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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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July 9, 2021; Vol. D, No. 27

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educate young poultry owners on good biosecurity. Learn more [here](#).



Connecticut Milk Promotion Board Awards \$350,000 to Increase Sales of Milk and Dairy Products

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board (CT MPB), administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg), has awarded three grants totaling \$350,000 to projects that align with their strategic vision to increase purchases and expand the access of milk and dairy products to consumers, retailers, institutions, and other applicable outlets. The board's mission is to develop, coordinate and implement promotional, research, and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and milk consumption. The awards, determined through a competitive bidding process, effectively use promotion dollars to drive forward to achieve those goals.

"The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board is pleased to announce these awards which will activate the board's strategic vision plan to best utilize dairy farmer checkoff dollars," said Chairman Paul Miller. "We look forward to working with these partners to realize our goal of increasing access to and consumption of milk and dairy products."

Created in 2009, the CT MPB is a nine-member board of dairy farmers, state officials, and nutrition specialists formed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and the consumption of milk. The board is funded by Connecticut's dairy farmers through checkoff dollars that can only be used for this purpose.

"Connecticut's dairy farms are vital to providing residents a stable and nutritious food supply," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "Through these awards the Milk Promotion Board will be able to highlight the innovation and sustainability of dairy farms, while promoting consumption of the milk and dairy products they produce."

comprehensive multimedia promotion plan that focuses on increasing the consumption of milk and dairy products in Connecticut through highlighting the benefits of dairy products and dairy farming to key consumer demographics.

New England Dairy received a \$150,000 award to increase the purchase of fluid milk and dairy products by consumers, retailers, institutions, and other applicable outlets by developing, coordinating, and implementing promotional, research and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and Connecticut milk consumption.

New England Dairy received a \$50,000 award to increase engagement and communication channels with state dairy farmers on the use of Connecticut's dairy checkoff funds and deliver strategies for dairy farms to interact with each other, and the public, to promote increased milk and dairy product consumption.

Connecticut is home to more than 90 dairy farms with 19,500 dairy cows which produced 438 million pounds of milk in 2020. It is the second largest agricultural sales sector in the state. To learn more about Connecticut dairy farms, visit www.ctdairy.org.



GEAR UP FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Governor Ned Lamont and Connecticut emergency management officials are reminding Connecticut residents that with the height of hurricane season just around the corner, they should take the steps necessary to prepare for any type of severe weather that may impact the state. The Atlantic hurricane season runs each year from June 1 to November 30, with the principal threat period for Connecticut occurring between mid-August and mid-October.

The Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has **issued a memo** to their counterparts at the municipal level with guidance for the 2021 hurricane season.

[Apple iTunes store](#) and the [Google Play store](#), provides Connecticut residents with information that is useful in emergency situations, and also gives preparedness tips in advance of an emergency

In addition, USDA offers agriculture specific tips and resources to help you prepare and recover from hurricane events. Learn more [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.

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

[‘It really hasn’t hit me yet’: Torrington’s Weigold Farm ceases six-generation dairy operation](#), 7/5, Republic American

[6 Connecticut flower farms and festivals to check out this summer](#), 7/7, CT Post

[Connecticut App Aims To Connect Buyers With Fresh Produce, 7/7, WSHU](#)



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.



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.

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.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 2, 2021.

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.



NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Kennedy is a professional speaker, strategist and author who, over the last two decades, has been building and delivering business sales, service and success strategies to over 500,000 audience members world-wide.... one innovative idea at a time.

John presents to the green industry at a local, state, national and international level on all aspects of business—Customer Experience, Strategic & Succession Planning, Team Alignment, Productivity & Profitability, and Creating a Culture of Measurement & Metrics.

His consulting work has him in high demand among progressive companies and associations in North America, Australia, and the Caribbean...including Marriott Hotels, Elizabeth Arden, The Baltimore Ravens, Exxon/Mobil, Canada Bread, Taco Bell, United States Air Force, and Air Care Bermuda along with dozens of associations, garden centers, growers and landscapers in the green industry.

Visit John on-line at www.johnkennedyconsulting.com to get a closer look at his topics, videos, and clients.

The biennial Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo is co-sponsored by New England Floriculture, Inc. - a group of grower representatives from the Northeast, augmented by University and Cooperative Extension staff in each state who specialize in greenhouse crops and management.

The full program will be posted on the NEGC website in Mid-July. Attendee registration will open in August. To learn more, click [here](#).

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

innovation projects, and these grants are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

USDA will accept applications on [Grants.gov](https://www.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.

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](#).

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

Prices last provided on July 5, 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

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

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

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

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](#).

The University of Connecticut, Department of Extension is seeking applicants for a full-time (11-month), non-tenure track Assistant/Associate Extension Educator, primarily based at the Fairfield County Extension Office in Bethel, CT. Extension Educators are community-based faculty who make a difference in communities by connecting community needs with university resources. Position level/rank will be commensurate with experience working with Extension. The anticipated start date is July 2021. 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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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, create and 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 currently planting chestnut 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 plan. Meet two farm families in Connecticut who get started in improving farm diversity and expand tree agroforestry.

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

For more info, please contact: john@ctrccd.org

Agroforestry: a natural partner to your farm

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JUNE 1- SEPT. 30

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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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