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As temperatures drop and snow piles up, all livestock owners - commercial and hobby farmers - are encouraged to take a few moments to inspect their barns and outbuildings for fire hazards.

Go to <a href="https://www.nfpa.org/farms">www.nfpa.org/farms</a> to learn more about fire safety on the farm and download their barn safety checklist.

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# 2023 Farm Bill Conversations

Conversations are underway regarding the 2023 Farm Bill, which is the primary agriculture and food policy legislation of the federal government. The current farm bill, Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, was enacted into law in December 2018 and expires in 2023. The farm bill sets the stage for our food and farm systems – as Congress reviews, proposes, and debates changes for the next version it is imperative that small states such as Connecticut have a voice to ensure actions taken will benefit our residents and producers.

On Wednesday, January 26, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes and Congressman Joe Courtney visited Michael's Greenhouses in Cheshire with Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt.

Greenhouse production is Connecticut's leading agricultural sector, with 583 farms growing on nearly 13 million feet of production space, according to a report released by CT Greenhouse Growers Association in September 2021.

Business owner Michael Arisco led the group on a tour to showcase the business, which has greenhouses over 350,000 square feet of environmentally controlled indoor growing space on over 35 acres. Along the way, he and his team explained how they are innovating and upgrading facilities to include technology and robotics to maximize efficiency, improve quality, and minimize environmental impact.

This was an opportunity for Representatives Hayes, who sits on the oversight committee for the next Farm Bill, to see first-hand how producers are already integrating systems to address sustainability and climate change initiatives. The

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On Thursday, January 27, Commissioner Hurlburt and Representative Courtney met at New England Meat Packing Company in Stafford Springs, CT, to tour the meat processing facility and discuss the current USDA grant opportunities for meat processors.

Earlier this month, the Biden-Harris administration announced plans to dedicate \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan funds for expansion of independent processing capacity for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain.

With a continued concern about processing capacity in our state and region, it is imperative that we support operations that are looking to start up or expand with these USDA grants. A comprehensive approach with our federal delegation enhances each application and opportunity.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will continue to work with representatives to highlight the various sectors of agriculture heading into the farm bill discussions.





# CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION COUNCIL

# 2022 Outstanding Young Farmer Nominations Requested











#### CONNECTICUT SEEKS OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER NOMINATIONS

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) is seeking nominations for the 2022 Outstanding Young Farmer. Awarded annually during Ag Day at the Capitol, the Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer Award recognizes the winner's progress in their agricultural career, their soil and water conservation practices, and their contributions to the well-being of the community, the state, and the nation. Nomination applications must be submitted electronically via

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CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Century Farm and Ag Journalism awards. Details on the programs are posted at www.ctaginfocouncil.org.



CONNECTICUT GROWN PRODUCER SURVEY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is seeking producer feedback on the 2021 CT Grown campaign. The short survey will take approximately three minutes to complete. We value and appreciate your input as we work together to strengthen CT Grown.

#### Take the survey.

If you are looking for more information on adding events, downloading the new CT Grown logo, adding your farm to the interactive map please visit <a href="https://www.CTGrown.org">www.CTGrown.org</a>.

#### **COVID-19 RESOURCES**

- <u>CT COVID-19 Knowledge-Base</u>: COVID-19 resource to answer your questions on self-tests, testing sites, and more.
- Self-Test Page: Information about self-tests.
- <u>CT COVID-19 Response</u>: Current information including data tracker, testing and vaccine sites, reopening guidance and more.

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.

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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.

#### 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

<u>Gilbertie's Organics in Westport Celebrates 100 years</u>, CT Post, 1/27 <u>CT hemp cultivation plan approved for 2022, applications now open</u>, Hartford Business Journal, 1/27

<u>Lyman Orchards Expands, Moves Pie Making Operations to New Haven, NBC CT. 1/24</u>

<u>Shelton farm's meat earns USDA approval for sale in stores</u>, Shelton Herald, 1/21

603.357.1600



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# CONNECTICUT FARMERS FACE SUCCESSION PLANNING CHALLENGES HEAD-ON WITH HELP FROM LOCAL GROUPS

As farmers dig into winter and farm planning, they can also get help with succession planning at winter workshops and through individualized coaching. In Connecticut, senior farmers aged 65 or older operate 32% of the state's farms. Of these 1,892 senior farmers, just 7% of them have someone under age 45 managing the farm with them. This farmland will transfer ownership in the next decade in one way or another.

A free live webinar series will help Connecticut's transitioning farmers and junior generation farmers learn the basics of succession planning, how to get started, where to find advisors and additional resources, ask questions of succession planning experts, and get support on this challenging process. All generations, including family and non-family members, who may play a role in the farm's future are encouraged to attend. This four-part live webinar series will meet virtually on Wednesdays beginning January 26 through February from 11:00am – 1:00pm each day. Register for the Zoom link.

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succession planning, clarify vision and goals, and get next steps on paper. There is homework and assistance available between sessions. And sessions include ample time to share and learn from other farmers facing similar questions. Farmers will leave with exercises for visioning the future of the farm, clear next steps, and documents to assemble to provision for a smooth transition. This three-part program will meet in-person: Thursdays February 10, March 3, and March 31 (snow dates Friday of same week) at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Route 30, Vernon, CT.

Register for the Farm Succession School by January 27th or until the course is filled. For more information or to register, call (603)357-1600 or go to <a href="https://www.landforgood.org/events">www.landforgood.org/events</a>.

#### AGRITOURISM WEBINAR ON BUYING/SELLING LOCAL PRODUCTS

A free webinar, "Innovative Ways to Sell Agricultural Products Direct to Consumers," will be offered in both English and French on February 15. While geared to agritourism operators and others working with and studying local food systems, anyone is welcome to participate.

The first hour (11 a.m.-12 p.m.) of this webinar will be conducted in English and the second in French (12-1 p.m.). **Advance registration is required** at <a href="http://go.uvm.edu/agtourism-gatherings">http://go.uvm.edu/agtourism-gatherings</a>. Please contact Becky Bartlett at (802) 257-7967, ext. 301, if requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate.

Future webinar topics include Culinary Innovation on the Farm (March 1), Agritourism and Wellness (April 5), and Agritourism Networking Session (May 10). All webinars are recorded and can be viewed at <a href="https://www.agritourismworkshop.com/gatherings-past">www.agritourismworkshop.com/gatherings-past</a>.

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#### HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMED IN WILD BIRDS

USDA APHIS has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds located in NC and SC. Anyone involved with poultry – commercial or backyard flocks alike – should review their biosecurity plan and enhance their biosecurity practices to assure the health of their birds.

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl.

As part of our efforts to prevent the introduction of Avian Influenza into Connecticut poultry, the department conducts surveillance testing of birds throughout the state. Commercial and non-commercial flock owners are participating in our surveillance program. We have partnered with the Connecticut Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Connecticut to do low or no cost testing of birds for the Avian Influenza virus. We also have strict importation restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus in our state.

Bird owners need to be aware and report anything out of the ordinary. Anyone who may suspect a poultry on their farm may have died from unknown causes should call the State Veterinarian at 860-713-2505 or email <a href="mailto:ctstate.vet@ct.gov">ct.gov</a>. Signs of Avian Influenza include depression, decreased feed and water consumption, decreased egg production, soft or misshapen eggs, and respiratory signs (coughing and sneezing). You can also find out more by visiting the <a href="mailto:connecticut Department of Public Health's pandemic fluwebpage">Connecticut Department of Public Health's pandemic fluwebpage</a> or visit the <a href="mailto:USDA's Bird Fluwebsite">USDA's Bird Fluwebsite</a>.

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# FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUTREACH: SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST. The meeting is hosted by the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement and the USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The meeting will focus on the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) program, which is the combination of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) and the Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2501 Program). The program encourages and assists socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFRs) and beginning farmers and ranchers (BFRs) in the ownership and operation of farms and ranches through education and training; and promote equitable participation in the agricultural programs of USDA. The call highlights best practices and innovative examples of faith and community-based organizations, technical assistance providers, and intermediaries that implement both BFRDP and 2501.

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Cordova at <u>Alex.Cordova@usda.gov</u>.

To register for the meeting via Zoom follow the link below.

**Register Now** 

# NOMINATIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR FARM CREDIT EAST'S LIPINSKI RURAL INITIATIVES AWARD

Last fall, Farm Credit East announced the opening of nominations for the Lipinski Rural Initiatives Award, which aims to recognize innovative and transformational efforts to revitalize Northeast rural communities. The nomination deadline for this award has been extended to February 18, 2022.

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the Northeast; contribute to the quality of life in rural communities; or enhance rural infrastructure, such as community facilities and broadband necessary for strong rural economies.

For more information follow the link below.

**Visit Farm Credit East** 

#### 2022 FARM TRANSITION GRANT AVAILABLE

The 2022 Farm Transition Grant (FTG) is now available at <a href="https://www.CTGrown.gov/grants">www.CTGrown.gov/grants</a>. Applications will be accepted until March 8, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

The 2022 program will again provide matching funds to Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives for the diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value-added agricultural production and sales, and other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at <a href="www.CTGrown.gov/grants">www.CTGrown.gov/grants</a>. Additional detail on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications will be submitted electronically via the new <a href="mailto:DoAg Grants Portal">DoAg Grants Portal</a>. Questions regarding the Farm Transition Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at <a href="mailto:Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov">Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov</a>.

A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants in learning about the structure of the grant and application process will occur on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. via a Webex call. Please click here to register for the webinar. The presentation will be recorded and posted to the agency website if you are unable to attend the live event.

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### Save the Date

SLF 101, SLF Summit, NPB SLF Meeting Virtual Meetings in 2022

The Second Annual Spotted Lanternfly 101 Virtual Meeting February 17, 2022 - 10:00AM-4:00PM Eastern

The Fifth Annual Spotted Lanternfly Summit Virtual Meeting

March 1-3, 2022 - 10:00AM-6:00PM Eastern

National Plant Board Spotted Lanternfly Virtual Meeting – Members Only

March 9, 2022 - 2:00-3:00PM Eastern



Registration Information will be provided for meetings closer to the events.

Please plan to join us and learn more about this invasive pest.

For more information on Spotted Lanternfly from Cornell visit the link below.

**Learn More** 



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The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) invests in projects that advance the regional dairy industry. A range of NE-DBIC funding opportunities totaling approximately \$3 million will be available for farmers, processors, and industry partners in 2022:

- January <u>Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for modernized packaging initiatives that prioritize sustainability, scalability, and marketability.
- **February** <u>Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant</u>: Funding for projects that elevate multiple dairy businesses through activities that engage consumers and promote regionally produced dairy products.
- **February** <u>Grazing, Forage, & Alternative Management Cohort Technical Assistance Contract</u>: Contracts for service providers to offer technical assistance to cohorts of farmers in grazing, forage production, or alternative farm management strategies.
- *April* <u>Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant</u>: Funding for value-added dairy processors to access professional services to implement marketing tactics, brand improvements, and overall strategy.
- June <u>Dairy Processor Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.
- *October* <u>Dairy Farm Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy farms to take a holistic approach to implementing community- and climate-forward dairy production and business strategies.

For more information about the projects follow the link below.

**Learn More** 



### RESPONDING TO CHANGE, PIVOTING FOR PROFITABILITY

Take charge of your business. Respond to disruption.

Maintain financial security.

Mondays: Jan. 31 - Feb. 28 10am-12:30pm

Wednesdays: Jan. 12-26 & Feb. 9 3:30pm-8:00pm

# 2022 TRAINING SERIES: RESPONDING TO CHANGE, PIVOTING FOR PROFITABILITY

The Carrot Project's 2022 Training Series: "Responding to Change, Pivoting for Profitability" comes with free follow-up technical assistance

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and practice implementing them — to help you understand the impacts of disruptions on your business's financial health, so you can make changes with confidence and stay in business.

Space is still available for our Monday series starting on Monday, Jan. **31,** and continuing on Feb 7, 14, and 28 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Follow the link below for more information and to register!

Learn more and Register

#### NRCS ANNOUNCES URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN CONNECTICUT

Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, has announced the agency is rolling out its Urban Agriculture Initiative in Connecticut and will be accepting applications for FY2022 funding through March 18, 2022.

Urban agriculture pioneers are taking action in their communities growing not only fresh, healthy produce, but increasing opportunity and knowledge and improving the beauty of their neighborhoods. Through this initiative, NRCS will help urban farmers care for the natural resources on their land – soil, water, air, plants, and animals by addressing soil health, irrigation and water conservation, weeds and pests, and high tunnels.

For more information visit the link below.

**Learn More** 

# NEW & EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing several new and expanded opportunities for climate-smart agriculture in 2022. Updates include nationwide availability of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Conservation Incentive Contracts option, a new and streamlined EQIP Cover Crop Initiative, and added flexibilities for producers to easily re-enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). These improvements to NRCS' working lands conservation

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agriculture.

For more information follow the link below.

Visit USDA.gov

#### ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the <u>CT Grown Map</u> page. All agricultural businesses, farm stands, and farmers' markets are welcome to apply. There is no fee to participate and applications are accepted year round. To apply to be listed, visit the <u>CT Grown Map Google Form</u>.

### **Ag Market Pricing**

<u>Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT</u> <u>New Holland Dairy Auction - New</u>

Prices provided on January 24, 2022 <u>Holland, PA</u>

CT Farmers' Market Prices New Holland, PA Hay Report

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

Northeast Regional Eggs USDA Mexico Canada Weekly
Update

<u>New England Shell Eggs</u> <u>Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -</u>

<u>Boston</u>

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction
Summary

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -

**Boston** 

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -

Eighty Four, PA

#### **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 <a href="https://www.bludon.com">www.bludon.com</a>

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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. <a href="mailto:lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com">lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com</a> Appointments available any time.

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 details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, <a href="mailto:Griffinfarm@aol.com">Griffinfarm@aol.com</a>; www.griffinfarmtools.com

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

22-1. Honeybees: 5-frame Deep nucs only, available first week May. Jones Apiaries, LLC, 860-677-9391.

22-2. For Sale: New Holland 259 hydraulic hay rake, \$2,500. International 435 baler, housed, \$3,500. Both good condition, ready to make good hay. Tim, 203-627-2398, <a href="mailto:nbffarm@gmail.com">nbffarm@gmail.com</a>.

#### Wanted

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

### **Job Opportunities**

UConn Extension at the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is looking to hire a Project Co-Coordinator to assist with its training program and activities for new farmers (Solid Ground Farmer Training Program). The position begins in March and is year-round. Deadline to apply is February 11, 2022. Click here for more information on the position.

CitySeed is expanding and seeking a part-time Development Associate to join the team. <u>Learn more</u>.

Brass City Harvest in Waterbury, CT is seeking a culinary kitchen leader. To learn more about the position, click <u>here.</u>

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a temporary, project-based position without benefits. 20 hours/week, up to 50% in-person at Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon. Deadline January 31 at 5 p.m. Click here for more information on the position.

UConn Extension is looking to hire a 4-H Youth Development Food and Agricultural Literacy - Assistant/Associate Cooperative Extension Educator. Closing date: January 31.

Details: https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/18891.

Interested in Advertising? Click here for details on rates and submission.

## <u>Upcoming Events</u> (click on image below for info)





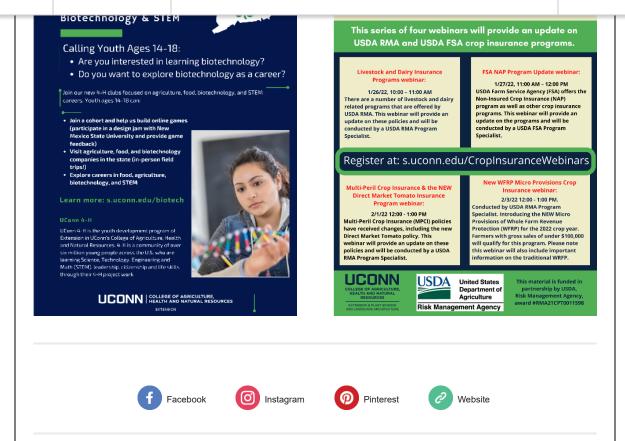


REGISTER HERE - s.uconn.edu/regsarespring22



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