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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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Transition Grant Webinar



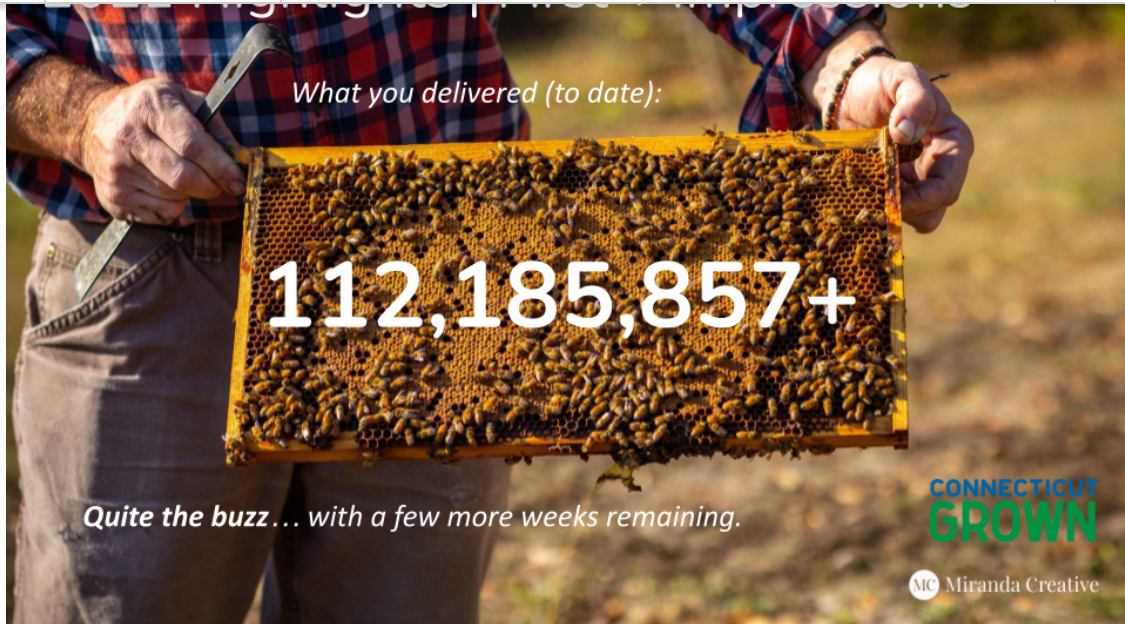
February 9, 2022 | 10 AM
Register: www.CTGrown.gov/grants

Calling all farmers and agricultural cooperatives – interested in applying for a Farm Transition Grant? A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants will occur on **Wednesday, February 9, 2022**, at 10:00 a.m. [Please click here to register for the webinar.](#) The presentation will be recorded.

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CT Grown Campaign Surpasses 100 Million Impressions

Producers Encouraged to Fill Out Survey for Feedback

In March 2021, Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) revealed the refreshed CT Grown logo and tagline, “A Way of Life”, with the launch of a multifaceted initiative to highlight agriculture and aquaculture products grown and raised in Connecticut.

The goal: connect with audiences to highlight the value of buying local agriculture and aquaculture products and to highlight the importance of supporting agriculture and aquaculture, while also providing Connecticut farmers with the tools to engage in the campaign and promote the CT Grown brand as well.

The promise: 100 million impressions by the end of 2021 gained through a comprehensive marketing campaign surrounding the CT Grown program to grow brand awareness.

The delivery: Connecticut Department of Agriculture worked with Miranda Creative, Inc. to not only update the CT Grown logo, but also create a consumer-facing website, CTGrown.org. The website assists visitors in finding a farm, farm stand, or farmers’ market near them through the interactive map done in collaboration with CT NOFA. An upcoming events section helps direct consumers to happenings near them – from special events at farm wineries to on-farm festivals, farmers’ markets and more. The blog section highlights not only where and how to find CT Grown products, but how to incorporate them into daily life, by including recipes and gift ideas.

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broadcast television, email marketing, search advertising, digital streaming, event promotion, and social media. The [CT Grown Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts gained thousands of followers, and there were more than 44,000 posts using the hashtag #ctgrown. Billboards throughout the state utilized images taken at Connecticut farms showcasing the diversity of CT Grown products, including fruits, vegetables, dairy, seafood, wine, meats, and maple syrup.

Additionally, throughout the campaign, materials were developed with producers in mind. These included a branding kit with applicable logos to feature on their CT Grown products, updated CT Grown tents for vending at farmers' markets and events, and workshops to assist them with the technical aspects of making their own social media and marketing efforts more successful.

As of mid-December 2021, the Connecticut Grown campaign has surpassed the goal with 112,185,857+ impressions.

Next Steps: Just like farming, our work is not yet done. As we start the new year, we want to hear from you, our producers. At the beginning of this campaign we asked for your input, and we are asking again in order to meet the needs of the agriculture industry.

We would appreciate three minutes of your time to share your feedback by completing the survey below. We value and appreciate your input as we work together to strengthen CT Grown.

[Take the survey.](#)

If you are looking for more information on adding events, downloading the new CT Grown logo, adding your farm to the interactive map please visit www.CTGrown.org.

As always, the mission of CT Grown is to sustain and grow Connecticut agriculture and aquaculture. By increasing our marketing efforts and strategies, we strive to increase consumer awareness and exposure of CT Grown products and showcase the diversity of Connecticut's 5,500 farms.

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CONNECTICUT GROWN
Miranda Creative

2021 Highlights | First Digital Display Campaign

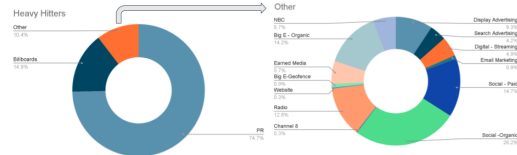
Display advertising leverages site retargeting of CTGrown.org visitors to generate impressions across devices & web.

Total Impressions	Total Clicks	Overall CTR
1,408,310	1,668	0.12%



2021 Highlights | Total Marketing

• Total media impressions (not including CTVisit) : 112,185,857+



CONNECTICUT GROWN
Miranda Creative

Respond quickly to signs of disease.
Report unexplained bird illness or death immediately.

USDA Let's keep our poultry healthy together
#DefendTheFlock
aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMED IN WILD BIRDS

USDA APHIS has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds located in NC and SC. Anyone involved with poultry – commercial or backyard flocks alike – should review their biosecurity plan and enhance their biosecurity practices to assure the health of their birds.

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl.

As part of our efforts to prevent the introduction of Avian Influenza into Connecticut poultry, the department conducts surveillance testing of birds throughout the state. Commercial and non-commercial flock owners are

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to do low or no cost testing of birds for the Avian Influenza virus. We also have strict importation restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus in our state.

Bird owners need to be aware and report anything out of the ordinary. Anyone who may suspect a poultry on their farm may have died from unknown causes should call the State Veterinarian at 860-713-2505 or email ctstate.vet@ct.gov. Signs of Avian Influenza include depression, decreased feed and water consumption, decreased egg production, soft or misshapen eggs, and respiratory signs (coughing and sneezing). You can also find out more by visiting the [Connecticut Department of Public Health's pandemic flu webpage](#) or visit the [USDA's Bird Flu website](#).

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [CT COVID-19 Knowledge-Base](#): COVID-19 resource to answer your questions on self-tests, testing sites, and more.
- [Self-Test Page](#): Information about self-tests.
- [CT COVID-19 Response](#): Current information including data tracker, testing and vaccine sites, reopening guidance and more.

Agriculture businesses, non-profits, and other organizations should follow the sector rules that apply to them. Private business owners can implement or continue to require social distancing and other measures as deemed necessary.

Find the most current sector rules guidance at www.ct.gov/coronavirus.

The Department of Agriculture has archived information from various sources related to COVID-19, which can be found here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>.

REGISTER FOR ON-FARM MOBILE VACCINATION SITE

Farms interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic for farm employees are encouraged to fill out the [DPH vans intake form](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Colchester dairy farm gains national attention after mention in 'And Just Like That...'](#), WTNH, 1/19

[New Year & New Programs at Massaro Community Farm](#), CT Patch, 1/18

[Winter is the perfect time of year to make maple syrup in CT](#), WFSB, 1/18

[Preserving the Connecticut farm that influenced Martin Luther King](#), CNBC, 1/17

[Got milk? Delivered by a milkman? In eastern Connecticut, it's a possibility](#),

The Day, 1/15

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2022 FARM TRANSITION GRANT AVAILABLE

The 2022 Farm Transition Grant (FTG) is now available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Applications will be accepted until March 8, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

The 2022 program will again provide matching funds to Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives for the diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value-added agricultural production and sales, and other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

Four grant categories, for which eligible applicants can apply, are available. Applicants will choose one of the four categories of the Farm Transition Grant and submit an application to demonstrate how their project proposal will advance farming and agriculture.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Additional detail on match requirements and eligible expenses can be found in the guidance. All applications will be submitted electronically via the new [DoAg Grants Portal](#).

A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants in learning about the structure of the grant and application process will occur on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. via a Webex call. [Please click here to register for the webinar](#). The presentation will be recorded and posted to the agency website if you are unable to attend the live event.

Questions regarding the Farm Transition Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov. More information on the grant categories, application requirements, and submission process can be found online at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

The FTG is a competitive matching reimbursement grant for Connecticut agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives. The Farm Transition Grant is provided through the State of Connecticut Farm Transition Grant Program, established in 2005 through Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation.



NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER INVESTS IN

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

- **January** – [Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant](#): Funding for modernized packaging initiatives that prioritize sustainability, scalability, and marketability.
- **February** – [Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant](#): Funding for projects that elevate multiple dairy businesses through activities that engage consumers and promote regionally produced dairy products.
- **February** – [Grazing, Forage, & Alternative Management Cohort Technical Assistance Contract](#): Contracts for service providers to offer technical assistance to cohorts of farmers in grazing, forage production, or alternative farm management strategies.
- **April** – [Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant](#): Funding for value-added dairy processors to access professional services to implement marketing tactics, brand improvements, and overall strategy.
- **June** – [Dairy Processor Innovation Grant](#): Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.
- **October** – [Dairy Farm Innovation Grant](#): Funding for dairy farms to take a holistic approach to implementing community- and climate-forward dairy production and business strategies.

For more information about the projects follow the link below.

[Learn More](#)

NRCS ANNOUNCES URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN CONNECTICUT

Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, has announced the agency is rolling out its Urban Agriculture Initiative in Connecticut and **will be accepting applications for FY2022 funding through March 18, 2022.**

Urban agriculture pioneers are taking action in their communities growing not only fresh, healthy produce, but increasing opportunity and knowledge and improving the beauty of their neighborhoods. Through this initiative, NRCS will help urban farmers care for the natural resources on their land – soil, water, air, plants, and animals by addressing soil health, irrigation and water conservation, weeds and pests, and high tunnels.

For more information visit the link below.

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NEW & EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing several new and expanded opportunities for climate-smart agriculture in 2022. Updates include nationwide availability of the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) Conservation Incentive Contracts option, a new and streamlined EQIP Cover Crop Initiative, and added flexibilities for producers to easily re-enroll in the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#). These improvements to NRCS' working lands conservation programs, combined with [continued program opportunities in all states](#), are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broader effort to support climate-smart agriculture.

For more information follow the link below.

[Visit USDA.gov](#)

CT Hemp Producer Webinar



CT HEMP PRODUCER WEBINAR

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) will host a hemp producer webinar on January 25 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to review the changes contained within the newly approved state plan for hemp production. The approved plan supports the Connecticut hemp law and governs registration, production, and compliance for hemp cultivation beginning in 2022.

For more information on the webinar or hemp regulation in Connecticut, please visit the [Connecticut Hemp Program webpage](#).

SIX COUNTIES APPROVED FOR FEDERAL AGRICULTURE DISASTER DECLARATION DUE TO HURRICANE IDA

On Dec. 21, Governor Ned Lamont announced that he has received notice from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack that an agriculture disaster declaration has been approved for portions of Connecticut due to the impact of the remnants of Hurricane Ida on the state in early September.

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eligible to be considered for certain disaster assistance from the Farm Service Agency to cover production losses from the storm, such as emergency loans, provided that eligibility requirements are met. While Middlesex and New London are named as primary counties in the declaration, the other four are named as contiguous disaster counties, making farmers in all six of those named counties eligible for assistance.

Farmers will have eight months from the date of the secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. The Farm Service Agency 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 ability of the operator. Farmers interested in applying for the assistance must contact their local Farm Service Agency office.

In August, a similar federal agriculture disaster declaration was approved for Connecticut as a result of the damages caused by Tropical Storm Elsa, which impacted the state in early July. That particular declaration applies to all eight of the state's counties, and farmers statewide are still eligible to apply for assistance under it.



EDA GOOD JOBS CHALLENGE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Good Jobs Challenge is designed to support the needs of an applicant's identified regional workforce system through a single integrated award. EDA will make awards to either the System Lead Entity of a regional workforce system or the Backbone Organization of a sectoral partnership as the lead applicant. These organizations may make sub-awards to other eligible recipients as necessary to the proposed project and as approved by EDA. **The deadline to apply has been extended to February 10, 2022.**

Eligible applicants for EDA's Good Jobs Challenge include a(n):

- District Organization;
- Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or
- Public or private non-profit organization or association, including labor unions, acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a

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Individuals or for-profit entities, including for-profit institutions of higher education, are not eligible.

For more information follow the link below.

[Learn more at EDA's website](#)



EQUITY MATCH GRANT

The Women's Business Development Council Equity Match Grant Program is designed to help women-owned businesses grow. Applications will be accepted until February 13, 2022.

Grants between \$2,500 and \$10,000 will be awarded for clearly defined projects that will have a measurable impact on the business, its growth, and profitability. The grant funds cannot be used towards operating expenses, payroll, or real estate improvements.

Upcoming information sessions will be held on the following dates:

[Monday, January 24, from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.](#)

[Wednesday, February 2, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.](#)

[Monday, February 7, from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.](#)

To learn more about the program and register follow the link below.

[Learn More Here](#)

ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the [CT Grown Map](#) page. All agricultural businesses, farm stands, and farmers' markets are welcome to apply. There is no fee to participate and applications are accepted year round. To apply to be listed, visit the [CT Grown Map Google Form](#).

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Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on January 17, 2022

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA](#)

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)
Prices provided on October 22, 2021

[New Holland, PA Hay 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

For Sale

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

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

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

46-R. Lynn Blackmer, local Nationwide Farm Insurance Agent. AFIS certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT & RI. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discounts. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.

50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

54-R. Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for

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55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.

22-1: Honeybees: 5-frame Deep nucs only, available first week May. Jones Apiaries, LLC, 860-677-9391.

Wanted

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

Job Opportunities

UConn Extension at the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is looking to hire a Project Co-Coordinator to assist with its training program and activities for new farmers (Solid Ground Farmer Training Program). The position begins in March and is year-round. Deadline to apply is February 11, 2022. [Click here for more information on the position.](#)

CitySeed is expanding and seeking a part-time Development Associate to join the team. [Learn more.](#)

Brass City Harvest in Waterbury, CT is seeking a culinary kitchen leader. To learn more about the position, click [here](#).

UConn Extension is looking to hire a Communications Specialist to assist with its farm-to-school programming ([Put Local on Your Tray](#)) and activities. This is a temporary, project-based position without benefits. 20 hours/week, up to 50% in-person at Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon. Deadline January 31 at 5 p.m. [Click here for more information on the position.](#)

UConn Extension is looking to hire a 4-H Youth Development Food and Agricultural Literacy - Assistant/Associate Cooperative Extension Educator. Closing date: January 31. Details: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/18891>.

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events
(click on image below for info)

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ON-FARM COMPOSTING

TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2022
6:30-8PM ON ZOOM REGISTER HERE
 PRESENTERS: YOKU TAKEGURA + ALEX CARPENTER
 ASSAWAGA FARM

Building biologically active compost on small farms. Yoku and Alex will share their composting systems, which uses very basic tools with a low starting cost. This method produces high quality compost that is used in small amounts for ongoing inoculation of the soil rather than to boost OM% or add significant amounts of nutrients. It is also excellent material to make compost extracts, teas and/or feeding worm bins.

NO-TILL FIELD DAY

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH, 2022
REGISTER HERE 1:00-4:00PM
TOBACCO ROAD FARM - LEBANON, CT
 PRESENTER: BRYAN OHARA
 AUTHOR: NO-TILL INTENSIVE VEGETABLE CULTURE

Bryan will provide mountains of details on agricultural techniques and will also demonstrate specific equipment compiled for No-Till covercrops. These specialized tools will be absolutely game changing for saving on labor and maximizing efficiencies on your farm.

ECOLOGICAL GROWING

SATURDAY APRIL 2ND, 2022
1:00-3:00PM REGISTER HERE
HIGH HILL ORCHARD - MERIDEN, CT
 PRESENTER: WAYNE YOUNG

This series of four webinars will provide an update on USDA RMA and USDA FSA crop insurance programs.

Livestock and Dairy Insurance Programs webinar:
 1/26/22, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 There are a number of livestock and dairy related programs that are offered by USDA RMA. This webinar will provide an update on these policies and will be conducted by a USDA RMA Program Specialist.

FSA NAP Program Update webinar:
 1/27/22, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers the Non-Insured Crop Insurance (NAP) program as well as other crop insurance programs. This webinar will provide an update on the programs and will be conducted by a USDA FSA Program Specialist.

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance & the NEW Direct Market Tomato Insurance Program webinar:
 2/1/22 12:00 - 1:00 PM
 Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) policies have received changes, including the new Direct Market Tomato policy. This webinar will provide an update on these policies and will be conducted by a USDA RMA Program Specialist.

New WFRP Micro Provisions Crop Insurance webinar:
 2/3/22 12:00 - 1:00 PM.
 Conducted by USDA RMA Program Specialist. Introducing the NEW Micro Provisions of Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) for the 2022 crop year. Farmers with gross sales of under \$100,000 will qualify for this program. Please note this webinar will also include important information on the traditional WFRP.

Register at: s.uconn.edu/CropInsuranceWebinars

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 EXTENSION & PLANT RESOURCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
 Risk Management Agency

This material is funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency, award #RMA21CPT0011598

2022 Tri-State SARE Project Webinar Series

Improving Pasture Management for Sustainable Livestock Production

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WEBINAR 1
 Assessing soil health:
 What is the status of my soil health?
 Tuesday, February 15
 Speaker: Kirsten Kurtz (Cornell Soil Health Lab)

WEBINAR 2
 The value of soil health:
 soil, plant, and animal interactions
 Tuesday, March 22
 Speakers: Sam Corcoran (UMass Extension)
 Joe Emenheiser (UConn Extension)

WEBINAR 3
 Creating meaningful soil health change:
 What can I do to make positive changes to my soil health?
 Tuesday, April 19
 Speakers: Kaitlin Farbotnik (NJ NRCS)
 Matthew Denton (Soil Health Division, NRCS)

All webinars will be held from 10 am to 12 noon

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers and will be comprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout sessions. Partaking in all webinars is encouraged, but not required. For more information, visit <https://livestock.extension.uconn.edu/> or contact Rachel Bespuda, Project Director at rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu

REGISTER HERE - s.uconn.edu/regsarespring22

UMass Extension **UCONN** COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES **THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND** COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURE SCIENCES **NORTHEAST SARE** Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under Subaward number 2NE22-001-CT-34268.

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

Calling Youth Ages 14-18:

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

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

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

Learn more: s.uconn.edu/biotech

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

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 EXTENSION

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