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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](http://CTGrown.gov).

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October 14, 2022; Vol. E, No. 41

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The countdown to Halloween is on and Connecticut's pumpkin patches offer a fun way to spend a fall day finding the right gourd for your carving and decorating needs.

Find a farm to pick-your-own pumpkins at [CTGrown.org](http://CTGrown.org).

## Farmland Restoration Grant Guidance Now Available for Projects to Restore Lands into Active Agricultural Production

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	<p data-bbox="250 155 1373 233">The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the 2023 Farmland Restoration Grant (FLRG) guidance is now available, and the application portal is live to accept applications.</p> <p data-bbox="250 258 1373 531">The Farmland Restoration Grant (FLRG) provides matching funds to Connecticut farmers, nonprofits, and municipalities to increase food and fiber production in the state by restoring lands into active agricultural production. The Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan and a Climate Smart Resiliency Plan (FLRP Plan). Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="250 556 1373 951">“The Farmland Restoration Grant is a meaningful way to support efforts which expand agricultural production and ensure that we are best utilizing prime and important farmland soils,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “This year, the program eligibility has been broadened to specifically allow farms to develop a climate smart resiliency plan which helps offset the challenges we saw this summer due to the drought and sets Connecticut farms up for success, regardless of the weather patterns. Eligible projects include those addressing climate change impacts, eliminating losses from invasive pests and species, and enabling producers to grow their operations to improve the long-term viability of agriculture in Connecticut.”</p> <p data-bbox="250 976 1373 1054">For the purposes of this grant, farmland restoration is the act of bringing land into agricultural production for human food, animal feed, or livestock grazing.</p> <p data-bbox="250 1079 1373 1310">The maximum grant awarded is \$20,000.00. Applications of any amount up to the maximum possible award will be considered for funding. There are two opportunities for funding under the Farmland Restoration Program. The opportunities for funding are for projects on either publicly owned land or for projects that are on privately owned land. Applicants will choose the grant that best fits their property to apply.</p> <p data-bbox="250 1335 1373 1371">The following entities are eligible to apply for the Farmland Restoration Grant:</p> <ol data-bbox="297 1396 1373 1717" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agricultural producers, who are owners or tenants of an existing agribusiness within the State of Connecticut with at least one year of production experience.</li> <li>2. Not for profits owning or leasing a property in use for agricultural production.</li> <li>3. Municipalities leasing farmland, currently in use by a farmer. The lease must be no less than five years in duration, with a five-year option to renew in the terms.</li> </ol> <p data-bbox="250 1743 1373 1820">Grant guidelines and forms can be found at <a href="http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants">www.CTGrown.gov/grants</a> with additional details on match requirements and eligible expenses.</p> <p data-bbox="250 1845 1373 2007">On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. a virtual webinar will be held for interested agricultural producers and cooperatives to learn about the Farmland Restoration Program application process. The webinar will be held utilizing Webex. Please visit <a href="http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants">www.CTGrown.gov/grants</a> to obtain the webinar link. The</p>	

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Questions regarding the Farmland Restoration Grant can be directed to Lance Shannon, [Lance.Shannon@ct.gov](mailto:Lance.Shannon@ct.gov) or Simon Levesque, [Simon.Levesque@ct.gov](mailto:Simon.Levesque@ct.gov). More information on application requirements, submission process, and accompanying forms can be found online at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).

*Funding for the Farmland Restoration Grant is made possible by Connecticut General Statutes 22-6c. The Farmland Restoration Grant and any awards are subject to the requirements and provisions of state funding.*

## FALL DAIRY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY NE-DBIC

New England Dairy Business Innovation Center is preparing to release guidance on grants for this fall. Below is a list of funding opportunities coming this fall.

- **Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant (October):** We will be offering grants to support food safety projects including specialized equipment purchase, supplies, food safety training, and certifications. Priority will be given to projects that are utilizing food safety improvements to access new markets. This grant will be released in October. Grants of \$10,000 - \$40,000 with a 25% match commitment.
- **Dairy Farm Innovation Grant (October):** This grant will fund a wide range of projects across farm production and business operation models that support the implementation of community- and climate-forward production strategies. Projects funded through this grant program should take a whole farm system approach and increase collaboration with other farms or dairy sector stakeholders. This grant will be released in October. Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 with a 25% match commitment required.

### Grants for Dairy Processors

- **Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant (October):** We will be offering grants to support food safety projects including specialized equipment purchase, supplies, food safety training, and certifications. Priority will be given to projects that are utilizing food safety improvements to access new markets. This grant will be released in October. Grants of \$10,000 - \$40,000 with a 25% match commitment.
- **Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant (January):** This grant will be split into multiple funding tiers to accommodate processors of all scales. Projects will focused on acquiring specialized equipment needed to increase the processing capacity of regionally produced milk and other

Subscribe	Past Issues	activities to support expansion to meet demand. Grant opportunity released in January.	Translate ▼
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- **Dairy Processor Innovation Grant (January):** Projects funded through this program will support long term business investments that increase dairy processor business consumer appeal and marketability of value-added dairy products. Project areas can address sourcing, product development, transportation/distribution, marketing/supply chain, operations, employee welfare, consumer experience, utilization of materials or systems that reduce carbon footprint, and beyond. Grant opportunity released in January.

For more information visit their site below.

Visit NE-DBIC

### CT Grown Marketing Tools



#### MEET THE NEW CT GROWN AMBASSADOR: AMY HOLMBERG

As part of DoAg’s ongoing efforts to increase farmer engagement with the successful CT Grown campaign, we are pleased to share that a familiar name and smile has joined our outreach team.

**Amy Holmberg, fourth-generation farmer from the iconic Holmberg Orchards** (est. 1896), will actively conduct outreach to engage with farmers across the state. Look for Amy’s communications via email, direct visits, virtual meetings, or as part of larger producer gatherings.

As a CT Grown Ambassador, and in coordination with longstanding marketing partners at Miranda Creative, Amy will distribute updates, giveaways, and

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resources to help farmers maximize opportunities in the CT Grown campaign. We welcome Amy's engagement to promote Connecticut's agricultural producers, farm products, and the CT Grown brand.

If you'd like to connect with Amy, please contact her at [aholmberg@mirandacreative.com](mailto:aholmberg@mirandacreative.com).

## CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[CT LIVE!: Discover Connecticut Grown Products at Your Local Farmer's Market This Fall, NBC CT, 10/12](#)

[A giant pumpkin in California was crowned heaviest in the U.S. These are the biggest CT has seen., SF Gate, 10/11](#)

['This is the future of farming': Connecticut's first nonprofit indoor hydroponic farm grows fresh produce year-around, WTNH Hartford, 10/10](#)

[Connecticut farms are struggling. The online marketplace Healthy PlanEat is looking to help., Hartford Courant, 10/10](#)

[A New Farm Stay in Connecticut Invites You to Harvest, Forage, and Cook With the Local Bounty, Yahoo, 10/8](#)



## PROTECT YOUR POULTRY FROM HPAI

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) advises all poultry owners and producers to remain vigilant in protecting their backyard and commercial poultry flocks against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

HPAI was confirmed at a backyard non-commercial flock in New London County in March 2022 and more recently on October 4 at a backyard non-commercial flock in New Haven County. Additionally, multiple detections have been confirmed within wild birds throughout Connecticut, primarily waterfowl and raptors.

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- Discourage unnecessary visitors and use biosecurity signs to warn people not to enter buildings without permission.
- Ask all visitors if they have had any contact with any birds in the past five days.
- Forbid entry to employees and visitors who own any kind of fowl.
- Require all visitors to cover and disinfect all footwear.
- Lock all entrances to chicken houses after hours.
- Avoid non-essential vehicular traffic on-farm.
- After hauling birds to processors, clean and disinfect poultry transport coops and vehicles before they return to the farm.
- Report anything unusual, especially sick or dead birds, to CT DoAg at 860-713-2505 or [ctstate.vet@ct.gov](mailto:ctstate.vet@ct.gov) or the USDA at 866-536-7593.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild ducks and geese and their droppings. Outdoor access for poultry should be limited at this time.

Signs of avian influenza include sudden increase in bird deaths, sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, watery or green diarrhea, lack of energy, poor appetite, drop in egg production, swelling around the eyes, neck, and head, and purple discoloration of wattles, combs, and legs.

Avian influenza does not present an immediate public health concern. Only one detection in a human has occurred in the United States, and the individual exhibited minor symptoms. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F kills bacteria and viruses.

### MOBILE VACCINATION CLINICS

If you are interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic on your farm, please complete the following steps:

- **Step 1** — Review the [DPH Vans Information Sheet](#)
- **Step 2** — Complete the [DPH Vans Intake Form](#). Please note that filling out this form does not guarantee the availability of providing a pop-up clinic. Please note that all responses are thoroughly reviewed, and you will be contacted if we are able to bring a DPH van to your neighborhood/event/site.

Subscribe	Past Issues	LIVESTOCK OWNERS URGED TO BE AWARE OF EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (EHD) AFTER RECENT DETECTIONS IN	Translate ▼
<div>WHITE-TAILED DEER IN CONNECTICUT</div> <div><p>The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is urging livestock owners to be aware of signs of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). This follows the recent announcement by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) that EHD has been confirmed in white-tailed deer for the third year since first detected in our state in 2017.</p><p>EHD is considered endemic in the United States and occurs sporadically, primarily in white-tailed deer. Because the disease is spread by biting Culicoides midges, the disease occasionally spills over to domestic livestock. Outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease are often associated with wet weather, which provides breeding areas. Drought conditions which may concentrate animals and vectors around diminishing water sources may also be linked to some outbreaks occurring in the late summer and early fall due to an increase in midge numbers. Hemorrhagic disease outbreaks cease with the onset of a hard frost, which kills the midges carrying the virus.</p><p>Hemorrhagic disease does not infect humans, and rarely causes illness in domestic animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, and cats.</p><p>For more information on EHD, including signs and symptoms in cattle and other livestock, please visit: <a href="https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/epizootic_hemorrhagic_disease.pdf">https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/epizootic_hemorrhagic_disease.pdf</a></p></div> <div>CONNECTICUT DROUGHT MONITOR</div>			

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U.S. Drought Monitor

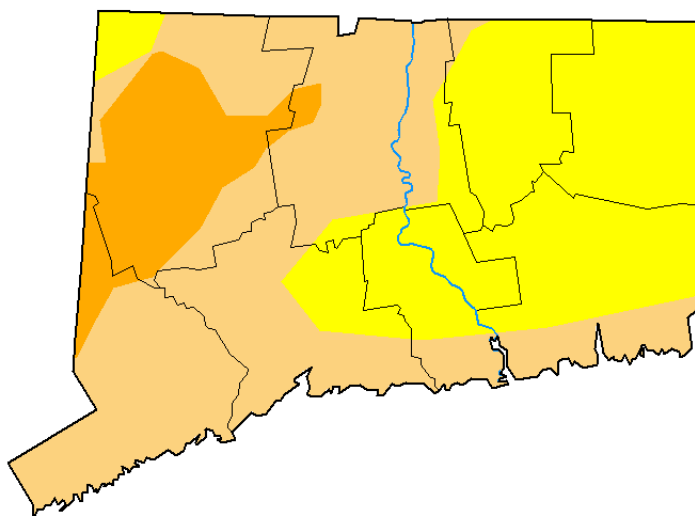
October 11, 2022

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## Connecticut

(Increased Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh  
CPC/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

CT Drought Monitor

## GOVERNOR LAMONT ACCOUNCES FARMERS IN ALL EIGHT COUNTIES NOW ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE DUE TO DROUGHT

Governor Ned Lamont announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved his request to expand the natural disaster declaration that it recently approved for certain parts of Connecticut due to the drought that impacted the state this summer. As a result, agricultural producers in **all eight of the state's counties are now eligible** to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency, such as emergency loans, to offset the costs of production losses they experienced from the drought.

With the addition of this latest declaration, Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, and Windham counties have each been designated as primary natural disaster areas due to the drought. Those designations have resulted in the state's two remaining counties – New Haven and Tolland – each being named as contiguous disaster counties. Farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties are eligible for assistance.

Farmer operators interested in applying for assistance must contact the local Farm Service Agency office for their region. **Farmers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for assistance.**



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## **DROUGHT ADVISORY FOR NEW LONDON AND WINDHAM COUNTIES REDUCED TO STAGE 2**

Governor Ned Lamont announced on October 6 that due to recent rainfall that has brought some relief to lower than normal conditions in the state, he is reducing the drought advisory that he declared in August for New London and Windham counties from a Stage 3 drought level to Stage 2. This change brings all eight of Connecticut's counties to a Stage 2 drought level.

[Read more here.](#)

**A new State Impacts tool is live now on the U.S. Drought Monitor site:** <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/StateImpacts.aspx>

Since it was established in 2005, the Drought Impact Reporter has recorded events documented in media that meet our definition of a drought impact: a loss or change at a specific place and time due to drought. We are still doing that ("we" mainly being Denise Gutzmer, impacts tracker extraordinaire). At one point in the evolution of the Drought Impact Reporter, we experimented with including drought impacts documented in different ways, but as we worked with users, we realized it was better to keep different types of information separate.

The [Drought Impacts Toolkit](#) includes the Drought Impact Reporter, CMOR, Drought Tweets, the Media Drought Index, the Visual Drought Atlas, the Drought Impacts Multi-tool (which provides for CoCoRaHS), and more, with thanks to NDMC's Ian Ratcliffe for data wrangling, maps, timelines, and dashboards. Find them all on the [Tools](#) page.

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A Program Of UConn Extension

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## AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES

OCT  
29TH

## CHAINSAW SKILLS &amp; SAFETY

## Directed toward WOMEN

CLOVERLEIGH FARM, COLUMBIA - 8:30AM-4:30AM

Intro to safe chain saw operation. Students will learn about PPE, work area safety, basic saw maintenance, chain sharpening, and how to develop a felling plan. Each student will have a chance to fell their own tree. You may bring your own saw or use one that will be provided by the instructor.

COST PER WORKSHOP \$25 - Lunch included

SPACES ARE LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY at [newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground/](https://newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground/)If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a stipend by emailing [rebecca.toms@uconn.edu](mailto:rebecca.toms@uconn.edu)

Please contact us in advance with special needs (dietary, translation, accessibility, etc.) We'll do our best to accommodate you

**COVID REQUIREMENTS:**

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL- YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND.



## BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS UNDER THE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROGRAM

*Grants Will Increase Innovative, American-Made Fertilizer Production, Spur Competition and Help U.S. Farmers Address Rising Costs*

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is inviting U.S. farmers and agricultural producers to apply for grants under the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program. The Administration recently announced it is making \$500 million in grants available through the program to increase American-made

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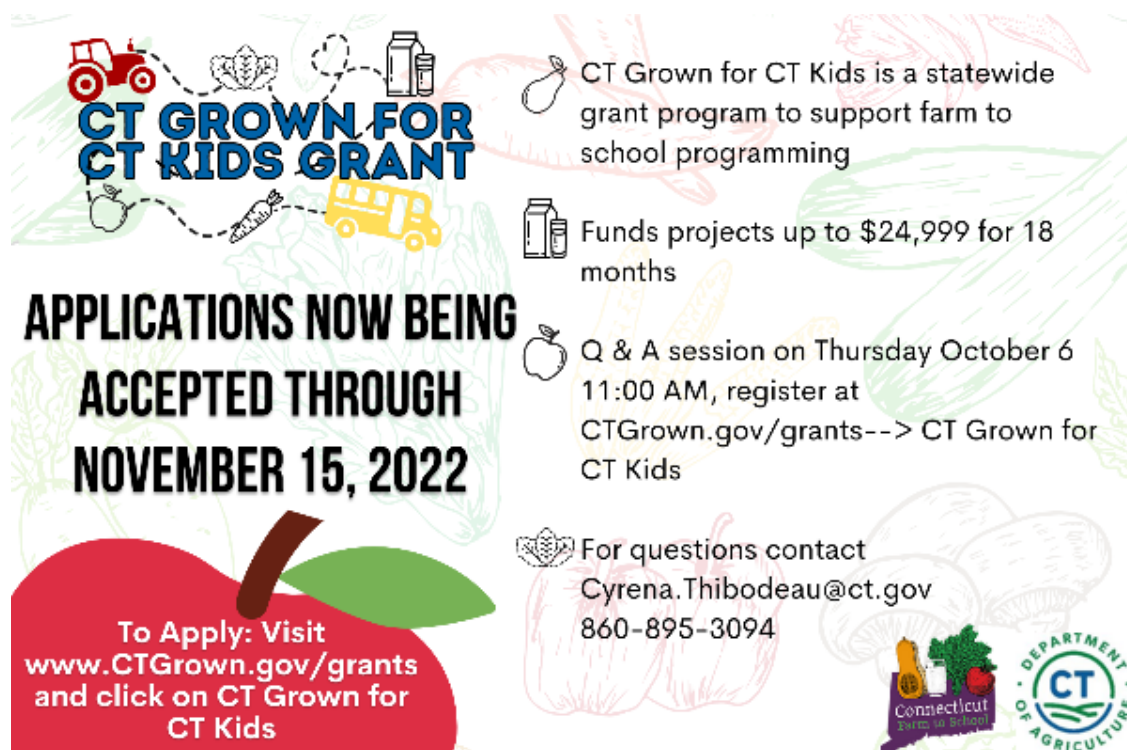
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“The Fertilizer Production Expansion Program is one of many ways the Biden-Harris Administration invests in the agricultural supply chain right here at home,” Vilsack said. “This funding will bring production and jobs back to the United States, promote competition and support American goods and services. Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA continues to create a resilient, secure and sustainable economy to support opportunities for local businesses and people across this nation. This program is a critical part of that effort.”

USDA begins accepting applications today via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applicants have two opportunities to submit their applications:

- Applicants may apply until **Nov. 14, 2022**, to receive priority for projects that increase the availability of fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphate or potash) and nutrient alternatives for agricultural producers to use in crop years 2023 or 2024.
- Applicants may apply until **Dec. 29, 2022**, to receive financial assistance to significantly increase American-made fertilizer production to spur competition and combat price hikes. This application window supports applicants who need more time to make additional capacity available.

[Click here for more information on the program.](#)



**CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT**

**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

**To Apply: Visit [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants) and click on CT Grown for CT Kids**

- CT Grown for CT Kids is a statewide grant program to support farm to school programming
- Funds projects up to \$24,999 for 18 months
- Q & A session on Thursday October 6 11:00 AM, register at [CTGrown.gov/grants](http://CTGrown.gov/grants)--> CT Grown for CT Kids
- For questions contact [Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov](mailto:Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov) 860-895-3094

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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## LABOR PROTECTION FOR FARM WORKERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is gathering input to help shape a recently announced planned grant program focused on improving the resiliency of our food and agricultural supply chain by addressing labor shortages in agriculture, reducing irregular migration through increased use of legal pathways, and improving labor protections for farmworkers. The grant program will use up to \$65 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to provide support for agricultural employers in implementing robust labor protections to promote a safe, healthy work environment for both U.S. workers and workers hired from northern Central American countries under the seasonal H-2A visa program.

FSA seeks input on:

- Challenges that employers face in securing a stable workforce.
- The set of incentives employers seek from USDA in order to improve their ability to hire workers from northern Central American countries under the seasonal H-2A visa program.
- The labor standards that will make meaningful progress towards ensuring a safer and fairer working environment for both domestic and H-2A farmworkers.
- Barriers or challenges faced by farmworkers, specifically those from northern Central American countries participating in the H-2A visa program.
- Recommendations to enhance farmworker protections and to increase farmworker awareness of resources and worker rights.

Attendees and other interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments prior to and by 30 days after the date of publication (by October 21, 2022) in the Federal Register.

Find more details in the [Sept. 21 notice on the Federal Register](#) or on [fsa.usda.gov/farmworkers](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmworkers).

**LOOKING FOR NEW  
MARKETS?  
JOIN US TO LEARN MORE!  
OCTOBER 27, 2022**

**Agricultural Assistance from Farmer to  
Exporter for Connecticut Agricultural  
Producers & Food Manufacturers**



**AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE FROM FARMER TO EXPORTER FOR  
CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS & FOOD  
MANUFACTURERS**

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Join us for a free webinar to hear about state and federal resources available to assist Connecticut agricultural and food product companies interested in exporting. This webinar, sponsored by Congressman Joe Courtney (CT2) and the U.S. Commercial Service, will feature speakers from Food Export USA—Northeast and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Date: **Thursday, October 27, 2022**

Time: 1:00 PM ET

Cost: **FREE** [Register here](#)

Questions? Contact Melissa Grosso at the U.S. Commercial Service's Connecticut Office at [Melissa.Grosso@trade.gov](mailto:Melissa.Grosso@trade.gov) or 860-638-6955

Speakers:

- Congressman Joe Courtney, CT2
- Bryan Hurlburt | Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture
- Apryl King | Liaison—CT, MA, ME, RI, VT | Food Export USA—Northeast
- Erin Windham | Ag Marketing and Inspection Rep II, Connecticut Department of Agriculture
- Melissa Grosso | Director | U.S. Commercial Service (Connecticut office)

Food Export – Northeast is a non-profit organization that supports companies with value-added food and agricultural products in fueling growth through exporting. Members are made up of the Department of Agriculture in the 10 Northeast states, including the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Food Export USA—Northeast helps both novice suppliers and seasoned exporters unlock long-term global growth with export education, global connections, export strategies, and marketing financial assistance. In the last year alone, companies that participated in our programs and activities gained over \$978M in combined export sales to countries around the globe.

The mission of the Department of Agriculture is to foster a healthy economic, environmental, and social climate for agriculture by developing, promoting, and regulating agricultural businesses; protecting agricultural and aquacultural resources; enforcing laws pertaining to domestic animals; and promoting an understanding among the state's citizens of the diversity of Connecticut agriculture, its cultural heritage and its contribution to the state's economy. The Agricultural Development Unit of the agency's Bureau of Agricultural Development & Resource Preservation is the primary contact for agricultural business development, include grant opportunities and marketing assistance.

Join us for this informative webinar to learn about the benefits of exporting and assistance available to your Connecticut company!

- Exports of consumer food products are growing 3x faster than sales here in the U.S. They have soared in recent years in response to consumers' growing purchasing power and lower trade barriers.

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- In 2021, Connecticut exported \$331 million in U.S. farm and foods products, increasing from the previous year by 7%.

[Register](#)

# FARM CREDIT EAST

## FARM CREDIT EAST OFFERS SEMINARS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

A successful manager is required to master many aspects of the farm business. To help the next generation develop the necessary business and financial skills, Farm Credit East is hosting GenerationNext seminars this fall and winter. Anyone who would like to sharpen their management skills is encouraged to attend. Both in-person and virtual sessions are offered.

GenerationNext is optimal for those producers who will be the next-generation operators of a farm business or for entrepreneurs starting their own business. The sessions will cover a range of topics, including leadership and management, human resource development, financial management, production economics, marketing, risk management, and farm transfer and estate planning.

“The management skills in the GenerationNext program can be helpful regardless of your role in the operation,” said Chris Laughton, Farm Credit East Director of Knowledge Exchange. “Whether you are the next generation of leadership in your organization, a key employee who’s ready to take on more responsibility, or an entrepreneur looking to grow your ag business, GenerationNext can help prepare you for success.”

Whether you are just beginning a management role or are an experienced manager who would like to further develop your skills, participants will gain valuable insights from Farm Credit East business consultants and from their GenerationNext colleagues. Starting in November, in-person sessions will be held in central and western New York and eastern Connecticut. Starting in early 2023, in-person sessions will be held in northern Vermont, central New Jersey, and western and northern Maine. The virtual program consists of eight weekly two-hour sessions, starting January 12 and running every Thursday through March 2.



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existing relationship with Farm Credit East to attend. Contact Chris Laughton at [Chris.Laughton@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:Chris.Laughton@farmcrediteast.com) or call (800) 562-2235 for more information.



## USDA OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOR ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY EXPENSES FOR SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023. USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

Specialty crop operations can now apply for assistance for eligible expenses related to a 2022 food safety certificate issued on or after June 21, 2022. USDA

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learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions.

### Program Details

FSCSC will assist specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation's cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their related expenses.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 2023 certification.

Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each category of eligible costs. A higher payment rate has been set for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers. Details about the payment rates and limitations can be found at [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://farmers.gov/food-safety).

### Applying for Assistance

The FSCSC application period for 2022 ends on January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. Interested specialty crop producers can apply by completing the FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) application. The application, along with other required documents, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Producers can visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator) to find their local FSA office. Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to assist.

Producers can visit [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://farmers.gov/food-safety) for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

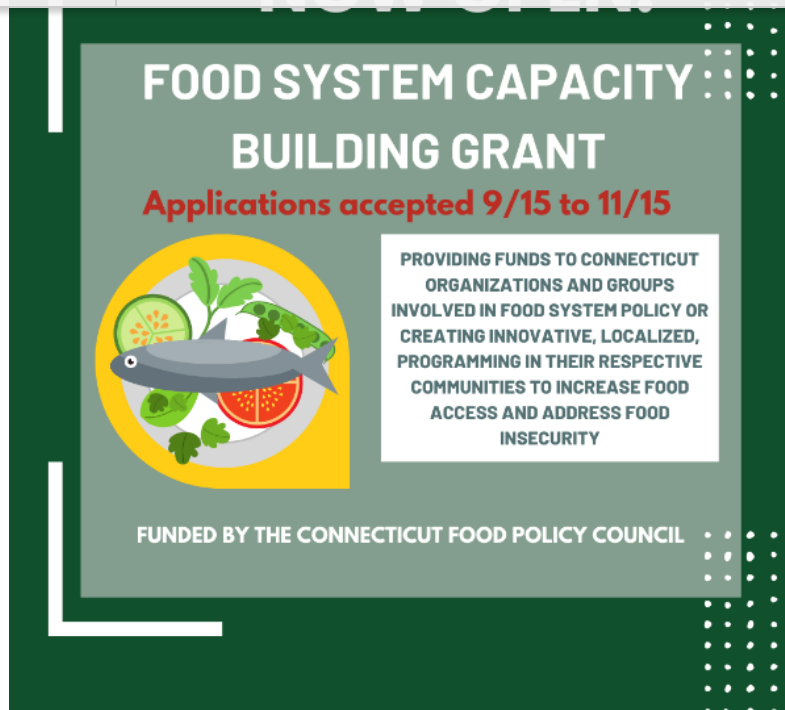


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## CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award The Food System Capacity Building Grant provides funds to Connecticut organizations and groups involved in food system policy or creating innovative, localized, programming in their respective communities to increase food access and address food insecurity. Funding for the Food System Capacity Building Grant is provided through the Connecticut Food Policy Council under C.G.S. Sec. 22-456.

There is no minimum and the maximum amount of funds that can be requested for one project is limited to \$10,000.00. There is no match requirement for this grant.

The application deadline is November 15, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture online application system.

Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt said, “During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that we needed to improve our food system, not only to make more food available to families across the state, but to incorporate more CT Grown products to offset the amount of food imported from out of state. Through the efforts and commitment from the Food Policy Council, I’m happy to announce the creation and availability of the Food System Capacity Building Grant, which will improve the local food system and make food, particularly CT Grown farm products, more accessible to Connecticut residents.”

Eligible applicants include Local Food Policy Councils and/or food working groups. Agricultural producers, for-profit and non-profit grocery stores, food pantries, farmers’ markets, community gardens, including municipalities or

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retail food outlets operated by an emergency food program or food hub.

The goal of the Food System Capacity Building Grant is to improve the local food system and make food, particularly CT Grown farm products, more accessible to Connecticut residents.

The project template, performance measures, and information required to apply are available online at [Food System Capacity Building Grant \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/grants). For more information on the Food System Capacity Building Grant Program, please visit the website, <http://www.ctgrown.gov/grants> and click on the Food System Capacity Building Grant Program, or contact Erin Windham at [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov) or 860-519-6083.

For interested parties, there will be a webinar and question and answer session on October 11, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. This will be recorded and posted on [CTGrown.gov/grants](https://www.ctgrown.gov/grants). A video recording walking through how to submit your application via Salesforce is also posted. The deadline for final submissions is November 15, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. Additional details can be found at the Food System Capacity Building Grant page. The grant guidance and application is also available in Spanish.



## DoAG Grants FY 2023

[CTGrown.gov/grants](https://www.ctgrown.gov/grants)



Program Name	Anticipated Application Period	Eligible Applicants	Contact
<i>Organic Cost Share Program</i>	August–October 3, 2022	A producer or handler (or both) of agricultural products who is obtaining certification under the National Organic Program.	<a href="mailto:Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov">Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov</a> (860) 993-5275
<i>CT Grown for CT Kids Grant</i>	September 15–November 15, 2022	CT local and regional BOE, regional education centers, childcare centers, group/family childcare homes or organization/entity assisting in development of a farm-to-school program and partnering with a CT public school	<a href="mailto:Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov">Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov</a> (860) 895-3094
<i>Food System Capacity Building Grants on behalf of the Food Policy Council</i>	September 15–November 15, 2022	Local Food Policy councils and/or food working groups; agricultural producers, food pantries, farmers' markets, community gardens including municipalities or organizations operating a community garden, and food retailers	<a href="mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov">Erin.Windham@ct.gov</a> (860) 519-6083
<i>Farmland Restoration Grant</i>	October–December 2022	Owners and tenants/lessees/permittees, with owner(s) approval, of CT farmland	<a href="mailto:Lance.Shannon@ct.gov">Lance.Shannon@ct.gov</a> (860) 713-2531 <a href="mailto:Simon.Levesque@ct.gov">Simon.Levesque@ct.gov</a> (860) 713-2574
<i>Farm Transition Grant</i>	November 2022–January 2023	CT farmers and agriculture cooperatives	<a href="mailto:Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov">Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov</a> (860) 993-5275
<i>Specialty Crop Block Grant</i>	January–March 2023	Universities or colleges, municipalities, ag non profits, State agencies, and councils of gov'ts	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov">Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov</a> (860) 573-0323
<i>Dairy Grants on behalf of CT Milk Promotion Board</i>	February–April 2023	CT dairy farmers who pay into check-off dollars	<a href="mailto:Allison.Hughes@ct.gov">Allison.Hughes@ct.gov</a> (860) 500-8918
<i>Farm Viability Grant</i>	February–April 2023	Ag non profits, single or groups of municipalities, regional councils of gov'ts	<a href="mailto:Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov">Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov</a> (860) 993-5275

## UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS AND NON-PROFITS

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applicants advance notice and time to prepare their grant application. For more information, visit [CTGrown.gov/grants](https://CTGrown.gov/grants) or contact the individual listed.

## CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM

The last few years have been tough on you, your family and your way of life. The COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather and drought conditions, rising fuel costs and overall economic uncertainty are all challenges you've had to face every day. During these trying times, it is more important than ever to ensure that Connecticut farmers and producers continue to thrive and be able to safely provide fresh foods to the communities that rely on them.

The Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program (CTAMP) stands ready to assist you. Here's how we can help:

**CTAMP can provide online or telephone mediation services at little or no cost for the following types of issues:**

- Agricultural loans and loan-servicing, including Farm Service Agency and Rural Development loans
- Adverse Decisions from USDA Agencies
- Compliance Issues with USDA Farm and Conservation Programs
- Farm Credit/Debt Issues
- Wetlands Determinations/Environmental Issues/Pesticide Use
- Lease Issues (including land leases and equipment leases)
- Crop Insurance
- Conflicting Agricultural Practices
- Organic Certification Disputes
- Family Farm Transitions and Succession
- Farm Labor Disputes
- Any dispute involving a producer or USDA agency
- Parties may initiate mediation as prevention, prior to an adverse decision
- Other issues as the CT Department of Agriculture considers appropriate for better serving the agricultural community and persons eligible for mediation

In addition, CTAMP may be able to offer credit counseling to covered persons prior to the initiation of any mediation involving USDA or unrelated to any ongoing dispute or mediation in which USDA is a party. Finally, CTAMP will be offering online conflict resolution workshops to help people develop their skills to better manage conflicts and negotiate successful resolutions.

To learn more or request services, contact CTAMP Toll-Free at 1-800-870-2577 or at [CTAMP@Quinnipiac.edu](mailto:CTAMP@Quinnipiac.edu). You can also visit our website at [www.CTAgMediation.org](https://www.CTAgMediation.org)

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## BEGINNING FARMER LOAN OPPORTUNITY

Accessing capital to begin, extend, or support an agriculture operation can be challenging--especially to new producers. Farm Service Agency's "Beginning Farmer" direct and guaranteed loan programs provide an opportunity for qualified applicants to secure loans from funding set aside for producers who meet the following conditions:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training, and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm

For more information, contact the New London County USDA Service Center at (860) 887-9941 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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## NEW GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR UNDERSERVED FARMERS, RANCHERS

A new multi-agency guide for USDA assistance for underserved farmers and ranchers is now available. If you are a farmer or rancher and are a minority, woman, veteran, beginning, or limited resource producer, you can use this booklet to learn about assistance and targeted opportunities available to you.

This includes programs offered through the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency. The guide is also available in Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai and Chinese on [farmers.gov/translations](https://farmers.gov/translations).

[Download the Guide](#)

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## PRODUCE SAFETY TRAINING VIDEOS

Attention Farmers: UConn Extension has developed two farm worker training videos to help you with training your employees in produce safety practices. These are resources for you to make your employees follow proper food safety on farm and ensure a safe food production. The videos were made possible in collaboration with CT Department of Ag. For more information on produce safety and FDA's FSMA Produce Safety Rule please visit: <https://foodsafety.uconn.edu/>

1. Farm worker training: A Day in the life of a farm worker: Part I: Safe Harvesting Practices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXLx2FZyk-U&t=328s>

2. Farm worker training: A Day in the life of a farm worker: Part II: Safe Post-harvest Practices <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjZ629VEPts&t=3s>

*Spanish* versions of the video will be available soon as well. A separate announcement will be sent once they are released. For more questions or queries, please contact Indu.Upadhyaya@uconn.edu, 860-786-8191.

[Learn More](#)

## ONLINE ARTISAN DAIRY FOOD SAFETY PLAN COACHING WORKSHOP

UConn is currently offering a new Artisan Dairy Food Safety Plan Coaching workshop program.

The online, self-paced Virtual Artisan Dairy Food Safety Plan Coaching Workshop is intended for small to mid-sized cheese, ice cream, yogurt, and other dairy food producers who are preparing to create, or are already developing, a Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) compliant, preventive control (PC)-based, food safety plan for their facility.

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coaches for artisan dairy producers wherever they may be in the country. Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) lead trainers review key food safety plan topics in each self-paced module.

Each month, there are two “office hour” Q&A sessions that provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions about the module topics or about their own specific food safety plan questions with food safety experts. This way artisan producers can work through their plan at their pace throughout and have more readily available expert support throughout the process.

There are NO prerequisites. PCQI certification is recommended but not required prior to enrollment.

**Who Should Attend:** Small to mid-sized cheese, ice cream, yogurt, and other dairy food producers just starting off, those taking the next step in their Food Safety Plan Development, and those looking for a review of their current plans.

Attendees are encouraged to enroll and complete the Food Safety for Artisan/Farmstead Cheesemakers prior to taking this workshop. The link, along with a code, to this online training, will be provided upon registration.

*These workshops are made possible through the support of a USDA grant, obtained in collaboration with Cornell University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, and the Innovation Center for US Dairy.*

[Register](#)
[View Office Hours Schedule](#)

### Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT  
Prices provided on October 10, 2022

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

CT Farmers' Market Prices  
Prices provided on August 9, 2022

Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report

Northeast Regional Eggs

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update

New England Shell Eggs

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

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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.

Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, [Griffinfarm@aol.com](mailto:Griffinfarm@aol.com); [www.griffinfarmtools.com](http://www.griffinfarmtools.com)

### Wanted

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

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

### Employment Opportunities

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is recruiting for one Environmental Analyst 2 position to support agricultural producers with the implementation of climate smart ag practices, solar and other alternative energy-generating practices. This role is accountable for independently performing a full range of tasks in the technical review and analysis of environmental program data and issues, developing recommendations for courses of action and assisting with the implementation of policy and program decisions relating to climate smart ag practices, solar and other alternative energy-generating practices.

**Closing date: October 25, 2022.** For more information: <https://bit.ly/3fw0bnd>

The UConn Department of Extension is seeking applicants for a full-time (11-month) non-tenure-track faculty member at the Assistant/Associate Extension Educator rank to work with Pesticide Safety and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. The candidate will work in areas complementary to pesticide safety and risk assessment, including but not restricted to traditional, organic, and genetically engineered pest controls, their ecological and evolutionary impacts, regulatory issues, human health, and socio-economic effects, or related topics. **Deadline to apply is October 20, 2022.** [Learn more here.](#)

**Upcoming Events**  
(click on image below for info)



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**Sunday, October 16, 2022**  
**@ Ives Farm in Cheshire**

**12-1pm: Optional field walk of the Farm and strategies for assessing land**

**1-3pm: Eat (free!), Drink, meet landowners, farmers, service providers, and find land!**

**Sign up at:**  
[s.uconn.edu/farlandmixer](https://s.uconn.edu/farlandmixer)

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### FEATURING:

- Over 250 restored tractors from 1899-1994
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- Gas Engines and Implements
- Working Displays
- Farm Animals, Draft Horses
- Country Life Artifacts
- Activities for Kids
- Wagon Rides
- Food and Food Vendors featuring Toplands Farm Meats
- Exhibitors of old tractors, cars, engines and trucks welcome
- Sawmill
- Rock Crusher & Baker Pan
- Meat Shop Open

Watch our website: [toplandsfarm.com](https://toplandsfarm.com) for updates and info  
 Like us on Facebook: Toplands Farm LLC

## GROW TOGETHER NIGHTS

### Howling Flats Farm

Canaan, CT

October 19, 4:30pm-7pm

Join us for a farm tour (including baby animals♥), dinner, and to discuss livestock's role in regenerative agriculture!

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 FARMER ALLIANCE

## GROW TOGETHER NIGHTS

### Sub Edge Farm

Farmington, CT

October 22, 5:30pm-8pm

We'll enjoy a meal together, take a farm tour, and discuss what it's like to scale up your farming operation.



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 FARMER ALLIANCE



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