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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a proposed rule that aims to enhance the safety of produce. It proposes to require farms to conduct comprehensive assessments that would help them identify and mitigate hazards in water used to grow produce. This is the latest step in the agency's implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and it proposes to replace some of existing requirements agricultural water in the Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

Read more.





## 'Tis the Season to Support Local

Buy Connecticut Grown at Holiday and Winter Farmers' Markets

This holiday season you can support local agriculture by visiting holiday and winter farmers' markets throughout the state to buy Connecticut Grown products. Connecticut's farm families play an important role in the state's food system and economy by offering a diverse array of food, fiber, flowers, and shellfish.

While farmers' markets may have moved indoors, you can still find ingredients for that special Christmas meal or the perfect gift for nearly everyone on your list. From milk and butter to create baked goods to a beef, pork, or lamb roast as the centerpiece of your meal, along with fruits and vegetables to create savory, delicious sides, you can find it all.

Don't forget the eggs, bread, bacon and maple syrup for a special breakfast or brunch and jams, jellies, honey, salami, and cheese for a charcuterie board to remember.

Whether you need to decorate your home indoors or out, it's not too late to find poinsettias, wreaths, and garland to welcome guests.

For last-minute gifting, you can find wool and fiber products such as scarves, socks, and blankets, as well as luxurious skincare and bath products made from goat and cow's milk.

If you are starting to plan now for your New Year's Eve celebration to ring in 2022, oysters or clams from our shoreline are bring a taste of the sea to your table. Remember to stop by a Connecticut farm winery, brewery, or distillery on your way home from the farmers' market to get a bottle for yourself and one to give as a gift.

<u>CTGrown.gov/farmersmarkets</u> to find a seasonal market near you. Or, visit <u>CTGrown.org</u> to locate a farm stand for your holiday meals and gifting.

To add your seasonal farmers' market listing, please contact Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or by phone at 860-519-6083.



# CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE DEC. 20

Applications are due on Monday, December 20, 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 <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 <u>CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program page</u>.

#### 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

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

<u>Addressing Climate Change In CT Is Focus Of New Lamont Edict</u>, Patch, 12/16 <u>FARM AID DISTRIBUTES NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN 2021 GRANTS</u>, TMCNET News, 12/16

<u>Therapeutic Wolcott farm seeks donations to expand its operations,</u> Republican-American, 12/12

<u>In Harwinton, Barry Farms welcomes Christmas tree shoppers,</u> Register Citizen, 12/10

<u>Vineyard Wind turbine farm draws CT fishing industry concern,</u> Stamford Advocate, 12/9

## **USDA Launches Loan Guarantee Program**

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA is deploying \$100 million under the new <u>Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program</u> to make available nearly \$1 billion in loan guarantees; these loan guarantees will back private investment in processing and food supply infrastructure that will strengthen the food supply chain for the American people.

USDA is making the funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act. The program is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to address food system challenges dating back decades and <u>further exacerbated</u> by the COVID-19 pandemic. These investments will help essential processing and supply chain infrastructure that will ultimately deliver more opportunities and fairer prices for farmers, they will give people greater access to healthier foods, and they will help eliminate bottlenecks in the food supply chain.

## Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program

Through the <u>Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program</u>, USDA will partner with lenders to guarantee loans of up to \$40 million to help eligible entities expand meat and poultry processing capacity and finance other food supply chain infrastructure. Lenders may provide the loans to eligible cooperatives, corporations, for profits, nonprofits, Tribal communities, public bodies and people in rural and urban areas.

USDA Rural Development (RD) will administer the loans. Funding may be used to:

distributing food.

- address supply chain bottlenecks.
- increase capacity and help create a more resilient, diverse and secure U.S. food supply chain.

USDA is accepting electronic applications from lenders through the <u>Food Supply Chain Online Application System</u> until funds are expended. Paper applications will not be accepted. To access the online application system, lenders must submit a request to <u>rdfoodsupplychainloans@usda.gov</u>. For more information, visit <u>www.rd.usda.gov/foodsupplychainloans</u> or see the notice published in the Dec. 9 <u>Federal Register</u>.

# RMA PUBLISHES PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE APPLE CROP INSURANCE POLICY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced publication of a proposed rule in the <u>Federal Register</u> to amend the Apple Crop Provisions. The proposed changes are based on stakeholder feedback and recommended changes from a contracted study on the apple crop insurance program. Following feedback from the proposed rule, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) will publish a final rule that is expected to be effective for the 2023 crop year.

RMA is proposing to make changes to the apple crop insurance program that:

- Enable producers to elect different coverage levels and percent of price elections by type, which allows producers to manage individual coverage and price risk more effectively.
- Allow producers' premiums to be reduced in response to orchard management practices, such as removing or grafting trees, that typically occur after the acreage reporting date and decrease an orchard's productivity.
- Allow producers to insure at a higher price for apples sold predominantly to direct markets or premium processing markets.
- Exclude apples sold for the slicer market from being considered "fresh apple production."
- Introduce a fresh fruit factor to account for the reduced market value of production insured under the Quality Option sold for a grade other than U.S. Fancy.

RMA is soliciting comments on these proposed changes. The comment period will close on Feb. 14, 2022. Interested parties can submit comments <u>here.</u>









UCONN | COLLEGE OF ASSISTANTINE, PERCENTORS
AS WE FORCE

# UCONN IS SEEKING VEGETABLE PRODUCERS' INPUT TO DESIGN A PROJECT ON WASHING PRODUCE

The purpose of this survey is to prioritize research and extension efforts at UConn regarding the application of natural antimicrobial and probiotic based produce wash to control food-borne pathogens on vegetable produce and reducing pathogen loads in wash water.

We would also study the use of dump tank wash versus spray systems to reduce Ag water use and wastewater disposal. Results will be used in the development of a grant proposal for a project to address these needs.

This survey should only take 7-10 minutes or less to complete. This survey is open to all vegetable producers in the Northeast. Your responses are confidential, and this survey does not contain questions that may personally identify you.

Take the Survey



#### CT DAIRY FARMER PROMOTION GRANTS AVAILABLE

A wonderful opportunity for Connecticut Dairy Farmers to start the new year with fresh promotion of dairy and dairy farming.

Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy are offering a competitive dairy promotion grant program to Connecticut dairy farm families and employees. Funding for this project was paid for by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.

Funded projects will be eligible for grant funds of up to \$5,000 to improve public perception of dairy farming and/or increase consumption of local dairy products. The total grant funding available is \$15,000. Grants are available for projects that will be completed before May 13, 2022.

Apply now at this <u>link</u>. Deadline for submission is January 13, 2022.

Have a great idea, but not sure if it's grant worthy? Send us a quick description and we will be happy to help! Contact New England Dairy Farmer Relations specialist Jennifer Schenkel at <u>jschenkel@newenglanddairy.com</u>



## FOR SCHOOLS

## + Schools for Roots!

<u>Put Local on Your Tray</u> 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 $\rlap/\epsilon$  to \$3lb. That is a big range to work with when talking with farmers.

more de cos Roll

Check out more and Root for Winter at <a href="https://putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/rootingforwinter/">https://putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/rootingforwinter/</a>



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.

The purpose of the CFP is to support the development of projects with a one-

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.



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. <u>Inperson sessions are limited, however a virtual option is also available.</u>

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,

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 here.



AFT'S NEW ENGLAND FARMER MICROGRANTS PROGRAM OPEN

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.

Round 1 is open now and will close on January 7, 2022.

**Learn More About the Program** 



# 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.



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 <u>here.</u>



**VIRTUAL FARMLAND MIXER** 

### **Tuesday January 11, 6:30-8:30pm**

- Farmland Access Overview, 6:30-7:00pm (Optional)
- Farmland Mixer, 7:00- 8:30pm

If you are a farmer in the state that is looking for land to lease or buy, this is a great opportunity for you to talk to landowners and get other resources from service providers about how to prepare to lease or buy land.

To begin, Will O'Meara, farmer and CT Field Agent at <u>Land For Good</u>, will give a short optional presentation on land access and various methods of getting onto farmland.

At 7pm, we will begin the mixer portion of our program which will include pitches of available farm properties in Connecticut.

Landowners registering for the event should expect to give a five minute pitch describing their land base, infrastructure, and type of opportunity they are offering (lease, lease to own, purchase, etc.)

Assistance is available to help prepare your offer and to assess the suitability of your farmland.

Sign Up Here



# QUICKBOOKS AND ACCOUNTING FOR FARMERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS

This winter's program on QuickBooks and basic farm accounting is a hybrid of self-directed learning, individual support, and remote classes with farm financial record keeping professionals. It is designed for farmers and local food producers who are either new to QuickBooks or need to improve their current recordkeeping practices.

For the months of January and February, participants will have access to the following:

- <u>The Farmer's Office</u>, an online source of accounting and QB videos and resources designed for farmers (usually \$49/month access)
- 6 Quickbooks classes that cover Chart of Accounts, Revenue and Expenses, Assets and Liabilities, the Balance Sheet, Reporting, and Recordkeeping Best Practices.
- Office hours with Farmer's Office author Julia Shanks to ask questions specific to your business
- Eligible attendees can receive additional 1×1 support in financial recordkeeping, planning or analysis upon attendance of at least 3 classes. This assistance is available until June 2022. See below for qualification information.

#### **Class Schedule:**

Tuesdays, 9am-10:30am, January 11-February 15 (6 classes held over Zoom)

#### Available for:

- Massachusetts Farmers
- New York State Beginning Farmers
- Massachusetts Specialty Food Producers that produce a value-added product where at least 50% of the ingredient's volume, weight, or value come from local farms.

Click <u>here</u> to register.





#### 2022 VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CERTIFICATE COURSE

UConn Extension is offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course, beginning on January 20, 2022.

It is a fully online course for new and beginning farmers who have 0-3 years of vegetable growing experience or no formal training in agriculture. The participants will learn answers to the basic questions about farm business planning, planning and preparing for vegetable farm, warm and cool-season vegetable production techniques, season extension, identification of biotic and abiotic issues, and marketing.

The price of the course is \$149.

Please contact the course coordinator, Shuresh Ghimire (Shuresh.Ghimire@uconn.edu, 860-870-6933) with any questions about this course.

Registration deadline: January 14, 2022

**Register 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.

make a plan and take next steps toward getting on farmland and gaining more secure tenure.

### **Topics include:**

- Farmland tenure
- Identifying your goals
- 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 <a href="mailto:info@landforgood.org">info@landforgood.org</a>. To register now click the button below!

**Register Here** 



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.



# 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 <u>CT Grown Map</u> page. All agricultural businesses, farm

the CT Grown Map Google Form.

### **Ag Market Pricing**

<u>Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT</u> <u>New Holland Dairy Auction - New</u>

Prices provided on November 29, 2021 Holland, PA

CT Farmers' Market Prices New Holland, PA Hay Report

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

Northeast Regional Eggs Update

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly

Update

New England Shell Eggs Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -

Boston

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

<u>Summary</u> <u>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -</u>
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 <a href="https://www.bludon.com">www.bludon.com</a>
- 2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or <a href="https://www.bludon.com">www.bludon.com</a>
- 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. <a href="mailto:lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com">lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com</a> 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, <u>Griffinfarm@aol.com</u>; <u>www.griffinfarmtools.com</u>

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**

CitySeed is expanding, and seeking a part-time Development Associate to join the team. <u>Learn more</u>.

Brass City Harvest in Waterbury, CT is seeking a culinary kitchen leader. To lean more about the position, click <u>here.</u>

Interested in Advertising? Click here for details on rates and submission.

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







## 2022 Farm Viability Grant

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

## **Application Period:**

Monday, November 29, 2021 - Monday, February 14, 2022

## **Eligible Applicants:**

Municipalities
Groups of Municipalities
Regional Councils of Governments
Agricultural Non-Profits

#### Maximum Award:

\$49,999

## **Match Requirement:**

40% of the total project cost

## Projects must respond to one of the following areas of need in CT Agriculture:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Agriculture
Urban Agriculture
Food Supply Chain
Farmland Accessibility

## **Apply Here!**

Contact Alison, Grabarz@ct.gov with any questions.



Facebook







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