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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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Connecticut Farm Wineries have a brand new look! This season, big things are coming to CT Wine Country. Stay tuned for more info, and follow along to learn about the 45+ licensed farm wineries in the state and the generations of growers behind it all. Learn more at CTGrown.org/ct-farm-wine.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Announces Farm Viability Grant Recipients

*\$337,000 Awarded to 11 Connecticut Municipalities and Agricultural Non-Profits
to Foster, Sustain, Develop, and Promote Local Agriculture*

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(STATEWIDE) Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt announces that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has awarded 11 grants through the Farm Viability Grant totaling more than \$337,000. Funded projects directly respond to problems, interests, or needs in the state's agricultural industry, specifically within the areas of urban agriculture; food systems, diversity, equity, and inclusion in Connecticut agriculture; and farmland access.

"The awarded Farm Viability projects directly align with critical needs among Connecticut's agricultural industry to continue building upon previous work while providing opportunity for growth within targeted areas," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "Furthermore, these projects align with our commitment to bolster our food system and increase access to farmland at all stages of farming."

Eligible entities include Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments, and agricultural non-profit organizations. Applicants could apply for up to \$49,999 in grant funds; with a 40-% match for the total project costs through cash or in-kind services.

The fiscal year 2022 Farm Viability Grant awardees by Question of Focus include:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

- Huneebee Project, Inc: Expansion of youth training and community workshop
- Southwest Conservation District (SWCD): support for underserved BIPOC farmers in the SWCD service area

Urban Agriculture:

- Fairgate Farm: home grown urban agriculture project
- Root2rise: community share event 2022
- Gather New Haven: urban agriculture sustainability

Food Supply Chain:

- Click, Inc.: expanding processing kitchen capacity
- Real Food Share, Inc.: small farm model
- Town of Killingly: local farm viability project
- Nourish Bridgeport, Inc.: non-profit indoor hydroponic farm

Farmland Accessibility:

- Keney Park Sustainability Project: KPSP vacant lot activation program
- Town of Wethersfield, Kycia Farm: Wethersfield conceptual site/land use proposal

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Public Act 05-228, *An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation.*

CONNECTICUT MILK PROMOTION BOARD ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board (CTMPB), administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, is pleased to announce up to \$500,000 available in funding opportunities for programming in fiscal year 2022-23. These opportunities align with their core focus which includes the vision of increasing purchases and expanding the access of milk and dairy products to consumers, retailers, institutions, and other applicable outlets. The funding is intended to support the CTMPB's mission to develop, coordinate, and implement promotional, research, and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and the consumption of milk and dairy products.

"These funding opportunities will enable us to continue building upon the work done over the past year which aligns with the strategic vision plan created with input from the state's dairy farmers and formally adopted by the board in 2020," said Paul Miller, Chairman of the CTMPB. "The board has honed our focus on funding to include consumer nutrition education, multi-media marketing, and farmer engagement programs to meet our five-year target of realizing an increase in dairy purchases and consumption throughout the supply chain in Connecticut."

The CTMPB has up to \$500,000 available for programming and expects to award contracts up to \$200,000 each in the first two bulleted program areas and no more than \$100,000 in the third bulleted program area:

- Partnerships with various types of retail, educational, and professional organizations that will lead to the increase in dairy consumption.
- Multi-media campaigns promoting the value of Connecticut's dairy farms and the accessibility of milk.
- Farmer engagement programs to educate and engage dairy farmers on the utilization of their checkoff dollars.

Proposed applicants can apply for any combination of the above program areas and are not limited to applying for only one. Eligible entities include businesses, extension agencies, agricultural and non-profit organizations, universities, community colleges, educational institutions, agricultural science schools, research organizations, and contract media vendors. Interested applicants should review each funding guidance document to confirm their eligibility.

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grant funds from Connecticut's portion of checkoff dollars. All projects should be conducted in accordance with the national dairy checkoff order, which can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/dairy>.

Additional details on the dairy grant funding opportunities can be found on www.CTGrown.gov/grants. For more information on Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and Connecticut Dairy, visit CTDairy.org

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Local family farms thrive in southeastern Connecticut, 3/23, The Day](#)
[Change could come to the Hartford Regional Market. Here's why that's important to food security in Connecticut, 3/21, Hartford Courant](#)
[Amended Reservoir Farm lease heads to Bridgeport City Council, 3/19, 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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2022 VIRTUAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR SEMINAR

There will be a **2022 Virtual Agricultural Seminar** hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (USDOL/WHD). This [free, virtual event](#) will be held **April 5-7, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT** and will provide guidance on federal labor rules pertaining to the agriculture industry.

Presented in coordination with various federal agencies, the seminar will focus on federal regulations governing agricultural employment and will include presentations on the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act (MSPA), H-2A program requirements, and the Office of Foreign Labor Certification. Learn about requirements for wages, housing, transportation, field sanitation, farm labor contractor certification, and much more.

Attendance is free, but space is limited. **Register here:** [Virtual Agricultural Seminar](#)

Avian Influenza (AI)

What is it?



- AI is a virus carried by migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese).
- Domestic poultry (chickens, turkeys, fowl) are susceptible and will become very sick.
- The virus is believed to originate in Eurasia and spread into Canada and the Atlantic Flyway through wild geese and ducks.
- Migratory bird flyways cross the United States. Connecticut is in the Atlantic Flyway.



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



- Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent contact with wild waterfowl and their droppings.
- Wash hands before and after working with birds.
- Change food and water daily.
- Provide disposable boot covers and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock.
- Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility.



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

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 is open 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

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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

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.

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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.](#)

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

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Applicants must submit their applications via [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.

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 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.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

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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 2: Compost Series: Farm Composting/BioChar in Compost

Register in advance for this meeting.

March 30, 2022 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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

Register in advance for this meeting.

April 6, 2022 3:00 PM to 6:00 p.m.

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SCHOLARSHIP[Translate ▼](#)

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.](#)



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:

- 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.](#)

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CT Grown Campaign Producer Survey

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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 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

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- 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 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](#)

[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

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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

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.

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

Connecticut Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for an Agriculture Marketing & Inspection Representative 1 position to support its livestock and small poultry surveillance programs, the agency's dairy product safety and inspections programs, and it's Produce Safety program. This position will be responsible for inspections of agricultural businesses, production and processing plants and retail facilities for compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations. Close date: April 7, 2022. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

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

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)

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EXPLORING FARM LABOR MODELS

MARCH 29TH, 2022
3:00-4:30 PM EST

LEARN ABOUT RESULTS OF A 3-YEAR NORTHEAST SARE RESEARCH PROJECT TO ASSESS COLLABORATIVE, MULTI-FARM STRATEGIES TO HELP OUR AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY SOLVE LABOR CHALLENGES.





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Work smarter and avoid injury!

JOIN US FOR A FARMLAND MIXER!

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SAFE LABOR MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

w/ Cynthia Flores

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



Saturday, April 9, 2022
@ Hops on the Hill Brewery

3-4pm: Optional field walk of the Farm and strategies for assessing land

4-6pm: Eat (free!), Drink, meet landowners, farmers, service providers, and find land!

Sign up at:
s.uconn.edu/farlandmixer

Land For Good

SOLID GROUND
A Program of UConn Extension

CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST
PRESERVING VIBRANT CONNECTICUT FARMLAND

UConn
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

 A woman in a white shirt and a patterned apron is holding two brown chickens. The background shows a green field and a barn.


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Website

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