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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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Lakeview Orchards, 37-acre Farm Protected in Fairfield County

Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) and Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) are pleased to announce the preservation of Lakeview Orchards, a historic 37-acre farm in the town of Easton. The farm was preserved in collaboration with the Town of Easton, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), CT DoAg, and CFT.

“We wanted to [preserve the farm] because it’s good for the community as a

“I just couldn’t imagine all the fields and all the apple trees that my father planted, everything that we did there being cut down and going to waste,” she said. “...so, this is a way to make a positive mark. This is something we could do for the greater good.”

Lakeview Orchards has been supplying the community with fresh produce from its farm stand in nearby Monroe for over 60 years. The farm itself, which was started by the Barneys’ grandfather Nicolas, has been in production for three generations now. Most of the orchard was planted in the 1940s by the Barneys’ father Alfred, who invented some of his own farm equipment and held a patent for an apple-picking machine.

“Lakeview Orchards is a valuable farm in Easton’s farming community,” said CFT Executive Director Elisabeth Moore. “Preserving this farm was possible because of Joan and David’s commitment to honoring their late father’s wish to see his family’s farm protected. Thanks to the town, Department of Agriculture, and USDA, the orchard will continue to be a benefit to the Easton community for generations to come,” she said.

“We’re especially excited because this is our first farm preserved in partnership with the Town of Easton, and our second protected farm in Fairfield County,” she said.

The Easton Agricultural Commission has been working for the past 10 years to support farmers in town and help connect them with preservation opportunities.

“We really have a value in town for open space and farmland preservation. It’s written into the very fabric of the town,” said Jean Puchalski, a member of the Easton Agricultural Commission.

There are over 22 farms in the town of Easton. Several years ago, the whole town was surveyed for locally important soils by the USDA. The official designation is necessary for farms applying for conservation funding under the state Department of Agriculture’s Community Farms Preservation Program. With the official designation in place, Lakeview Orchards was ready when it came time to start the preservation process.

Throughout the process, the stakeholders worked together discreetly to preserve the farm. “We just really appreciate everything that’s gone into it to allow us to preserve the farm, from the Connecticut Farmland Trust to the town and the federal and state partners,” said farm owner Joan Barney.

Preserving farmland in highly developed Fairfield County is meaningful to all the stakeholders. Fairfield County has lost 75 percent of its farmland over the last century. Land prices are especially high, making it harder for new farmers to acquire land and more enticing for farmers to sell their working lands for

“Placing these almost 38 acres of the Lakeview Orchard under a conservation easement through our Agricultural Conservation Easement Program is another important step in our mission to protect the state’s valuable working lands,” said Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“We are grateful to work with the Barney family to permanently protect nearly 40 acres of prime and important farmland soils in Easton,” said Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “It has been more than 20 years since a farm has been protected in Fairfield County and wouldn’t have been possible without collaboration among federal, state, town, and non-profit partners.”

With this valuable farmland under conservation easement, it will always be available for future generations of farmers. Agricultural conservation easements prohibit development for residential or industrial purposes so farmland stays in production and farms can change hands without the threat of development.

Conservation easements can also lower the total cost of the land, making it more accessible to beginning farmers. This is especially important in Connecticut, which has some of the most expensive farmland in the country.

[Read the full release here.](#)



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9 - 10 am

August 11
6 - 7 pm

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Registration Link for 8/10 9:00am

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xQz48Dp_R_WEJy-4lED2LA

Registration Link for 8/11 6:00pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NU_g_v54SiuUHRh6gr1qUA

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.

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>.

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-Recovers/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](#).

[history](#), 7/19, CT Post

[East Lyme Farm Suffers Crop Damage from Tropical Storm Elsa](#), 7/20, WTNH

[Flooding Concerns Continue for Connecticut Farmers](#), 7/20, NBC CT

[Grant helps four Stamford schools offer smoothies in the fall](#), 7/20, CT Post

[Farm Aid returns to Connecticut with Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews](#), 7/20, CT Insider

[Bristol Farmers' Market now accepting EBT payments for some vendors](#), 7/21 WTNH



PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR TIMBER HARVESTERS AND HAULERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to \$200 million to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have experienced losses due to COVID-19 as part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Loggers and truckers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 22 through Oct. 15, 2021. The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH) is administered by FSA in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized this critical assistance for the timber industry. Timber harvesting and hauling businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of at least 10% during the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2020, compared to the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2019, are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible for payments, individuals or legal entities must be a timber harvesting or timber hauling business where 50% or more of its gross revenue is derived from one or more of the following:

- Processing of wood on-site on the forest land (chipping, grinding, converting to biochar, cutting to smaller lengths, etc.).

Payments will be based on the applicant's gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 1, 2019, minus gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 1, 2020, multiplied by 80%. FSA will issue an initial payment equal to the lesser of the calculated payment amount or \$2,000 as applications are approved. A second payment will be made after the signup period has ended based upon remaining PATHH funds.

The maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive directly is \$125,000.

Applying for Assistance

Loggers and truckers can apply for PATHH beginning on July 22 by completing form FSA-1118, Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program application, and certifying to their gross revenue for 2019 and 2020 on the application. Additional documentation may be required. Visit farmers.gov/pathh for more information on how to apply.

FSA will host a stakeholder webinar on Wednesday, July 21 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Interested participants must [register for the webinar](#).

PANDEMIC LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

On July 13, 2021 USDA announced the [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program \(PLIP\)](#). PLIP provides financial assistance to support producers of eligible swine, chickens, and turkeys depopulated from March 1, 2020, through December 26, 2020. To be eligible, depopulation of poultry or livestock must have been due to insufficient processing access resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Livestock and poultry also must have been physically located in the United States or a territory of the United States at the time of depopulation.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications July 20 through September 17, 2021. Visit farmers.gov/plip to learn more about additional eligibility requirements and how to apply.



ANNUAL GUIDE TO FARM FRESH FOOD IN NORTHEASTERN CT RELEASED

Heart CT Grown announces that their annual Guide to Farm Fresh Food for Northeastern CT is out now in a digital version. The guide lists over 100 farmers in 23 towns located in the Northeastern corner of the state.

In addition to including listings of farmers, a special interest section at the guide shows you farmers' markets, Fun for Kids on Farms, ag events, other places to find NECT products, and how to use SNAP/EBT dollars to buy local!

To view the digital guide, click [here](#).

LETTER OF INVITATION: HYDROPONICS GREENHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

The City of West Haven, Connecticut is soliciting pre-qualification submissions from interested applicants to design, develop, and operate a hydroponic greenhouse or other controlled environment agriculture (CEA) operation on one or more relevant locations in the municipality. West Haven intends to work with the selected applicant to ensure their success in the development process, and in their operation as a commercial enterprise and community partner. The City is looking for a partner to amend its zoning regulations, and specify locations where such a facility would be a good fit.

The City has a variety of sites of different sizes (1-8 acres) available for development, each with different advantages. Selected applicants will meet with City representatives to discuss development sites further. The City is amenable to accommodating the interests of the selected candidate within its capability and interest.

To view the full request for proposals to submit an application by July 30, please click [here](#).



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

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announces that registration is now open for dining venues wishing to participate in the 2021 CT Farm-to-Chef Week happening August 29 through September 4. Thanks to generous support from Highland Park Market, registration fees will be waived for all dining venues signed up by July 27.

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.

SBA LOAN DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR CONNECTICUT BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is reminding small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and

and high winds on Aug. 4-5, 2020.

The loans are available in the following counties: Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland and Windham in Connecticut.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Apart from aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at [Disasterloan.sba.gov](https://disasterloan.sba.gov) and should apply under SBA declaration # 16794, not for the COVID-19 incident.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices last provided on July 12, 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.

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

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

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

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture

statewide

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DO YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THE TYPICAL USE OF COVER CROPS?

AN OBSERVATION OF 2019 COVER CROPS REVEALED THAT COVER CROPS WERE BEING USED MOSTLY TO HELP FARMS REALIZE A FULLER POTENTIAL FOR COVER CROPS. AFTER THE OBSERVATION IN AUGUST, FARMS LOCATED IN THE 16 CONSTRUCTION DISTRICTS OF NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT WERE INVITED TO SIGN UP FOR A FREE SOIL HEALTH TEST, AND FREE COVER CROP SEED BY PARTICIPATING IN THE COVER CROP CHALLENGE. THERE WILL BE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEEDS AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO COVER CROPS OR EXPERIENCED, IT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE FROM YOUR COVER CROPS AND PARTICIPATING IN THE CHALLENGE, JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE WEBINAR TO LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF GROWING COVER CROPS TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED SOIL HEALTH, NUTRIENT CYCLING, WEED MANAGEMENT, SOIL BIOLOGY, AND SOIL MOISTURE. LEARN MORE DURING THE ONLINE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FREE COVER CROP SEED, SOIL HEALTH TEST, AND CHALLENGE.

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021 / 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
LOCATION: ZOOM ONLINE
REGISTER AT: CTCRD.ORG/AGRICULTURE/SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE



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