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The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association announced the results of their economic impact study, as reported by Farm Credit East and funded by a USDA AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant, on Wednesday, November 17 at CK Greenhouses in Cheshire, CT.

Commissioner Hurlburt and Lt. Governor Bysiewicz were on hand to celebrate the significance of this sector to the state's economy and learn of challenges they face due to supply chain shortages and rising input costs.



DFA Farmers Feeding Families Fund Check Donation to Goodwin University's Transitions Pantry

On Friday, November 12, Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Connecticut Foodshare President & CEO Jason Jakubowski, and Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) cooperative members Jon Hermonot and Seth Bahler visited Goodwin University's Transitions Pantry in East Hartford for a commercial refrigeration and check donation ceremony as part of the DFA Cares Farmers Feeding Families Fund initiative to address food insecurity.

"Milk provides 13 essential nutrients, however, due to lack of storage it is often unavailable for those experiencing food insecurity," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "Throughout the pandemic our state's dairy farmers have been providing much-needed support in the way of refrigeration and product donations to assist those in need and today is a prime example of how that collaboration positively impacts our local communities."

Earlier this month DFA and its farm family-owners donated a refrigerator to the Transitions Pantry, which is one of 21 committed across its seven regional areas throughout the U.S. The additional check donations will facilitate the equivalent of more than 225,000 servings of milk at those locations.

"As dairy farmers, we're proud of the role that we play in helping feed families in our local community," says Jon Hermonot, a DFA member and local dairy farmer from Woodstock, CT. "Food pantries are always in need of dairy products, yet many don't have the cold storage to keep it stocked up, so I'm

Food insecurity continues to be a significant problem in the United States with millions of people facing hunger each year. Here in Connecticut, statistics show that in Hartford and Tolland counties one in nine people are at risk of hunger and one in seven children are at risk.

Read the complete press release.

APPLY NOW FOR THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM

USDA is currently accepting applications for the 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 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, November 22, 2021. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants.

Don't wait until the last minute. The first step in applying is getting a DUNS number which can take up to 5 days.

Once you have your DUNS number, the application takes less than 10 minutes. The application, FAQs, tip sheets, and information on how to apply is on the PRS Grant Portal. Resources are also available in Spanish on the PRS webpage.

Small businesses and nonprofits in the following 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:

- Specialty crop producers
- Shellfish farming, finfish farming, aquaculture, apiculture
- Specialty crop, meat, and other processors
- Distributors
- Farmers markets

Contact information for providers offering technical assistance on this grant application is available on the AMS PRS grant webpage under 'Additional Resources': https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/prs.

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/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 <u>DPH vans intake form</u>.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

CT urges residents to shop local, WFSB, 11/18

Connecticut's greenhouse industry generating millions of dollars and thousands of jobs, WTNH, 11/17

<u>Supply chain issues strike again: Hard-to-find holiday greenery in Eastern</u> Connecticut The Bulletin,11/15

Trumbull farmers market expands into winter months, Westport News, 11/14

A farm winery in Colchester thrived during the coronavirus pandemic. But COVID-19 took its toll — and the owner is selling. Asking price: \$3.2 million, Hartford Courant, 11/14

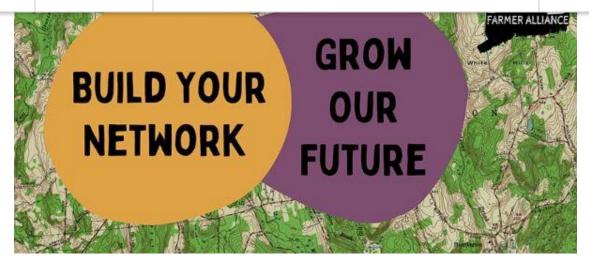
Knox in Hartford receives USDA grant to expand urban farmer training program, Hartford Courant, 11/13

Ellington family's farm is busy supplying birds for Thanksgiving feasts, Journal Inquirer, 11/13

Next Generation of Urban Farmers to be Trained in Hartford, NBC CT, 11/12

Dzen Tree Farm dealing with thin supply of large Christmas trees this year, Fox 61, 11/12

Bright Spot: Local farm helps feed families in need this season, WFSB, 11/11



BUILD YOUR NETWORK, GROW OUR FUTURE

Join the New CT Farmer Alliance for their annual community building event, Build Your Network, Grow Our Future on Saturday, December 11, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST.

It is their mission to foster a more accessible, successful, and diverse agricultural community in CT. To do that, farmers need to be well resourced and connected to the service providers that can help them in their farming journeys.

This online event will feature the opportunity to connect (in small groups, speed dating style) to:

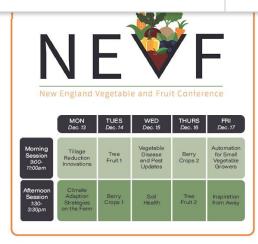
- Connecticut Department of Agriculture
- UConn Extension
- USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service
- Land for Good
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Farm Credit East
- · Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
- USDA Rural Development
- New CT Farmer Alliance
- and more!

These organizations offer a wide range of services, from capital loans to land access assistance to farmer education opportunities.

Please come prepared with questions and ready to take notes. Is there a farm service organization you'd like to connect with, but don't see on the above list? Reach out to: newctfarmers@gmail.com

Register Here





NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE

The premier vegetable and fruit conference in the Northeast will take place December 13-17, 2021. Conference organizers have designed a high quality program with grower input, recruiting some of the most innovative farmers, educators, and researchers across the northeast and beyond.

The \$50 registration fee gains you full access to the program and 3-months access to the recordings. Each person seeking pesticide or CCA credits must register individually and join the Zoom meeting from your unique device (2-farmers seeking credits cannot be sharing 1 computer to view the talks).

Topics include: Tillage Reduction and Innovation, Tree Fruit 1 & 2, Berry 1 and 2, Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates, Automation for Small Vegetable Growers, Climate Adaptation Strategies on the Farm, Soil Heath, Inspiration from Away.

For more information, and to register for the conference, click here.



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>.



CT DAIRY TO HOST VIRTUAL FARMER ENGAGEMENT MEETING

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

Communications, DMI, and New England Dairy. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers from farmers.

To register, please contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca. Eddy@ct.gov or Allison Hughes at Allison. Hughes@ct.gov.



CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for the newly launched 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).

Eligible entities will be able to apply for up to \$24,999 in funding with no match

Grown Purchasing Programs.

A recording of the November 9 webinar with question and answer session is posted on <u>CTGrown.gov/grants</u>. 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.



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 <u>Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP)</u> as part of USDA's broader <u>Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative</u>, 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.

Signup for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be 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 <u>farmers.gov/otecp</u> to learn more.



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.



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.



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.

undertaking innovative and transformational efforts to revitalize Northeast rural communities.

Submit Nomination Here



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



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 <u>NCTFA</u> website.





NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ANNOUNCES 2022 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

National Farmers Union has announced the 2022 Women's Conference will be held virtually from January 10-13, 2022 (Farm Union members and non-members) and in-person from January 16-18 in Nashville (members only) to connect women in agriculture and provide education on applicable business skills and innovative marketing tactics.

Farmers, policy makers, educators, and specialists will present on a number of subjects, including business management, leadership, community building, and

sovereignty.

For pricing information, COVID-19 protocols, the conference agenda, more information, and sign ups for the Conference, click <u>here.</u>



AMS RELEASES SOLICITATION FOR TEFAP FRESH PRODUCE PACKAGES

The Agricultural Marketing Service has issued solicitation 2000008188, (12-3J14-21-B-0072) for the procurement of Mixed Fresh Produce under the **Build Back Better Initiative**.

For more details about procurement, as well as how to apply, click here.

<u>Please note bids are due December 7th, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Central Time.</u> Bids must be submitted through the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM).

Questions regarding this procurement should be directed to the following contact: David Cottrell, <u>David.cottrell@usda.gov</u>, 202-260-9183.

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>.

Past Issues Translate ▼ Subscribe

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT Prices provided on November 15, 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 <u>Summary</u>

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -

Boston

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -

Eighty Four, PA

Advertisements

For Sale

- 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. <u>lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com</u> 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.
- 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

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. <u>Click here for details and to apply</u>.

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 <a href="https://example.com/here-examp

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 <a href="https://example.com/here-new-coordinate-new-coor

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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