

[View this email in your browser](#)



CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

In This Issue

November 12, 2021; Vol. D, No. 45

[\\$500,000 Farm Stress Grant](#)

[Pandemic Support for Organic](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[CT Dairy Farmer Meeting](#)

[Shellfish Direct Marketing Grant](#)

[Community Events Calendar](#)

[Northeast SARE Farmer Grant](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Commissioner Hurlburt (second from left) attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the anaerobic digester at Oakridge Dairy in Ellington, CT, on November 9.

The 2-million gallon facility is designed to extract methane from cow manure and process it into natural gas.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Awarded \$500,000 to Develop and Build a Comprehensive Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as part of their Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) State Department of Agriculture projects.

financial pressures to unpredictable weather and volatile markets to intergenerational differences and fatigue. When that stress becomes a health issue, it can not only impact the individual, but also their family life, farm productivity, and animal health and welfare,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “These funds will allow us to stand up a comprehensive program of valuable resources to help our producers at their most vulnerable moments.”

The 12-month grant award will be utilized in Connecticut to:

- Provide professional education to healthcare professionals including mental health professionals, physicians, and nurses, to recognize stress-related behavior in Connecticut producers, ag workers, and their families.
- Provide a train-the-trainer program to supply mental well-being awareness and coping strategies to ag educators, new farmers, and youth via the *Cultivating a Healthy Mind* curriculum offered by AgriSafe.
- Create a targeted marketing and outreach program to ensure awareness of the resources and activities.
- Support the expansion of the UConn Solid Ground Farmer Series and Farmer Mental Health Circle offering peer sharing opportunities and learning events to new and beginning farmers.
- Create a ‘Reducing the Stress of Farm Succession’ technical assistance service in partnership with Land for Good.

“COVID has put such pressure on the social, emotional, and mental health of farm families as well as youth across the state,” said Mike O’Neill, Senior Associate Dean for Extension and Diversity in the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. “UConn Extension is very pleased to partner with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to strengthen our partnerships in this area and offer services to assist in supporting those in need.”

The purpose of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Program is to establish a network that connects individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations to stress assistance programs. The establishment of a network that assists farmers and ranchers in time of stress can offer a conduit to improving behavioral health awareness, literacy, and outcomes for agricultural producers, workers, and their families.

Connecticut’s program will be managed by Erin Windham, Erin.Windham@ct.gov, and additional program details and information will be available at www.CTGrown.gov.



USDA BUILDS PANDEMIC SUPPORT FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIC AND TRANSITIONING OPERATIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide pandemic assistance to cover certification and education expenses to agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic. USDA will make \$20 million available through the new Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) as part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, which provides new, broader and more equitable opportunities for farmers, ranchers and producers.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, certified organic and transitional operations faced challenges due to loss of markets, and increased costs and labor shortages, in addition to costs related to obtaining or renewing their organic certification, which producers and handlers of conventionally grown commodities do not incur. Transitional operations also faced the financial challenge of implementing practices required to obtain organic certification without being able to obtain the premium prices normally received for certified organic commodities.

"Producers and handlers of organic commodities incur significant costs to obtain or renew organic certification each year," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The economic challenges that arose due to the pandemic made obtaining and renewing organic certification financially challenging for many operations. This is one more instance of USDA continuing to provide support for those who need it most, invest in the food supply chain and Build Back Better."

Signup for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be Nov. 8, 2021, through Jan. 7, 2022. Producers apply through their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. Visit farmers.gov/otecp to learn more.

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

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

[Farm-to-School grants offer schools opportunity to address infrastructure nutrition gaps](#), WNPR, 11/8

[Connecticut gets business done, despite weather woes, pandemic's pinch](#), The Packer, 11/8

[Killingworth Farm Tour this weekend aims to get you out to the country](#), The Middletown Press, 11/8

[Grants available to support developing agriculture, farming in Middletown](#), The Register Citizen, 11/8

[Avon Farm Facilitating Turkey Donations to Connecticut Foodshare](#), NBC CT, 11/5

[Connecticut agencies, nonprofits invited to take soil survey](#), The Register Citizen, 11/5

[Connecticut State Veterinarian Announces Availability of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Vaccine](#), Agriculture Industry Today, 11/3

[SJI, REV LNG Announce Construction of Renewable Natural Gas \(RNG\) Facility at Connecticut's Largest Dairy Farm](#), Yahoo Finance, 11/2



The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board will be hosting a virtual farmer engagement meeting for all interested Connecticut dairy farmers on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This will be an opportunity to hear how milk promotion dollars are being utilized at the state, regional, national, and international level to increase consumption of milk and dairy products. Join us to hear presentations from Camelo Communications, DMI, and New England Dairy. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers from farmers.

To attend, please [register online](#). if you have questions, please contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov or Allison Hughes at Allison.Hughes@ct.gov.



A Statewide Grant
Opportunity for Farm to
School Programs!

Applications open now-
December 20, 2021

For more information visit
www.CTGrown.gov/grants

**CT GROWN FOR
CT KIDS GRANT**

CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN

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).

Established under P.A. 21-0002,S. 364, Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant (CTG4CTK Grant) will be administered by Department of Agriculture through a combination of financial and technical assistance to help develop 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.

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.

A recording of the November 9 webinar with question and answer session is 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](#).



URBAN GREEN AND COMMUNITY GARDENS GRANT PROGRAM

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 [here](#).



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

Service providers across the Northeast are invited to submit proposals for 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 [here](#).

NORTHEAST INNOVATION CENTER

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.

Grants available of \$10,000 - \$100,000.

Deadline to apply: December 7, 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](#).



UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FACILITATE DIRECT MARKETING CAPACITY FOR FARMED SHELLFISH

Connecticut Sea Grant and Connecticut Department of Agriculture announce a unique opportunity to facilitate direct marketing capacity for farmed shellfish during COVID-19. As part of a federal grant, Connecticut Sea Grant will purchase a fixed number of portable refrigeration storage units to enable the shellfish aquaculture industry to engage in direct marketing.

The refrigeration units to be tested are portable refrigerated units that can be set on the back of a pickup truck and function on 12V battery power for use in remote locations or be plugged into 110V while at a fixed business location. The units would be provided on a zero-cost, long-term loan basis.

In return, industry members would be required to provide economic cost-benefit analysis to inform the rest of the industry on the feasibility of direct sales using such units. A simple template will be made available, and the CT Sea Grant Extension staff will assist industry members who request help completing the analysis. The goal of this proposal is to support the shellfish sector still suffering from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to position it to be more resilient in the future.

Interested licensed industry members must apply for this program via email to: tessa.getchis@uconn.edu by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2021. The email should include the following:

1. Applicant full name and business name.
2. Why the portable refrigeration unit is needed.
3. The impact(s) the unit will have/make on your business.

the unit under their custody prior to use of unit.

6. State that you (the applicant) agree to provide a cost-benefit analysis for use of the unit at the end of the project period.
7. State the you (the applicant) agree to surrender unit at the end of the 10-year product life span.

If demand exceeds availability of units, applications will be reviewed by a panel of Sea Grant and Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture staff for need and merit to determine who will receive units.



INFO SESSION: FUNDING FOR FARMS AVAILABE IN BERKSHIRE-TACONIC REGION OF CT, MA, AND NY

Please join the Berkshire Agricultural Ventures' (BAV) team on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** for an info session on our programs and services for farmers and food businesses in the Berkshire-Taconic Region, including those in Litchfield County, CT.

BAV currently has more than \$500,000 available in loans, grants, and technical assistance thanks in part to a recent USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program award to our organization.

Please feel free to contact info@berkshireagventures.org with any questions.

[Register Here](#)



FARM CREDIT EAST

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR FARM CREDIT EAST'S LIPINSKI RURAL INITIATIVES AWARD NOMINATIONS

Farm Credit East announced the opening of nominations for the Lipinski Rural Initiatives Award, which aims to recognize innovative and transformational efforts to revitalize Northeast rural communities. **Nominations are due by January 31, 2022.**

The Lipinski Rural Initiatives Award rewards programs, projects, individuals, businesses, organizations and/or institutions that create jobs in rural areas of the Northeast; contribute to the quality of life in rural communities; or enhance rural infrastructure, such as community facilities and broadband necessary for strong rural economies.

For 2022, Farm Credit East and its strategic partner CoBank have committed a combined \$50,000 to individuals, organizations or institutions that are undertaking innovative and transformational efforts to revitalize Northeast rural communities.

The Lipinski Rural Initiatives Award was established by the Farm Credit East board of directors in 2020 to grow Farm Credit East's support of rural communities in recognition of former CEO Bill Lipinski's 40 years of service to Farm Credit East and related organizations. "Bill understood that the long-term success of Farm Credit customers depends on not only the vitality of their individual businesses, but also on the health of the rural communities where they are based," noted board chair Laurie Griffen.


[Submit Nomination Here](#)



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.

We are excited to share our first cycle of CT Grown Holiday events in our consumer-facing email newsletter! Each week we are including upcoming events selected from the CT Grown community events calendar. Make sure to sign up and get your events on the calendar.



The graphic features a blue banner at the top with the text "UPCOMING EVENTS". Below it is a dark green square with a gold floral border. Inside the square, the text reads: "OPEN TO ALL", "THANKSGIVING POP-UP MARKET", "Cloverleigh Farm" (in script), "Sunday Nov 21st 10am-2pm", "SEASONAL CERTIFIED ORGANIC VEGETABLES", and "448 JONATHAN TRUMBULL HWY (RT. 87) COLUMBIA, CT 06237". At the bottom of the graphic is a green button with the text "Find Fresh Fun!".

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

[Fill Out the Form](#)



NEW FARMER CIRCLES

The New CT Farmer Alliance (NCTFA) is proud to introduce three brand new farmer circles. Farmer Circles are peer learning communities for farmers interested in discussing a particular topic in an informal, supportive environment. The program is run by NCTFA, CT NOFA, and UConn Extension, with the help of a grant from USDA.

Flower Farming:

Facilitated by Isabelle Barron of Best Friends Flowers

First Wednesdays of the Month, 6:30 p.m.: Launching November 2021

This will be a circle for flower farmers who have at least a few years of experience under their belts. We will create a space to check in, ask for advice, and share knowledge on a different topic each circle, and generally build a supportive community of local growers.

Hemp Production:

Facilitated by Luis Vega of WEPA Farms

Second Tuesday of the Month, 10:00 a.m.: Launching November 2021

The revival of hemp as an agricultural crop leaves many questions. Many CT farmers have started to grow it for different purposes, may it be for CBD or for hemp stalks. This new crop opens many questions and challenges we can use some old solutions for. This Farmer's Circle will be a space to discuss the trials, successes and challenges we face cultivating this new (to us) crop.

Farming on Stolen Land: From Research to Action

Facilitated by Cass Darrow of Massaro Community Farm

Mondays, January-February 2022, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Collaborate in learning about the histories of the particular lands we farm in pursuit of reparative relationships with land and kin alike. Some preliminary questions include: What is the current settler-Indigenous relationship like on the respective lands where we work and live? In what active efforts are local Indigenous groups engaged? How might non-indigenous farmers support this work? What would meaningful coalition-building look like for us as farmers in the pursuit of land-back, reparations, food sovereignty for all, etc.?

Sign up for these new circles, or any of the existing ones, on the [NCTFA website](#).



Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

NORTHEAST SARE NOW ACCEPTING FARMER GRANT PROPOSALS

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (Northeast SARE) invites farmers and growers in our region to the Farmer Grant Program. **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 [here](#).

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](#)



USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICES PANDEMIC RESPONSE & SAFETY GRANT INFO SESSION

The USDA is now accepting applications for the Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program 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.

A green rectangular advertisement. On the left is a white canopy tent with a triangular top. The top of the tent features the "CONNECTICUT GROWN" logo with the tagline "A legacy of life" and the website "CTGrown.org" below it. To the right of the tent, the text "Now Available: CT Grown Tents" is written in white. Below this, it says "10' x 10' King Canopy Tents". Further down, it says "Order online at: www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com". At the bottom, it says "Pickup only".

ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of

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 November 1, 2021

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

NEW! [CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)
Prices provided on October 22, 2021

[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.

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.

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.

Job Opportunities

The Department of Animal Science at the University of Connecticut invites applicants for the position of Department Head with an appointment as Associate or Full Professor. The deadline to apply is December 3. [Click here for details and to apply.](#)

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 [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events



- FSA Emergency Loans
- FSA Direct Loans
- Disaster Set-Aside & Primary Loan Servicing for existing borrowers.

Thursday December 2nd 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Attend on your computer or Mobile App: Click Here for Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Or call to participate: (860) 297-8672, Phone Conference ID: 916-634-3967

Powered by Landis Univ. Farm Loan Markets
860.297.8672 or Carolyn.ansp@usda.gov

 A poster with a warm, orange-toned background featuring pumpkins and autumn leaves. At the top left is a QR code with the text "Take survey!". The main title is "Pie & Coffee talks* for hobby farmers, homesteaders and horsekeepers". A small orange circle on the right says "Contact maura.robbins@comcast.net". Below the title is a list of topics:

- THURS. SEPT. 30 – MANURE & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL FARMS
- WED. OCT. 13 – FOREST MANAGEMENT
- WED. OCT. 27 – GRAZING ANIMALS 101
- TUES. NOV. 16 – SOIL HEALTH FOR SMALL FARMS

 At the bottom, it says "All presentations 6:30 – 7:45 pm online zoom AND limited in-person with refreshments at Senexet Grange in Woodstock following CDC & state COVID-19 guidance at time of talk." and "Powered by Woodstock Agricultural Commission, Senexet Grange #40 and Eastern CT Conservation District".


Facebook



Instagram



Pinterest



Website

Copyright © 2021 Connecticut Department of Agriculture, All rights reserved.

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).