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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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CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS WEEK
OCTOBER 4TH- 8TH
AT SCHOOLS ACROSS CONNECTICUT

PLUS: Check out a special menu of activities for Farm to Early Childcare Education!

- Apple and Pear **HardCore Crunch** with Put Local on Your Tray
- Exploring Urban Gardens** with I Got Next Farm Coalition
- Virtual **Dairy Farm Tours** with Classroom Enrichment with Connecticut Dairy
- All in For Applesauce** recipe activity with FoodCorps CT
- How Do I Cook This?** recipes for kids to cook CT Grown products from New Britain Roots

And more from other organizations throughout the state!

Find out more at www.ctfarmtoschool.org

The graphic features a colorful background with illustrations of farm equipment like a tractor and a school bus, and various agricultural products like apples, pears, and carrots.

a full menu of activities highlighting where food comes from and kid-friendly ways to prepare it.



The Big E is Back

Visit CT Grown Exhibitors in the Connecticut Building

Connecticut's agricultural businesses are returning to the Connecticut Building at The Big E after the 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the largest fair in the Northeast offering entertainment, exhibitors, fair food, and rides, this is also an opportunity for Connecticut farmers and agricultural organizations to showcase their products to a vast audience of fairgoers and potential customers.

This year's fair starts today, September 17 and runs through Sunday, October 3, 2021 at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. In 2019 The Big E attracted 1,629,527 visitors. Connecticut residents account for 47% of attendees according to Big E statistics.

One of the most popular attractions at the Big E is the Avenue of States, which includes all six New England States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont). This year, The Big E's Connecticut Day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22. To celebrate Connecticut Day, the CT Department of Agriculture will be offering CT Grown apples and promoting the agency's CT Grown brand campaign launched earlier this year.

In addition, a rotation of agricultural exhibitors throughout the fair will provide visibility to a number of organizations and businesses including:

[Bridgeport Aquaculture School](#) - September 21
[Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#) - September 23
[Connecticut Milk Promotion Board](#) - September 24
[Killam & Bassette Farmstead](#) - September 25-28
[Super Soups](#) - September 29
[Newgate Farms](#) - September 30-October 3
[Sweet Wind Farm](#) - October 1

The Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council will also be present with wine available by the glass from six participating wineries, including Brignole Vineyards, Bishop's Orchard, Hopkins Vineyard, Jones Family Farm, Jonathan Edwards Winery, and Taylor Brooke Winery. Back by popular demand will be frozen wine, known as 'frose'.

The Harvest New England Association will again be coordinating Harvest New England Day at The Big E on Friday, October 1. Harvest New England Day will include the Passport to New England Agriculture program where fairgoers can visit each state building along the Avenue of States, plus the New England Grange Building, to answer a trivia question and receive a stamp. Once their Passport card is full it can be redeemed at the New Hampshire or Massachusetts building to receive a Harvest New England tote bag. For more information visit [The Big E](#) or follow the [CT Building-Big E](#) Facebook page for daily updates. To learn about opportunities to exhibit in 2022, please contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov.

NRCS ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP FOR FY2022 CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS

With the FY2021 growing season quickly fading into the distance, it's not too early to look forward to the next. Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Connecticut has announced funding for two of his agency's conservation programs for FY2022 – the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program. Not sure if these programs are for you? Let's see ... are you an agricultural producer looking for ways to conserve water, or address water, air, or animal waste issues? Are you looking to reduce erosion, improve wildlife habitat, or obtain a seasonal high tunnel? Or do you just want to improve overall conservation on your farming operation? If so, you may be eligible for technical and/or financial assistance.

EQIP is a voluntary program for those engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production – including organics. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. It also provides payments for implementing practices that have a positive

fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards.

AMA provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.

Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, to be eligible for current year funding, be sure to submit yours to your local NRCS office by **October 15, 2021.**

Not sure how to begin? Visit the *Getting Started* section of the NRCS website, where you can establish records and fill out eligibility forms. NRCS staff will need to complete an assessment of resource conditions and practice feasibility prior to making a determination of program eligibility.

To find out more, fill out eligibility forms, or obtain an application, contact your local USDA Service Center: Danielson – 860-779-0557; Hamden – 203-287-8038; Norwich – 860-887-3604; Torrington – 860-626-8852; Windsor – 860-688-7725.

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

[Connecticut's apple harvest is 'one of our best' this year, growers say](#), New Haven Register, 9/10

[These two witch hazel toner brands grow their plants here in Connecticut](#), CT Insider, 9/10

[16 places to get apple cider donuts around Connecticut](#), Middletown Press,

wrecked crops a year after Connecticut farmers struggled with drought, Hartford Courant, 9/13

'Stars aligned' for Ledyard Farmers Market, The Day, 9/13



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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, seafood facilities and processing vessels. Today USDA released grant forecasts for these new programs to help potential applicants determine their 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.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR STARTING A NEW MEAT PLANT

Through the [Local Food Systems Response to COVID project](#), AMS partnered with the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN) to develop a new resource outlining considerations for starting a new meat plant. A resilient food system requires a diverse group of meat processors when it comes to scale, services provided, and location. The pandemic has stretched small and mid-sized slaughterhouses and meat processors thin. Demand has outpaced supply in many places. The bottlenecks in parts of this system have encouraged many entrepreneurs and livestock producers to consider opening new meat processing facilities.

[NMPAN's website](#) has a variety resources about what it takes to plan, design, and construct a meat processing facility, as well as how to run it efficiently and profitably. Those resources are summarized in this new brief along with advice from new meat plant operators.

[So You Want to Start a Meat Plant? A short primer on what you need to know.](#)



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.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM

The Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program provides funding to help small specialty crop producers, food processors, manufacturers, distributors and farmers markets recover costs incurred by responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including for measures to protect workers. This program is authorized and funded under [the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 \(Pub. L. No. 116—260\)](#). The minimum funding request amount is \$1,500. The maximum funding request amount is \$20,000. No cost sharing or matching funds are required. Grants will cover activities associated with:

- **Workplace Safety:** Implementing workplace safety measures to protect against COVID-19
- **Market Pivots:** Implementing market pivots to protect against COVID-19
- **Retrofitting Facilities:** Retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19
- **Transportation:** Providing additional transportation options to maintain social distancing and worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19
- **Worker Housing:** Providing worker housing that protects against COVID-19
- **Medical:** Providing health services to protect workers against COVID-19

Important Dates:

- Check your eligibility and request a DUNS number now.
- Application Period Opens: September 23, 2021
- Application Period Closes: 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 8, 2021

[Visit the PRS Portal for more information and to apply for the USDA PRS 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.

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.**



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 October 25, 2021. See the [grants.gov announcement](#) for details and application instructions.



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 (WBDC) is now accepting Equity Match Grant applications through 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](#)):

- GPS: A Guide to Plan for Success (9-Part Series), starting Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - Marketing Made Simple: Turning Your Social Media Followers into Paying Customers, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
-



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 provided on September 13, 2021

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

NEW! [CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)

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, FlamigFarm.com, West Simsbury, 860-658-5070.

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.

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

Upcoming Events

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



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