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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.

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On Tuesday, March 8, CT Resource & Conservation District launched Access to Agriculture, a program in coordination with the 9 Town Transit in Southeastern CT, to help people "Ride the Bus to Locally Grown Food". Riders will be able to scan a QR code while on the bus to find local farm stands, farmers' markets, food pantries, and local grocers offering fresh produce and dairy and CT Grown products. Learn more at Access2Ag.com.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Announces 2022 Farmland Restoration Grant Guidance Available

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www.CTGrown.gov/grants. The application period will open in the near future and be accepted until April 12, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

The FLRP is a competitive grant program. It provides matching funds (up to \$20,000.00) to Connecticut farmers, landowners, non-profits, and municipalities to increase food and fiber production in the state by restoring lands into active agricultural production. The FLRP focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan.

Examples of potential restoration activities include:

- Reclamation of grown over pastures, meadows, and cropland
- Clearing/removal of trees, stumps, stones, and brush to create or restore agricultural use
- Fencing to keep livestock in reclaimed pasture areas and/or out of riparian areas
- Drainage of crop fields to improve cropland areas and restore water runoff patterns
- Irrigation and irrigation wells
- Enhancement of farm roads which service restoration areas
- Restoration of shellfish beds or aquaculture ponds

A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants in learning about the structure of the grant and application process will occur on Wednesday, March 23, 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.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Additional details on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications must be submitted electronically via the new DoAg Grants Portal. Questions regarding the Farmland Restoration Program Grant can be directed to Lance Shannon at Lance.Shannon@ct.gov.

Funding for the Farmland Restoration Grant is made possible by Public Act 11-1, codified in Chapter 422 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Farmland Restoration Grant and any awards are subject to the requirements and provisions of state funding.

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY2022 INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN CONNECTICUT

Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural

the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers and other landowners.

Applicants must submit their applications via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (search for Funding Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-CT-CIG-22-NOFO0001157) by **11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 29, 2022**. For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts. Please limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in this Notice of Funding Opportunities (NFO), such as dates, page numbers, clarification of discrepancies, etc. Questions related to eligibility or the merits of a specific proposal will not be addressed.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the [CT State CIG website](#) to learn more about the CIG program.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[CT LIVE!: Community Supported Agriculture in Connecticut, NBC CT, 3/9](#)
[Melissa in the Morning: Bird Flu in Connecticut, WTIC, 3/8](#)



PROPOSED CENTER FOR FOOD INNOVATION SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

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will support startups and established food manufacturers, farm-based or otherwise, looking to expand and innovate with their products.

UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) is leading efforts related to the potential Center and this effort to gain feedback from the business community through this survey.

This work is a collaboration between CAHNR, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the UConn School of Business.

The team behind this effort has developed a survey for food manufacturers, including pet food companies, wineries, and breweries to assess their needs and help inform the development of a potential innovation center.

The survey will take approximately five to 10 minutes and can be completed on a smart phone, computer, or other device with internet access.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

Avian Influenza (AI)

What is it?



If you have sick or dying birds, please contact ctstate.vet@ct.gov or 860-713-2505

Biosecurity Basics

Protect Your Flock From Avian Influenza



If you have sick or dying birds, please contact ctstate.vet@ct.gov or 860-713-2505

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE DAY RETURNS IN PERSON

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) invites you to attend Connecticut Agriculture Day on **Friday, March 25, 2022**, at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us to tour more than 30 exhibits showcasing the diversity of Connecticut agriculture, sample a taste of Connecticut Grown products, and celebrate our 2022 Outstanding Young Farmer, Century Farm, and Ag Journalism award winners.

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573-0323.



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, or 860-573-0323.

USDA VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS PROGRAM

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products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income.

You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain.

Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on Grants.gov. Program Period varies for **paper applications which must be postmarked by May 2, 2022. Applications are permitted via Grants.gov and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on April 25, 2022.**

For more information follow the link below.

[Learn More](#)

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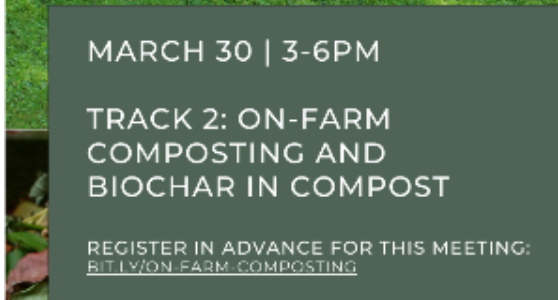
2022 Connecticut Compost Webinar Series



MARCH 23 | 3-6PM

TRACK 1: COMPOST BASICS AND SCIENCE OF COMPOST

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING: [BIT.LY/COMPOST-BASICS](https://bit.ly/compost-basics)



MARCH 30 | 3-6PM

TRACK 2: ON-FARM COMPOSTING AND BIOCHAR IN COMPOST

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING: [BIT.LY/ON-FARM-COMPOSTING](https://bit.ly/on-farm-composting)

APRIL 6 | 3-6PM

TRACK 3: LARGE MUNICIPAL & COMMERCIAL SCALE COMPOSTING

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MUN-STATE-COMPOSTING](https://bit.ly/mun-state-composting)

This program is made possible by our planning partners.



MORE INFO: WWW.CTRCD.ORG/CONNECTICUT-COMPOST-WEBINAR

2022 CONNECTICUT COMPOST WEBINAR SERIES

SESSION 1: Compost Webinar: Composting Basics and the Science of Compost

Register in advance for this meeting.

Mar 23, 2022 03:00 to 6:00 p.m.

SESSION 2: Compost Series: Farm Composting/BioChar in Compost

Register in advance for this meeting.

Mar 30, 2022 03:00 to 6:00 p.m.

SESSION 3: Compost Series: Large/Municipal and Commercial Scale Composting

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LEGAL TOOL KIT FOR STARTING A FARM WEBINAR

When you're starting a farm business, there are lots of important legal issues to consider, from what type of business entity you'll form to how to protect yourself from liability and plan for the future. This comprehensive webinar will equip farmers with the legal know-how to tackle these key decisions and start off on a strong legal footing. This webinar will be held on **March 16 from 12:00-1:00 PM.**

[Register by clicking here.](#)

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.

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6083.

USDA ANNOUNCES SUPPLEMENTAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced supplemental American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). The program will receive a total of \$130 million in supplemental American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funding to promote competition and create more and better markets for local and regional food producers by expanding and strengthening opportunities to sell to institutions, such as universities, hospitals, and settings operated by local, tribal, and state governments. The supplemental ARP funding is divided into \$65 million for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 each.

Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by **Monday, May 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.**

To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

NEW VERSIONS OF MSPA CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION REQUIRED AFTER MARCH 31, 2022

On October 18, 2021, the Wage and Hour Division (WHD) published three new forms for Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs) and Farm Labor Contractor Employees (FLCEs) to use to apply for or update their Certificates of Registration. WHD developed these forms in order to provide applicants and their representatives with clarification on required fields and documents and feature expanded instructions to guide applicants through the registration process. There are now three different forms, each of which serves a different purpose and all of which can be found on this [website](#):

- Form [WH-530](#) should be used for [FLCs](#) to apply for initial or renewal Certificates of Registration;
- Form [WH-535](#) should be used for [FLCEs](#) to apply for initial or renewal Certificates of Registration; and
- Form [WH-540](#) should be used for both FLCs and FLCEs to amend a valid Certificate of Registration.

In addition, WHD launched a new [website](#) to assist applicants with Certificate Registration. This website includes brief webinars, frequently asked questions, and other resources. If you have any questions about the new forms, we encourage you to first review the resources on this website and the instructions

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REQUESTS FROM CT DOAG FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LFPA)

The USDA recently announced the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The purpose of this program is to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency by:

1. supporting local producers and socially disadvantaged producers* through building and expanding economic opportunity, and
2. establishing and broadening partnerships with producers, the food distribution community, and local food networks to ensure distribution of fresh and nutritious foods to underserved communities.**

More details on the program can be found on the USDA's website and through reading the complete request for applications (RFA).

The CT Department of Agriculture (DoAg) will administer \$2.64 million of the total \$4.4 million, while CT's two federally recognized tribes will administer the remainder. Outlined below is DoAg's preliminary plan for administration of the allocated funding. To ensure the agency is aware of the needs of those engaged in the program and for which the program serves, CT DoAg is soliciting comments, feedback, or suggestions for improvement to the proposed utilization of funds no later than **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**. We strongly value your opinion and will consider all feedback in the final plan.

Please review DoAg's plan for program funds on DoAg's LFPA page and submit your comments using this form FORM TO SUBMIT COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

*If you are a CT farmer of any size, years of experience, and/or produce value-added products using CT Grown ingredients interested in selling product through this program, please also complete THE PRODUCER INTEREST FORM. *

For any questions, please reach out to Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov or 860-895-3094

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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 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.



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

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[Take the survey.](#)

If you are looking for more information or how to download the new CT Grown logo, please visit www.CTGrown.org.

To add your agricultural business, farm stand, or farmers' market to the interactive map, please enter your information through the [CT Grown Map Google Form](#). There is no fee to participate and applications are accepted year round.



WEBINAR SERIES FROM CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST AND FRIENDS

Join CFT staff and their guests from the comfort of your home or office for information and education. The series will catch you up on what we've been up to, and you'll hear from outside experts too, farmers and scientists, regarding current events in agriculture. Ask them your burning questions. We'll have good conversations. For you, there is no charge to attend, *but you must pre-register to receive the live webinar link*. Each webinar has a unique Zoom link you will receive when you sign up.

[Farmlink: The Future of Finding Farmland](#)

A 2017 survey done by The National Young Farmers Coalition found land access to be the number one challenge that young farmers and ranchers face.

Tuesday, March 15, 12-1 p.m.

[Climate Change means Farming_\(and Food\) Will Change](#)

Climate is changing. *But what does that mean for CT agriculture?* Here's your chance to hear from a farmer and a conservation scientist.

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Thursday, March 17, 12-1 p.m.

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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](#)

MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING EXPANSION PROGRAM

The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity. USDA Rural Development designed the MPPEP to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency.

Grant funds can be used to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

- Building new – or modernizing or expanding existing – processing facilities
- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
- Ensuring compliance with packaging and labeling requirements
- Upholding occupational and other safety requirements
- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Paying for voluntary grading services on value-added processed products
- Offsetting costs associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

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Applications must be submitted by April 11, 2022 by 11:59 PM EST.

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[For more information visit the USDA website.](#)

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on March 7, 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](#)

[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 www.bludon.com

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

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, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com

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

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

22-4. Orchard Berry Farm – Sold. Many pieces of equipment and tractors for sale. 860-488-0324.

22-5. Lynn Blackmer, your local Nationwide Farm Insurance agent. AFIS Certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT, RI & MA. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discount. Cell: 860-377-8947 lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

The State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Regulatory Services' State Animal Control Unit has an available position for a State Animal Control Officer. In this position you will be accountable for independently performing a full range of tasks in the enforcement and education of laws and regulations pertaining to the control and proper care of domestic, companion and exotic animals.

For more information, please review the job description here: <https://www.jobapscloud.com/CT/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=220228&R2=1405PS&R3=001>. Closing date: March 16, 2022

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

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)

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SOLID GROUND
A Program of UConn Extension

2022 1st State Soil Project Webinar Series
Improving Pasture Management for
Sustainable Livestock Production

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ON-FARM COMPOSTING



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

Building biologically active compost on small farms. Yoko and Alex will share their composting systems, 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 compiled for No-Till covercrops. These specialized tools will be absolutely game changing for saving on labor and maximizing efficiencies on your farm.

ECOLOGICAL GROWING



SATURDAY APRIL 2ND, 2022
1:00-3:00PM [REGISTER HERE](#)
HIGH HILL ORCHARD - MERDEN, 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.

These trainings are supported by the farmland restoration and agr. careers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2022-12417-0270.



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 Farbodnik (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

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



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 58E20.001-CT-34268.

FARMER'S STRESS AND SOLUTIONS: A WEBINAR SERIES

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



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/>

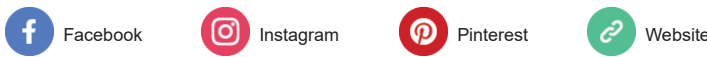


THIS WORK IS SUPPORTED BY THE 2021 SDA FARMER RANCHER STRESS ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.



Work smarter and avoid injury!
SAFE LABOR MOVEMENT WORKSHOP
w/ Cynthia Flores

Sub Edge Farm
Farmington, CT
April 28
10am-12pm OR
1pm-3pm



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