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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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School is out, summer is here, and Connecticut's pick-your-own farms are bursting with ripe, juicy strawberries.

Find a CT Berry patch near you at www.CTGrown.org.



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.

USDA ANNOUNCES \$55.2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO INCREASE CAPACITY AND EXPAND ACCESS IN MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION OPERATIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$55.2 million in competitive grant funding available through the new Meat and Poultry

“We are building capacity and increasing economic opportunity for small and midsized meat and poultry processors and producers across the country.” Secretary Tom Vilsack said. “Through MPIRG, meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities can cover the costs for necessary improvements to achieve a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Poultry Products Inspection Act, or to operate under a state’s Cooperative Interstate Shipment program.”

USDA encourages grant applications that focus on improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency; developing new and expanding existing markets; increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand; maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards; obtaining a larger commercial presence; and increasing access to slaughter or processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, and veteran producers. Eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities include commercial businesses, cooperatives, and tribal enterprises.

MPIRG’s **Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection (PFGI) project** is for processing facilities currently in operation and are working toward Federal inspection. Applicants can be located anywhere in the states and territories. Whereas, MPIRG’s **Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Compliance project** is only for processing facilities located in states with a Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) CIS program. These states currently include Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin. Applicants must be working toward CIS program compliance requirements to operate a state-inspected facility or make a good faith effort toward doing so.

Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 2, 2021. Any grant application submitted after the due date will not be considered unless the applicant provides documentation of an extenuating circumstance that prevented their timely submission of the grant application. Read more in [AMS Late and Non-Responsive Application Policy](#) (PDF, 431 KB).

AMS offers webinars for applicants to help walk them through the Request for Application. Additionally, grants management specialists are standing by to answer any incoming questions and emails during regular business hours. For more information about grant eligibility and program requirements, [visit the MPIRG webpage](#), or contact us at mpirg@usda.gov.

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

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

[The Sustainable Kitchen: Reducing Food Waste](#), 6/17, WTNH

[Danbury Farmers' Market and RVNAhealth Team Up for Vax + Veggies](#), 6/21, HamletHub

[Enko to Co-develop Selective Crop Health Solutions with Major Ag Player](#), 6/22, PRNewswire

[Connecticut's Old State House farmers market returns to Hartford](#), 6/23, Hartford Courant

[Eating Under The Sea: UConn Researchers Find Health Benefits of Connecticut-Grown Sugar Kelp](#), 6/24, UConn Today

[Small Business Spotlight: Hilltop Apiaries](#), 6/24, WFSB



Wednesday, June 30th

3pm-4:30pm

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/159520346651>

Our Connecticut cohorts at the U.S. Small Business Administration, CT DoAg, CT Department of Economic Development, CT Small Business Development Center, Farm Service Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture will present on opportunities to access capital for stakeholders and small businesses to expand and rebuild rural communities.

Panelists include:

- **David Lehman**, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development
- **Bryan Hurlburt**, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Agriculture
- **Carolyn Marlowe**, Farm Loan Manager, USDA Farm Service Agency
- **Catherine Marx**, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration
- **Matt Pugliese**, Associate State Director, CT Small Business Development Center
- **Johan Strandson**, Area Director, U.S. Dept of Agriculture



U.S. Small Business Administration



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CTGrown.gov



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 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

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.

LAAAs 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.



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.

A mailing was sent out in early April to all licensed milk producers. This 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 (Richard.meinert@uconn.edu, 860-626-6857) or Alyssa McDonnell (alyssa.mcdonnell@uconn.edu, 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 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.

\$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.

Administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the RFSP program provides competitive grant funding to support multi-stakeholder 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 [AMS RFSP webpage](#). The FY2021 applications must be received before 11:59 p.m. EST on July 6, 2021. All submissions must be done through [grants.gov](#).



virtual **CONNECTICUT
FARMER
VETERAN
MEETING**

**JUNE.30.2021
7PM**

Are you a Veteran Farmer or a Veteran thinking about a career in agriculture? Join us for an informational meet, greet and networking event among Connecticut Veterans. Part of the discussion will include forming a Committee to bring a chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition here to Connecticut.

**INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?
REGISTER AT: [CTRQD.ORG/AGRICULTURE/FARMUP/](https://ctrqd.org/agriculture/farmup/)**



Updated Farmers' Market Reference Guide Available



UPDATED FARMERS' MARKET REFERENCE GUIDE AVAILABLE

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 21, 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

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

John Bean 200 gal. S.Steel Sprayer on skids, 500 psi pressure J. Bean Pumb, Mechanical Agitation, J.Bean model 785 H.D. Spray fun in New Condition, Honda OHV engine & 100' Hose on reel. Put on pickup truck or small trailer, V.Nice Condition. \$2,800. Also for sale, a Bush Hog Model HDSS1L subsoiler. Cat. 1&2 hookups, goes 23" deep, in brand new condition. \$500.00/make offer. Also have 3-660 lb. bulk bags of "Charcoal Green soil d. Tox" Brand Activated Charcoal in powder form to mix with water & apply to soil with sprayer. Need to sell-only \$100.00 per bag. Call 203-283-1459, leave message.

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 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

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)





GEOHERMAL PILOT PROGRAM

Providing FREE Geothermal FARM ASSESSMENTS

CT FARM ENERGY GEOTHERMAL 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/>



Virtual Farm Field Day

All farmers are welcome!

JULY 15, 2021
6:00PM

Featuring Adamah Farm in Falls Village, CT via Zoom

Thank you for visiting our farm! Consider how to regularly increase your productivity.

Join us for a virtual field day to learn how to increase your additional farm income and an opportunity to diversify crops and use space that isn't suited for crops in other ways.

Come learn about establishing a chestnut grove on farm. USDA, NRCS, and Agricultural Service providers. We'll walk through the process of assessing the property for potential tree crops and opportunities to use. Look at the steps to establish and maintain the potential tree crop planting of chestnut trees on a newly planted orchard on part of farm expansion. In the webinar we'll go through the process. Hear about farmer's success and how the newly planted trees are part of the family. Learn how to use farm in Connecticut can get started in expanding farm diversity and expand into agriculture.

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

For more info, please email info@ctcrd.org



Save the Date!

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



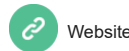
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