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CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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Wanted: The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is searching for a Connecticut corn maze to use the new CT Grown logo design in their design concept.

Interested? Contact Jaime L. Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or call 860-713-2503.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Awards \$397,000 in Farm Transition Grants

Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt announces that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has awarded 24 grants from the Farm Transition Grant (FTG) program, totaling \$497,382 to strengthen the economic viability of

The 2021 FTG was revised to address the needs and better respond to known gap within the industry. As a result, four new grant categories were developed:

- New Farmer Microgrant
- Infrastructure Investment Grant
- Research and Development Grant
- Innovation and Diversification Grant

The categories consisted of a new farmer grant to assist producers with three years or less advance their farm business, an infrastructure investment grant to enable farm businesses to diversify farm product offerings or expand, a research and development grant to enable the farm business to determine if a new product or service is financially viable, and a final category of innovation and diversification that will enable a farm business to implement a new product or service.

"The restructuring of the Farm Transition Grant affords the opportunity to better support Connecticut's agricultural producers throughout all stages of their life and business," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "The selected projects demonstrate the innovation and growth of agriculture to create sustainable job opportunities while developing a diversified offering of farm products for consumers."

Connecticut is home to more than 5,500 farms contributing more than \$4 billion to the state's economy.

2021 Farm Transition Grant awardees include:

New Farmer Grant Category:

- **Farmington Farm Truck**, Farmington: *Equipment to increase production through organic no-till methods.*
- **Hidden Gem Orchard**, Southbury: *Convert a garage into a cold storage room for apples.*
- **Micro2Life, LLC**, Waterbury: *Equipment to hydroponically grow leafy greens.*
- **Walden Farm, LLC**, Moodus: *Equipment to allow for better irrigation of crops.*
- **The 4 Five Farm, LLC**, Bloomfield: *Fencing installation for multi-species grazing.*
- **DeLuca Family Farm**, South Glastonbury: *Equipment for sweet corn growing expansion.*

Innovation and Diversification Category:

- **Grower Direct Farms**, Somers: *Convert greenhouses for hydroponic production of tomatoes and strawberries.*

- **Fair Weather Growers, LLC**, Rocky Hill: *Construct a green bean mobile packing line.*
- **Baldwin Brook Farm, LLC**, Canterbury: *Equipment to diversify dairy product offerings.*
- **Full Heart Farm**, Ledyard: *Construction of a multi-purpose building and commercial kitchen.*
- **D & G Agriculture Technologies, LLC**, Eastford: *Equipment for tissue culturing of hydroponically grown hemp plants.*

Infrastructure Investment Category:

- **Cloverleigh Farm, LLC**, Columbia: *Construct a propagation greenhouse.*
- **Pell Strawberries, LLC**, South Windsor: *Equipment to extend indoor strawberry growing season.*
- **Country Farm 2**, Northford: *Construct a multi-purpose building.*
- **Fort Hill Farm, LLC**, New Milford: *Equipment to increase production through organic no-till methods.*
- **Castle Hill Farm**, Newtown: *Barn re-model project to increase hay production and storage.*
- **ACRE Farm DBA Four Root Farm**, East Haddam: *Drill and construct a new well for increased vegetable crop production.*
- **Smokedown Farm, LLC**, Sharon: *Equipment for hop harvesting and storage.*
- **Still River Farm**, Coventry: *Equipment for grain production.*
- **Muddy Roots Farm, LLC**, Wallingford: *Modify an existing structure into a certified poultry processing room.*
- **Cow Pots, LLC**, East Canaan: *Equipment to modernize cow pot manufacturing to increase production.*

Research and Development Category:

No applications received.

The Farm Transition Grant Program is a competitive matching grant program. Funding is provided through Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation. Grant funds are reimbursed to the awardee after the project is successfully completed, a final financial and written report outlining all expenses and tasks associated with the project have been received and approved, and site inspection by agency staff is conducted. Additional information about the program can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/Grants.

CENTURY FARM NOMINATIONS DUE MAY 31

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) is seeking nominations for the Century Farm award. The Century Farm award is giving to

Recipients are selected annually by the CAIC.

The 2021 Century Farm award will be announced and presented at Plant Science Day on August 4 at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, CT. The recipient will also be recognized during Ag Day at the Capitol in March 2022.

You may self-nominate your farm or nominate a farm provided they meet the eligibility criteria. Submit a nomination online at the [CAIC website](#) by May 31, 2021 for consideration.



What You Need to Know: COVID-19 Vaccination, Mask-Wearing, and Social Distancing

[Click HERE for information](#)

COVID-19 CONSUMER RESOURCES

[Connecticut Grown Farm Map](#): online, interactive listing of open farm stands, farm stores and farmers' markets to access Connecticut Grown produce, dairy, meat, shellfish, greenhouse and nursery stock.

Producers: List your farm, farmers' market or farm stand on CTGrownMap.com by clicking [here](#).

COVID-19 PRODUCER RESOURCES

As Connecticut's coronavirus response efforts continue to roll out, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces that all COVID-19 guidance documents specific to agriculture have been rescinded. This falls in line with Governor Lamont's announced plans to eliminate most of the state's COVID-19 restrictions for every sector by May 19, 2021.

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.

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>.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

CT Grown for CT Kids: Connecting Communities to Farm-to-School Opportunities, 5/24, NBC CT

Set to stop on May 31st, the drive-thru food distribution sites will roll through the Summer, 5/24, Fox 61

State House passes bill to aid Connecticut shellfish industry, 5/25, The Day
Culinary CT retreat aims to 'demystify seasonal eating' at working farm, 5/26, CT Post

Updated Farmers' Market Reference Guide Available



UPDATED FARMERS' MARKET REFERENCE GUIDE AVAILABLE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the release of the newly expanded and updated Farmers' Market Reference Guide. Together with our partners at the Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the updated guide offers answers to many questions regarding establishing and selling at Connecticut Farmers' Markets.

The guide is a complete resource for market managers and vendors, with over 36 sections addressing commonly asked questions, regulations pertaining to sales of products, and contact information for regulating agencies. The Reference Guide is viewable online and can be downloaded to your computer, mobile device, or printed.

SEEKING CT GROWN PRODUCE FOR USDA-FUNDED FOOD BOXES (TEFAP)

Eligible produce growers are encouraged to pursue supplying Connecticut Grown produce for TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) produce boxes.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is working with Aggrigator, a company out of CA, which was awarded a USDA TEFAP contract, to include CT Grown produce in their distribution of food boxes to Connecticut food banks. Aggrigator's contract award for Connecticut includes approximately 12,000 boxes over a 16-week period from June through September.

Boxes are required to contain at least four different types of produce with up to 3 lbs. of root vegetables. Ideally product should be packed in reusable plastic containers (RPC), although bins are also feasible.

Eligible producers include those that possess the following certification and are also able to meet all USDA audit requirements:

- USDA Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices certified
- Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) certification program audits (GlobalGAP, SQF, Primus GFS)

Producers should contact Aggrigator with their current and future product availability as soon as possible. Food boxes are scheduled to begin shipping around June 1. Co-packing of boxes will be within the region.

For more information or to respond with your product availability between June 1 and September 30, please contact farmers@aggrigator.com.



COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY COMPOST AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

\$2 million in cooperative agreements is available for local governments to host Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot projects. The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and they are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

Learn more about the Cooperative Agreements [here](#).

VIRTUAL MEAT & POULTRY HACCP COURSE - JUNE 2021

A three-day, virtual course for International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP will be held on June 22, 23, and 24, 2021. This course will provide participants with the information they need to prepare a HACCP food safety program and also plan for a plant under USDA/FSIS Grant of Inspection.

If you work in a slaughter only facility, email indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu before registering.

During this course we will not prepare HACCP plan for your specific operation but provide resources and guidelines for you to successfully prepare a HACCP

verification activities.

Instructors

- Indu Upadhyaya, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UConn Cooperative Extension
- Diane Hirsch, MPH, Food Safety Specialist, UConn
- Lori Pivarnik, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, University of Rhode Island
- Jason Bolton, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension
- Robson Machado, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. The \$425 fee includes all course materials. Registration materials must be received by May 31 at 11:59 PM. Registration link: <https://secure.touchnet.com>

For more information on meat and poultry HACCP courses, click [here](#) or contact Indu Upadhyaya at 860-786-8191 or indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu.

Resource Conservation & Development

statewide

2021 TOUR DES FARMS

JUNE 1- SEPT. 30

8 regional routes
70+ farm CT stops!

Ride to support farmers & food security!

Get your passport:
Prizes, cue sheets, bike bib!

CONNECTICUT TOUR DES FARMS PASSPORT

20 21

Welcome!

Join us for a free summer long event as we support CT farms and raise funds to tackle food insecurity. We've planned eight regional routes. We've had amazing farms...

Tag!
@CTRCD
#2021TDF
#BikeCTFarms

TOURDES FARMS.ORG

2021 TOUR DES FARMS STARTS JUNE 1

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development's (CT RC&D) annual Tour des Farms (bicycle, motorcycle or car) ride is returning statewide! On Tuesday, June 1, registration will open for participants to access eight regional routes to farms all around the state.

As a program, Tour des Farms aims to move around Connecticut, ensuring diverse regional agriculture promotion. In 2019, CT RC&D held an in-person ride in Connecticut's Quiet Corner, and for the ride's reemergence in 2018, participants biked farms throughout the Litchfield Hills.

Adapting to social distancing guidelines, Tour des Farms pivoted for 2020. As part of the new approach to their annual ride, CT RC&D now hosts a summer-long **statewide** Tour des Farms event for riders to enjoy at their own pace and schedule. The event includes eight regional routes, each featuring 6-10 farms throughout the state. That's over 75 farms getting direct support from their communities!

Registration opens June 1 at <https://ctrcd.org/tourdesfarms/> and will close

customizable riding bib, a TDF Farm Passport, and the chance to win exciting prizes for completed and returned TDF Passports. Riders are also welcome to offer an additional donation, as 50% of the profit generated for the event will be going toward purchasing farm products which will be donated directly to food security initiatives in the state.

USDA TO BEGIN LOAN PAYMENTS TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED BORROWERS UNDER AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SECTION 1005

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) today published the first notice of funding availability (NOFA) (PDF, 242 KB) announcing loan payments for eligible borrowers with qualifying direct farm loans under the American Rescue Plan Act Section 1005. The official NOFA will be published in the Federal Register early next week and USDA expects payments to begin in early June and continue on a rolling basis. A subsequent notice addressing guaranteed loan balances and direct loans that no longer have collateral and have been previously referred to the Department of Treasury for debt collection for offset, will be published within 120 days.

Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides funding and authorization for USDA FSA to pay up to 120 percent of direct and guaranteed loan outstanding balances as of January 1, 2021, for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as defined in Section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)). Section 2501(a) defines a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, which is further defined as a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Qualifying loans as part of today's announcement are certain direct loans under the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) and Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL).

To learn more about the loan payments to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, visit www.farmers.gov/americanrescueplan.

USDA ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of up to \$4 million for grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Office) is accepting proposals for planning and innovation projects, and these grants are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

A pre-recorded webinar will provide an overview of the grants' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application. The webinar will be posted at farmers.gov/urban.

\$76.9 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS' MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced the availability of \$76.9 million in funding for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP).

The FMLFPP program provides grants on a competitive basis for a wide variety of direct-to-consumer and local food marketing projects like farmers markets, CSAs, food hubs, and value-added product incubators. FMLFPP has two subprograms – the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) – with a separate Request for Applications (RFA) for each subprogram.

More information on how to apply can be found on the [FMPP webpage](#) and [LFPP webpage](#), where you will find requirements for submitting an application to the most recently updated FY2021 RFAs. The application window is currently open now through 11:59 p.m. EST on June 21, 2021.

Contact the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) grant specialists if you have any additional questions on the program details and application process. Join the FMLFPP Applicant Webinar happening on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

\$15.3 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP

AMS also announced the availability of \$15.3 million for the RFSP program. Housed under the umbrella program, the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), along with FMLFPP, RFSP is a new program that supports foodshed-level approaches to developing regional food economies. The increase in funding pools for both the FMLFPP and RFSP program is part of Congress's ongoing efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local and regional food systems.

Administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the RFSP program provides competitive grant funding to support multi-stakeholder

More information on the application process can be found on the [AMS RFSP webpage](#). The FY2021 applications must be received before 11:59 p.m. EST on July 6, 2021. All submissions must be done through [grants.gov](#).

Contact the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) grant specialists if you have any additional questions on the program details and application process. You can also join the RFSP Applicant Webinar happening on Tuesday June 8, 2021 at 2:30-4:30 p.m. EST.

Register in advance for the webinar [here](#).

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT

Two recent announcements from NRCS include the availability of \$15 million in funding for the [CIG Classic](#) program, and \$25 million for [On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials](#), a subprogram of CIG that provides funding directly to partners, who can then offer technical assistance and payments to producers interested in implementing innovative conservation practices on their land.

Applicants can find the full description of on-farm trials and CIG classic funding opportunities and apply online through [grants.gov](#).

The FY 2021 applications for CIG on-farm trials program must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on June 21, 2021 and for the CIG classic program, applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on July 19, 2021.

NRCS held a webinar for On-Farm Trials on May 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. EST to provide more information to potential applicants. The recording of the webinar is available [online](#), in addition to other helpful resources for applicants.

Be sure to register for the upcoming webinar for CIG Classic applicants happening on July 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. EST. Information on how to register and participate in the webinar can be found on [NRCS CIG webpage](#).



DAIRY MARKETING & BRANDING SERVICES GRANT: RFA RELEASED

On April 27, the application period opened for the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)'s Dairy Marketing and Branding Services Grant Program. Funds will be available to established value-added dairy processors across the Northeast region (CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT).

Grant funds will be used to prioritize grantees hiring professional marketing/branding contractor(s) to develop strategy and/or content for their business. Up to 25% of the grant funds may be used to implement the strategy and/or content developed by the contractor. Projects funded by this grant will increase the exposure and promotion of regionally produced dairy products guided by marketing/branding professionals.

Grants will range from \$10,000 - \$50,000 each with \$400,000 in available funding. Projects will require a 25% cash and/or in-kind match commitment.

Application period closes June 8, 2021. [See the full grant opportunity here.](#)

NE DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER RECRUITING CHEESEMAKERS FOR TRADESHOW

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is recruiting cheesemakers to represent the high-quality cheese products from across the Northeast region at SIAL Canada, an international food and beverage trade show hosted annually in Toronto and Montreal. SIAL is an entryway to U.S. and international markets, hosting 25,000+ buyers from Canada, the United States, and 60 other countries.

included. Each participating exhibitor will have a 5x10 foot space within the pavilion, complete with a front display counter with a cabinet and logo, and a rear display counter with a backlit logo.

The event takes place September 21-23, 2021, at the Enercare Center, Toronto. For more information, visit the [Vermont Official State Website](#).



CT FARMLAND TRUST TO OFFER WEBINAR SERIES

Connecticut Farmland Trust staff and guest experts will be offering a weekly series to share knowledge and learn from mid-May through mid-June. This series will help land stewards gain what they need about farmland preservation and also elevate how we think about land trusts. You can meet guests who will answer the questions, *How does farmland preservation work?* and *What else can a land trust do in addition to protecting land?*

Sessions will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on their specified date. There is no cost to attend, but donations to support the work are welcome.

June 8: **Catchup with CFT - A Community Update**, featuring Elizabeth Moore, CFT Executive Director (rescheduled from May 25)

June 10: **Public Act 490 Overview and Q & A**, featuring Joan Nichols, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association's Executive Director

June 17: **How Land Trusts Can Support Food Access**, featuring Connie Manes, Executive Director to Kent Land Trust

When you register for the event you can submit questions ahead of time, or submit a question during the talk. Each webinar has a different Zoom link.

To sign up for one of these webinars, visit Connecticut Farmland Trust's events page:

<http://ctfarmland.org/site/events/>.

If you want to register for all five of the "Ask an Expert" webinars at once, email

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

Prices last provided on May 24, 2021

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New](#)

[Holland, PA](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

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

[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, YOUR LOCAL NATIONWIDE FARM INSURANCE AGENT. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT & RI. Any type farm/any size farm. Discounts for being CT Farm Bureau member for those who qualify. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com. Appointments available any time.

47-R. Kuhn GMC 600 II HD, 3 point hitch disc mower, 7'10" working width, ready to mow. \$5,500. Durham, 860-638-9689.

50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

54-R. Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com

55. Hay for sale 1st and 2nd cut small square bales, \$8.00/bale 860-234-1605.

Wanted

42-R. EZTRAIL kicker bale wagons, any condition. Cash paid. Call or text George, 860-918-5442.

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

(click the image to be redirected to the event website)



Please join UConn Extension for this virtual discussion on Thursday June 10th. Tom Steen from Steen Consulting is a Master Trainer in Suicide Prevention, Postvention and Grief Support. Tom will lead an open discussion around this critical topic with a mixed panel of agriculture service providers, farmers, and mental health professionals.

This webinar is free and open to all. To register, go to

<https://s.uconn.edu/mentalhealthwebinar>

**JOIN US
VIRTUALLY
THURSDAY
JUNE 10TH
7-8PM**

For those who cannot attend live, it will be recorded and posted at <https://ctfarmrisk.extension.uconn.edu> following the session.

CT FARM ENERGY GEOTHERMAL PILOT PROGRAM

Providing **FREE Geothermal FARM ASSESSMENTS**

USDA United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

CONNECTICUT Connecticut UCONN

CT FARM ENERGY GEOTHERMAL PILOT PROGRAM

Spring is here and we are booking May consults now. Eligible farms and ag based rural small businesses can receive a free geothermal site assessment and report. Here's your chance to see how geothermal may play a role on your farm. <https://ctfarmenergy.org/ct-farm-energy-geothermal-pilot-program/>

Plant Science Day 2021

Wednesday, August 4

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Lockwood Farm
890 Evergreen Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518



CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

portal.ct.gov/caes

Toll-Free 877.855.2237



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