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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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Temperatures go down - we bundle

farms in time for the cooler months!

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Governor Lamont Directs Nearly \$10 Million in COVID Relief Funding for Connecticut's Dairy and Aquaculture Industries

Governor Ned Lamont announced on September 29 that he is directing nearly \$10 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funding and American Recovery Plan Act funding to support Connecticut's dairy and aquaculture industries, which experienced significant market disruptions during the pandemic, negatively impacting sales.

Additional funds will be used to address food insecurity with funds to purchase CT Grown products for drive-through distributions and extending the availability of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at farmers markets.

Grown for CT Kids; the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; the Senior's Farmers Market Nutrition program; and Foodshare's drive-through distribution. These dollars will keep Foodshare distribution open through at least the end of October.

With these new dollars, the state will have reached a total investment of \$10.3 million in these programs.

"Our farmers and their teams are essential workers who played a critical role in getting Connecticut through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic," **Governor Lamont said**. "I am grateful for their dedication to ensuring that our residents have access to clean, healthy food. This investment will help keep these incredibly important businesses afloat and keep Connecticut families fed."

"Connecticut agriculture was deemed essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing them to continue planting, growing, and harvesting a diverse array of food critical to feeding the residents of our state," **Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt said**. "However, like so many others, these family businesses were negatively impacted by market disruptions and closures. These funds will strengthen those sectors most severely impacted while also investing in food security programs buying Connecticut Grown food products to support local families."

"Connecticut farmers have been frontline heroes during this pandemic," **the members of Connecticut's Congressional delegation said in a joint statement**. "Their resilience throughout this crisis has been vital to ensuring Connecticut families have fresh food on their tables. These federal dollars will provide much-needed relief to the Connecticut family farmers who have overcome unprecedented challenges while providing healthy, locally grown food for those experiencing hunger. We were proud to secure this funding to get our farmers the help they need."

"We are grateful for the support we continue to receive from Governor Lamont and our federal delegation and their commitment to prioritizing fighting food insecurity in Connecticut, as well as their role in securing this COVID-19 relief funding used to fund these projects," **Connecticut Foodshare CEO and President Jason Jakubowski said**. "Through continued collaboration between the Office of the Governor, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and Connecticut Foodshare, we're not only able to provide food to households around the state but support our local Connecticut growers."

"COVID-19 market disruptions shuttered many opportunities and devastated the aquaculture and dairy markets," **Joan Nichols, executive director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association said**. "These strategic investments in agriculture are in great need for farmers to continue operating and providing safe, affordable, and healthy foods to residents."

Milkman, an online subscription home delivery service of pantry staples to families in Hartford and Tolland counties.

“This administration’s support of Connecticut agriculture, specifically the dairy industry, will ensure the future sustainability of family businesses like mine,” **Seth Bahler, CEO of Oakridge Dairy, said.** “The market disruptions, fluctuations in commodity pricing, and weather have been a real challenge and this funding is a tremendous benefit at a time when it’s most needed.”

USDA ANNOUNCES \$3 BILLION INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HEALTH, AND NUTRITION; UNVEILS NEW CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE, REQUESTS PUBLIC INPUT

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a comprehensive set of investments to address challenges facing America’s agricultural producers. These include assistance to address challenges and costs associated with drought, animal health, market disruptions for agricultural commodities, and school food supply chain issues. Secretary Vilsack also outlined and requested public comments on a new climate partnership initiative designed to create new revenue streams for producers via market opportunities for commodities produced using climate-smart practices.

USDA is preparing \$3 billion in investments that will support drought resilience and response, animal disease prevention, market disruption relief, and purchase of food for school nutrition programs. The support will be made available via the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Specifically, funds will be used to provide:

- \$500 million to support drought recovery and encourage the adoption of water-smart management practices.
- Up to \$500 million to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) via robust expansion and coordination of monitoring, surveillance, prevention, quarantine, and eradication activities through USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- \$500 million to provide relief from agricultural market disruption, such as increased transportation challenges, availability and cost of certain materials, and other near-term obstacles related to the marketing and distribution of certain commodities, as part of Secretary Vilsack’s work as co-chair of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force.
- Up to \$1.5 billion to provide assistance to help schools respond to supply chain disruptions.

Read the full release [here](#).

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

[Where to get your apple fix in Connecticut, three ways](#), 9/27, CT Insider

[It's the perfect time of year to pick your pumpkins](#), WFSB, 9/28

[CT farms, food banks to receive nearly \\$10M in federal relief](#), Journal Inquirer, 9/29

[It's apple-picking season in southeastern Connecticut](#), The Day, 9/29

[CT Farms Still Struggling With Weather, Pandemic Impacts as Feds Announce New Funding](#), NBC CT, 9/29

[Gov. Lamont directs \\$10 million in COVID-19 relief to aid agriculture recovery and to help with food insecurity](#), Hartford Courant, 9/29



SEAFOOD PROCESSORS PANDEMIC RESPONSE & SAFETY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WEBINAR

On September 23, USDA released a Request for Applications for the Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety (SPRS) Block Grant Program. The application period will remain open until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 22, 2021, through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). USDA AMS Grants Division will hold a webinar on Thursday, October 14 at 3:00 p.m. for eligible states and territories. The goal

USDA is accepting one SPRS application from each eligible state and territory. Agencies within a state or territory must coordinate and determine which agency is best suited to apply for and manage the grant. For more information, please visit: [Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety \(SPRS\) Block Grant Program](#) | [Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

FARM RISK MANAGEMENT VIDEO SERIES



Streamlined Stories of Farming Success

Farm success is dependent on many factors, including business plans. Our experts provide your agricultural operation with tools and resources to minimize risk, increase profitability, and define success in your terms.

Visit s.uconn.edu/farms to view these short video clips!

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award number 2018-70307-26588

USDA OFFERS DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO CONNECTICUT FARMERS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE IDA

Connecticut agricultural operations have been significantly impacted by Hurricane Ida and related weather events. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover. Impacted producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure and livestock losses and damages.

USDA Disaster Assistance

Producers who experience livestock deaths may be eligible for the [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#).

Meanwhile, for hurricane recovery, the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#) provides eligible producers with compensation for feed and grazing losses. For ELAP, producers will need to file a notice of loss within 30 days and honeybee losses within 15 days.

Additionally, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes or vines lost. This complements [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases. For TAP, a program application must be filed within 90 days.

commercial financing. Producers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help producers replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs.

Risk Management

Producers who have risk protection through [Federal Crop Insurance](#) or FSA's [NAP](#) should report crop damage to their crop insurance agent or FSA office. If they have crop insurance, producers should report crop damage to their agent within 72 hours of damage discovery and follow up in writing within 15 days. For NAP covered crops, a [Notice of Loss \(CCC-576\)](#) must be filed within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.

To prepare for future hurricanes, producers in coastal areas should consult their local crop insurance agent to learn more about [Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index](#). This policy provides prompt payment to producers after a hurricane.

Conservation

FSA's [Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#) and [Emergency Forest Restoration Program \(EFRP\)](#) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore fencing, damaged farmland or forests.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is always available to provide technical assistance in the recovery process by assisting producers to plan and implement conservation practices on farms, ranches and working forests impacted by natural disasters. The [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) can help producers plan and implement conservation practices on land impacted by natural disasters.



CT DAIRY FARMER PROMOTION GRANTS DEADLINE EXTENDED

and employees. Due to the weather challenges and harvest season, the deadline for the CT Dairy Farmer Promotion grant has been extended until October 15. Funding for this project was paid for by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.

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.

Submit your proposal by clicking on this [link](#). Deadline for submission is October 15.



**FARMER WELLNESS MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED
FOR QUEER FARMERS**

[program](#) is now open until October 27. [Apply here](#). The Northeast Queer Farmer Wellness Microgrant program is funded through the [Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network in the Northeast](#). This project is administered by queer agricultural service providers and queer farmers across the Northeast to support queer farmers holistically in their needs. We believe queer and trans farmers know best what they need! We define stress and mental health broadly including the impacts of structural barriers and oppression of white supremacy and heterosexism. Please use this money however may support you right now including - but not limited to - therapy, childcare, a massage, compensating you for unpaid organizing work you already do, attending community events, etc.

The following people are eligible:

- You self-identify as LGBTQ+
- You are a farmer, farmworker and or/ land steward
- You are based in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, or Washington D.C.

The following people will be prioritized:

- Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color
- Farm workers and other land stewards that are not usually defined as "farmers" by dominant funding structures, which includes but is not limited to: farm workers/ laborers, part-time farmers, and beginning farmers.

[Expression of interest](#) is due October 27. Funding will be awarded in \$100, \$250, and \$500 increments with money being distributed in November. If you would rather apply over the phone, please call Bo Dennis at 617-529-4904. Please direct any questions about this program to bdennis@mofga.org



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.



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

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

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 environmental impact, while protecting long-term production and sustainability. Eligible crop production includes, but is not limited to, field-grown ornamentals, 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.

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

- 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!](#)

**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

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.



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

The image features a green background with a white canopy tent illustration on the left. The tent has the 'CONNECTICUT GROWN' logo on its top panel, which includes the tagline 'A legacy of life'. Below the tent, the website 'CTGrown.org' is written. To the right of the tent, the text 'Now Available: CT Grown Tents' is displayed in large white font, followed by '10' x 10' King Canopy Tents'. Below that, it says 'Order online at: www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com' and 'Pickup only'.

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.

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 provided on September 20, 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](#)

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 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.

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.

Hartford County and Litchfield County. Seeking mostly Hemlock and mixed hardwoods to be harvested and sawn at Hinman Lumber located in Burlington, CT. Please contact: Charles Leigus, Forester, Supreme Forest Products 860-301-0673.

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