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The Farmers' Market at CT Regional Market, 101 Reserve Road, Hartford, opens for the season on Saturday, April 2.

Shop for seasonal flowers, shrubs, fruits and vegetables on Saturdays and Sundays from 6-9 a.m.

For more information on the market or how to become a vendor, <u>click</u> here.





Left: Kies and Jared LaVack, 2022 CT Outstanding Young Farmers. Right: Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, UConn CAHNR Dean Indrajeet Chaubey, and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt visit Ag Day exhibitors.

Connecticut Agriculture Day Returns

CT Ag Info Council Recognizes 2022 Outstanding Young Farmer in Connecticut

After three long years, the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) was pleased to welcome the return of Connecticut Ag Day as an in-person event with a host of changes, including a new location and date change. That didn't dampen spirits though as more than 35 agricultural organizations, non-profits, municipalities, and state and federal agencies committed to agriculture gathered at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory in Hartford on Friday, March 25, 2022.

From the ground to the sound, it was all on display to showcase the diversity and strength of Connecticut agriculture which contributes \$4 billion to the state's economy and 22,000 jobs. Dozens of FFA students from Lebanon, Lyman Hall, Southington, Shepaug, Woodbury and the Sound School were in attendance not only to assist with the coordination of legislator bags but also meet with exhibitors and forge connections for the future.

An official statement from Governor Ned Lamont declared March 25 as Connecticut Agriculture Day and was read by Lt. Governor Bysieiwicz at the start of the speaking program. Legislators in attendance gathered on stage along with Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt to recognize recipients of the Outstanding Young Farmer, Century Farm, and Ag Journalism awards.

2022 CT Outstanding Young Farmer: Kies and Jared LaVack

Connecticut's agriculture industry grows great crops, including the next generation of farmers. Kies (Orr) and Jared LaVack of Fort Hill Farms, LLC in Thompson have been chosen as Connecticut's Outstanding Young Farmers of 2022.

Farms. She studied plant science at the Killingly AgriScience Center so she could add soil and water conservation practices to the skills she'd need one day as farm manager. Jared LaVack hails originally from northern New York and is himself a 3rd generation dairy farmer. After meeting at SUNY Cobleskill, they joined forces and have been farming together and building their future at Fort Hill Farms.

That future is one that embraces the agricultural diversity instilled in them by Kies' parents, Kristin and Peter Orr. As herdswoman, Kies oversees the 250 milking cows and over 200 youngstock, and is in charge of milking and herd health. Jared puts his agronomy and mechanical skills to work in his role as crops manager and head mechanic.

<u>Learn more about the 2022 CT Outstanding Young Farmer winners and past</u> winners here.

Century Farm: March Farm

CAIC also recognized March Farm in Bethlehem, CT, as a Century Farm. This award recognizes a farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years, and has great potential to be successful for at least another 100 years.

March Farm, a fourth generation family farm, was established in 1915 when Thomas and Rose Marchukaitis purchased 114 acres to support 15 cows and 2 horses. Over the years, the farm has diversified to meet changing needs. In the 1940's poultry and dairy barns were added and the following decade 14 acres of adjoining land was purchased for an apple orchard to be planted. The farm continued to increase both stock and fruit production over the next three decades until the late 80's when the decision was made to sell the cows and concentrate on producing vegetables and fruit.

Today the farm is home to greenhouses, a commercial kitchen for a bakery business, farm store, pick-your-own, a CSA, and more family fun and agritourism activities.

Ag Journalism Awards

These awards recognize outstanding coverage of Connecticut agriculture by the news media. Congratulations to the 2022 recipients:

Jocelyn Ruggiero, Boston Globe, <u>Alongside a career in IT, Robert Chang forges</u> a new life as a farmer, while advocating for farmers of color in Southern New <u>England</u>

Jim Altman, Fox 61 News, <u>Old Mystic cider mill Pressing on Through the Pandemic</u>

Jan Spiegel, <u>CT Mirror, CT Farmers Are Finding There Is No Easy Way to Deal With Climate Change</u>

Amy White, Seasons Magazines, The Egg and I

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CT Ag Day 2022 Moments









CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

<u>Conn. farmers hold off on growing plants outside</u>, 3/28, WFSB <u>'From the ground to the sound': Connecticut Agriculture Day returns after COVID hiatus</u>, 3/25, Fox 61

<u>5 CT farms to visit for goat snuggles, goat nannying and more</u>, 3/24, CT Insider <u>Growing food, growing outreach: Yellow Farmhouse Education Center expands on crop donations and teacher training, 3/24, The Day</u>

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

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.

Funding is provided through dairy checkoff dollars, established through the national dairy checkoff order. CGS Sec. 22-authorizes the CTMPB to award 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: httpst//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

THE 2022 COMPOST ALLIANCE WEBINAR SERIES

Register in advance for this

meeting: https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfu-rqDopH9d8fAinAukeCqklysjRYefS

Apr 6, 2022 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

3:00pm - Welcome

Sherill Baldwin, CT DEEP

3:15 - 4:45 - Municipalities Developing On-Site Compost Initiatives

Moderator: Coryanne Mansell, CET

Brent Madho, CT DEEP

Frank Gagliardo, CT DEEP

Doug Colter, City of West Haven

Leah Retherford & Jim Davis, Atlas Organics

Dave Aldridge, SCRRRA

5:00-6:00pm - Municipalities Creating Opportunities to Collect Food

Moderator: Kat McCarthy, CET

Brian Bartram, Towns of Salisbury / Sharon

Kim O'Rourke, City of Middletown

Julie DesChamps, Waste Free Greenwich

For more information follow the link.



NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER INVESTS IN PROJECTS

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

- April <u>Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant</u>: Funding for valueadded dairy processors to access professional services to implement marketing tactics, brand improvements, and overall strategy.
- June <u>Dairy Processor Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.
- October <u>Dairy Farm Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy farms to take a
 holistic approach to implementing community- and climate-forward dairy
 production and business strategies.

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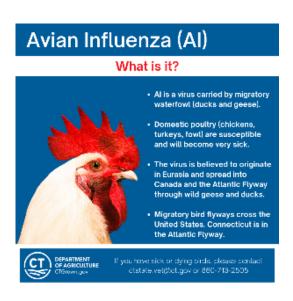
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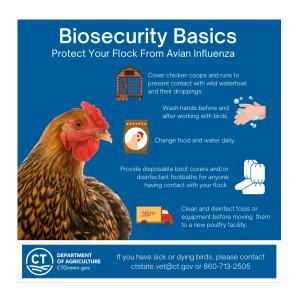
2022 VIRTUAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR SEMINAR

There will be a **2022 Virtual Agricultural Seminar** hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (USDOL/WHD). This <u>free</u>, <u>virtual event</u> 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:** <u>Virtual Agricultural</u> Seminar





2022 FARMLAND RESTORATION GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSE APRIL 12

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

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

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.

TO START OR GROW YOUR FARM? THE NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION IS HERE TO HELP!



LEARN ABOUT THE USDA'S LOAN PROGRAMS THROUGH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA). OUR COALITION WON A MICROLOAN PROGRAM IN THE 2014 FARM BILL TO MAKE THESE LOANS MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR YOU!

We know that it may not be easy to work with government programs due to historical andongoing discrimination against BIPOC farmers. Young Farmers has a farmer on staff who cananswer questions for BIPOC farmers about the loans and walk you through the application.



CALL OUR FARMER TECHNICAL ASSISTANT SHAKERA RAYGOZA TO LEARN MORE AT

SHAKERA@YOUNGFARMERS.ORG OR 518 643 3564 EXT. 1

USDA FSA Loans feature low interest rates (rates 2-3% as of February 2022), and do not use credit scores to determine eligibility.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS:

MICROLOANS

- + Up to \$50,000 in Operating Loan funds and \$50,000 in Ownership Loan funds, for a total of \$100,000
- + Repayment terms are 1-7 years
- + Same uses as Operating and Ownership loans
- + A streamlined application process with less paperwork

OPERATING LOANS

- + Up to \$400,000
- + Up to 7 years to repay
- + Use funds for infrastructure, livestock, feed, seeds, equipment, labor, fertilizers, rent, family living expenses, etc.

OWNERSHIP LOANS

- + Up to \$600,000
- + Repayment terms are up to 25
- + Use funds to purchase or enlarge a farm, make a down payment, promote soil and water conservation and protection, or pay closing costs
- Funds can also be used to purchase, improve, or build structures related to the farming business

Farm operating expenses, including, but not limited to, feed, seed, fertilizer, pesticides, farm supplies, repairs and improvements which are to be expensed, cash rent and family living expenses. Other programs include farm storage loans, living expenses under the loans above, down payment loan, guaranteed loan program, and youth loans.

PARA EMPEZAR O HACER CRECER TU GRANJA? NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION (LA COALICIÓN NACIONAL DE AGRICULTORES JÓVENES) ESTÁ AQUÍ PARA AYUDARTE.



CONOCE LOS PROGRAMAS DE PRÉSTAMOS DEL USDA A TRAVÉS DE LA AGENCIA DE SERVICIOS AGRÍCOLAS (FSA). ¡NYFC CONSIGUIÓ UN PROGRAMA DE MICROCRÉDITOS EN LA LEY AGRÍCOLA DE 2014 PARA QUE ESTOS PRÉSTAMOS SEAN MÁS ACCESIBLES PARA T!!

Sabemos que puede resultar difícil trabajar con los programas del gobierno debido a la discriminación histórica y actual contra los agricultores BIPOC. Young Farmers tiene un agricultor en el equipo que puede responder a las preguntas de los agricultores BIPOC sobre los préstamos y ayudarles con la solicitud.



LLAMA A NUESTRA ASISTENTE TÉCNICA DE AGRICULTORES SHAKERA RAYGOZA PARA HABLAR MÁS A FONDO EN

SHAKERA@YOUNGFARMERS.ORG O AL 518 643 3564 EXT. 1

Los Préstamos FSA del USDA presentan tipos de interés bajos (tipos del 2-3% a partir de febrero de 2022), y no utilizan puntuaciones de crédito para determinar la elegibilidad.

MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE LOS DIFERENTES TIPOS DE PRÉSTAMOS:

MICROCRÉDITOS

- Hasta 50.000 dólares en fondos de Préstamos de Explotación y 50.000 dólares en fondos de Préstamos de Propiedad, por un total de 100.000 dólares
- + Los plazos de reembolso son de 1 a 7 años.
- + Los mismos usos que los de Explotación y Propiedad
- Un proceso de solicitud agilizado con menos papeleo

PRÉSTAMOS DE OPERACIÓN

- + Hasta 400.000 dólares
- + Hasta 7 años de reembolso
- Uso de los fondos para infraestructuras, ganado, alimentos, semillas, equipos, mano de obra, fertilizantes, alquiler, gastos de manutención de la familia, etc.

PRÉSTAMOS EN PROPIEDAD

- + Hasta 600.000 dólares
- + Los plazos de reembolso son de hasta 25 años
- Los fondos se utilizan para comprar o ampliar una granja, hacer un pago inicial, promover la conservación y protección del suelo y el agua, o pagar los gastos de cierre
- Los fondos también pueden utilizarse para comprar, mejorar o construir estructuras relacionadas con el negocio agrícola

Los gastos de funcionamiento de la granja, incluyendo, pero no limitándose a, alimentos, semillas, fertilizantes, pesticidas, suministros de la granja, reparaciones y mejoras que deben ser contabilizadas, alquileres en efectivo y gastos de manutención de la familia. Otros programas incluyen préstamos para el almacenamiento de productos agrícolas, gastos de manutención en el marco de los préstamos anteriores, préstamos para el pago inicial, programa de préstamos garantizados y préstamos para jóvenes.

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 <u>Grants.gov</u> (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

proposal will not be addressed.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the <u>CT State CIG website</u> to learn more about the CIG program.

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.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT New Holland Dairy Auction - New

Prices provided on March 28, 2022 <u>Holland, PA</u>

CT Farmers' Market Prices New Holland, PA Hay Report

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly

Northeast Regional Eggs Update

New England Shell Eggs Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -

<u>Boston</u>

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

<u>Summary</u> <u>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -</u> 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

Subscribe 3-R. Past Issues electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, Translate ▼

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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.
- 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
- 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 quality 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.
- 22-9. New England Hereford Breeders interested in consigning Quality Registered Herefords into our Annual Sept. Sale should contact Wayne Budney, Four Winds Farm, 860-573-2829.
- 22-10. Growing mix-3.8 cu. ft. Greenhouse soil Dzen Farms 860-648-1355

Wanted

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

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 <u>here</u> for details on rates and submission.

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

SALES & AUCTION

Middlesex Livestock Auction announces the following sales and auction: Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.: Lamb and Kid Goat Sale Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.: Farm & Landscape Equipment Auction Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 11 a.m.: Spring Feeder Cattle Sale





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Thursday, April 7th, 2022 from 5-7:30pm

Please join us for an educational session discussing:

- Identifying common and reportable diseases in poultry and swine
- Best-practice biosecurity
- The recent Avian Influenza outbreak
- Prevention of African Swine Fever outbreaks
- Opportunties APHIS provides for diagnostic collection

ATTEND VIRTUALLY OR IN-PERSON

Click here to R.S.V.P.

Speakers include:

Dr. Lech Szkudlarek, DVM USDA APHIS VS - New England

Dr. Lisa Dauten, DVM Owner and Veterinarian Tri-State Veterinary Services Dr. Erin Masur, DVM Associate Veterinarian Tri-State Veterinary Services

Dr. Bradley Keough, DVM Dr. Valerie Koenig, DVM Area Veterinarian in Charge USDA APHIS VS - New England

Epidemiology Officer USDA APHIS VS - New England

Location

Litchfield County Extension Office 843 University Drive Torrington, CT 06790

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND









and health. It's a part of our history, culture and values, connecting us to the land, our communities and one another. But all too often our discussions about food focus on individual responsibility and behaviors instead of the nequities that are built into our food systems

Join leaders who are implementing innovations in food justice and sovereignty for a conversation about transformative change. We'll explore the connections between food, wellbeing, equity, social justice, community and more as we shift the focus from individuals to a vision for longterm, systemic change.

Tues., April 5, 2022 3 - 4:15 p.m. ET













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