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CT Grown apples are ripe for the picking! Connecticut is home to more than 60 orchards with more than 60 varieties of apples.

Right now you can find your favorites, including Macoun, Gala, and Honeycrisp, at locations throughout the state. From pies and donuts to cider and applesauce, you can find orchards, recipes, and more at ctapples.org.



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Census of Agriculture

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to be represented in the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county and territory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture to millions of agriculture producers across the 50 states and Puerto Rico this fall.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November followed by paper questionnaires in December. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022 are included in the ag census.

"Census of Agriculture data are widely used by federal and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, and many others to inform decisions about policy and farm programs and services that aid producers and rural communities," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "By responding to the Census of Agriculture – by being represented in these important data – producers are literally helping to shape their futures."

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture tells the story and shows the value of U.S. agriculture. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics. Between ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep, and updates to internet access questions.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus or call 800-727-9540. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, partner tools to help spread the word about the upcoming ag census, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information on the upcoming Census of Agriculture, follow USDA NASS on twitter @usda_nass.

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CTGrown.gov/grants



		-	
Program Name	Anticipated Application Period	Eligible Applicants	Contact
Organic Cost Share Program	August-Early October 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
CT Grown for CT Kids Grant	September-November 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
Farmland Restoration Grant	October-December 2022	Owners and tenants/lessees/permitees, with owner(s) approval, of CT farmland	Lance.Shannon@ct.gov (860) 713-2531 Simon.Levesque@ct.gov (860) 713-2574
Farm Transition Grant	November 2022- January 2023	CT farmers and agriculture cooperatives	Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov (860) 993-5275
Specialty Crop Block Grant	January-March 2023	Universities or colleges, municipalities, ag non profits, State agencies, and councils of gov'ts	Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov (860) 573-0323
Dairy Grants on behalf of CT Milk Promotion Board	February-April 2023	CT dairy farmers who pay into check-off dollars	Allison.Hughes@ct.gov (860) 500-8918
Farm Viability Grant	February-April 2023	Ag non profits, single or groups of municipalities, regional councils of gov'ts	Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov (860) 993-5275

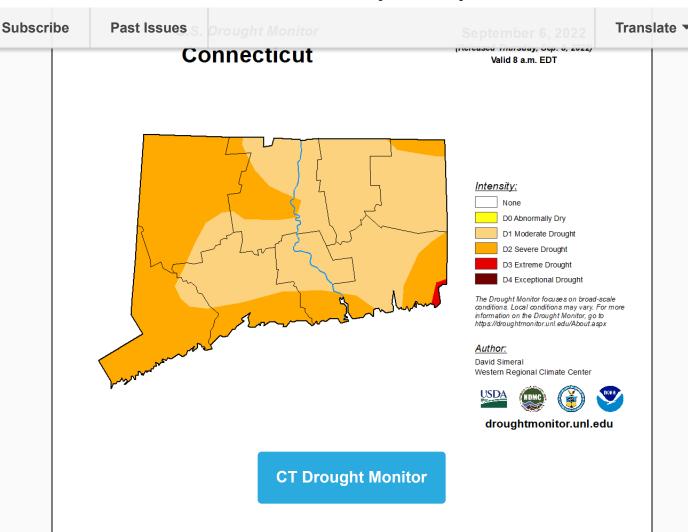
UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS AND NON-PROFITS

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 AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

'Chickenstock' concert to benefit Connecticut Farmland Trust, CT Post, 9/7 Connecticut orchards prepare for busy fall season, WTIC Hartford, 9/7 Connecticut farmers see rain after dry season, Fox 61, 9/6 2022 Granby Open Farm Day Information, Granby Drummer, 9/3 Local orchards, farms gear up for fall, Record Journal, 9/1

CONNECTICUT 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. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application 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 the assistance must <u>contact their local Farm Service Agency office</u>.

NEW GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR UNDERSERVED FARMERS, RANCHERS

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



NITRATE TOXICITY IN DROUGHT STRESSED FORAGE AFTER THE DROUGHT LIFTS

Written by UConn Extension Educator Richard Meinert

Nitrate accumulates in soils during times of drought due to microbial action. Microbes create the nitrate as normal byproducts of their metabolism. In soils with normal moisture levels the nitrate dissolves into the water and moves at relatively low levels in to the plants to be used to create protein. In dry soils the nitrate can't move into the plant roots so it accumulates in the soil. When the rain finally falls this accumulated nitrate all dissolves into the dater at once. The plants need time to recover so the nitrate Nitrate moving into plants stressed by drought moves upward into the plants slowly. This recover process can take 3-5 days in grass species including corn). Since the nitrates are higher in lower portions of the plant if you are going to harvest immediately for feed raise your cutting height. This is especially important with corn silage if you intend to green chop to feed while harvesting corn. Nitrates in silage reduce 50 to 60 % in silage but it can take 3-4 weeks for levels to drop.

For extremely browned out grass species – like a lot of hay fields, pastures and lawns this summer the brown stalks will not take up the moisture – they are dead and the capillaries needed to move liquid up the plant have broken and will no longer function. This means that the forage that springs out of the stems at the soil surface – all the "new growth" bright green grass will be what

areas and keep feeding them stored feed until the new grass has a chance to grow, reestablish and metabolize the extra nitrate into plant protein before the animals graze it again.

You can test for high levels by sending a sample to a forage testing lab. Nitrate N (NO3-N) levels <1,000 ppm on a dry matter basis are considered safe. Nitrate between 1,000-1,700 should be left to mature in the field or left to cure on a silage pad before feeding out. Nitrate levels > $\sim 2,000$ can be acutely toxic and potentially lethal to livestock. There will likely be a run on the labs since drought has been widespread throughout the Northeast region, so keeping the animals off pasture, or waiting to harvest for a week or so might be the best way to manage the situation.

For more in-depth information, here are a few links:

https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/plant-analysis/at-harvest-corn-silage-nitrate-test/high-nitrate-potential-in-corn-silage

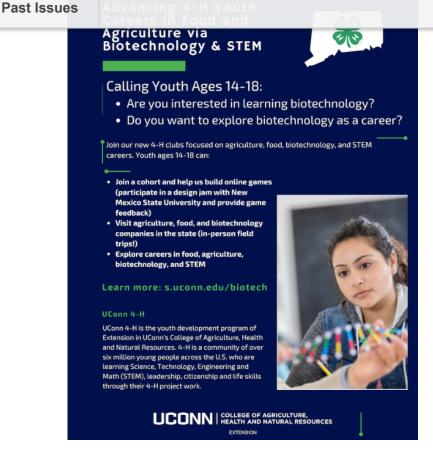
https://extension.psu.edu/be-aware-of-the-risks-of-nitrate-accumulation-in-annual-forages-this-year

https://extension.psu.edu/what-to-do-with-droughty-corn-fields

https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-33/precautions-feeding-frosted-and-drought-stressed-forages

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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 <u>s.uconn.edu/biotech</u> - 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.

"Our project is propelling innovative biotechnology and STEM career work in our 4-H youth development program to the next level. We will sustain project 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 <u>UConn 4-H program</u>.

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 <u>s.uconn.edu/biotech</u> 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.





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

Learn More

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.

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

LET'S TALK GMOs ONLINE COURSE FROM UCONN

UConn's <u>College of Agriculture</u>, <u>Health and Natural Resources</u> is offering an online course, <u>Let's Talk GMOs</u>: <u>Creating Consistent Communication Messages</u>. Participants are introduced to the basics of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). They will learn how to create consistent communication 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:

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

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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



USDA TO INVEST \$15 MILLION IN INNOVATIVE PROJECTS FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE, URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND ADDRESSING INVASIVE SPECIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced it will invest \$15 million this year for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Classic program. Through CIG, grantees work to address our nation's water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while supporting agricultural production. This year's funding priorities are climate-smart agriculture, addressing invasive species and conservation in urban agricultural systems.

For the fiscal 2022 award process, at least 10% of the total funds available are set aside for proposals that entirely benefit historically underserved (HU) producers. This HU set-aside will ensure that equity is incorporated in the planning and delivery of CIG projects to align with NRCS's Justice 40 goals. HU applicants can also waive the non-federal match requirements.

Applications are being accepted now through October 11, 2022. Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture, nongovernmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers, and nonfederal government agencies are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply, visit grants.gov.

Click here for more information.

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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.

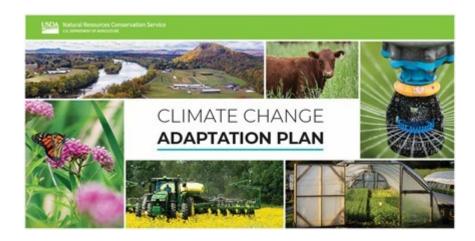
Through this grant program, Connecticut certified organic growers and processors can be reimbursed for 50%, up to \$500, for the costs of receiving and maintaining USDA organic certification. A list of certified organic growers and processors is available through USDA's Organic INTEGRITY Database at 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 October 3, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov.

Click Here for More Information



NRCS' CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN CONTINUES TO MAKE

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.



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 <u>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)?</u> 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

amendments to improve water quality.

The program helps producers better evaluate conservation options and benefits to their operations, as well as to our natural resources. Methods and software 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 <u>local USDA</u> <u>service center</u> or visiting the <u>Get Started</u> portion of our website.



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

BEGINNING FARMER LOAN OPPORTUNITY

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 <u>fsa.usda.gov</u>.



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.

Through CIG, partners work to address our nation's water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while 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."

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nongovernmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers, and non-federal government agencies are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply, <u>click here.</u>



GET READY FOR FARMERS' MARKET SEASON

CT Grown tents are in stock and available for pick up at Connecticut Regional Market, 101 Reserve Road, Hartford, CT. Orders must be placed online in advance at www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com. Following order confirmation arrangements will be made to coordinate a pick up day and time.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT Prices provided on September 5, 2022 New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

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

<u>Lancaster Farming Hay Market</u> <u>Report</u>

Northeast Regional Eggs

<u>USDA Mexico Canada Weekly</u> <u>Update</u>

New England Shell Eggs

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston

Advertisements

Advertisement space can now be purchased online! Click here to have your posting added!

For Sale

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, 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@caluoriinsureance.com Appointments available any time. (11/4/22)

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.

Bush Hog Subsoiler Model HDSS1L single shank, 3 pt. Hitch, goes 23" deep. 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. <u>Sonpal's Power Fence</u> 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

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 <u>here</u> for details on rates and submission.

Employment Opportunities

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.

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

