 Corn Stalk Bunches
- 323 Straw/Hay Bales (Prefer straw. You may retrieve undamaged bales after event.)
- 136 Sunflower Bouquets (x 2 per bunch, 272 large stems)
- 183 Large Pumpkins
- 209 Small Pumpkins
- 20 half bushel Gourds
- 209 Mums (Should be fully open bloom)
- Flowers sufficient for 72 Cut Flower arrangements (in buckets)

Farm Aid payment upon delivery on site.

Contact: Laurie LeBlanc, Farm Aid, lal2llb@comcast.net.

FARMERS URGED TO REPORT CROP DAMAGE OR LOSS TO USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is encouraging farmers and agricultural producers who may have experienced crop damage or loss due to Storm Ida to contact their United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office.

Steps to Take Following Extreme Weather Events

- Check with your crop insurance and/or local Farm Services Agency (FSA) representatives regarding exact documentation to certify losses, procedures for initiating claims, possible financial assistance.
- Take photos of damaged field for visual documentation. Estimate crop value and degree of losses.
- Contact your county FSA office and report the information on any loss. This benefits your region because it helps to document the extent of damage to crops in your county which will determine eligibility for federal disaster aid. It will benefit you by establishing what level of damage you sustained. You do not need to have crop insurance to be eligible for disaster aid should your county be eligible.
- Contact your crop insurance representative to arrange a visit with an adjuster and call your financial lenders to discuss available options.
- Follow FDA guidance on evaluating the safety of flood-affected food crops for human consumption. For more information, click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), has disaster assistance programs available to help agricultural producers recover after natural disasters, including flooding and wind events.

FSA offers many programs to help producers recover from losses, including the [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#), the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#), [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#) and the [Tree Assistance Program](#). Producers located in counties receiving a primary or contiguous disaster designation are eligible for low-interest [emergency loans](#) to help them recover from production and physical losses.

The FSA [Emergency Conservation Program](#) provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

Compensation is also available to producers who purchased coverage through FSA's [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#), which protects non-insurable crops against natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses or prevented planting. Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2021 crops and file a notice of loss and application for payment on

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) for more information about disaster assistance programs or visit farmers.gov/recover.



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.



Farmers need legal & financial advisors who are skilled to guide them on farm succession.

FARM SUCCESSION TRAINING FOR LEGAL & FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS

Farm transfer is a critical issue for thousands of farmers in New England—and nationally. At no point is a farm's future more at risk than during this transition. Farmers need technical assistance on specific aspects of succession and transfer. They need advisors with relevant, up-to-date expertise to support and guide them through the complex planning process.

Who should attend? This training is specifically designed for attorneys, attorneys-in-training, financial management consultants, business planners, and tax accountants who work with farmers in New England on farm succession. Do you work beyond New England? [Contact us](#) to be added to a waiting list.

Presented by a diversity of professionals already working in the field, this training is creatively formatted to sustain the momentum and interaction throughout the sessions. Case clinics, team-building activities and abundant resource materials will enhance the learning experiences for participants. Continuing legal education credits will be offered.

[Training schedule and details](#)

[Register now!](#)

Full price of this multi-session training helps cover costs of planning and delivery at \$225. Cost should not be a barrier to attending. Half-price discounts and additional scholarships are available on the registration form. **Register by September 17.**



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.



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 farmers.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on



Now Available:
CT Grown Tents
10' x 10' King Canopy Tents

Order online at:
www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com

Pickup only

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR EQUITY MATCH GRANTS

The Women's Business Development Council's (WBDC) Equity Match Grant application opens next Tuesday, September 7. The application will be open for 3 weeks from September 7 to September 28, 2021. The program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to women-owned businesses in the state of Connecticut who have been in business for two or more years. Final grant decisions will be announced in mid-November. For additional information, visit their [website](#).

WBDC's business advisors are available to support individuals in 1-on-1 advising sessions to discuss their business, on topics including start ups, marketing, business finance, strategy and more. Check out their [advisors](#) and make an appointment today.

WBDC also has some exciting [programs](#) starting soon. Here are a sampling (sign up on their [website](#)):

- Equity Match Grant Information Session, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, 10:00AM – 11:00AM
- GPS: A Guide to Plan for Success (9-Part Series), starting Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, 5:00PM – 7:00PM
- Marketing Made Simple: Turning Your Social Media Followers into Paying Customers, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, 10:00AM – 11:00AM



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

Projects must benefit the applicant and additional enterprises within their supply chain. Think: partnerships to reach new markets, business diversification, research and development, operational improvements, or your other creative ideas!

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

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](#).

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on August 30, 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, 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

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

56-R. Piglets for Sale: \$100, FlamingFarm.com, West Simsbury, 860-658-5070.

(run for 4 weeks)

57-R. Christmas greens, wreaths, roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

The Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) is seeking a qualified person to conduct outreach to the farming community in cooperation with USDA Natural 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

Upcoming Events

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



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Website

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