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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.

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CT Grown for CT Kids Week is an annual event happening every October in Connecticut. This week aims to celebrate and support local agriculture, public education, and our community commitment to the importance of healthy nutritious meals in schools.

Each year, legislators, food service directors, farmers, and students gather together through farm-to-school activities and consumption of local products. To find more ways to celebrate farm-to-school visit ctfarmtoschool.org!

Feedback Requested on Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Grant

Subscribe	Past Issues	The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, through Public Act 22-118, was	Translate ▼
		allocated a total of \$14 million to support Climate Smart Agriculture production and practices. These funds will be made available to the agricultural industry through a new grant program with the following parameters: 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 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 5. Collaboration with other applicants, amongst like organizations, or other established programs or state initiatives 6. Offer TA to program beneficiaries 7. Encourage peer to peer networking	

Subscribe	Past Issues	50% advance of funds will be provided. Periodic reporting, data collection, and participation in quarterly awardee meetings will be required.	Translate ▼
	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.		

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OCTOBER 4, 2022
5-6 PM EST

WEBINAR: CULTIVATING A HEALTHY MIND FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

**FREE
WEBINAR
OPEN TO
CONNECTICUT
RESIDENTS!**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This webinar is designed for young adult beginning farmers and ranchers. Stigma exists across all age groups for those struggling with mental health. Uncontrollable factors, volatile markets, trade, and natural disasters; make struggling with emotions, relationships, career success, and safety more challenging when mental health and mental crisis enters the arena. According to the CDC, the agricultural industry is one of the top occupations with the highest rates of suicide. This training opens and introduces a discussion of mental health and wellness among young adult farmers and ranchers.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

PRESENTERS:

Lisa Ford, MA, LADC, LPC
 Tara Haskins, DNP, RN

HOSTED BY:



DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE



This event is 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

WEBINAR: CULTIVATING A HEALTHY MIND FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Presenters: Lisa Ford, MA, LADC, LPC & Tara Haskins, DNP, RN

This webinar is designed for young adult beginning farmers and ranchers. Stigma exists across all age groups for those struggling with mental health. Uncontrollable factors, volatile markets, trade, and natural disasters; make struggling with emotions, relationships, career success, and safety more challenging when mental health and mental crisis enters the arena. According to the CDC, the agricultural industry is one of the top occupations with the

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Registration

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN___lyFM6n0TP2O2IYNsfwcXA

This event is 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.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

Farmer's Cow turns farm waste into sustainable power, The Daily Campus, 9/29

Monroe Farmers Market Ranked 1st In State, 5th In U.S.: Report, Patch, 9/28

Fresh edamame? With a nod to Japanese cooking, this CT farm grows food not easily found, Yahoo News, 9/28

165th Harwinton Fair opens Sept. 30, New Haven Register, 9/27

Jones Family Farms: An Embassy for Agriculture, Farm Bureau, 9/26

Where to go to pick pumpkins in Connecticut, Hartford Courant, 9/26

Spotted Lanternfly Leaving Egg Masses Around CT: What Residents Can Do, Patch, 9/25

Biodegradable plastic mulch: A climate-smart agricultural practice, Phys.org, 9/22

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 animals and vectors around diminishing water sources may also be linked to some outbreaks occurring in the late summer and early fall due to an increase in midge numbers. Hemorrhagic disease outbreaks cease with the onset of a hard frost, which kills the midges carrying the virus.

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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

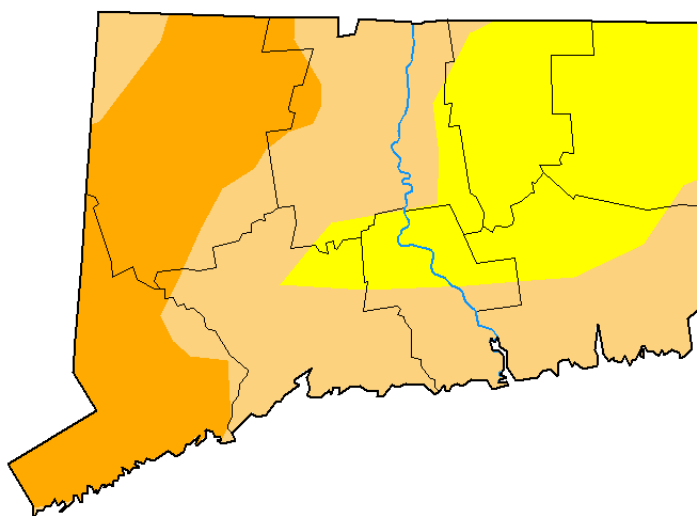
CONNECTICUT DROUGHT MONITOR

U.S. Drought Monitor
Connecticut

September 27, 2022

(Released Thursday, Sep. 29, 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:

Richard Heim
 NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

CT Drought Monitor

DROUGHT DISASTER RELIEF

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack has designated New London and Windham counties as primary natural disaster areas due to the recent drought. Additionally, Hartford, Middlesex, and Tolland counties have been designated as contiguous counties under the declaration.

The designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans.

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on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment of the operator.

Farmers interested in applying for assistance must [contact their local Farm Service Agency office](#).

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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GROWS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS!

OCT. 3RD-7TH

CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS WEEK

& National Farm to School Month

This is the BEST time of year to gain access to the growing school market! Districts will be celebrating and looking to purchase CT Grown fruits, vegetables and dairy and learning with students how local food and local agriculture enrich their community.

Farms can engage by:

- Open your farm to a school field trip!
- Selling your product!
- Visit a classroom, cafeteria or school garden to near you...

Visit www.ctfarmtoschool.org
 click on "For Farmers"
 to learn how to work with a district near you

If you have any questions, please contact Cyrena Thibodeau at Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov, or 860-895-3094.

[Learn More](#)



**DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**

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

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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 October 3, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov.

[Click Here for More Information](#)



WEBINAR: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ORGANIC URBAN AGRICULTURE

Learn about production and marketing challenges and opportunities for farming organically in urban environments

When: Tuesday, October 4 at 3 pm EST

How to participate: No registration is required. visit [Challenges and Opportunities in Organic Urban Agriculture — The Webinar Portal \(conservationwebinars.net\)](https://conservationwebinars.net)

Organic producers of all sizes and across all landscapes must follow the same national standards to meet the requirements of USDA organic certification.

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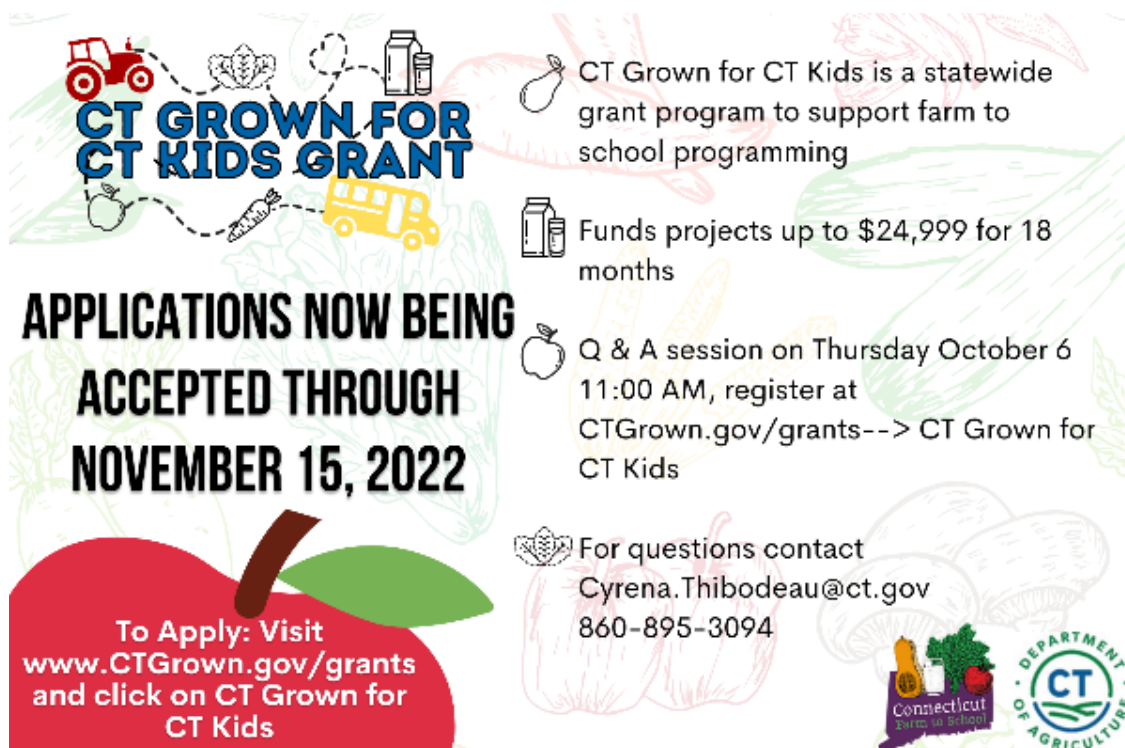
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growing in an urban environment. This webinar will explore research in this field, as well as perspectives from farmers on growing organically in urban spaces.

This webinar is presented in partnership with Oregon Tilth, as part of a series of webinars on organic topics.

Questions? Contact: Contact Jennifer Ryan, Science & Technology Training Library content manager, for more information about this webinar.



CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT

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

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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

To Apply: Visit www.CTGrown.gov/grants and click on CT Grown for CT Kids

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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

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USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold three virtual listening sessions on Sept. 28-29 for the new farm labor stabilization and protection pilot grant program, which the Biden-Harris administration announced earlier this year as part of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.

Each listening session intends to target a specific audience, and attendees should register for whichever listening session they feel best fits the perspectives they are able to offer:

Agricultural Employer Organizations: Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 11 a.m. ET. [Register here](#)

FSA seeks input on:

- Challenges that employers face in securing a stable workforce.
- The set of incentives employers seek from USDA in order to improve their ability to hire workers from northern Central American countries under the seasonal H-2A visa program.
- The labor standards that will make meaningful progress towards ensuring a safer and fairer working environment for both domestic and H-2A farmworkers.

Labor Unions: Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#)

Farm Worker Advocacy Community: Thursday, Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#)

From both groups, FSA seeks input on:

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

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Yale SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT*The Forest School***Producer to Producer Knowledge Transfer on Sap Collection and Processing at Justamere Tree Farm****Workshop: Justamere Tree Farm****Date:** Tuesday, October 4th (rain or shine)**Time:** 4:00-6:30pm**Cost:** Free**Location:** 248, Patterson Rd, Worthington, MA 01098**CEU credits:** 1.25 for CT state foresters, if interested in MA forester CEUs email walker.cammack@yale.edu.**RSVP:** Not required, but please contact walker.cammack@yale.edu if you would like to RSVP in advance.**Agenda:**

- 4:00pm – 4:30: Welcome & introduction to Justamere Tree Farm
- 4:30pm – 5:30: Tour and discussion of sap collection infrastructure
- 5:30pm – 6:30: Tour of sugarhouse and discussion of sap processing into syrup

Description: This workshop will take place on Justamere Tree Farm, an all women-owned maple business that runs on renewable energy. The structure of the workshop will be in the form of an informal producer-to-producer discussion of sap collection and processing techniques. Topics will include sap line layout and maintenance, evaporator use and sap processing techniques, different evaporator energy sources (solar vs. wood vs. fossil fuels), as well as Justamere's production of value-added products like maple cream and sugar. This should be a great workshop that is useful for both experienced sugar makers and folks new to the industry.

Special thanks to the USDA Acce Access and Development Program for supporting this workshop.

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

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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.

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

Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:

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

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

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.”

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pantries, farmers' markets, community gardens, including municipalities or organizations operating a community garden, small food retailers, such as corner stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets, mobile food markets, or 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 \(ct.gov\)](http://www.ctgrown.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](http://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



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

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The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has compiled upcoming grant opportunities offered by the agency in a streamlined format to allow potential 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

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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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FARM ENERGY PROGRAM



Now Available: CT Grown Tents

10' x 10' King Canopy Tents

Order online at:
www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com

Pickup only

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)

THIS FARM GROWS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS!

OCT. 3RD-7TH

CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS WEEK

& National Farm to School Month

This is the BEST time of year to gain access to the growing school market! Districts will be celebrating and looking to purchase CT Grown fruits, vegetables and dairy and learning with students how local food and local agriculture enrich their community.

Farms can engage by:

- 🍷 Open your farm to a school field trip!
- 🍷 Selling your product!
- 🍷 Visit a classroom, cafeteria or school garden to near you...

Visit **www.ctfarmtoschool.org**
 click on **"For Farmers"**
 to learn how to work with a district near you

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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
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SOLID GROUND
A Program of UConn Extension

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(home of Tops quality pasture raised meat and fresh eggs)
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CONTACT: NIKKI, 860-354-0649
\$5 PER CAR
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**FALL TRACTOR SHOW
AND FARM OPEN HOUSE**

SATURDAY, OCT. 15, 2022 • 11 AM-4 PM

FEATURING:

- Over 250 restored tractors from 1899-1954
- 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

GROW TOGETHER 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!



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FARMER ALLIANCE



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