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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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It's hazy, hot, and humid - which means paying extra attention to the

More tips on how ensure the safety of your pet when traveling [here](#).

Red, White & BBQ: Let Freedom Ring

5 Ways to Celebrate A Way of Life this Fourth of July with Connecticut Grown

As you gather with family and friends for cookouts, picnics, and barbeques to celebrate our nation's independence, lets also celebrate the fresh, nutritious, and abundant food supply available locally from Connecticut farms and farmers' markets.

"Farmers have long been the foundation of our nation, working hard to not only support their family but ensuring a safe and abundant supply of food, fiber, and flowers for all families," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "From burgers and blueberries to farm breweries and wineries, there's nothing like the freshness and flavor of Connecticut Grown."

Whether you are hosting at home, bringing a dish to share, or looking for a weekend adventure, here are 5 ways to make Connecticut Grown part of your celebration.

1. Shop a farmers' market to find everything needed to prepare a delicious meal – seasonal produce and fruits, dairy, seafood, meat, and more. Bonus: meet the farmer growing and harvesting their product.
2. Explore a Connecticut farm winery, vineyard, or brewery for a taste of award-winning beverages while listening to live music.
3. Place your order for just caught shellfish from the waters of Long Island Sound and get ready to crack open oysters (or clams) a plenty.
4. Visit a pick-your-own farm for blueberries, raspberries, and cherries to create your own patriotic themed dish.
5. Scoop up a refreshing dessert made with Connecticut dairy – from ice cream and milk shakes to frozen yogurt – there is a flavor for everyone to love.

Create your authentic Connecticut Grown experiences at CTGrown.org.

From all of us at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, we wish you a happy and safe Fourth of July celebration.



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG BAN

Single-use plastic bags are scheduled to be banned in the State of Connecticut as of July 1, 2021. As the General Assembly has not delayed or otherwise extended the scheduled ban, retailers that are collecting the fee are no longer required to collect the fee as of July 1, 2021.

Single-use checkout bag means a plastic bag with a thickness of less than four mils that is provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Single-use checkout bag does not include:

- a bag provided to contain meat, seafood, loose produce or other unwrapped food item
- a newspaper bag
- a laundry or dry cleaning bag

On and after July 1, 2021, no owner or operator of a store shall provide or sell a single-use checkout bag to a customer.

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.

Find the most current sector rules guidance at www.ct.gov/coronavirus.

related to COVID-19, which can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>.

COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Resource Page

The State of Connecticut has rolled out a Recovery Grant Funding Resources Page. This page compiles all known federal, state and philanthropic COVID-19 recovery grant opportunities in one place and includes a link to information on how to apply, as well as the deadline for the grant. An additional non-funding resources landing page will be rolling out shortly.

Link to page: <https://business.ct.gov/CT-Recoveries/Grants-and-Funding-Opportunities-for-Connecticut-Recovery>.

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

[Brad Makes Smoked Mushrooms](#), 6/23, Bon Appetit

[Connecticut oysters: A visual trip to Connecticut's family owned oyster farms](#), 6/24, CT Post

[Alongside a career in IT, Robert Chang forges a new life as a farmer, while advocating for farmers of color in Southern New England](#), 6/29, Boston Globe



Connecticut Farm-to-Chef Week

Join Us: Aug. 29-Sept. 4, 2021



**TASTE THE FLAVOR OF CONNECTICUT GROWN,
BROUGHT TO YOU BY FARMERS AND CHEFS
THROUGHOUT THE STATE!**



2021 CT FARM-TO-CHEF WEEK REGISTRATION OPEN

Week happening August 29 through September 4.

This annual statewide event open to all restaurants and foodservice businesses in Connecticut invites participating venues to create a unique Farm-to-Chef menu showcasing Connecticut Grown ingredients and beverages. This promotion is an initiative of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-Chef Program, which connects farmers and producers of Connecticut Grown products with chefs and other culinary professionals.

To register your restaurant(s) or dining venues, [fill out this 2021 Farm-to-Chef Week Registration form](#).

To sponsor this year's Farm-to-Chef week, [fill out this 2021 Farm-to-Chef Week Sponsorship form](#).

Read some [frequently asked questions](#) about Farm-to-Chef.

For any questions please contact Cyrena Thibodeau at cyrena.thibodeau@ct.gov or 860-895-3094. Additional information and a full list of participating venues and menus will be posted on CTFarmtoChef.com.

USDA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL AID TO AG PRODUCERS AND BUSINESSES

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced additional aid to agricultural producers and businesses as part of the USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Earlier this year, Secretary Vilsack announced plans to use available pandemic assistance funds to address a number of gaps and disparities in previous rounds of aid. As part of the Pandemic Assistance initiative announced in March, USDA pledged to continue Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments and to provide aid to producers and businesses left behind. Implementation of the assistance announced today will continue within 60 days to include support to timber harvesters, biofuels, dairy farmers and processors, livestock farmers and contract growers of poultry, assistance for organic cost share, and grants for PPE.

Read the full release [here](#).

FARM SERVICE AGENCY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) began accepting nominations for county committee members on June 15. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program, and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote, and hold office.

LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. This may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election. They should check with their local USDA Service Center to see if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](#) nomination form or an [FSA-669-A-3](#) for urban county committees. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 1, 2021. To find your local USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

UCONN EXTENSION OFFERS BIOLOGICAL CONTROL WEBINAR FOR ORNAMENTAL GREENHOUSE GROWERS

On Monday, July 19, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST, UCONN Extension and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will host a webinar with Suzanne Wainwright Evans on biological controls for ornamental greenhouse growers. One pesticide recertification credit is available (PA, 3A) for this online webinar.

Registration is required for this webinar. Click [here](#) to register.

For more information contact: Rosa E. Raudales at rosa@uconn.edu or Leanne Pundt at Leanne.pundt@uconn.edu.



NEW POULTRY BIOSECURITY OUTREACH EFFORT AIMED AT YOUTH AND STUDENT AUDIENCES

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is launching a new outreach effort specifically aimed at helping youth and student poultry owners learn about and practice good biosecurity. This new effort is called #FlockDefender.

Youth are the future of our nation's poultry farming and industry. The #FlockDefender outreach program shares the agency's existing Defend the Flock message that encourages and prepares all poultry owners to implement diligent biosecurity practices with future and aspiring growers. APHIS provides youth, students and their leaders and teachers with many electronic resources they can use during meetings, classes and when caring for their flocks. APHIS is also encouraging these young poultry enthusiasts to share photos of their poultry or biosecurity practices.

With a growing number of small poultry flocks across the country, now is the time to spread the word to young enthusiasts. It's always best for flock health to have solid biosecurity in place from the very beginning. Making biosecurity an every day, every time practice helps keep poultry healthy and prevent the spread of infectious poultry diseases.

But it's not just youth – anyone who works with or raises poultry should follow good biosecurity practices all the time. Some European and Asian countries are dealing with highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks right now. These practices will make a difference in protecting your flock, should we face similar circumstances in the future. Here are some tips anyone can follow:

- Choose new birds from National Poultry Improvement Plan participating flocks.
- Quarantine new birds for at least 30 days before introducing them to an existing flock.
- Designate a Line of Separation between your flock and the rest of the world, along with rules for crossing that line.

and more detailed biosecurity information at www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

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.

USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 30, 2021.

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.

CT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REMINDS CLAIMANTS OF WORK SEARCH CHANGES AND EXPIRATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) Interim Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo is reminding residents that beginning July 2021, claimants filing their weekly certification will be required to report their work search activity online. Additionally, with the improving public health situation and economic recovery, the agency reminds all claimants that federal unemployment programs established during the pandemic will expire on September 4, 2021.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA); Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC); Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC); and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC—the \$300 weekly supplemental) programs that are currently supporting CTDOL claimants are not expected to be re-authorized by Congress. Connecticut's state unemployment and extended benefits programs are still available.

Commissioner Bartolomeo said, "If you are unemployed or thinking about making a job change, now is the time to look. It's a job seekers market—so many available jobs mean plenty of options to find full time work, perhaps a higher salary or better benefits, and even allow workers to break into new careers. With Governor Lamont's \$1,000 Back to Work incentive, now's the time to get out there and find that great new position."

bonus payment.

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.

[Access the Reference Guide now.](#)

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
*Prices last provided on June 28, 2021;
open on Mon.. July 5*

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

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

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly
Update](#)

[Summary](#)[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, 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.

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.

53-R. Hereford cow/calf pairs. 2 years old with stout bull calves, bred back. Old Beech Farm. 860-693-2052.

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

RJ Planter – Model RJV600 2 Row rotary planter used on tobacco Excellent Condition \$4,400. Call 860-729-2741. (7/4/21)

Wanted

Job Opportunities

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Program is seeking qualified State Certified General Appraisers with the required education credentials and the experience to be part of our approved panel of Independent Fee Appraisers. They conduct appraisals for the land valuation of conservation easements pertaining to the purchase of development rights to farmland, in compliance with The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), and USDA-NRCS appraisal specifications.

Fee Appraisers must have a Connecticut Certified General Appraiser License and have completed the proper coursework required by USDA-NRCS appraisal specifications, to conduct appraisals for the Agricultural Land Easement component of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE). For further information you may contact Denise O'Meara, Property Agent 2, at 860-713-2511.

American Farmland Trust is seeking a Soil Health Program Manager to implement existing AFT soil health and regenerative agriculture projects within the Climate and Agriculture Program in New England, develop and implement strategies to facilitate adoption of regenerative agriculture on farmland; help develop new programming that furthers AFT's broader mission as it relates to soil health and agriculture, and provide leadership and support to partner organizations in the region related to soil health and regenerative agriculture. For more information and application, please click [here](#).

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

Upcoming Events

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

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

ESTABLISHING A CHESTNUT AGROFOREST

Virtual Farm Field Day

All farmers are welcome!

JULY 15, 2021
6:00PM
Featuring Adamah Farm in Falls Village, CT via Zoom

Thinking about diversifying your farm? Considering how to incorporate tree crops using agroforestry?

Learn options to establish and benefit from CT tree farming, access to additional farm income and an opportunity to diversify crops and use assets that aren't suited for tillage or other activity.

Come learn about establishing a chestnut agroforest from farmers, USDA NRCS, and agricultural service providers. We'll walk through the process of assessing the property for potential tree crops and agroforestry uses. Look at the steps to establish and maintain the potential tree crop planting of Adamah Farm while already planting other trees as part of farm expansion. In this webinar, we'll go through the process, hear about lessons learned, and how the newly-planted trees are part of the farm's budget. Many more tree farms in Connecticut are getting started in improving farm diversity and expand tree agroforestry.

REGISTER ONLINE:
CTRCO.ORG/AGRICULTURE/SOIL-HEALTH-INITIATIVE/

For more info, please contact: John@ctrcd.org

Agroforestry is a natural and sustainable practice.

8 regions
70+ farm CT stops!

2021 TOUR DES FARMS

JUNE 1- SEPT. 30

Ride to support farmers & food security!

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

Tag!
@CTRCD
#2021TDF
#BikeCTFarms

TOURDES FARMS PASSPORT
2021
Welcome!

TOURDES FARMS.ORG

GEO THERMAL PILOT PROGRAM

Providing FREE Geothermal FARM ASSESSMENTS



USDA United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

CT FARM ENERGY GEO THERMAL 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/>



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