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Upcoming Events



This weekend little ghosts and goblins will be trick-or-treating from house to house for some spooky sweet treats during Halloween. One thing parents don't have to be afraid of is giving them a glass of chocolate milk before they go out.

Chocolate milk provides more than just a way to satisfy your children's sweet tooth, it also provides many health benefits. Here are <u>5 reasons</u> chocolate milk is considered the Official Drink of Halloween.



CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program Launched

A statewide grants program for Connecticut schools to increase availability of local foods and create connection with farmers

Earlier this week, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz visited Gaffney Elementary School in New Britain, CT, to announce the launch of the newly formed Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant Program administered by Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Farm to School Collaborative (FTSC). The pilot program will be funded for two years with a total of \$500,000 through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

"Farm to School programming offers so many opportunities in Connecticut for producers, youth, educators, and the community," said **Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz**. "Teaching students about nutrition and where their food comes from, connecting them with local farmers and embracing learning about different aspects of the agriculture sector will not only enhance their education, but will shape future generations with an interest in the field. I want to thank everyone who worked on the CT Grown for CT Kids Grants program and to Connecticut's school food service and educators who work tirelessly every day to feed our youth."

Established under P.A. 21-0002, S. 364, Connecticut Grown for Connecticut

farm-to-school programs that will increase the availability of local foods in child nutrition programs, allow educators to use hands-on educational techniques to teach students about nutrition and farm-to-school connections, sustain relationships with local farmers and producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of children in the state and enhance the state's economy.

"Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant Program directly aligns with the priorities of our agency to increase market access for farmers and growers and educate our next generation on the importance of where their food comes from," said **Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt**. "We are excited to administer this program and eager to see the positive impact the funded projects will have in the near and long-term."

Eligible entities will be able to apply for up to \$24,999 in funding with no match required for projects that fit within the four priority categories: Infrastructure, Experiential Learning Opportunities, Farm to School Planning and Pilot CT Grown Purchasing Programs.

"This important grant program will enable our school districts to continue cultivating the cafeteria as an integral part of the school ecosystem while supporting our local farms," said **State Department of Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker**.

For interested parties, there will be a webinar and question and answer session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This will be recorded and posted on CTGrown.gov/grants. A video recording walking through how to submit your application via Salesforce will also be posted. The deadline for final submissions is December 20, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Additional details can be found at the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program page.

"I am proud to have introduced this legislation," said **State Representative Bobby Gibson**. "The pandemic exposed the true meaning of food insecurity, as evidenced by the many food drives and food donation efforts our state completed. The Farm to School program will go a long way towards creating a better educated generation of students when it comes to healthy living."

"We are grateful for the leadership of the CT Department of Agriculture and CT Department of Education in this effort that will provide resources to connect students to local food and farms in the cafeteria, classroom, and in outdoor learning environments. We are especially excited to see new leaders in communities with high need receive funding to bring their innovative ideas and plans to life," said Co-Action Team Leaders with the CT Farm to School Collaborative, Dawn Crayco of FoodCorps and Joey Listro of New Britain ROOTS.

Nationally, October is recognized as Farm to School Month to celebrate food

Connecticut Kids Week. Started in 2006 as a joint effort between the CSDE and DoAg, it aims to support local agriculture, public education, and their community commitment to the importance of healthy, nutritious meals in schools.



REGISTER TO ATTEND WORKING LANDS ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING

Working Lands Alliance (WLA) will be hosting their 2021 Annual meeting on Wednesday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. using the Zoom platform.

We will celebrate the rich diversity our working lands and agricultural sector brings to Connecticut and discuss new ways to plan, conserve, and promote a prosperous future for the state's agricultural sector.

Commissioner Katie Dykes from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will join for the first part of our meeting. In addition, a panel of farmers and legislators will discuss how we can work together to advance farmland protection, farmland access, climate-smart agriculture, and farm viability opportunities for farmers across the Nutmeg State.

You can register for the meeting <u>here.</u> Questions should be directed to Chelsea Gazillo, cgazillo@farmland.org or 860-969-4386.

The Working Lands Alliance is a broad-based, statewide coalition dedicated to preserving Connecticut's productive farmland. Formed in 1999, they work to increase the pace of farmland preservation in the state and ensure our farm economy remains viable.

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:

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

REGISTER FOR ON-FARM MOBILE VACCINATION SITE

Farms interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic for farm employees are encouraged to fill out the <u>DPH vans intake form</u>.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

<u>Happenings in the Hills: Oldest Farm Winery Has New Look, Owners</u>, 10/20, The Republican American

Harvest Day activities return to Dudley Farm Museum in Guilford, 10/21, The Register Citizen

Bridgeport community farm may share space with new library, 10/24, CT Post Connecticut commits \$500,000 to bring gardening and farming to the classroom, 10/26, Hartford Courant

'Farm to School' program not only provides food to New Britain students, but allows them to learn about farming, 10/26, WTNH

New State Grant Program Funds Farm-to-Table Concept in Schools, 10/26, NBC CT



PROMOTE YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS ON CT GROWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Did you know you can add events to our community calendar? It's a quick and easy way to get your events in front of the Connecticut Grown audience. Your events will be featured on the CT Grown events calendar, in email newsletters, and more! Let us market you.

To add your events to our calendar, fill out this form to receive a username, password, and instructions!

Fill Out the Form



Wednesday, November 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This one-day event will address the marketing and profitability of locally raised proteins by small and mid-size farms in Southern New England. Experts on pricing, sourcing, online marketing, institutional sales and retail sales will offer insights and experiences working with livestock farms.

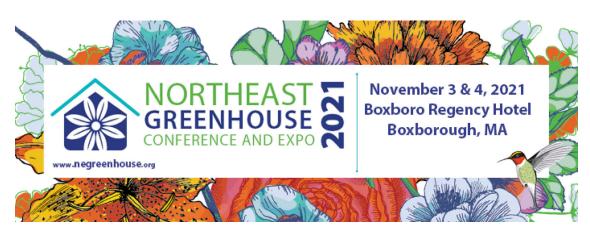
More details and registration instructions here.

Workshop Schedule:

9:00 a.m. - Cian Dalzell, The Carrot Project - Finding your Costs of Production 10:00 a.m. - Travis Perry, Meatworks - Profitable Cut Sheets. Travis will show us how to use Meatworks' cut sheets to get the most profitable cuts from your animal.

11:00 a.m. - Matt Leroux, Cornell - Profitable Meat Marketing and the New Cornell Pricing Calculator. You are raising and selling local meat, but are you making a profit? Learn to use the new and improved Cornell Meat Price Calculator to develop prices that deliver a profit in every channel. We'll demo the new tool and discuss our approach to setting meat cut prices for each sales channel you use.

12:00 p.m. - Institutional Sales (Panel Discussion) - UMass Amherst Dining, Farm Fresh Rhode Island, Chef Chris Cronin



REGISTER NOW FOR NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE & EXPO

The dates for the Northeast Greenhouse Conference (November 3 & 4) are fast approaching. If you haven't yet registered online, here are some reasons to attend:

- Opportunity to choose from over 40 educational sessions from nationally known speakers.
- Opportunity to attend exhibit hall featuring up to 80 vendors.

• Opportunity to purchase a printed copy of the New England Greenhouse Floriculture Guide at a reduced price of \$30 during online registration (\$ 5 savings plus no postage). Pick up at the check in for the conference.

- Opportunity to attend a welcome reception on "What's in Store for 2022" panel discussion regarding current supply chain issues.
- Opportunity to network with friends and colleagues.
- New information has been added to our website to address COVID-19 Care and Safety Guidelines.

For more information on the conference, or to register, click <u>here.</u>



UCONN SHEEP SURVEY

Do you own sheep in Connecticut? Participate in this survey from UConn Extension and the UConn Department of Animal Science to help them design and develop useful resources and programs for Connecticut sheep producers.



USDA SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON NEW CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

USDA is committed to partnering with farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and communities to develop climate solutions that strengthen rural America. The Department is currently accepting public comment on a new climate partnership initiative to create market opportunities for commodities produced using climate-smart practices.

USDA will support a set of pilot projects that provide incentives to implement climate-smart conservation practices on working lands and to quantify and monitor the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices. Stakeholders interested in providing comments may do so on or before 11:59 p.m. EST on November 1, 2021, via the Federal Register, Docket ID: USDA-2021-0010.

Click <u>here</u> for more information, or to submit comments.



NORTHEAST SARE NOW ACCEPTING FARMER GRANT PROPOSALS

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on November 16, 2021. Funded projects, which are now capped at \$30,000, will be announced in late February 2022.

The Call for Proposals, including detailed instructions on how to apply, is posted <u>here.</u>

Farmer Grants are intended for farmers and growers who want to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques. These grants are not intended to provide start-up funds or be used to finance farm equipment or expand farm operations. Successful proposals explore new paths to sustainable agriculture or plan projects that are useful to other farmers.

Apply Today





1881 Series: The Evolution of UConn's Creamery

From Ice Cream to Award-Winning Artisanal Cheeses

THE EVOLUTION OF UCONN'S CREAMERY

Thursday, November 4, 2021 | 6:00 p.m. Online - Zoom

Did you know the UConn Creamery opened in the early 1900s with local sales featuring milk and the most sought-after cottage cheese in the Quiet Corner, and is now home to multiple award-winning artisanal cheeses and some of the most technologically advanced milking systems in the country?

Join **Dennis D'Amico**, Associate Professor of Dairy Foods, **Bill Sciturro**, Manager of Dairy Manufacturing, and **Michelle Lewis '13 (CAHNR), '21 MA**, UCAHNRA Board Member and Animal Science Department Program Assistant as they discuss the history of the Creamery, its evolution into a world-renowned ice cream destination, and how this iconic University landmark pivoted during unprecedented times to create award-winning cheeses.



YALE FORESTS OFFERING WORKSHOPS FOCUSED ON SILVICULTURE FOR MAPLE SUGAR PRODUCTION

Workshop #1: Yale-Myers Forest

Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 (rain or shine)

Time: 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Yale-Myers Forest, 150 Centre Pike, Eastford, CT

Workshop #2: Green Mountain Forest

Date: Sunday, November 14, 2021 (rain or shine)

Time: 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Great Mountain Forest Office, 200 Canaan Mountain Road, Falls

Village, CT

COVID Protocol:

All participants will be required to register for this event onsite, and be required to fill out a Yale University vaccination attestation form. Social distancing will be practiced. Attendees who are unvaccinated or unwilling to fill out a vaccine attestation form will be required to wear a mask at all times during the workshop. Vaccinated attendees will be required to wear a mask if indoors. All attendees must be 18 years or older per Yale University requirements.

Attire: Attendees should dress appropriately for fall in New England. Comfortable, sturdy, closed-toed shoes should be worn, as we will be walking throughout the forest to different sites.

12:30 p.m. - Managing pre-commercial maple stands

1:30 p.m. - Managing active sugarbush stands

2:30 p.m. - Hands-on silviculture exercise

3:45 p.m. - Wrap-up & evaluations

RSVP: Please contact schoolforests@yale.edu



URBAN GREEN AND COMMUNITY GARDENS GRANT PROGRAM

CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) is pleased to announce the Urban Green and Community Garden (UGCG) 2021 Grant Application is now available.

The deadline for electronic submittal of the application package has been extended and must be received by November 19, 2021.

The Department's Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program provides funding assistance to develop or enhance urban open spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education.

Promotion of open space in an urban setting may include, but may not be limited to:

- The development of a community garden
- Reclaiming and enhancing existing open space for the public's use

Grants are awarded to projects that demonstrate the highest ability to benefit urban communities in close proximity to population centers.

For more information, or to apply for the grant, click <u>here</u>.



USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICES PANDEMIC RESPONSE & SAFETY GRANT INFO SESSION

The USDA is now accepting applications for the <u>Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program</u> through November 22. Have questions about the PRS Grant Program? The Farmer's Market Coalition partnered with USDA in their latest webinar to answer your questions.

Watch the recording. This webinar ran live on October 13, 2021.



DAIRY BUSINESS VIABILITY & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

This grant will fund dairy processors, producer associations, supply chain businesses, and technical assistance providers in order to enhance dairy farmer and processor business operations and strengthen market opportunities. Projects funded through this program will coordinate technical assistance to benefit multiple dairy producers and processors with the goal of increasing consumption, sales, jobs, and diverse markets for regionally produced dairy products. Technical assistance services could include enhancing business plans, facility operations, marketing, distribution, processing, and product offerings.

2021. Details here.



DAIRY FOOD SAFETY & CERTIFICATION GRANT

This grant will provide dairy farmers, processors, and/or producer associations with funds needed to take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products. Projects funded through this program will support increased production safety standards with the goal of accessing new markets. Projects that increase marketability of dairy products will be prioritized. Activities covered by this grant include accessing technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.

Grants available of \$10,000 - \$40,000. **Deadline to apply: February 3, 2022.** Details here.



GRAZING TRANSITION, HOMEGROWN FORAGE ENHANCEMENT, & ALTERNATIVE FARM MANAGEMENT COHORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

contracts to offer localized cohort-based technical assistance for dairy farmers considering transitioning their farm to a grass-based production model, improving forage management, or other innovative on-farm practices.

Contracts available up to \$150,000. **Deadline to submit proposals: November 29, 2021.** Details <u>here.</u>



PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO SMALL PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND FARMERS MARKETS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

The USDA Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program applications must be submitted electronically through the grant portal at https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda by 11:59 pm EST, Monday, November 22, 2021. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants, which are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The PRS Grant program will assist small businesses in certain commodity areas, including specialty crop producers, shellfish farming, finfish farming, aquaculture, and apiculture; specialty crop, meat, and other processors; distributors; and farmers markets. Small businesses and nonprofits in these industries can apply for a grant to cover COVID-related expenses such as workplace safety measures (e.g., personal protective equipment (PPE), retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety, shifting to online sales platforms, transportation, worker housing, and medical costs. The minimum funding request is \$1,500 and the maximum funding request is \$20,000.

The RFA and the PRS Grant Portal provide more details about eligibility for the grant. Eligible entities are required to obtain a free DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) before applying for this program. USDA has created a custom PRS DUNS number portal at https://support.dnb.com/? CUST=PandemicResponse.

in English and Spanish on applying for a DUNS Number, videos on "How to Apply" and more, are available on the <u>PRS Grant Portal</u>. <u>Stakeholder Toolkit</u> here.

For more information, you can also reach out to the PRS help desk, Monday-Friday, 9 am - 9 pm at 301-238-5550 or <u>usda.ams.prs@grantsolutions.gov</u>.



ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the <u>CT Grown Map</u> 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 <u>CT Grown Map Google Form</u>.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT New Holland Dairy Auction - New Prices provided on September 23, 2021 Holland, PA

NEW! CT Farmers' Market Prices

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

New Holland, PA Hay Report

Northeast Regional Eggs Update

New England Shell Eggs Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -

<u>Summary</u>

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston

<u>Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -</u> <u>Eighty Four, PA</u>

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. <u>Sonpal's Power Fence</u> 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

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Job Opportunities

UConn Extension has a position open for a Food and Agricultural Literacy 4-H Educator: The Department of 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 anticipated start date is January 2022. The successful candidate shall create an active 4-H youth development program with a focus on STEM, food, and agricultural literacy. For more information and to apply online, please click here.

The Carrot Project is looking for an Outreach Coordinator to support socially disadvantaged farmers (BIPOC, women, and new and beginning farmers) in Southern New England. You will work closely with the Client Services Specialist (CSS) and lead outreach efforts to support socially disadvantaged farmers in understanding and accessing The Carrot Project and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, coordinate with project partners, and develop new and support existing relationships with organizations working with farmers. Working from your home office, this is a full-time, well-benefitted position, funded at least until September 30, 2022. For more information and to apply online, please click here.

Interested in Advertising? Click <u>here</u> for details on rates and submission.

<u>Upcoming Events</u> (click on image below for info)

















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