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Connecticut Grown strawberries are now in season. Find a patch near you to start picking at CTGrown.org.

Producers: List your farm, farmers' market or farm stand on CTGrownMap.com by clicking here.







Celebrate June Dairy Month

Connecticut Dairy Farmers Support School Feeding Programs

June is National Dairy Month and Connecticut's dairy farmers through the <u>Connecticut Milk Promotion Board</u> have awarded \$7,752 Dairy on the Go grants to Connecticut schools. This round of funding is helping schools upgrade equipment to offer new and unique foods that include nutritious milk and other dairy items on the menus. These grants aid school nutrition staff in overcoming the challenges they face to feed students.

Historically, over <u>280,000 Connecticut students</u> relied on school meals for a portion of their daily nutrition. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed children's food insecurity to its highest levels in decades. But school nutrition staffers are fighting back.

Six schools from the Stamford School District were awarded grants ranging from \$600 to \$2,000 each. Most schools choose to begin offering smoothies made with milk, yogurt, fruit, and sometimes greens, as smoothies are a great portable menu option that can be eaten in the cafeteria, classroom, or on the go.

At Stonington High School, the Dairy on the Go grant is being used to purchase blenders and promote dairy nutrition by serving daily breakfast smoothies. Becky Fowler, Director of Food Services, explained, "Dairy allows us to provide nine essential nutrients, such as calcium, vitamin D, and lean protein to our student body on a daily basis. These nutrients fuel the growing bodies and minds of our students, increase menu options for our vegetarian population, and allows us to support our local dairy farmers."

Connecticut Schools Awarded 'Dairy on the Go' Grants:

- Dolan Middle School, Stamford, CT \$669
- Stamford High School, Stamford, CT \$1,468
- Turn of the River Middle School, Stamford, CT \$676
- Rogers International School, Stamford, CT \$1,249

Connecticut dairy farms have been supporting local schools for decades. Dairy farms are the heartbeat of many communities, creating jobs, investing in the local economy, and supporting childhood health and education. Milk and other dairy foods can play an important role in overall health and wellness. Eating three daily servings of dairy foods like milk, cheese, or yogurt can help close key nutrient gaps and contribute to nutrient-rich, healthy eating patterns. Milk provides a unique package of nine essential nutrients including calcium, potassium, and Vitamin D – a nutritional powerhouse for families and students.

Learn more about Connecticut's dairy farm families and where to find fresh, local, delicious milk and dairy products at www.CTDairy.org.



USDA TO INVEST MORE THAN \$4 BILLION TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SYSTEM

Citing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and recent supply chain disruptions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced plans to invest more than \$4 billion to strengthen critical supply chains through the Build Back Better initiative. The new effort will strengthen the food system, create new market opportunities, tackle the climate crisis, help communities that have been left behind, and support good-paying jobs throughout the supply chain. Today's announcement supports the Biden Administration's broader work on strengthening the resilience of critical supply chains as directed by Executive Order 14017 America's Supply Chains. Funding is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act and earlier pandemic assistance such as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

Read the full release here.

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 <u>DPH vans intake form</u>.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Ledyard farm gets state grant, The Day, 6/4

11 local ice cream places worth an afternoon drive in Connecticut, CT Post, 6/7 CT Department of Agriculture awards farm transition grant applicants, Litchfield County Times, 6/7

Old-fashioned dairy thrives at Shaggy Coos Farm in Easton, News 12, 6/7 Simple Ways to Cut Back on Food Waste, WFSB, 6/8



JOIN OUR TEAM

AG MARKETING & INSPECTION REP 1, AG DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Seeking two (2) full-time Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 (AMIR 1) positions to support grant program administration and website management for the agency.

DETAILS: https://bit.ly/3wXi7ux

DEADLINE: JUNE 16, 2021



DAIRY FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO COST OF PRODUCTION SURVEY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and UCONN Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy are encouraging Connecticut dairy farmers to complete the Cost of Production Survey which is utilized to determine calculations for the quarterly Dairy Farm Viability Payments issued through the Community Investment Act.

Survey results provide up-to-date data to reflect the current cost of production for dairy farms of all sizes in Connecticut. The data currently used to calculate the quarterly Dairy Farm Viability payments is 10 years old.

contained a code unique to your farm. If you have not responded, please do so immediately. The survey can be completed online or by paper copy.

- Did you misplace the code?
- Need assistance completing the survey?

Contact Richard Meinert (<u>Richard.meinert@uconn.edu</u>, 860-626-6857) or Alyssa McDonnell (<u>alyssa.mcdonnell@uconn.edu</u>, 860-992-7550).

For more information or FAQs, please click here.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has contracted with the University of Connecticut Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy to conduct this survey. All information is protected and the unique farm identifier code will be used to determine which questionnaires have and have not been returned.

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 <u>published the first notice of funding availability (NOFA)</u> (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.

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 <u>Grants.gov</u> 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 <u>farmers.gov/urban</u>.

\$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 <u>FMPP webpage</u> and <u>LFPP webpage</u>, 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.

\$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 RSFP program is part of Congress's ongoing efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local and regional food systems.

partnerships and encourage foodshed-level approaches to planning and developing local and regional food economies.

More information on the application process can be found on the <u>AMS RFSP</u> <u>webpage</u>. The FY2021 applications must be received before 11:59 p.m. EST on July 6, 2021. All submissions must be done through <u>grants.gov</u>.





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.

AGRI-TOURISM, ON-FARM DIRECT MARKETING WEBINAR SERIES

The Penn State Agritourism team is working with the University of Vermont and other extension services in the Northeast to deliver weekly, one-hour webinar programming for agritourism and on-farm markets. The series will cover several topics for farms open to visitors.

The next Zoom-based interactive discussion will be held on June 15 at 2:00 pm. Featuring Elisa Fleming from Verdant View Farm in Paradise, PA, the discussion will focus on how the pandemic has made it necessary for farms offering tours and overnight stay experiences to adapt their operations. "Our visitors arrived carrying the burden of the pandemic on their shoulders, and it was rewarding when we could see that burden lifted as they enjoyed the outdoors, spent time with the animals and farmers, and felt comfortable in a new setting" shared Elisa Fleming. Learn how Verdant View Farm has provided a welcoming and safe environment for farm tour and B&B visitors throughout

Webinars in the series are free, but registration is required. Register <u>here</u> and come prepared to share your experiences, concerns, and questions about farm tours and overnight stays.

Previous sessions covered the following issues:

- Getting Ready for Pick Your Own Do's and Don'ts for the Upcoming Season
- Agritourism Operation Checklists and Self-Assessment
- Crisis Management and Communications for Farms Open to Visitors
- Liability Insurance for Farms Open to Visitors
- Cultivating Farm and Food Safety for Visitors: Guided Tours of Two Farms

Recordings for these and future sessions are posted online here.



FREE ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS FOR CONNECTICUT FARMERS

For those that are growing commercially, aka are a farm businesses, there is an opportunity for you to have consultations with some of the experts in the state surrounding a wide variety of topics.

Look at the different types of consultations that are available here: https://newfarms.uconn.edu/consultations/

These are free one-on-one consultations to Connecticut Farmers, with specialists in certain fields of knowledge. These consultations are intended for those who have been farming for 10 years or less, but folks can apply if they have been farming for a longer period of time.

Sign up for an consultation with an experts on the topics of

- Vegetable Production
- Livestock
- Conservation and Land use
- Fruit production
- Flower production

The consultations will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis and are subject to the consultants availability. If all spots are filled, we will maintain a waiting list. Deadlines for sign ups are dependent on each consultant.

love gardening, please access the <u>UConn Home and Garden Education</u> Center.

Sign up here: https://newfarms.uconn.edu/consultations/

NORTHEAST SARE NOW ACCEPTING GRANT PREPROPOSALS

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is now accepting preproposals for three grant programs: Research and Education, Professional Development and Research for Novel Approaches. These grant programs are aimed at improving sustainable agriculture and local food systems throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Preproposals--which capture preliminary project concepts--are due online by 5:00 p.m. on August 3. Applicants selected to submit full proposals will be contacted in mid-August with full proposals due on October 26.

A webinar about Northeast SARE and these grant programs will be offered on June 24 at noon. Learn more about which grant program best fits your project idea, the components of a strong preproposal and steps to apply. Space is limited so save your spot by registering at: go.uvm.edu/nesarewebinar. The webinar will be live captioned and recorded for future viewing.

SIGN UP NOW FOR FARM CREDIT EAST'S WINERY BENCHMARK PROGRAM

The sign-up period for Farm Credit East's annual Winery Benchmarks program is now open. The Winery Benchmarks is a unique program for Northeast wineries to measure their businesses against wine industry peers. The program is now accepting registrations for the 2021 benchmark.

The program offers participants two report options: the Management Review report or an Executive Summary report. The Management Review report provides a highly detailed comprehensive report on every area of the winery business. The Executive Summary report requires less data for a reduced cost. It is ideal for wineries that are just getting started in the program and may not have all the data required for the more comprehensive report.

Registration for the 2021 benchmark is currently underway. Data will be required by June 25. A meeting for benchmark participants is being planned for August.

If you are a past participant or new to the program, contact your local Farm Credit East office to learn more. You can also contact the program's director, Gregg McConnell, at <u>Gregg.Mcconnell@farmcrediteast.com</u>.



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 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 outreach@ctfarmland.org with the subject line "All Webinar Registration" and you will be sent your personal Zoom links and codes.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT New Holland Dairy Auction - New

Prices last provided on June 7, 2021 <u>Holland, PA</u>

Northeast Regional Eggs New Holland, PA Hay Report

New England Shell Eggs USDA Mexico Canada Weekly

<u>Update</u>

<u>Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -</u> <u>Eighty Four, PA</u> <u>Boston</u>

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. <u>Sonpal's Power Fence</u> 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.
- 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
- 55. Kuhn FC250G Discbine Mower with Gyrodine Hitch Hyd. swing, low usage excellent cond. \$8,500.00. 203-848-4582.

Wanted

Job Opportunities

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is seeking two (2) full-time Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 (AMIR 1) positions to support grant program administration and website management for the agency. The positions will be based out of 450 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford, 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A flex schedule is available for work-related schedule adjustments to attending industry meetings on nights and weekends; a telework option may also be available. The AMIR 1 will be expected to work independently managing a variety of state and federally funded grant programs for the industry. Understanding and experience with website design and maintenance will be expected. On-farm site visits will be necessary, therefore the incumbents must have an understanding of agriculture production and seasonality. Writing reports and coordinating events and workshops will also be required. The ability to perform other related duties as required will be important.

Deadline to apply is June 16. For more information or to apply, click here: https://bit.ly/3wXi7ux

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.

The UConn Extension Center located in Vernon, CT is seeking applications for two (2) Educational Program Assistant 1 positions – one full-time position and one part-time position (75%). These positions are responsible for supporting and helping implement high-quality, comprehensive, Extension programming at different program sites throughout the region, with specific support to Farm Business Planning, Beginning Farmer, Food Systems, Food Safety, Vegetable, Master Gardener, and 4-H programs. The Educational Program Assistants will report to the Center Coordinator to prioritize programmatic work assignments.

Please apply online at https://hr.uconn.edu/jobs, Staff Positions, Search #495338. This job posting is scheduled to be removed at 11:55 p.m. Eastern time on June 22, 2021.

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



portal.ct.gov/caes

Toll-Free 877.855.2237









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