

[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

December 3, 2021; Vol. D, No. 47

[Viability Grant Released](#)

[Farmer Microgrant](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Commodity Procurement](#)

[Build Your Network, Grow Our Future Meeting](#)

[New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference](#)

[CT Grown for CT Kids Grant](#)

[National Farmers Union Women's Conference](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Commissioner Hurlburt (pictured here with Senator Tony Hwang and Irving Silverman, owner of Silverman's Farm) toured four farms in Easton earlier this week along with Lt. Governor Bysiewicz to highlight the diversity of agriculture and supporting local businesses this holiday season.

Other tour stops included Shaggy Coos Farm, Maple Row Farm, and Easton Grows.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Releases 2022 Farm Viability Grant Guidance

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announces the 2022

The 2022 program will again fund projects which directly respond to problems, interests, or needs in the state's agricultural industry, specifically in the following areas:

- Urban agriculture
- Food systems
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in Connecticut agriculture
- Farmland access

“COVID-19 demonstrated that our food system is fragile and narrow. We will build off the funded projects in 2021, which were a starting point to address the needs of the industry and marketplace, as there is still ample opportunity for growth within these segments,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We are committed to being responsive to the needs of our agriculture community, including urban and underserved farmers, in a comprehensive manner.”

Applicants will select from one of the four Question of Focus areas and submit a project proposal that responds to the question, developing a potential solution, or progress towards a solution for the priority area.

The four Questions of Focus are:

1. Urban Agriculture: Projects that focus on establishing or expanding support and resources for urban agriculture.
2. Food Supply Chain: Projects that would make kitchen space available to process CT Grown farm products or propose plans/development for construction of meat processing facilities/food hubs, co-op operations or increase market opportunities for CT farmers.
3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Agriculture: Projects which directly impact farmers in one or more of the following classifications: limited resource, BIPOC, veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community, or people with a disability.
4. Land Accessibility: Projects that address land accessibility and pilot an effort to improve accessibility for new farmers, current producers looking to expand their operation, or support succession strategies for farmers exiting agriculture.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Additional detail on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications will be submitted electronically via the new [DoAg Grants Portal](#).

A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants in learning about the structure of the grant and application process will occur on **December 14, 2021** (initially planned for December 8), at 10:00 a.m. via a Webex call. [Please click here to](#)

Questions regarding the Farm Viability Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov or found online at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

The FVG is a matching grant program for Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments and agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that directly impact and/or foster agricultural viability. Funding for the Farm Viability Grant is provided through the State of Connecticut Agricultural Viability Grant Program, established in 2005 through Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation.



AFT'S NEW ENGLAND FARMER MICROGRANTS PROGRAM OPENS DECEMBER 6

The program provides direct financial support to farmers in New England of up to \$5,000 each. This year's funding will have a special emphasis on livestock farmers and the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices.

Funding will be given to projects that involve equipment or services related to:

1. Finding or getting onto farmland
2. Bringing more farmland into production
3. Planning for the future of the farm
4. Adopting regenerative agriculture or soil health practices.

[Learn More About the Program](#)

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

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

[Watercure Farm Distillery in CT makes whiskey in a 1900s estate](#), CT Insider, 11/29

[At Arethusa Farm Dairy and Cafe, elected leaders urge shoppers to support small businesses this holiday season](#), Hartford Courant, 11/23

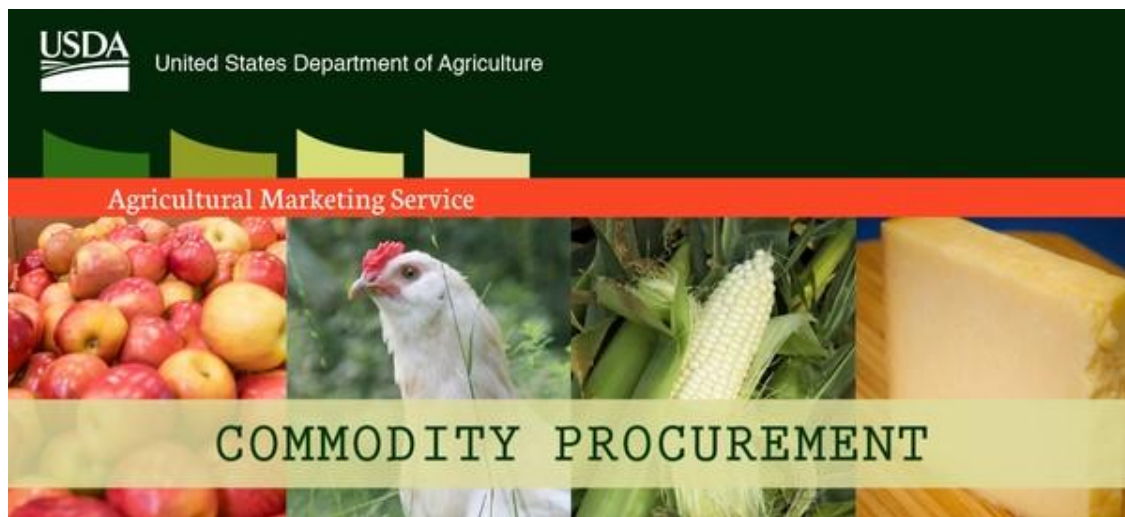
[Connecticut Farm Bureau Names Cohen 2021 Legislator of the Year](#), Patch, 11/23

[CT farms prepare for Christmas tree shoppers](#), WFSB, 11/22

[Connecticut's largest dairy farm taps into energy markets with a plentiful supply of cow manure](#), Hartford Courant, 11/22

[Why it could cost more to prepare Thanksgiving dinner in CT](#), Stamford Advocate, 11/20

[Chamber Of Commerce—Eastern Connecticut: New England Hemp Farm Sets Up In Groton, Details Plans For 'The Barn'](#), Patch, 11/19



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**.

Please note bids are due December 7th, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Central Time.
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, David.cottrell@usda.gov, 202-260-9183.

NORTHEAST

DAIRY BUSINESS 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](#).



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 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 register, please click the link below and enter your information. You will receive a calendar invite to your email account with information on how to join the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov, 860-573-0323 or Allison Hughes at Allison.Hughes@ct.gov, 860-500-8918.

[Register Now](#)



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.

- 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](#)



**Now Available:
CT Grown Tents**

10' x 10' King Canopy Tents

Order online at:
www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com

Pickup only



	MON Dec. 13	TUES Dec. 14	WED Dec. 15	THURS Dec. 16	FRI Dec. 17
Morning Session 9:00-11:00am	Tillage Reduction Innovations	Tree Fruit 1	Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates	Berry Crops 2	Automation for Small Vegetable Growers
Afternoon Session 1:30-3:30pm	Climate Adaption Strategies on the Farm	Berry Crops 1	Soil Health	Tree Fruit 2	Inspiration from Away

NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE

The premier vegetable and fruit conference in the Northeast will take place **online 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 Health, Inspiration from Away.

For more information, and to register for the conference, click [here](#).



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

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 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](#).



SEEKING ROOTS FOR SCHOOLS + SCHOOLS FOR ROOTS!

Put Local on Your Tray is here to help schools and farms connect to source local roots for our Rooting for Winter campaign.

Did you know that 20 lbs. of mixed roots vegetables can make approx. 125 1/2 cup servings!

CT Grown carrots, turnips, potatoes and more range from .75¢ to \$3lb. That is a big range to work with when talking with farmers.



Check out more and Root for Winter at

<https://putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/rootingforwinter/>



Contact nicholas.e.tedesco@uconn.edu with any questions & to connect with a local school market



COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) presents the Community Food Projects (CFP) competitive grant program. This program intends to solicit applications and fund two types of grants. The types are entitled (1) Community Food Projects and (2) Planning Projects.

are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) primary goals. The purpose of a Planning Project is to complete a plan toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP.

Projects and plans are to focus on a defined community and describe in detail the activities and outcomes of the plan or project. **Applications are due December 20, 2021.**

For more information, [click here](#).



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.

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](#).

[Sign up Here](#)



FARM CREDIT EAST IS SEEKING INTERESTED YOUNG LEADERS TO ATTEND GENERATIONNEXT SEMINARS

A successful manager is required to master many aspects of the farm business. To help the next generation develop the necessary business and financial skills, Farm Credit East is once again hosting GenerationNext seminars, and is currently seeking interested young leaders to attend. In-person sessions are limited, however a virtual option is also available.

GenerationNext is optimal for those producers who will be the next generation operators of a farm business or for entrepreneurs starting their own business (Suggested age 20-35). The sessions will cover a range of topics, including leadership and management, human resource development, financial management, production economics, marketing, risk management, and farm transfer and estate planning.

Whether just entering into a management role or an experienced manager, participants will gain valuable insights from Farm Credit East farm business consultants and from their GenerationNext colleagues.

Virtual sessions will be two-hour sessions that run for eight weeks, starting January 5, and running every Wednesday through February.

A three-part in-person course will be held in the Bangor, Maine, area with each session running about 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The first session will be held on January 5, followed by sessions on January 19 and February 9.

For more information on the GenerationNext Seminars, or to sign up, click



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.

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 farmers.gov/otecp to learn more.



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 more. The 2022 Women's Conference will be a hybrid event with virtual sessions focusing on cooperatives, business management, and food sovereignty.

For pricing information, COVID-19 protocols, the conference agenda, more information, and sign ups for the Conference, click [here](#).

ACQUIRING YOUR FARM ONLINE TRAINING SERIES

A virtual training series for aspiring, new and beginning farmers preparing to access farmland in New England. Learn how to identify your goals and set financial parameters, review pros and cons of owning versus leasing, conduct a land search, assess farm properties, discover keys to successful communication, and more.

The six-session training series will provide a thorough introduction to the complex issues of farmland access and tenure - and put you in a position to make a plan and take next steps toward getting on farmland and gaining more secure tenure.

Topics include:

- Affording farmland & financial preparedness
- Owning vs. leasing
- Finding farmland
- Communication & negotiation

Join us this winter! Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00pm each day:

January 19, 2022

January 26, 2022

February 2, 2022

February 9, 2022

February 16, 2022

February 23, 2022

Sliding-scale registration fee allows more access to events by paying an amount that fits one's budget. Those who pay the suggested rate will help support the participation for others. The suggested registration fee is \$50. Registration gives you access to the full series, as well as class worksheets, resource handouts, and session recordings to watch at your convenience.

For more information, call (603) 357-1600 or email info@landforgood.org. To register now click the button below!

[Register 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

upgrades.

Grants available of \$10,000 - \$40,000.

Deadline to apply: February 3, 2022. Details [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](#)

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](#)

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

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

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

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.

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.

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 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
(click on image below for info)

NEVF
New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference

	MON Dec. 13	TUES Dec. 14	WED Dec. 15	THURS Dec. 16	FRI Dec. 17
Morning Session 9:00-11:00am	Tillage Reduction Innovations	Tree Fruit 1	Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates	Berry Crops 2	Automation for Small Vegetable Growers
Afternoon Session 1:30-3:30pm	Climate Adaption Strategies on the Farm	Berry Crops 1	Soil Health	Tree Fruit 2	Inspiration from Away

SOLID GROUND
A Program Of UConn Extension

AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES: 2021-2022

Register at: newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground

- NOV 13TH** CHAINSAW SKILLS & SAFETY FOR WOMEN
ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-3PM
- NOV 20TH** TRACTOR IMPLEMENT OPERATIONS, SAFETY & ADJUSTMENT
WINDENHAMS AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WOODBURY CT - 9AM-3PM
- DEC 4TH** SMALL ENGINE BREAKDOWN & REASSEMBLY
WINDENHAMS AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WOODBURY CT - 9AM-3PM
- DEC 11TH** ADVANCED WELDING USING METAL INERT GAS METHODS
ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-3PM
- FEB 5TH** POWER TOOLS & CARPENTRY BASICS FOR BIPOC FARMERS
WINDENHAMS AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WOODBURY CT - 9AM-3PM
- FEB 12TH** FIELD IRRIGATION
ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERMONT CT - 9AM-3PM

COST PER WORKSHOP \$25 - Lunch included | SPACES ARE LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY!
If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a stipend for food, wages and/or travel by emailing rebecca.hosack@uconn.edu

UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources | GROWN | USDA

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

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

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