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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
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August 12, 2022; Vol. E, No. 32

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Federal, state, and local officials gathered at Ash Creek in Fairfield, CT on Monday, August 8 to publicly introduce the CT Shellfish Restoration Plan, supported through Public Act 24-21, to support shellfish restoration and shell recycling to create and rebuild shellfish beds and set a vision for the future of CT's shellfish habitats.

One component of the guide is the [CT Shellfish Restoration Map Viewer](#), an online, interactive mapping tool released in 2021.

Read more [here](#).

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Educational Opportunities for Farmers to Proactively Adopt New Food Safety Measures on the Farm

Recently, NASDA hosted a significant training session at one of Michigan State University's research farms. NASDA and its development team, made up of food safety and horticulture specialists from five land grant universities, instructed other state food safety, agricultural and extension specialists on not only how to spot food safety risks on the farm, but also how to communicate those risks to farmers.

Through the state produce safety programs that are cooperating with FDA to implement the Produce Safety Rule, farmers are offered a free, voluntary and confidential educational opportunity to invite a team of these state specialists to teach them how to meet the food safety standards required by the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule. NASDA developed this program and calls these educational opportunities, "On Farm Readiness Reviews (OFFRs)."

Oftentimes, one of the food safety specialists conducting On Farm Readiness Reviews is a state food safety inspector while another team member is a university extension specialist. Upholding the value of "education before regulation" and serving as teachers, they equip farmers with new skills to protect their produce from viruses and bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses.

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can infect food may be coming in contact with produce. They also trained on how to assess good handwashing practices, water sanitation and potential food safety risks associated with wildlife droppings.

Most importantly, after identifying risk, the assessors were instructed on how to communicate with the farmer how many situations can impact food safety, options on how to resolve potential for contamination and how to prioritize risk management.

NASDA Senior Director of Food Safety Programs Joe Reardon shared the importance of communicating the “why” behind provisions in the Produce Safety Rule, rather than solely pointing out potential areas of risk.

“When you walk on to an American farm and you’re talking with the farmer, if you do that in a pure regulatory approach where you’re simply sharing what the rule says, the farmer respects those rules. They’re governed by many rules. But, if you’re able to then communicate the food safety risk behind [the rule] and help the farmer understand why that specific practice or process can have an elevated or lowered food safety risk, they can make the best decisions for their farm and determine how to best invest their resources,” Reardon said.

Produce farms that grow, pack or hold fruits and vegetables that are “generally consumed raw” are regulated by the Produce Safety Rule as of January 26, 2016. NASDA saw the importance of “education before regulation” and introduced the On Farm Readiness Review in 2018. Since then, approximately 2,000 individual farms have benefited from the educational reviews.

“At the end of the day our goal, like it is for the American farmer, is to produce safe food,” Reardon said.

If you or a farmer you know is interested in participating in a free and confidential On Farm Readiness Review, [visit NASDA’s website for more information](#).

[Learn More About Produce Safety Rule](#)

COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Attention Farm Owners and Workers:

Comptroller Natalie Braswell announced on Thursday the launch of a new “Premium Pay” program that will provide payments up to \$1,000 for eligible

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		<p>Workers can now check their eligibility and apply for the program at CTEssentialWorkerRelief.org. Demand is expected to be significant. An unannounced soft launch of the website has drawn over 47,000 registrations. However, the program is not first-come, first-served and workers have until October 1, 2022, to complete their application.</p> <p>To be eligible for the “Premium Pay” program, workers must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked as an essential worker in Connecticut between March 10, 2020, and May 7, 2022. • Been unable to work from home. • Worked in a job categorized by the CDC as 1A or 1B. (Click to view list) • Worked in the private sector. This program is not available to federal, state or municipal essential workers. • Earned \$149,999 or less. <p>A total of \$30 million was allocated for the program in the 2022 state budget. Applications will be accepted until October 1, 2022. At that time, final payment calculations will occur with funds expected to be distributed in early 2023. If the number of applicants exceeds available funding, each payment will be reduced proportionally.</p> <p>Full-time essential workers making less than \$100,000 per year are eligible for payments up to \$1,000. The payment amounts gradually decrease for workers earning more. No one who earned \$150,000 or more is eligible. Part-time workers who qualify can receive up to \$500.</p> <p>The “Premium Pay” application lives on the same website as the existing COVID-19 Relief Fund. This fund, which launched in Jan. 2022 and is also administered by the comptroller’s office, provides financial relief to essential workers who contracted COVID-19 during the onset of the pandemic and suffered lost wages or out-of-pocket medical costs as a result. There is also burial assistance available for the families of essential workers who died from COVID-19.</p> <p>To learn more about either program, or to apply, please visit CTEssentialWorkerRelief.org.</p> <p>Attention: Farm Wineries and Breweries</p> <p>Connecticut Special Act No. 21-15 as amended by June Sp. Sess., Public Act No. 21-2 included a \$30,000,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation to DECD for “CT Hospitality Industry Support.” To implement this program, DECD utilized data from the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) to identify two groups of recipients that are eligible for a Connecticut Hospitality Industry Support Grant, based on losses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Business owners who are eligible will receive a check directly from DRS during the week of August 8, 2022—<i>no application is necessary</i>.</p>	

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conditions set by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The funding can only be used for eligible expenses incurred on or after March 3, 2021, and must be used to mitigate financial hardship, such as by supporting payroll and benefits; costs to retain employees; mortgage, rent, utility, and other operating costs; maintenance of existing equipment/facilities; or costs to support COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures. Funding cannot be applied to any expenses that are already covered by any other governmental or private source, including insurance proceeds.

In the event your business has incurred or will incur eligible expenses that are less than the full Connecticut Hospitality Industry Support Grant amount, you do not want to accept this grant, or if you have any questions, please call the DRS Hotline at 860-297-5799. [More information here.](#)

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

['A celebration of the heart': The people and animals behind Connecticut's country fairs](#), Stamford Advocate, 8/11

[Plan to preserve state's shellfish industry](#), WFSB 8/8

[Where to go in CT for National Farmers' Market Week](#), WTNH, 8/8

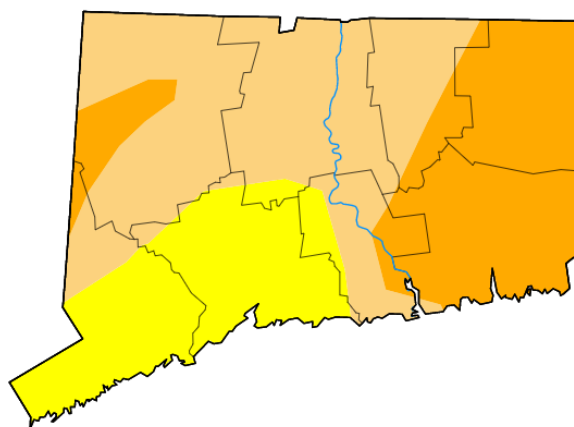
[Darien Seniors May Be Eligible For Farmers Market Discount Vouchers](#), Patch, 8/7

[New England Hemp Farms to close Westport location, remain online](#), CT Insider, 8/7

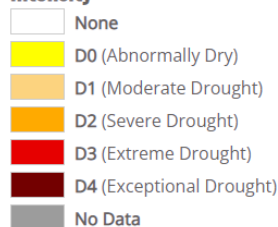
CONNECTICUT DROUGHT MONITOR

Map released: Thurs. August 11, 2022

Data valid: August 9, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity



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CT Drought Monitor

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CENTURY FARM NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED

Do you know a Connecticut farm that has been in operation for 100 years or more? The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) is now accepting applications to recognize a farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years, and has outstanding potential to be a successful business for another 100 years.

The award is presented at the CAES Plant Science Day annually in August and recognized at Ag Day at the Capitol the following March. If you know of, or operate a farm that qualifies for this recognition, please submit a nomination by clicking the link below.

[Nominate a Century Farm](#)

2022 ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

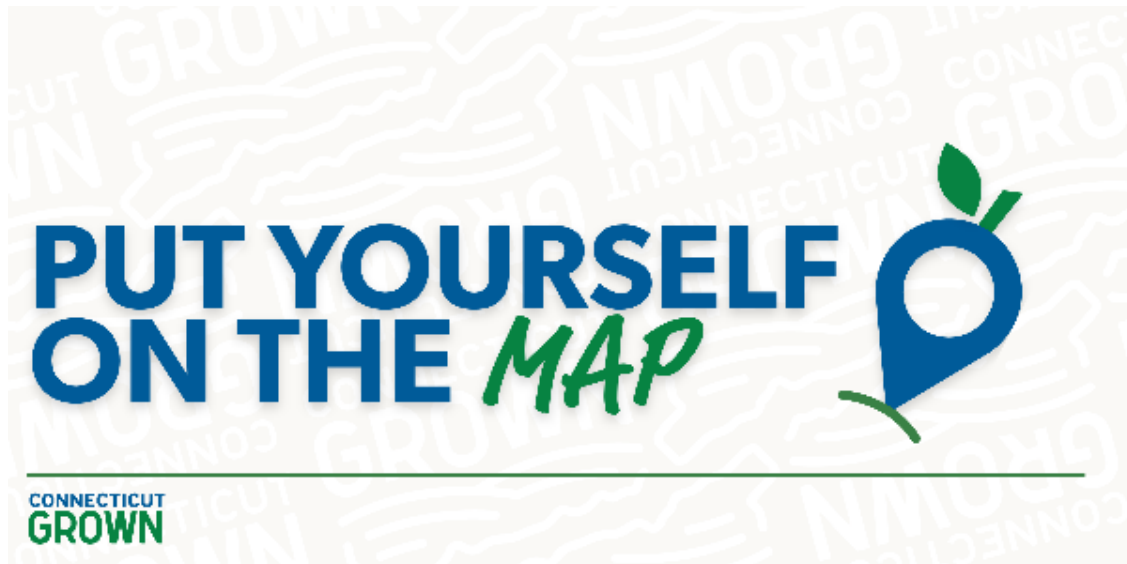
The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has received the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) Grant from the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Through this grant program, Connecticut certified organic growers and processors can be reimbursed for 50%, up to \$500, for the costs of receiving and maintaining USDA organic certification. A list of certified organic growers and processors is available through USDA's Organic INTEGRITY Database at <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity>.

The program is administered on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. **Applications will be accepted through October 3, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

The amount reimbursed will be 50%, up to \$500, of certification costs paid between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022.

To apply, please visit the link below for required materials and detailed instructions. Completed applications are to be submitted electronically by

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ADD YOUR FARM OR VENUE TO CTGROWNMAP.COM

Connecticut Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with CT NOFA, is working to update [CTGrownMap.com](https://ctgrownmap.com) to support our CT Grown farms, farm stands, and farmers' markets, and would like to ensure that it is as complete and current as possible.

Last year, CT Grown marketing efforts generated **112 million** impressions driving visitors to ctgrown.org, and a timely listing helps these visitors discover your business. CT Grown also drives the majority of referrals from other websites to the farm map. If you are a CT Grown producer or venue, we encourage you to add your listing to the map.

[Get on the Map](#)

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NRCS' CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN CONTINUES TO MAKE CONSERVATION PART OF THE CLIMATE SOLUTION

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has a new Climate Change Adaptation Plan that works to ensure its programs and services meet the demands of the changing agricultural landscape. It evaluates seven current vulnerabilities to NRCS's mission, operation, and infrastructure that may be affected by climate change, and prioritizes key actions to address these vulnerabilities, such as:

- Increase climate literacy and staffing capacity to deliver assistance that is reflective of climate change
- Enhance science, research, and data for understanding, organizing, measuring, and tracking climate related impacts and outcomes
- Integrate climate information into current business procedures, assessments, and opportunities
- Ensure current and future applied conservation investments are reflective of climate change needs
- Assess and address disproportionate climate change impacts on vulnerable communities through intentional engagement, planning, and assistance
- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration to address climate change
- Address risks to agency infrastructure.

[Learn more here.](#)

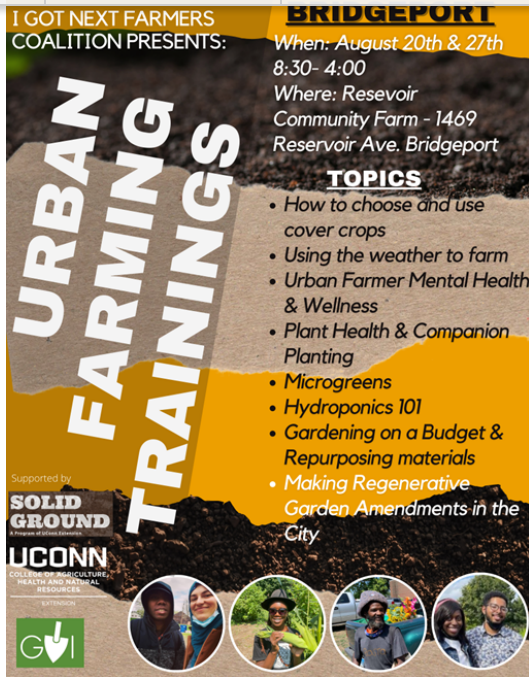


Subscribe	2023 FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS Past Issues	Translate ▼
<p><u>Food Export USA–Northeast</u> (Food Export–Northeast) is now accepting applications for the 2023 Branded Program year. The Branded Program enables U.S. suppliers of food and agriculture products to increase their overseas marketing budgets to maintain and expand their share of export markets, as well as encourage new market exploration.</p> <p>Made possible through <u>Market Access Program (MAP)</u> and <u>Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP)</u> funds from the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, this cost-share funding program assists small and medium-sized U.S. suppliers to promote their U.S. origin food and agricultural products in foreign markets.</p> <p>Once approved, participants receive 50% cost reimbursement on eligible marketing and promotional activities such as exhibiting at international and select U.S. tradeshows, advertising, public relations, in-store promotions and merchandising, marketing and point-ofsale materials, freight costs for samples, foreign market-compliant packaging and labeling, international web site development, online marketing and more. Projects may range in size from a few thousand dollars to several hundred thousand in their scope.</p> <p>These marketing opportunities help U.S. companies remain competitive in the exporting industry and gain exposure for their brands in countries around the globe. In the last year Food Export–Northeast helped 532 companies explore new markets that supported over 3,600 jobs and 100 new sales opportunities across food and agricultural businesses.</p> <p>“This is a great way for small and mid-size food and agricultural businesses to explore market expansion and grow their business. We’ve helped snack food companies, seafood businesses, maple syrup, cheese and more find new market opportunities thanks to our cost-share funding, educational resources and market access tools,” said Tim Hamilton, Executive Director/CEO of Food Export–Northeast.</p> <p>Applications can be submitted starting August 1 and will be taken until all dollars are distributed. Questions about the Branded Program and the application process can be directed to Food Export–Northeast at 215.829.9111. Additional information is available at www.foodexport.org/branded-program. The 2023 Branded Program runs from January 1 through December 31, 2023.</p> <p><u>Food Export–Northeast</u> accepts applications from suppliers in their 10-state Northeast region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.</p> <div>Learn more at Food Export - Northeast</div>		

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URBAN FARMING TRAININGS

BRIDGEPORT

I GOT NEXT FARMERS COALITION PRESENTS:

When: August 20th & 27th
8:30- 4:00

Where: Reservoir Community Farm - 1469 Reservoir Ave. Bridgeport

TOPICS

- How to choose and use cover crops
- Using the weather to farm
- Urban Farmer Mental Health & Wellness
- Plant Health & Companion Planting
- Microgreens
- Hydroponics 101
- Gardening on a Budget & Repurposing materials
- Making Regenerative Garden Amendments in the City

Supported by:

SOLID GROUND
Urban Farming Initiative

UConn
College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources

GI

Five circular photos of diverse people are shown at the bottom of the poster.

COMING TO BRIDGEPORT

Two training sessions will be held on August 20 and 27 at the Reservoir Community Farm.

The I Got Next Farmers are teaming up with Green Village Initiative and UConn Extension's Solid Ground program to provide two full days of training (with lunch included!) from 8:30am-4:00pm .

Can't make it to Bridgeport but still want to go? Trainings in New Haven will take place on November 12 and 19.

[Register Here!](#)

CT NRCS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FY2023 FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Are you an agricultural producer in Connecticut who wants to continue to farm, or a forest landowner wanting to manage your forestland, but you want to use less resources and have less of an effect on the land?

Why not consider applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)? Some benefits include increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife population improvements, and better resilience to weather extremes.

Through CSP, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps private landowners build their business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of their entire operation. Agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities such as cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rates, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

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for evaluating applications help producers see why they are – or are not – meeting stewardship thresholds and allow them to pick practices that work for their objectives. These tools also enable them to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

While applications for CSP are accepted year-round, to be considered for FY2023 funds they must be received by October 30, 2022.

Interested? Find out if you're qualified for CSP by contacting your [local USDA service center](#) or visiting the [Get Started](#) portion of our website.



ERP EXTENDED, NAP PRODUCERS RECEIVING APPS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that it will indefinitely extend the deadline for producers to return the pre-filled applications for Phase One of the Emergency Relief Program (ERP). A new deadline will be announced after the last Phase One applications are mailed and provide at least 30 days following the mailing.

Continuing to build on the initial mailing of pre-filled applications in May, the Department will continue using existing information in USDA and crop insurance files to send additional pre-filled applications starting this week for potentially eligible [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP) participants. Once applications from eligible NAP producers are returned, these producers are expected to receive about \$105 million in ERP payments for eligible losses from 2020 and 2021 disasters.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now mailing pre-filled applications to NAP producers through ERP to offset crop yield and value losses. To receive a relief payment, producers should complete and return the applications by announced deadlines.

Producers are expected to receive assistance direct deposited into their bank account within three business days after they sign and return the prefilled application to the FSA county office and the county office enters the application into the system.

While most crop insurance customers that may be eligible for ERP Phase One received the pre-filed applications in May, there are some who should expect to

Subscribe	Past Issues	receive a form in August including:	Translate ▼
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producers who had an eligible loss in 2020 that had been recorded in the crop insurance records as a 2019 loss (e.g., prevented planting claims); and • Producers with policies that required additional information before being able to calculate an indemnity for 2021 losses (producers with 2020 losses would have already received that application). Policies that required additional information include Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO), Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), Margin Protection Plan (MP) or Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI). <p>Producers without risk management coverage through crop insurance or NAP and those with shallow losses may be covered by the forthcoming Phase Two of ERP.</p> <p>ERP and the previously announced Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) are funded by the <i>Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act</i>, which President Biden signed into law in 2021. The law provided \$10 billion to help agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. Overall, USDA has already quickly disbursed over \$6 billion dollars under ERP and ELRP with reduced paperwork for the producer and field offices.</p> <p>For more information on ERP eligibility, program provisions for socially disadvantaged or historically underserved producers as well as Frequently Asked Questions, NAP applicants can visit FSA's Emergency Relief webpage and program fact sheet.</p> <p>Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet and Farm Loan Discovery Tool. For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.</p> <hr/>	

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AgriSafe

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FarmResponseSM Online Learning

FarmResponseSM is a 3.5-hour continuing education module developed by national experts from the AgriStress Response Network.

AgriSafe's *FarmResponse* course provides the full range of competencies necessary to provide appropriate mental healthcare for agricultural producers and their families. This knowledge is critical for a wide range of healthcare professionals to effectively care for a farmer's total health.

The topics covered in *FarmResponse* include:

- The Total Farmer Health Model
- AgriBusiness Factors Impacting Mental Well Being
- Agriculture Work Factors
- Family Dynamics
- Agrarian Culture and Values
- Special Populations
- US Agricultural Producer Demographics
- Agricultural Community Healthcare Challenges
- Opioids and Alcohol Issues in Agriculture
- Suicide and Agriculture
- Resources and Referrals



Learners can earn a digital badge to acknowledge their accomplishment and dedication to serving the unique healthcare needs of the agricultural community!

Free Training Opportunity for Connecticut Professionals:

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has generously sponsored 205 free seats on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information scan the QR code!

These free seats are supported by the 2021 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Grant (award # 2021-70035-35552) administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Continuing Education for Multiple Disciplines:

The Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety offers 0.35 CEU or 3.5 contact hours of participation. This course is eligible for 3.5 CPH Recertification Credits and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, an approved provider of CPH Recertification Credits by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

The following groups of professionals have been able to use these CEUs in the past; Industrial Hygiene (CIH), Certified Public Health Professional (CPH), Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Nursing (RN, LPN), Social Work (LSW), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Audiology (ABA), and others. Please contact your accrediting agency regarding any questions about receiving credits.



The Minnesota Medical Association designates this enduring series for a maximum of 3.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Minnesota Medical Association and AgriSafe Network. The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.



agrisafe.org

[Learn More](https://agrisafe.org)

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OPENS THEIR URBAN GREEN AND COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANT

The Department's Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program provides funding assistance to develop or enhance urban open spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education. Promotion of open space in an urban setting may include, but may not be limited to, the development of a community garden or reclaiming and enhancing existing open space for the public's use. Grants are awarded to projects that demonstrate the highest ability to benefit urban communities in close proximity to population centers. **The deadline to apply is September 30, 2022.**

To learn more about the grant, eligibility requirements, and how to apply follow the link below.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

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CT FARMER SOLAR SURVEY

The American Farmland Trust (AFT) invites you and other Connecticut farmers to participate in this important, anonymous survey on solar siting in Connecticut. **Your input will inform AFT's Smart Solar strategy and influence policies to expand solar capacity in Connecticut while benefitting farmers and minimizing displacement of agriculture on the state's best farmland.**

Connecticut recently committed to a goal of 100% Renewable Energy by 2040, and the state is projected to double the capacity of its utility solar generation over the next 5 years. Agency leaders and policy makers need to hear your interests, priorities, and concerns. If you are a farmer, farm landowner, or otherwise involved in Connecticut's agricultural community, **your participation is essential.**

For background information on Connecticut's energy goals and AFT's Smart Solar work, learn more here:

- [Governor Lamont Signs Key Climate Change and Energy Legislation](#)
- [Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy \(CT DEEP\)](#)
- [Sustainable, Transparent, and Efficient Practices \(STEPS\) for Solar Development initiative \(CT DEEP\)](#)
- [New England Farmland and Solar Brief \(Vermont Law School & AFT\)](#)

As an incentive for the survey, AFT will award \$100 Visa gift cards to random participants, one for every 25 surveys completed. To ensure inclusive and

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Thank you in advance for completing this important survey. Your feedback will provide valuable information to guide smart solar policy and best practices in the state of Connecticut!

Take the Survey!

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.

YOUTH INVITED TO APPLY FOR NEW BIOTECHNOLOGY CAREER READINESS PROGRAM WITH UCONN EXTENSION

Youth are invited to apply for a new biotechnology career readiness program with UConn Extension's 4-H program. Cohorts of teen 4-H members will build knowledge and career awareness through the program, while also visiting laboratories, meeting with biotechnology professionals, and developing a biotechnology video game.

Applications are available now for this new program at s.uconn.edu/biotech - youth ages 14-18 with an interest in learning about biotechnology and exploring career opportunities are invited to apply.

Selected participants will join a cohort, visit agriculture, food, and biotechnology companies in the state (including participating in field trips), explore careers in food, agriculture, biotechnology and STEM, and help build online games. Each group is limited to 20 youth, ensuring that all participants receive ample opportunities to interact with program leaders and industry professionals.

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outcomes through ongoing support from our partners. This is a strategic growth area for the 4-H program and Extension,” says Jennifer Cushman, the principal investigator on the grant. Cushman is also the co-team leader for the [UConn 4-H program](#).

Youth will also experience the 4-H fundamentals of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. These all align with a Whole Child approach through the 4-H Thrive Model. Evaluation will include the 4-H Common Measures validated instrument.

Visit s.uconn.edu/biotech for more information on the new project and for the youth participation application.

UConn 4-H is the youth development program of UConn Extension. As part of the University of Connecticut, 4-H has access to research-based, age-appropriate information needed to help youth reach their full potential. The mission of 4-H is to assist all youth ages 5-18 in acquiring knowledge, developing leadership and life skills while forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of their families and communities.

This work is supported by the Food and Agriculture Nonformal Education program, grant no. 2022-68018-36094 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



APPLY NOW FOR CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS ON-FARM TRIALS

USDA will invest \$25 million this year for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials program.

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improving agricultural operations. The On-Farm Trials component of CIG supports widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. This year's funding priorities are climate-smart agricultural solutions, irrigation water management, nutrient management and soil health.

"Through science and innovation, we can develop solutions to tackle the climate crisis, conserve and protect our water, enhance soil health, and create economic opportunities for producers," said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Through On-Farm Trials, partners can work directly with farmers and ranchers to test and adopt new strategies on agricultural lands, accelerating the development and application of conservation that works for producers and the land."

Applications for On-Farm Trials are being accepted **now through September 22, 2022**. Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture, nongovernmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers, and non-federal government agencies are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).



GREENHOUSE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL CONFERENCE

UConn Extension is sponsoring a Greenhouse Biological Control Conference. This one-day educational program will be held on **Tuesday, August 16, 2022** at the Jones Auditorium, The Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven, CT.

The speakers featured at this educational program include:

- **Ron Valentin**, *Anatis BioProtection*, who will be speaking on Update on Banker Plants
- **Suzanne Wainwright Evans**, *Buglady Consulting*, who will be speaking on Releasing Natural Enemies, and Grower Case Studies: What's working?
- **Michael Brownbridge**, *Bioworks*, who will be speaking on Enhancing the Use of Biological Fungicides in a Biologically Based IPM Program
- **Elwood Roberts**, *Plant Products/Biobest*, who will be speaking on Tips on How to Effectively Integrate Biological Controls and Chemical Controls

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If you have questions about registration or refunds please contact Carla Caballero at carla.caballero@uconn.edu.

If you have any questions about the program or payment, please email Leanne Pundt at leanne.pundt@uconn.edu.

Disclaimer: Program format is subject to change based on the University of Connecticut and the State of Connecticut's COVID 19 guidelines and policies. If access to the venue or seating capacity changes, the program will be changed to a virtual format.

"This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management grant no. 2017-70006-27201 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture."

[Click Here to Register](#)

THE POWER OF FOOD IN SCHOOL

Newman's Own Foundation, with equity and strategic support from FoodCorps, is requesting proposals that support statewide and district-reaching organizations working toward every student having access to food education and/or nourishing meals in school. This grants program will prioritize Black, Indigenous, Multiracial and People of Color (BIMPOC) led organizations working on behalf of their communities and states toward systemic solutions in schools in the areas of food education, local procurement, school nutrition leadership development, educator engagement, ensuring adequate time to eat, supporting school kitchen infrastructure and scratch cooking, and increasing access to school meals.

Grants will support 501(c)(3) organizations in various stages of their systems change work. Grant review criteria will prioritize projects and organizations that are BIMPOC-led and honor the grassroots wisdom and expertise of local communities.

Newman's Own Foundation has a pool of up to \$450,000 set aside for this request for proposals. Grants will be in the range of \$10,000–\$50,000. Funding can be used for general operations or program support—whichever is identified as the higher priority for your organization.

Proposals will be accepted through August 15. For more information on this grant opportunity, [click here](#).

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Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on August 8, 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](#)

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[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

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Antique hand working cider mill 1 tub 4'H 2'W. Second mill 2 tubs 3'H 2.5W very heavy. \$300.00 each. 860-376-4167. (8/19/22)

No-Till Equipment: Farmers in Middlesex County, Lyme and Old Lyme are eligible to use new shared no-till equipment. www.knowyourfarmers.org/no-till-equipment (8/19/22)

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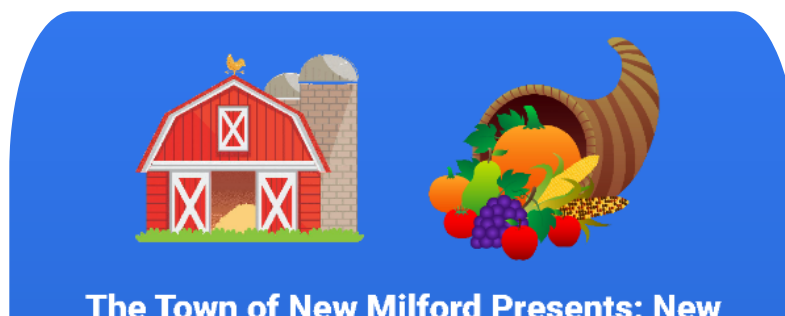
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Employment Opportunities

Upcoming Events (click on image below for info)



The Town of New Milford Presents: New

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Ag in the Next Age at Sullivan Farm](#)[Translate ▼](#)**August 4th @7:00pm – Sustainable Ag 101****Kip Kolesinskas** - Consulting Conservation Scientist, formerly with the USDA/NRCS*A presentation about new techniques centering on water conservation, crop rotation, cover crops, animal integration, no-till, and organic practices.***August 18th @7:00pm – Financial Panel****Cadie Pruss** - NRCS**Jaime Smith** - CT Dept. of Agriculture**Chris Laughton** - Farm Credit East**Alison Grabarz** - CT Dept. of Agriculture**Dan Carr** - Berkshire Agricultural Ventures*An opportunity to learn of the many grant and funding sources available to local farmers, as well as investment opportunities.***September 1st @7:00pm – Pest and Disease Management****Shuresh Ghimire** - UConn Extension**Hector Gerardo** - SEAmarron Farmstead*Alternatives to traditional pest and disease control, considering climate change implications.***September 15th @7:00pm – Tillage: Pros and Cons****Matt Freund** - Freund Family Farm**Paul Buccigaglia** - Fort Hill Farm**John Halfinger** - Halfinger Farms**Greg Bugbee** - CT Agriculture Experiment Station*An evaluation of tillage methods and their benefits.***October 6th @7:00pm – Animal Integration & Permaculture****Cynthia Rabinowitz** - Northwest Conservation District**Joe Emenheiser** - UConn Extension (Windham, CT)**Kelley Babbitt** - Howling Flats Farm**Shamu Fenyesi Sadeh** - Adamah*A presentation on the integration of wildlife and vegetable cultivation, along with the utilization of forests for cultivation.*

All workshops will be held at 140 Park Lane, New Milford, CT. For more information, call LisaBeth Lent at (860) 605 4043

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