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Spring is here and that means farmers throughout the state are busy prepping fields for the growing season ahead. It also means drivers may encounter more farm equipment on the roads as producers travel from field to field. Share the Road. Be Patient. Pass with Caution. Save Lives.

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National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION





National Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week

Recognizing our State and Municipal Animal Control Officers, April 10-16

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is proud to celebrate our State and Municipal Animal Control Officers during National Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week happening April 10-16, 2022.

"This is an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and recognize the work of animal control officers for their professionalism and dedication," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "I am proud of the work they do to serve the public and protect the welfare of helpless animals and pets."

Under the Bureau of Regulatory Services, the State Animal Control Unit is responsible for the investigation of property damage, injury, and nuisance caused by dogs. The Unit is charged with the enforcement of laws pertaining to the licensing and control of dogs, the licensing and inspection of pet facilities and rabies control. In addition, the Unit is the only law enforcement entity that investigates and makes arrests in association with complaints of animal cruelty. The Unit also operates a large animal rehabilitation center which holds and rehabilitates evidence animals in on-going cruelty prosecutions. It also supports and educates the public and local or municipal animal control officials in enforcement of Connecticut dog law and behavior.

Most recently, State Animal Control Officers have engaged with Connecticut Kid Governor Makhi whose platform is *Protecting Our Pets*. A live, virtual program about the signs of animal abuse and how to show kindness towards pets and companion animals was held in early March. The program fulfilled the first point of his platform: *Educate Connecticut students about the signs of animal abuse and showing kindness towards companion animals*.

This special program featured Kid Governor Makhi and animal experts Tanya

Society.

April is also *National Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month*. Reports of animal cruelty can be made directly to the local Animal Control Department in the town where the concerns have been noted or by calling (860) 713-2506 as well as via e-mail at AGR.AnimalControl@ct.gov. Those wishing to make a report can remain anonymous.



TOTAL FARMER HEALTH COACH OPPORTUNITY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is working with AgriSafe utilizing funds from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as part of their Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) project.

The 12-month grant award includes providing a train-the-trainer program to supply mental well-being awareness and coping strategies to ag educators, new farmers, and youth via the *Cultivating a Healthy Mind* curriculum offered by AgriSafe.

As part of that program, AgriSafe is seeking health care professionals to join their team as a certified Health Coach to educate Connecticut farmers on Total Farmer Health. The initial training is 100% online allowing interested individuals the ability to complete the Total Farmer Health Coach Certification wherever they feel most comfortable and when it fits best in their schedule.

Learn more about the program and process to become a coach <u>here</u>.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

<u>Daffodils starting to pop up around the state</u>, 4/4, WFSB
<u>Beloved Dairy Farm Opening Restaurants + Unique Eatery Opens 2nd Spot</u>,
4/2, Patch.com

<u>Group wants New Milford to join 'Greenwave Movement' to educate about farming, healthy agriculture,</u> 4/2, CT Insider

Webinar 3: Tuesday, April 19 10 am to 12 pm

Creating meaningful soil health change: What can I do to make positive changes to my soil health?

Join us for an interactive webinar discussing ways to increase soil quality.

With the use of their own personal farm stories,
our speakers will address how to make positive soil health change.

Meet the Speakers:

Kaitlin Farbotnik (New Jersey NRCS)



Kaitlin Farbotnik is the State Conservation Agronomist and Grazing Specialist for New Jersey NRCS and is currently acting as the Northeast Regional Soil Health Specialist. Kaitlin enjoys working with planners and farmers to develop practical solutions for each farm's specific challenges and believes that every soil health system should be designed to be dynamic and adaptable. When not working her day job, Kaitlin is the fourth generation on her family farm where she and her husband raise grass-fed beef, pastured pork and pastured poultry for retail sale at farmer's markets and for their farm CSA.

Matthew Denton (NRCS Soil Health Division)



Matthew Denton is the NRCS Soil Health Division's East Region Team Leader and most recently served as Area Resource Conservationist in West Tennessee. Matthew currently resides on the family's "Century Farm" in Dyer, Tennessee with his wife and 2 daughters, where they manage a vegetable and row crop operation in addition to producing livestock including small ruminants and beef cattle. Soil Health has been a major component of his operation personally and in his career professionally, implementing and promoting all aspects of Soil Health management and integration.

The webinar is open to service providers and farmers and will be comprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout sessions.

For more information, visit https://livestock.extension.uconn.edu// or contact Rachel Bespuda, Project Director at rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu/ REGISTER HERE - s.uconn.edu/regsarespring22



UCONN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES





This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Non-beas Sustainable Agriculture Breseach and Education program under superward number SNE20 001: CT 34268

REGIONAL AG COMMISSION MEETING

The Stafford Agricultural Commissioner will be hosting a regional meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 from 6 to 8 p.m., at 3 Buckley Highway, Stafford Springs, CT.

This is an opportunity to come meet and network with fellow farmers from the region. All are invited to attend at no cost and share ideas for agriculture events and projects, as well as challenges. Joan Nichols, Executive Director of the

For more information, visit www.staffordag.com/eventregistration.

CONNECTICUT MILK PROMOTION BOARD ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

Funding is provided through dairy checkoff dollars, established through the

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be conducted in accordance with the national dairy checkoff order, which can be found at: httpst//www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/dairy.

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

2022 CONNECTICUT COMPOST TOUR SERIES

Tour #2: On-Farm Composting

Join farm owner Jessica Stone for a tour of the farm and compost operation. The farm is currently working with Northern Tilth who works with farms throughout New England providing technical guidance for on-farm composting operations. Northern Tilth is currently working with an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant in Connecticut to study existing compost piles and then advise low-cost changes to reduce environmental losses and increase the finished compost quality and value. This tour will provide an overview of the on-farm composting, observations and discussions with the farm, and how they utilize compost.

April 29: REGISTER

Tours #3 and #4: Home Composting/Beginner

(This is a hands-on field trip; please dress in clothing you don't mind getting dirty.)

The Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP) began in 2016 to provide hands-on training, on-site demonstrations, education outreach, and community collaboration that help families become more self-sustainable and environmentally conscious while preserving the historic Keney Park. Join KPSP staff for a tour of the site, and participate in a hands-on composting project. Tour the many types of composting systems KPSP supports from worm bins to tumblers all while learning about KPSP's other efforts from planting native plants to producing maple syrup.

May 7: REGISTER

June 25: REGISTER

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WEBINAR: TOOLS TO HELP MANAGE FINANCIAL RISK FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

AgriSafe will hold a free webinar on April 12, 2022 to share tools to help manage financial risk for livestock producers. Changing climate, market conditions, and many other factors impact the work and health of livestock producers, ranchers, and farmers. This webinar will focus on the USDA Disaster Assistance Programs available to support producers who are raising livestock. Continuing education is available.

Register Here

EPA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR THE FARM, RANCH, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a <u>solicitation</u> <u>for nominations</u> to serve on its Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). Established in 2008, the FRRCC provides independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to EPA's Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.

To be considered for an appointment to the FRRCC, nominations should be submitted to FRRCC@epa.gov by May 16, 2022, with the subject line "FRRCC Membership 2022." Nominations should include a résumé or curriculum vitae and a statement of interest. Letters of support and recommendation will be accepted but are not mandatory.

In addition, Administrator Regan <u>has issued a formal response</u> today to the most recent set of <u>FRRCC recommendations</u> regarding food loss and waste,

respond to priorities identified by the committee.

<u>Learn more about the FRRCC nomination.</u>

Find more information about the FRRCC.

USDA VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS PROGRAM

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on Grants.gov. The program period varies for paper applications which must be postmarked by May 2, 2022. Applications are permitted via Grants.gov and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on **April 25, 2022**.

Click here for more information.



NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER INVESTS IN PROJECTS

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

- April <u>Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant</u>: Funding for valueadded dairy processors to access professional services to implement marketing tactics, brand improvements, and overall strategy.
- June <u>Dairy Processor Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.

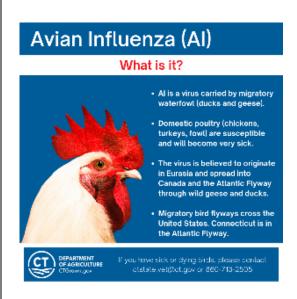
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production and business strategies.

For more information follow this link.





2022 FARMLAND RESTORATION GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSE APRIL 12

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announces the 2022 Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) grant guidance is now available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. The application period is open until April 12, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

The FLRP is a competitive grant program. It provides matching funds (up to \$20,000.00) to Connecticut farmers, landowners, non-profits, and municipalities to increase food and fiber production in the state by restoring lands into active agricultural production. The FLRP focuses on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan.

Examples of potential restoration activities include:

- Reclamation of grown over pastures, meadows, and cropland
- Clearing/removal of trees, stumps, stones, and brush to create or restore agricultural use
- Fencing to keep livestock in reclaimed pasture areas and/or out of riparian areas
- Drainage of crop fields to improve cropland areas and restore water runoff patterns
- Irrigation and irrigation wells
- Enhancement of farm roads which service restoration areas

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Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Additional details on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications must be submitted electronically via the new DoAg Grants Portal. Questions regarding the Farmland Restoration Program Grant can be directed to Lance Shannon at Lance.Shannon@ct.gov.

Funding for the Farmland Restoration Grant is made possible by Public Act 11-1, codified in Chapter 422 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Farmland Restoration Grant and any awards are subject to the requirements and provisions of state funding.

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



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

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



CALL OUR FARMER TECHNICAL ASSISTANT SHAKERA RAYCOZA TO LEARN MORE AT

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

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS:

MICROLOANS

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

OPERATING LOANS

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

OWNERSHIP LOANS

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE LOS DIFERENTES TIPOS DE PRÉSTAMOS:

MICROCRÉDITOS

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

PRÉSTAMOS DE OPERACIÓN

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

PRÉSTAMOS EN PROPIEDAD

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

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

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY2022 INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN CONNECTICUT

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

Applicants must submit their applications via <u>Grants.gov</u> (search for Funding Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-CT-CIG-22-NOFO0001157) by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 29, 2022**. For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts. Please limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in this Notice of

proposal will not be addressed.

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

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

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

Learn more here.

Ag Market Pricing

<u>Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT</u> <u>New Holland Dairy Auction - New</u>

Prices provided on April 4, 2022 <u>Holland, PA</u>

CT Farmers' Market Prices New Holland, PA Hay Report

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly

Northeast Regional Eggs Update

New England Shell Eggs Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -

<u>Boston</u>

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

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

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -

Eighty Four, PA

Advertisements

For Sale

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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

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

ροστίνου. <u>Ουτιραίο Γοίνοι Γοπός</u> σου-το Γ-22ου.

- 50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.
- 54-R. Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com
- 55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.
- 22-1. Honeybees: 5-frame Deep nucs only, available first week May. Jones Apiaries, LLC, 860-677-9391.
- 22-3. SnowBlower 48" PTO. Like new only used twice \$3,095 new. Asking \$2,500 best offer. 860-604-3452
- 22-5. Lynn Blackmer, your local Nationwide Farm Insurance agent. AFIS Certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT, RI & MA. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may quality for discount. Cell: 860-377-8947 lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.
- 22-6. Trailer-1965 Miller, tip up 22ft. Air brakes solid steel, brakes works fine but old. Need 2 tires and light update. Retiring \$1,500. 860-875-8056.
- 22-7. Farm sold, many pieces of equipment for sale. 860-488-0324.
- 22-8. Eight-year-old Hereford cow ready to breed, reasonable offers accepted. Call 860-487-7739 after 6 pm.
- 22-9. New England Hereford Breeders interested in consigning Quality Registered Herefords into our Annual Sept. Sale should contact Wayne Budney, Four Winds Farm, 860-573-2829.
- 22-10. Growing mix-3.8 cu. ft. Greenhouse soil Dzen Farms 860-648-1355

Wanted

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

The USDA Farm Service Agency is seeking a Program Technician. This position is located in Norwich, New London County, Connecticut. In this role, the candidate will assist the Farm Loan Chief, Farm Loan Branch specialists, Farm Loan Team managers, and District Directors on farm loan program procedural matters; provide training to individuals and groups in the preparation and processing of loan documents and on loan procedural changes; and provide technical assistance to the Branch in processing bankruptcy and farm foreclosure cases. For more information, or to apply, please click here. Closes April 18, 2022.

The USDA Farm Service Agency is currently accepting applications from individuals interested in providing contracted crop adjusting services throughout Connecticut for the 2022 crop year. Loss adjuster applications are due Friday, April 29, 2022 and can be submitted in person or by mail to your local county FSA office, or electronically to nathan.wilson@usda.gov. Applications and a complete position description may be found at any FSA county office in Connecticut or online here.

Interested in Advertising? Click here for details on rates and submission.

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

SALES & AUCTION

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





