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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  
Version en español disponible en línea en [CTGrown.gov](https://CTGrown.gov).

## In This Issue

[February 25, 2022; Vol. E, No. 8](#)

[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Update](#)

[Avian Influenza Alert](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Big E Exhibitor Application](#)

[Beer, Wine, and Spirits Show](#)

[Specialty Crop Block Grant](#)

[Hemp Webinar Series](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



It's National Clam Chowder Day! Whether you favor Manhattan or New England-style, today is the perfect time to cozy up inside with a bowl of deliciousness. Visit [CTGrown.org](https://CTGrown.org) to find a producer near you for the freshest ingredients.



## Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion in Connecticut Agriculture

*Working Groups Compile Preliminary Recommendations*

Nearly one year ago, Governor Ned Lamont announced on March 10, 2021, that his administration was forming a working group with the goal of increasing diversity, racial equity, and inclusion within Connecticut's agriculture industry. Administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg), the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Connecticut Agriculture Working Group was tasked with engaging and supporting current and future farmers and those in the industry who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

The announcement included a call for nominations to fulfill the structure of the working groups of one main entity and five smaller topics, including:

- Access to Capital and Financial Planning
- Access to Secure Land Tenure
- Access to Education and Training
- Access to Resources, Infrastructure, and Business Planning
- Market Access and Diversification

More than 70 nominations were received reflecting a broad range of organizations and businesses, as well as a demonstrating a strong desire to be part of the solution. More than half were selected to participate in the working groups to allow for a wide range of voices and perspectives. The group members have been focused on identifying the barriers to entering and remaining successful in agriculture, especially for Black, Indigenous, and people of color in Connecticut.

Following introductory meetings, the Access to Capital and Financial Planning and Access to Resources, Infrastructure and Business Planning were combined into one working group.

Overarching discussions to date have included language justice, accessibility of department grants, how to improve outreach and communications, producer

While the working groups continue to finesse their recommendations for future implementation, there are some ideas that have been acted upon already. One such example is a recommendation from the Access to Education and Training working group to offer the CT Weekly Agricultural Report in multiple languages, or at a minimum, Spanish. Late in 2021, CT DoAg began offering a Spanish translated version on a weekly basis, providing greater access to information about grants, webinars, and other resources.

### Looking Ahead

Working groups will continue to meet on a regular basis and all meetings are open to the public. Please visit the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion webpage](#) for detailed updates from the working groups including meeting notes, recordings, and a year-end review across all the working groups.

The working groups have until Fall 2022 to fully formulate their recommendations to CT DoAg and the agriculture industry, including changes to existing programming, as well as developing and proposing potential new state-wide initiatives. These recommendations from the four topic working groups will be evaluated by the main working group, which will then develop a comprehensive report to be issued by early 2023.

For any questions or comments, please contact Cyrena Thibodeau at [Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov](mailto:Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov) or 860-895-3094.



Want to learn more about racial equity? Sign up for the Food Solutions New England (FSNE) 21-day racial equity habit-building challenge from April 4-24, 2022. For more information or to sign up at no cost, [click here](#).



As we get into warmer weather in late spring the risk should subside, but for now poultry should not be allowed outside to eliminate contact with wild birds, and especially wild waterfowl.

Signs of avian influenza include sudden increase in bird deaths, sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, watery or green diarrhea, lack of energy, poor appetite, drop in egg production, swelling around the eyes, neck, and head, and purple discoloration of wattles, combs, and legs. To report sick birds, unexplained high number of deaths, or sudden drop in egg production, contact the State Veterinarian at 860-713-2505 or [ctstate.vet@ct.gov](mailto:ctstate.vet@ct.gov) or the USDA at 866-536-7593.

Avian influenza does not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F kills bacteria and viruses.

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## COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [CT COVID-19 Knowledge-Base](#): COVID-19 resource to answer your questions on self-tests, testing sites, and more.
- [Self-Test Page](#): Information about self-tests.
- [CT COVID-19 Response](#): 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.**

Find the most current sector rules guidance at [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://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>.

## 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](#).

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## CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Why bird flu is concerning some health experts in Connecticut, 2/25](#), CT Post  
[Community Supported Agriculture: Not Just Fruits And Veggies Anymore, 2/23](#), CT News Junkie

[CT DoAg Warns Poultry Owners About Bird Flu After Flock at Long Island Home Tests Positive, 2/20](#), NBC CT



## 2022 AGRICULTURE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN TO EXHIBIT AT THE CONNECTICUT BUILDING AT BIG E

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building at The Big E, September 16-October 2, 2022, with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service.

This is a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture to over one million attendees who come through the Connecticut Building. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, and Harvest New England Day will be held on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the exhibitor guidelines, and submit a completed application by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022. Licensed Connecticut farm wineries interested in having their wines available by the glass will be receiving a separate application to participate.

[Guidelines and Application here.](#)

For more information, please contact Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov), or 860-573-0323.

## CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE DAY RETURNS IN PERSON

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) announces that Connecticut Agriculture Day will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022, in-person at a new location due to current restrictions still activated in the Capitol. Ag Day will be held at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities are invited to register for a tabling space and encouraged to offer

For more information on participating in Ag Day, contact Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov) or 860-573-0323.

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### BEER, WINE, AND SPIRITS BUYERS MISSION

Are you seeking new growth opportunities for your business? The Connecticut Department of Agriculture partners with Food Export USA–Northeast (Food Export–Northeast), a non-profit organization that assists U.S. companies looking to start or expand export sales. Through this partnership, we aim to maximize your success through programs and services in Export Education, Market Entry, and Market Promotion.

Food Export Northeast provides market intelligence, education, assistance, tools, and financial support for novice to seasoned U.S. food companies that help them find growth opportunities and build dynamic export strategy programs to achieve international success.

Currently, we are seeking Connecticut companies for participation in the **Beer, Wine, and Spirits Buyers Mission at the National Restaurant Association Show taking place in Chicago on May 22, 2022**. Hosted by Food Export Midwest in partnership with the National Restaurant Association the show attracts over 4,000 exhibitors and 40,000 attendees and is your opportunity to develop and expand your business with international buyers who have expressed interest in a variety of U.S. products, including wine, beer, spirits, and cocktail ingredients.

You'll have the opportunity to meet with up to eleven (11) pre-qualified buyers from around the world in pre-arranged, one-on-one meetings right here in the U.S., generate new sales leads, and build relationships with key industry players! It's the perfect low-cost opportunity to meet qualified buyers from around the world in one place!

The early registration fee is \$300.00 and you must have a National Restaurant Association Show badge to participate in this Buyers Mission.

For questions or more information, please contact Erin Windham with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture at [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or 860-519-6083.



2021- 2023

FMNP Farmer Certification Meetings



FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM FARMER CERTIFICATION

Agriculture's Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). To be certified, producers must attend a certification meeting.

The certification allows farms to accept the FMNP checks for fresh fruits, vegetables, and honey from WIC clients and income-eligible seniors over the age of 60. Join us to get your certification, learn more about available grant funding for your farm, and accepting SNAP to expand your sales.

The final certification has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 3, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**, and will be held virtually.

Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/3DeYRLO>. **Please register at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.**

If you would like to certify but are unable to attend or have questions please contact Erin Windham directly at [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or 860-519-6083 or Allison Hughes at [Allison.Hughes@ct.gov](mailto:Allison.Hughes@ct.gov) or 860-500-8918.

[Register Here](#)

## Specialty Crop Block Grant Now Open



### CONNECTICUT SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) for the 2022 program year. Funding priorities include strengthening and improving food systems, improving food security and food safety, and implementing controlled environment agriculture

Eligible applicants include commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits. Projects must benefit the industry as a whole and not a single organization, business, or commercial product. As a result, individual farms or businesses are encouraged to apply and partner with other eligible applicants rather than apply themselves. This is a reimbursement grant with awards up to \$99,999.

The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. Specialty crops are defined as any fruit or vegetable, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Also included is honey, maple syrup, Christmas trees and processed foods/food products which are made of at least 50% specialty crops (excluding added water). An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop.

For more information on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, please visit the website, <http://www.ctgrown.gov/grants> and click on Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, or contact Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov) or 860-573-0323.



### NEW CT FARMER ALLIANCE SURVEY

Farmers deserve an agricultural system that helps us thrive! Fill out the New CT Farmer Alliance survey to make your voice heard. The survey should only take about 10 minutes of your time. All answers will be kept confidential and no individual identities will be shared in associations with responses. Once you submit the survey, you will be entered into a raffle to win one of three \$50 visa gift cards.

<https://bit.ly/NCTFAsurvey22>

¡Los agricultores merecen un sistema agrícola que nos ayude a prosperar! Complete la encuesta de New CT Farmer Alliance y haz que tu voz se escuche. La encuesta solo debería tomar unos 10 minutos de su tiempo. Todas las respuestas se mantendrán confidenciales y no se compartirán identidades individuales en asociación con las respuestas. Una vez que lo

<https://bit.ly/NCTFAsurvey22>



### USDA, CORNELL HOST FIRST NATIONAL HEMP WEBINAR SERIES

Lectures will be given by various hemp research experts from academia, research laboratories, production facilities, and private industry:

- March 9 – Extraction Chemistry/Facility Design: Alisia Ratliff
- March 23 – The Endocannabinoid System: Ethan Russo M.D
- April 6 – Hemp Food Science: Hunter Friedland
- April 20 – Hemp Diversity/Genetics: Dr. Daniela Vergara
- May 4 – Economics of Hemp Production: Dr. Tyler Mark

The webinars will occur every other Wednesday from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. EST and include an interactive Q&A session. Registration is required.



### CT Grown Campaign Producer Survey

Respond Now



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 [www.CTGrown.org](http://www.CTGrown.org).



### SPRING CROP SALES CLOSING

The deadline to insure spring crops in the northeast for the 2022 crop year is March 15, 2022. Insurable spring crops include field and vegetable crops such as corn, soybeans, barley, oats, fresh market sweet corn, cabbage, processing beans, processing sweet corn, dry beans, green peas, fresh market beans, tomatoes, tobacco, and potatoes. Coverage availability varies by county. Visit [CropGrowers.com](http://CropGrowers.com) to view [individual crop fact sheets](#) for more information.

To protect your investment in the 2022 crop, spring crop producers should contact their Crop Growers agent well in advance of the March 15 deadline. Let your agent know of any changes in your entity and they will update you of any changes to the crop insurance policy.

[Learn More](#)

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### 2022 FARM TRANSITION GRANT AVAILABLE

The 2022 Farm Transition Grant (FTG) is now available at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants). **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 [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants). Additional detail on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in

to Alison Grabarz at [Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov](mailto:Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov).

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## 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](#)

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## ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the [CT Grown Map](#) 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 [CT Grown Map Google Form](#).

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### Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)  
*Prices provided on February 21, 2022*

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)  
*Prices provided on October 22, 2021*

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

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## **Advertisements**

### **For Sale**

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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](http://www.bludon.com)

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2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

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3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. [Sonpal's Power Fence](#) 860-491-2290.

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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. [lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com](mailto:lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com) Appointments available any time.

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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.

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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](mailto:Griffinfarm@aol.com); [www.griffinfarmtools.com](http://www.griffinfarmtools.com)

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

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

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22-3. SnowBlower – 48" PTO. Like new only used twice \$3,095 new. Asking \$2,500 best offer. 860-604-3452

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### **Wanted**

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

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### **Job Opportunities**

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The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut is currently searching for a new research farm manager. Minimum qualifications are a Bachelor's degree and at least six years of relevant experience, including supervisory experience. For more

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 28, 2022. [Click here for more information on the position.](#)

CitySeed is expanding and seeking a part-time Development Associate to join the team. [Learn more.](#)

Brass City Harvest in Waterbury, CT is seeking a culinary kitchen leader. To learn more about the position, click [here](#).

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

## Upcoming Events

(click on image below for info)

**SOLID GROUND**  
A Program Of UConn Extension

# AGROECOLOGICAL SERIES

**ON-FARM COMPOSTING**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2022**  
6:30-8PM ON ZOOM [REGISTER HERE](#)  
PRESENTERS: YOKO TAKEMURA + ALEX CARPENTER  
ASSABAGA FARM

Building biologically active compost on small farms. Yoko and Alex will share their composting system, which uses very basic tools with a low starting cost. This method produces high quality compost that is used in small amounts for ongoing inoculation of the soil rather than to boost OM% or add significant amounts of nutrients. It is also excellent material to make compost extracts, teas and/or feeding worm bins.

**NO-TILL FIELD DAY**

**SATURDAY MARCH 26TH, 2022**  
[REGISTER HERE](#) 1:00-4:00PM  
TOBACCO ROAD FARM - LEBANON, CT  
PRESENTER: BRYAN O'HARA  
AUTHOR: NO-TILL INTENSIVE VEGETABLE CULTURE

Bryan will provide mountains of details on agricultural techniques and will also demonstrate specific equipment required for No-Till operations. These specialized tools will be carefully gone through for seeing on later and maximizing efficiencies on your farm.

**ECOLOGICAL GROWING**

**SATURDAY APRIL 2ND, 2022**  
1:00-3:00PM [REGISTER HERE](#)  
HIGH HILL ORCHARD - MERIDEN, CT  
PRESENTER: WAYNE YOUNG

Explore how ecological growing can be implemented to support reduced or no pesticides use operations. Learn how building soil health leverages other natural systems in order to manage pests and environmental challenges.

**REGISTER HERE - [s.uconn.edu/regsarespring22](https://s.uconn.edu/regsarespring22)**




These trainings are supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2020-29010-20725.

## 2022 Tri-State SARE Project Webinar Series Improving Pasture Management for Sustainable Livestock Production



**WEBINAR 1**  
Assessing soil health:  
What is the status of my soil health?  
**Tuesday, February 15**  
Speaker: Kirsten Kurtz (Cornell Soil Health Lab)

**WEBINAR 2**  
The value of soil health:  
soil, plant, and animal interactions  
**Tuesday, March 22**  
Speakers: Sam Corcoran (UMass Extension)  
Joe Emenheiser (UConn Extension)

**WEBINAR 3**  
Creating meaningful soil health change:  
What can I do to make positive changes to my soil health?  
**Tuesday, April 19**  
Speakers: Kaitlin Farbotnik (NJ NRCS)  
Matthew Denton (Soil Health Division, NRCS)

All webinars will be held from 10 am to 12 noon

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers and will be comprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout sessions. Partaking in all webinars is encouraged, but not required. For more information, visit <https://livestock.extension.uconn.edu/> or contact Rachel Bespuda, Project Director at [rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu](mailto:rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu)



This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number 59620-001-CT-34268.

Please join UConn Extension for this webinar on Thursday, March 3 at 12 p.m.

Register @ [s.uconn.edu/benchmarking](https://s.uconn.edu/benchmarking)

Chris Laughton, Director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East, will discuss business benchmarking and its potential value for your agricultural enterprise. Chris will cover a number of topics related to benchmarking, including:

- What is "benchmarking" anyway?
- Why should I use benchmarks in my farm management?
- How can they help me improve my profitability?
- Where can I find benchmark data? And How can I use it?
- What should I consider next?

This webinar is recommended for any agricultural managers who wish to take their businesses to the next level of success. Regardless of size, how long you've been in business or whether you're happy with your current profit levels or not, benchmarking can help. Tune in to find out how.

This webinar is free and open to all. For those who cannot attend live, it will be recorded and posted at <https://ctfarmrisk.extension.uconn.edu> following the session.

Join us this season to talk about the different stressors that farmers face in Connecticut and the ways your fellow farmers are managing them. This webinar series is open to all, but all participants will be completely anonymous to other attendees. Feel free to submit questions and thoughts ahead of time to [Rebecca.Toms@UConn.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Toms@UConn.edu)

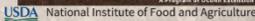


**You're Not Perfect: The Myth of the Perfect Farm and Celebrating your Successes**  
February 16th, 7PM-8:30 PM  
With: Jen Salinetti, Woven Roots Farm, Tyringham, MA

**Farm Talk: Sharing Common Stressors Among CT farmers**  
March 1 from 10:30AM- 12PM  
A panel discussion with Lauren Little, Steve Munno, and Andromeda Macri

**What it's Like: What to Expect if You Want to See a Therapist**  
March 8th, 7PM- 8:30 PM  
A conversation with Alana DiPesa, LCSW and Becca Toms

Register at: <https://newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground/>

Brought to you by: **SOLID GROUND** A Program of UConn Extension  



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