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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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Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma*)

which is just south of Fairfield. Keep an eye out for this pest. If you see it – take a picture, kill them and then report it to ReportSLF@ct.gov. For every female SLF you dispose of, there will be 90 fewer SLF next year. For more info, click [here](#).



Farmers' Markets are Essential

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to support National Farmers Market Week, happening August 1-7, 2021. Now in its 22nd year, National Farmers Market Week (NFMW) is an annual celebration that highlights the vital role farmers' markets play in the nation's food system. Amidst a global pandemic and nationwide change, it is now more important than ever for markets to bring people together!

Farmers markets are essential.

Farmers' market operators have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to redesign operations and create robust safety plans to continue to serve their communities. The pandemic has made it clear that local food systems with short supply chains are resilient, and can respond and adapt quickly to change.

Farmers markets serve as community hubs.

Farmers' markets foster direct relationships between community members and farmers which can work to create a more fair and sustainable food system. Farmers' markets are a hub for connection and collective action around shared values.

The demographic of farmers' markets has not always reflected their local communities and some markets have not always created a space where everyone can feel welcome. Together, there are farmers' market operators and community organizers paving the way to improve equity in the farmers market space. Farmers' markets are for everyone and we seek to support efforts to make markets safe, inviting, and accessible for all.

Watch our social media channels for highlights from Connecticut farmers' markets and be sure to tag us on Facebook @ConnecticutGrown or Instagram @ct.grown so we can share your story.



GOVERNOR LAMONT SIGNS LEGISLATION SUPPORTING CONTINUED GROWTH OF CONNECTICUT'S SHELLFISH INDUSTRY

Governor Ned Lamont joined legislators, state officials, agricultural advocates, and business representatives for a bill signing ceremony in Stratford near the shore of the Long Island Sound to commemorate the enactment of legislation implementing policies that will support continued growth of Connecticut's shellfish industry in an effort to increase the populations of oysters along the state's shoreline and protect the sustainability of this vibrant sector of the economy.

The shellfish industry is a significant sector of the Connecticut shoreline's economy, generating more than \$30 million in sales annually and supporting

The legislation:

- Extends Public Act 490 protections – which were adopted more than 50 years ago and allow landowners to have their qualifying lands classified as farms and thereby subject to reduced property tax rates – to include aquaculture operations;
- Allows more flexibility to actively manage the natural oyster beds in Long Island Sound, ensuring that Connecticut oysters will be available for future generations through better management of the natural beds; and
- Reconstitutes and expands the Connecticut Seafood Council with new membership to drive the industry forward.

It received overwhelming support from business and agriculture organizations across the state, including the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, the Connecticut chapter of the National Audubon Society, the Connecticut Restaurant Association, and numerous small business leaders that depend on the sustainability of Connecticut's aquaculture to support their operations.

“Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing sectors in Connecticut, and this legislation continues to move the dial on this industry receiving some of the same protections and support that land farmers receive,” Governor Lamont said. “My administration will continue focusing on commonsense changes like these that business owners in Connecticut deserve. I look forward to seeing this already great industry continue to grow. Let's spread the word far and wide, Connecticut has some of the best oysters around.”

“This law ensures that the future for the industry is prosperous and encompassing of all the types of aquaculture industry in our state, including seaweed and indoor production,” Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt said. “The law also establishes parity and access to the property tax relief program, Public Act 490, to include aquaculture production, further ingrain this industry as a facet of Connecticut agriculture. Many thanks to the industry, the Connecticut Farm Bureau, and UConn Sea Grant for their partnership and commitment to this proposal and the future of the aquaculture in our state.”

“On behalf of its members and aquaculture farmers, the Connecticut Farm Bureau thanks Governor Lamont and the legislature for their support of this very important legislation,” Connecticut Farm Bureau President Paul Larson and Executive Director Joan Nichols said in a joint statement. “This legislation provides both financial relief and equity in taxation for aquaculture farmers across Connecticut by expanding Public Act 490 to include aquaculture into the state's definition of farmland.”

The governor noted that shellfish aquaculture also provides a number of environmental benefits, including by improving sediment quality through the harvesting process, stabilizing sediments and helping to protect the shoreline from erosion, and providing critical ecosystem functions by creating structure

The legislation is [Public Act 21-24](#), An Act Concerning Connecticut's Shellfish Restoration Program, The Connecticut Seafood Council and the Taxation of Certain Underwater Farmlands.

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](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Connecticut farmers are finding there's no easy way to deal with climate extremes](#), 7/25, CT Mirror

[There's a lot more than vegetables at the Bozrah Farmers Market](#), 7/26, The Day

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CT Grown + You:

A way of life meets a way of marketing

ZOOM WORKSHOP FOR PRODUCERS

August 10
9 - 10 am

August 11
6 - 7 pm

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- *Learn how to maximize and engage with CT Grown*
- *Tools, tips, and tricks to make your time spent on social media worth it*
- *and more!*

PRESENTED BY MIRANDA CREATIVE: CT GROWN BRAND MANAGERS

"CT GROWN AND YOU" VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

and hear from professionals on how to improve your marketing efforts.

Registration Link for 8/10 9:00 a.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xQz48Dp_R_WEJy-4IED2LA

Registration Link for 8/11 6:00 p.m.

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

AMS RELEASES SOLICITATION FOR TEFAP FRESH PRODUCE PACKAGES

The Agricultural Marketing Service has issued solicitation 2000007948, (12-3J14-21-B-0464) for the procurement of Mixed Fresh Produce.

All solicitation documents can be found here:

[Link to Solicitation Documents](#)

A WBSCM training has also be created to assist you in bid submission:

[Link to WBSCM Training](#)

Please note bids are due by Wednesday, August 04 2021 at 1:00 pm central time. Bids must be submitted through the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM).

Questions regarding this procurement should be directed to the Contracting Officer: David.cottrell@usda.gov, 202-260-9183.

VALLEY LAB 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station's Valley Laboratory will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary on September 2, 2021. The day long celebration to recognize this historic milestone will include tobacco and Christmas tree grower meetings in the morning, followed by nursery/landscape and arborist/forestry and hops in the afternoon. Meetings have been approved for pesticide credits for growers.

The Valley Laboratory in Windsor was established by the Board of Control in 1921 to investigate cigar wrapper tobacco production and disease control. While research on the culture of shade and broadleaf tobacco continues today, scientists now seek practical methods for controlling plant diseases, insect pests and weeds in a variety of crops including fruits, vegetables, ornamental trees and shrubs. In forests, entomologists are exploring biological control of introduced insect pests including hemlock woolly adelgid. Diagnostic services

as well as provide knowledge of the current management tools that are available and appropriate. Soil nutrient and pH testing is also conducted to allow successful plant growth on farms and landscapes while protecting environmental resources.

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



**Now Available:
CT Grown Tents**

10' x 10' King Canopy Tents

Order online at:
www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com

Pickup only

The advertisement features a white line-art illustration of a canopy tent on a green background. The tent's valance displays the 'CONNECTICUT GROWN' logo with the tagline 'A Way of Life'.



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

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:

- Cutting timber.
- Transporting timber.
- 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.

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.

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.

eligibility requirements and how to apply.



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 are waived for a limited time. Dining venues are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

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.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices last provided on July 26, 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, 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.

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

55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.

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)

Save the Date!

**Plant Science Day 2021
Wednesday, August 4**

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



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

portal.ct.gov/caes

Toll-Free 877.855.2237



Connecticut
Farmer
Veteran
Meeting

**AUGUST.09.2021
7PM**

Meeting to discuss the formation of a
Committee to bring a chapter of the
Farmer Veteran Coalition here to
Connecticut.

MORE INFORMATION AT:
CTCD.DRG/AGRICULTURE/FARMUP/



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!
@CTCRD
#2021TDF
#BikeCTFarms

TOURDES FARMS.ORG

COVER CROP CHALLENGE: 'LET IT GROW'

JOIN US

IS YOUR FARM IN NORTHWEST CT?
DO YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THE TYPICAL USE OF COVER CROPS?

IN CONSERVATION, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, LEADING COOPERATIVE & DEVELOPMENT, AND BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HAVE PARTNERED TOGETHER TO HELP FARMERS REALIZE A FULLER POTENTIAL FOR COVER CROPS. AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE 1ST FARM LOCATED IN THE SO CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S CONSERVATION, WITH AN AREA OF 1000 ACRES, SOIL HEALTH, AND THIS COVER CROP SEED BY PARTICIPATING IN THE COVER CROP CHALLENGE. THERE WILL BE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPOTS AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO COVER CROPS OR EXPERIENCED, IF 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, STRONG CYCLING, WEED MANAGEMENT, SOIL BIOLOGY AND SOIL MOISTURE. LEARN MORE DURING THE ONLINE DISTRIBUTION AND THE FREE COVER CROP SEED DELIVERY AND CHALLENGE.

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021 / 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
LOCATION: ZOOM ONLINE
REGISTER AT: [CTCRD.ORG/AGRICULTURE/SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE](https://ctcrd.org/agriculture/soil-health-initiative)

FARM ENERGY WEBINAR

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 | 7 PM FREE!





Virtual STATEWIDE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM

HOSTED BY CT RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT'S CT FARM ENERGY PROGRAM

Are you a farm or rural small business who would like to reduce your energy consumption and costs?

Guest speakers will cover energy efficiency and renewable energy program options along with State & Federal incentives including: Energize CT, USDA REAP, ZREC, Metering, Tax Incentives, and C-PACE. Learn about the CT Farm Energy Geothermal Pilot and the CT Farm Energy Audit Program. The webinar will include a Q&A.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/CTFarmEnergy>
Questions? Call 860.345.3977 or email amanda@ctfarmenergy.org

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