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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://www.ctgown.gov).

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March 18, 2022; Vol. E, No. 11

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Coming up: Celebrate National Ag Week from March 20-26, National Ag Day on March 22, and Connecticut Ag Day on Friday, March 25 at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Amory in Hartford. Join us to recognize the dedication of our farmers and farm families who are proud stewards of our land, water and air as they *Grow a Climate for Tomorrow*. #AgDay22

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Connecticut's Sugarhouses Open to Celebrate Maple Weekend, March 19-20

Connecticut's maple sugarhouses are celebrating Maple Weekend from March 19-20 with tours, demonstrations, and of course sampling and sales of one of nature's sweetest products. These are family-friendly events and an opportunity to meet some of the maple syrup producers responsible for Connecticut ranking 10th among maple syrup producing states.

In addition to the 19 participating sugarhouses, Maple Weekend includes the Hebron Maple Festival. This year the two-day event marks their 30th anniversary of celebrating maple syrup production. Held in the Hebron Library parking lot and town green right on Route 66, the event is outdoors and free to all attendees. Along with maple flavored food items there will be arts and crafts, games, and a loved-by-all tractor parade.

"March is maple month and Maple Weekend is an opportunity to celebrate this agricultural tradition," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "Go visit a sugarhouse or festival to see the process in person and purchase maple syrup to enjoy at home. It's not just for pancakes – try it on ice cream or as a glaze for sautéed carrots and parsnips."

Connecticut is home to more than 250 maple syrup producers on a commercial level with many more enthusiasts who enjoy collecting sap from maple trees and boiled down to become maple syrup for their pancakes or other maple confections.

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year – no easy feat as it takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Mother Nature plays an integral role in production as freezing nights and warm, sunny days are necessary for the maple tree to yield sap. Maple syrup has four grades ranging from Grade A Golden Color with a delicate taste to Grade A Very Dark Color with a strong taste.

To learn more about Maple Weekend and find a participating location, visit ctmaple.org.

2022 FARMLAND RESTORATION GRANT NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announces the 2022 Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) grant guidance is now available at 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

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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.



CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Sugarhouses Hard at Work Ahead of 'Maple Weekend in CT', 3/16, NBC CT](#)

[Know Farms, Know Your Food, 3/16, UConn Today](#)

[Wildlife nuisance bill stirs up controversy from farmers and animal advocates, 3/16, Fox 61](#)

[Farmers market expects 'great season' in New Canaan this spring, 3/16, New Canaan Advertiser](#)

[Connecticut's only pick-your-own daffodil farm in Haddam preps for season, 3/13, Middletown Press](#)

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Agriculture Workshop

Resources to Prepare for Grant Writing

March 29, 2022 • 7-8:15 PM EDT



Second of a 5-part Series
Details & registration: <https://bit.ly/3iaFZp1>

CONNECTICUT URBAN AND SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP SERIES

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture in partnership with CT Agricultural Experiment Station, UConn Extension, FEMA, and USDA are hosting a webinar series for Connecticut Urban and Small Scale Agriculture on March 29, 2022 from 7-8:15 p.m.

Please join us for the second in the series for a conversation on the importance of business and crop plans, resources for help in creating them, and how state and federal grants can be utilized to further your business/organizational goals.

In this webinar there will be presentations by DoAg staff and other guests followed by group discussion focused on sharing resources and experiences with creating business and crop plans. Come join and help make this a robust discussion!

A complete agenda will be posted to DoAg's webpage for the series [HERE](#) prior to the event.

[REGISTER by following this link.](#)

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PROPOSED CENTER FOR FOOD INNOVATION SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

The University of Connecticut (UConn) is exploring the creation of a Center for Agriculture and Food Innovation to help businesses in this sector. This center 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.](#)

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Avian Influenza (AI)

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Biosecurity Basics

Protect Your Flock From Avian Influenza

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What is it?



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



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

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY2022 INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN CONNECTICUT

Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced the availability of funding for FY2022 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). CIG seeks to spark the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers and other landowners.

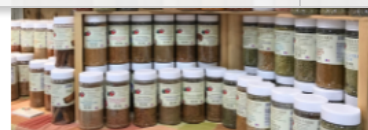
Applicants must submit their applications via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (*search for Funding Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-CT-CIG-22-NOFO0001157*) by **11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 29, 2022**. For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. 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.

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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

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new 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

Subscribe	Past Issues	structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain	Translate ▼
	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. Click here for more information.		

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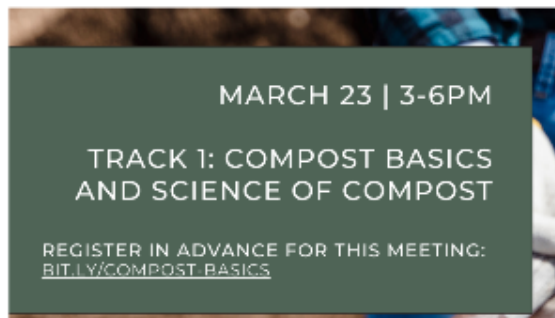
2022 Connecticut Compost Webinar Series



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)



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)



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.

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

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

Register in advance for this meeting.

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

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

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CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The 2022 scholarship application from Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is now live. **The application deadline is June 1, 2022.** This annual scholarship is for Connecticut students who are pursuing a career in agricultural education and/or have goals to further agriculture across the state.

[Learn more 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.

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

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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.



CT Grown Campaign Producer Survey

[Respond Now](#)



CONNECTICUT GROWN PRODUCER SURVEY

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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 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.

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

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

[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](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

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Northeast Regional Eggs			Update	
New England Shell Eggs			Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston	
Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary			Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston	
Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA				
<u>Advertisements</u>				
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				
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.				
22-3. SnowBlower – 48" PTO. Like new only used twice \$3,095 new. Asking \$2,500 best offer. 860-604-3452				

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type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discount. Cell: 860-377-8947 lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.

22-6. Trailer-1965 Miller, tip up 22ft. Air brakes solid steel, brakes works fine but old. Need 2 tires and light update. Retiring \$1,500. 860-875-8056.

22-7. Farm sold, many pieces of equipment for sale. 860-488-0324.

22-8. Eight-year-old Hereford cow ready to breed, reasonable offers accepted. Call 860-487-7739 after 6 pm.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

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

AGROECOLOGY SERIES

ON-FARM COMPOSTING

TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2022
6:30-8PM [ON ZOOM REGISTER HERE](#)
PRESENTERS: YOKO TAKEMURA • ALEX CARPENTER
ASSAWAGA 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](#) 100-4:00PM
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 adapted for No-Till operations. These specialized tools will be absolutely game changing for saving on labor and maximizing efficiencies on your farm.

ECOLOGICAL GROWING

SATURDAY APRIL 2ND, 2022
100-3:00PM [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 far and nature of food and agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2022-70017-32729.

USDA UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2022 Tri-State SARE Project Webinar Series

Improving Pasture Management for Sustainable Livestock Production

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

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

UMass Extension UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES NORTHEAST SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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 award number 2022-001 CT 34268.

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Work smarter and avoid injury!

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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

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

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

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



Brought to you by:

 **SOLID GROUND**
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

 **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
CTGrown.gov

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SAFE LABOR MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

w/ Cynthia Flores

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



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 Instagram

 Pinterest

 Website

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