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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.

In This Report

[October 7, 2022; Vol. E, No. 40](#)

[HPAI in New Haven County](#)

[Meet CT Grown Ambassador](#)

[CT Ag In the News](#)

[Climate Smart Grant Feedback](#)

[Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease](#)

[African Swine Fever Action Week](#)

[Assistance for Specialty Crop Growers](#)

[Produce Safety Training Videos](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

National Seafood Month



October is National Seafood Month, and it's a prime time to recognize Connecticut's thriving aquaculture industry.

Connecticut is renowned for its shellfish farms - harvesting more than 200,000 bushels of oysters from Long Island Sound each year.

Enjoy the unique flavor of oysters from Connecticut's coastal waters by placing an order from a shellfish harvester. Find one near you at CTGrown.org.

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in New Haven County

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was detected in a backyard flock in New Haven County on October 4, 2022. The backyard flock, consisting of turkeys, guinea fowl and chickens, were pets, not commercial poultry. Samples were sent to the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab (CVMDL) for testing. The results from CVMDL were then confirmed by the United States Department of Agriculture National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa.

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 HPAI.

“Detections in backyard and commercial flocks are increasing around the U.S. and Canada,” said State Veterinarian Dr. Jane Lewis. “This comes as wild birds begin their annual migration south. It is imperative that anyone involved with poultry production review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds.”

State officials quarantined the affected premises, and per USDA policy the flock has been depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Federal and State partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flocks. Surveillance activities are being conducted in a 10-kilometer zone around the infected premises.

HPAI was confirmed at a backyard non-commercial flock in New London County in March 2022, however multiple detections have been confirmed within wild birds, primarily waterfowl and raptors.

Poultry biosecurity materials and checklists can be found on the [USDA's "Defend the Flock" website](#). Best practices include:

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- 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 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.

“Continued adherence to stringent protocols will ensure the safety and viability of Connecticut’s diverse poultry industry,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “Our state ranks first in New England for egg production and this serves as a reminder that we must all work together to protect our birds.”

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.

CT Grown Marketing Tools

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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 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.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[East Hampton students get hands-on lesson in new farm-to-school garden](#), Fox 61, 10/6

[9 Connecticut Corn Mazes Worth the Visit](#), irock95.com, 10/5

[Natural disaster declared for all 8 Connecticut counties due to summer drought that's stretched into autumn](#), Hartford Courant, 10/4

[Pumpkin Delight Elementary School highlights National Farm to School Month with corn shucking contest](#), News 12, 10/4

[Connecticut Sea Grant receives \\$850,000 in federal funding](#), The Fish Site, 10/1

[Pick up a cup of farm made apple cider at these 8 Connecticut farms](#), Hartford Courant, 9/29

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FEEDBACK REQUESTED ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY GRANT

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, through Public Act 22-118 was allocated \$14 million to support Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry production and practices. These funds will be made available to the agricultural industry through a new grant program where industry organizations will apply for funds to issue a subsequent program to Connecticut farmers and agribusiness.

There will be three grant allocation categories:

1. \$1,000,000 to \$1.5 million

- Project duration: 3-5 years

2. \$500,000 to \$999,999

- Project duration: 2-3 years

3. \$250,000 to \$499,999

- Project duration: no more than 2 years

For all grant categories:

- There is no match requirement
- Administrative/indirect costs are allowable
- All agricultural commodities, including forestry, are eligible
- All production types (conventional, organic, indoor/outdoor, soil/water, etc.) are eligible

The goal of the grant program is to provide funds to organizations, municipalities or other entities throughout Connecticut to support farmers and producers who are implementing climate smart agricultural practices (CSAP) as identified by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Implementation may be accomplished through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, providing technical assistance, the purchase of equipment, data collection, alternative energy implementation, market off-set payments due to the implementation of CSAP, and administrative costs.

Priority will be given to projects with the following components:

1. A low administrative percentage
2. Leverage funds to match a federal project
3. Enable farmers to participate in another CSAP program
4. Enable farmers to be fully compensated for partial reimbursement as a result of participating in a federal program

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6. Offer TA to program beneficiaries

7. Encourage peer to peer networking

50% advance of funds will be provided. Periodic reporting, data collection, and participation in quartering awardee meetings will be required.

Timeline:

- Application open: November 15, 2022
- Application deadline: January 15, 2023
- Awards Announced: February 10, 2023
- Contracts will start May 1, 2023

The agency is soliciting feedback on the above distribution approach through Friday, October 14, 2022. Fill out the form available [here](#).

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.

LIVESTOCK OWNERS URGED TO BE AWARE OF EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (EHD) AFTER RECENT DETECTIONS IN WHITE-TAILED DEER IN CONNECTICUT

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.

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

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in midge numbers. Hemorrhagic disease outbreaks cease with the onset of a hard frost, which kills the midges carrying the virus.

Hemorrhagic disease does not infect humans, and rarely causes illness in domestic animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, and cats.

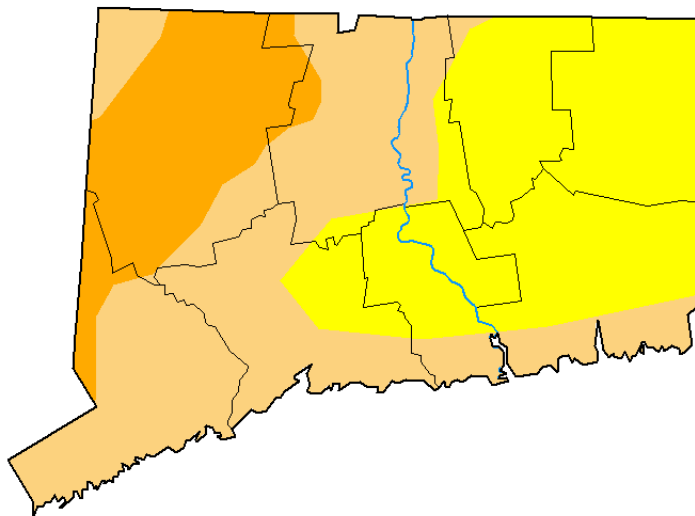
For more information on EHD, including signs and symptoms in cattle and other livestock, please visit:

https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/epizootic_hemorrhagic_disease.pdf

CONNECTICUT DROUGHT MONITOR

U.S. Drought Monitor
Connecticut

October 4, 2022
(Released Thursday, Oct. 6, 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

CT Drought Monitor

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

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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.**

[Read the full release here.](#)

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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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 fertilizer production, spur competition and combat price hikes on U.S. farmers caused by the war in Ukraine.

“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. 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.](#)

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USDA HOSTS SECOND AFRICAN SWINE FEVER ACTION

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is hosting its second African Swine Fever (ASF) Action Week from October 10-14, 2022. We are encouraging U.S. swine producers, small farms and pig owners to join us and learn about ASF and what they can do to help protect the U.S. swine herd.

ASF has never been detected in the U.S., but since the 2021 detection in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the closest to the U.S. in decades, USDA has partnered with industry and states to enhance already strong safeguards to protect U.S. swine from this costly disease.

"African swine fever is not a threat to human health nor is it a food safety concern," said Dr. Jack Shere, APHIS Associate Administrator and leader of the Agency's ASF prevention efforts. "But, if introduced here, ASF will kill millions of pigs Americans rely on for food and trade. And, were it to become endemic, it would take us more than 10 years and about \$80 billion to eradicate the disease," added Shere.


Join us all week on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and the website to learn more about what APHIS is doing, and what you can do, to [Protect our Pigs](#). Tune in for two special live events:

- **Tuesday, October 11: U.S. Mitigation, Live Twitter Q&A**
Two ASF subject matter experts will answer your questions on Twitter from 2 to 3 p.m. ET.
- **Thursday, October 13: The State of African Swine Fever, live webinar with Jack Shere**
Dr. Shere, will also host a live webinar on the latest APHIS and industry prevention actions, the U.S. approach to disease mitigation, and address questions collected from U.S. swine producers, small farmers, and pig owners from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET. To join, register in advance at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_BAnQ5QU4TRSCwqya3i3CNg

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to defend their herds and livelihoods. Free resources, such as custom videos, downloadable materials, and interactive training guides are available at the Protect Our Pigs website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asf/>.

Be sure to check the website and sign up for our [GovDelivery email list](#) so you don't miss any Action Week events or information.




CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2022

To Apply: Visit 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--> CT Grown for CT Kids
- For questions contact Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov 860-895-3094



USDA SEEKS INPUT ON NEW GRANT PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN, REDUCE IRREGULAR MIGRATION, IMPROVE 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:

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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.

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 is delivering FSCSC to provide critical assistance for specialty crop operations, with an emphasis on equity in program delivery while building on lessons 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.

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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:

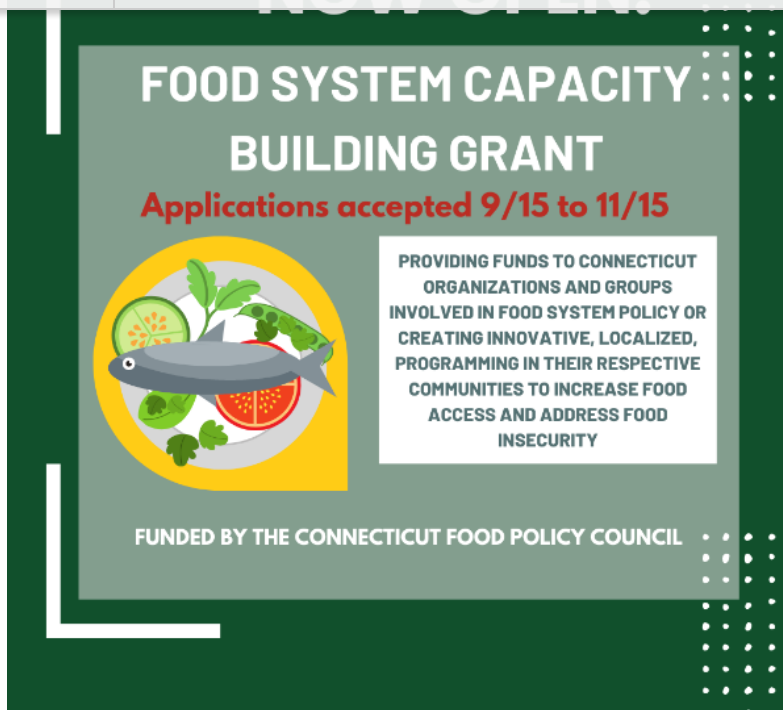
- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

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.

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 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 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 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.	Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov (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	Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov (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	Erin.Windham@ct.gov (860) 519-6083
<i>Farmland Restoration Grant</i>	October–December 2022	Owners and tenants/lessees/permittees, with owner(s) approval, of CT farmland	Lance.Shannon@ct.gov (860) 713-2531 Simon.Levesque@ct.gov (860) 713-2574
<i>Farm Transition Grant</i>	November 2022–January 2023	CT farmers and agriculture cooperatives	Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov (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	Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov (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	Allison.Hughes@ct.gov (860) 500-8918
<i>Farm Viability Grant</i>	February–April 2023	Ag non profits, single or groups of municipalities, regional councils of gov'ts	Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov (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 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. You can also visit our website at 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.

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.

[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](#)

LET'S TALK GMOs ONLINE COURSE FROM UCONN

UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is offering an online course, *Let's Talk GMOs: Creating Consistent Communication*

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messages and manage dialogue processes about GMOs with various audiences. The asynchronous course is available on-demand; it has eight online modules with instructors from UConn. The fee is \$49.

Most people have an emotional reaction to GMOs. They either love them or hate them. The majority already have an opinion about GMOs when the topic comes up. Participants will be comfortable sharing science-based information with their audiences after completing this course. Our role is to provide unbiased information that helps our audience form their own opinion and share their information about GMOs in a non-confrontational manner.

Participants in the course will learn more about the science of GMOs and how to talk about GMOs in small group sessions where those in the dialogue have differing opinions of GMOs. The course instructors and their modules are:

- **Robert Bird**, a professor of business law in the Department of Marketing, presents the module on how misinformation spreads.
- **Bonnie Burr**, the department head of Extension, presents the modules on public policy and GMOs, and difficult conversations.
- **Stacey Stearns**, a program specialist with UConn Extension presents, the module on communication messages you can use and is the course facilitator.
- **Cindy Tian**, a biotechnology professor in the Department of Animal Science, presents modules on the history of GMOs and dialogue management.

There are brief introductory and course wrap-up modules in addition to the six core modules. The first three modules take approximately one hour each. Participants should expect to spend two hours on the last three modules.

Let's Talk GMOs: Creating Consistent Communication Messages is an initiative of the GMO Working Group in UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. The group has a multi-faceted outreach campaign to educate the public on the science of GMOs, offering background on the diverse application of GMOs with research-based consideration of the risks and benefits. Visit <https://gmo.uconn.edu/> for additional resources from the team or email Stacey.Stearns@uconn.edu for more information.

Register

**ONLINE ARTISAN DAIRY FOOD
SAFETY PLAN COACHING WORKSHOP**

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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.

The goal of this online program is to combine self-paced food safety plan educational material with direct, real-time connections to dairy food safety 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](#)

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GRANT DEADLINE

The USDA Rural Development REAP
(Renewable Energy for America Program) deadline is
approaching for energy efficiency and renewable
energy projects on Connecticut Farms.

10.31.2022



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development

More info at
ctfarmenergy.org
or 860.345.3977 ext 100



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Now Available: CT Grown Tents

10' x 10' King Canopy Tents

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GET READY FOR FARMERS' MARKET SEASON

CT Grown tents are in stock and available for pick up at Connecticut Regional

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arrangements will be made to coordinate a pick up day and time.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on September 19, 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 Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)

Advertisements

[Advertisement space can now be purchased online! Click here to have your posting added!](#)

For Sale

For Sale, Christmas Greens. Wreaths & Roping, Many sizes and varieties. We Deliver 203-457-1344. (12/2/22)

1951 Ford 8N with Dearborn sickle bar mower, good condition, 1951 Ford 8N with trailer hitch, good condition, side-delivery rake, Rossi 2 star tedder, excellent condition. Art Talmadge, Ashford, CT, call or text 860-377-8927 (10/21/22)

Lynn Blackmer, local Nationwide Farm Insurance Agent. AFIS Certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT, RI & MA. Any type or size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for a discount. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com. Evenings & weekends available. (1/27/22)

Rain Flo irrigation pump. Four inch discharge. New condition. Please call 860-841-3082.

Dried Sawdust / Different Grades, \$20 per yard. You pick up or delivered with additional charge. 860-642-7084. Blue Slope Sawdust.

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Like new condition. NO rust. \$425 or best offer. 203-283-1459.

John Bean 200-gallon stainless-steel high-pressure sprayer on skids. 100 ft. hose on reel, premium J. Bean model 785-gun, mechanical agitation, Honda OHV motor. \$2,200 or best offer. 203-283-1459.

Walk behind Gravely tractor with sickle mower. \$400. Very good, workable condition. 860-875-8056.

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

Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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

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; 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

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CitySeed is hiring for three positions!

1. Director of Agricultural Programs (full-time)
2. Operations Manager (part-time)
3. Assistant Market Manager (part-time)

Click the links above to learn more about the open positions.

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)

Advancing 4-H Youth Careers in Food and Agriculture via Biotechnology & STEM

Calling Youth Ages 14-18:

- Are you interested in learning biotechnology?
- Do you want to explore biotechnology as a career?

Join our new 4-H clubs focused on agriculture, food, biotechnology, and STEM careers. Youth ages 14-18 can:

- Join a cohort and help us build online games (participate in a design jam with New Mexico State University and provide game feedback)
- Visit agriculture, food, and biotechnology companies in the state (in-person field trips)
- Explore careers in food, agriculture, biotechnology, and STEM

Learn more: s.uconn.edu/biotech

UConn 4-H

UConn 4-H is the youth development program of Extension in UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. 4-H is a community of over six million young people across the U.S. who are learning Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), leadership, citizenship and life skills through their 4-H project work.

UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
EXTENSION

JOIN US FOR A FARMLAND MIXER!

LOOKING FOR THAT FARM LAND?

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/farmlandmixer

Land For Good
UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SOLID GROUND
A Program of UConn Extension

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AND FARM OPEN HOUSE

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- Over 250 restored tractors from 1939-1954
- Tractor Parade
- 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 for updates and info

Like us on Facebook: Toplands Farm LLC


NIGHTS

Hunts Brook Farm

Quaker Hill, CT

October 8, 5:30pm-8pm

Join us for our first Grow Together night to share a meal, take a farm tour, and discuss employee retention on farms!



NEW CONNECTICUT FARMER ALLIANCE

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25/25