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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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Commissioner Hurlburt, Senator Osten, and Dean Chaubey joined Rodney Butler, Chairman of Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, in planting seeds in their hydroponic operation during a visit earlier this week to learn more about their initiatives to establish food sustainability measures.

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Happy Holidays

From Connecticut Department of Agriculture

As we enter the holiday season and look back on 2022, it's a time for reflection and appreciation. I'd like to take a moment to express sincere thanks and gratitude to our farmers, partner organizations, food systems businesses, stakeholders, and colleagues for their dedication and deep-rooted passion for agriculture.

Together we have navigated the continued challenges of climate change impacting weather patterns and growing seasons, implemented and updated protocols to manage pest and disease outbreaks, reached milestones in our farmland preservation program, advocated for pets and livestock, restored shellfish grounds, and continued comprehensive marketing campaigns to build awareness with consumers to maintain a vibrant and sustainable agriculture economy here in Connecticut.

We wish you good tidings, warm wishes, and a safe and happy new year. May the year ahead be filled with joy and success (and more favorable weather patterns!).

Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner of Agriculture

Our offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022, and Monday, January 2, 2023, in observance of the holidays. The CT Weekly Ag Report will resume with the January 6, 2023 edition.

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REGISTER TODAY FOR FARM TO SCHOOL PRODUCER TRAINING

An organized partnership between Put Local on Your Tray, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, UConn Extension, and Connecticut Farm To School Collaborative is excited to offer "**Bringing the Farm to the School**" a producer training for CT Farmers to navigate the opportunities and challenges of selling into public K-12 schools!

Learn more [HERE!](#)

Did you know that **Districts across the state are poised to receive federal dollars** that can only be spent specifically on fresh and minimally processed local product! This creates an amazing opportunity for farmers across the state to get started in farm to school and scale up to meet this opportunity.

This free, day-long workshop will bring together farmers and public-school food service directors to learn, connect and share best practices, success stories and frustrations.

Register [HERE](#)

Who is this for?

- Fruit, vegetable, meat and added value dairy producers
- Farm businesses of all sizes and growing practices
- Growers looking to expand their market
- producers who think the farm to school market is not for them because there are too many barriers.

The barriers are not as high as you may think! [Here is the registration link again!](#)

For service providers and supports interested in participating please email shannon.raider@uconn.edu.

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CT GROWN MARKETING TOOLS: LIST YOUR CSA

Does your farm offer a CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) program?

In the upcoming months the Connecticut Grown campaign will be promoting CSA's and we want to be sure your farm is included. The Department of Agriculture maintains a list of Connecticut CSAs [here](#). To add your farm to this list, or to update the information on this page, please submit your information [here](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Dairy co-op, makers of Cabot products, signs major lease for new Enfield distribution center](#), Hartford Business Journal, 12/22

[African Swine Fever vaccine candidate developed by USDA and University of Connecticut](#), eFeedLink, 12/21

[Come for the Christmas trees, stay for the reindeer at this unique Connecticut farm](#), The Boston Globe, 12/21

[Police investigating theft of frozen meat from farm stand in Sherman](#), News

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[blame](#), CT Public Radio, 12/19

[States that produce the most Christmas trees: Where Connecticut lands](#), WTNH News 8, 12/19



CLIMATE SMART FARMING: AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY GRANT

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) announces the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant Guidance is now available with up to \$7 million available in funding for projects which support climate smart farming practices. Funding is provided through Public Act 22-118 Sec 12(b)(70) which provides \$7 million for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. **Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.**

The Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant can fund projects in a variety of areas including, but not limited to:

1. Providing technical assistance.
2. Distributing a grant to producers.
3. Coordinating training programs.
4. Coordinating projects that pilot or demonstrate water and land-based conservation practices.
5. Creating tools that help reduce barriers to accessing assistance for climate smart farming.
6. Establishing equipment-sharing programs.
7. Other activities that will increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices.

Any agribusiness or entity, including nonprofit organization, soil and water conservation district, colleges and universities, municipality or for-profit organization in the State of Connecticut are eligible to apply.

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conventional/organic, indoor/outdoor, soil/water, and urban/rural.

CT DoAg plans to issue awards in varying amounts for program implementation from May 1, 2023, through May 1, 2028.

There will be four application funding tiers:

Tier 1: \$100,000 to \$249,999

- Project duration: Up to 18 months

Tier 2: \$250,000 to \$499,999

- Project duration: 18 months up to 2 years

Tier 3: \$500,000 to \$999,999

- Project duration: 2-3 years

Tier 4: \$1,000,000 and up

- Project duration: 3-5 years

There is **no match requirement** for this grant.

Office Hours:

CT DoAg will be offering office hours for interested applicants of the Climate Smart Farming Grant on **Thursday, January 5, 2023, from 1-3 p.m. via Webex**. [Click here to register for office hours](#). DoAg staff will be available during the two hour period to answer questions and address any concerns applicants may have. Attendees can come and go as they wish and are not required to stay for the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture & Forestry Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov. More information on application requirements, submission process, and accompanying forms can be found online at <http://www.CTgrown.gov/grants>.

[Click here for more information on the Climate Smart Farming Grant.](#)

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AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES: 2022-2023

**JAN
7TH**

SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 2-STROKE

NONNEWAUG AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WOODBURY CT - 9AM-3PM


Take apart a small engine that you find yourself using on the farm on a regular basis, and then learn how to put it back together again, all the while finding out how it works and how to address common problems.

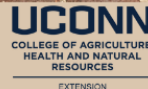
COST PER WORKSHOP \$25 - Lunch included

SPACES ARE LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY at newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground/
 If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a stipend by emailing rebecca.toms@uconn.edu

Please contact us in advance with special needs (dietary, translation, accessibility, etc.) We'll do our best to accommodate you

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROGRAM PROVIDER.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL- YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND.



TRANSITION GRANT IN ACTION: CLOVERLEIGH FARM CONSTRUCTS PROPAGATION GREENHOUSE

Cloverleigh Farm, LLC, is a certified organic vegetable and flower farm in Columbia, CT. At the time of purchase, the 10-acre property featured a farmhouse and a large barn for storage, a wash-pack area, and refrigeration. With an eye toward long-term growth and health of her farm business, Susan Mitchell, owner of Cloverleigh Farm, determined that construction of a greenhouse would be a critical component to facilitate farm success. A greenhouse would allow Cloverleigh to begin seeds each winter and ensure proper early plant growth to support a successful planting and harvest the next growing season.

After receiving a 2021 Farm Transition Grant, work began to prepare the site for a greenhouse. First, a utility trench was dug from an outbuilding to the greenhouse location to provide electricity and water connections. In December 2021, Connecticut Greenhouse Company was contracted to supply the materials and labor to raise the greenhouse over several days. Upon

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wired circulating fans and thermostats for louvers, exhaust fans, and the heater.



Susan says, "This critical



structure will allow us to effectively produce all needed vegetable transplants

for the field, in a manner that we see fit and with plenty of space available. It will also allow us to develop additional streams of revenue by way of a spring seedling sale to supply certified organic vegetable and flower transplants for home gardens."

Before construction of the greenhouse, Cloverleigh had maxed out production at about 1,000 flower starts each year. With the addition of the greenhouse, Susan hopes to increase production to 3,000-6,000 potted flower starts each year.



On the vegetable side, the greenhouse was crucial to producing the leafy green transplants that would provide the farm roughly 100-150 pounds of leafy greens a week during the winter months. "This project has provided a much more sustainable and responsible method of producing quality vegetable transplants for our farm, which serves the community through a robust Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program."



Are you a producer or agricultural cooperative looking to expand, transition, diversify, or innovate your operation? The 2023 Farm Transition Grant informational guidance and application are now available. **Applications will be accepted through January 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.**

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.

CT DOAG ISSUES LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture reminds credential holders that those listed below expire on December 31, 2022. All licenses and registrations must be renewed online; the website is www.eLicense.ct.gov. If a license or registration has expired, licensees should log in to their account, scroll to the bottom of the page, select "Renewal", then select a license to renew. Payment can be made by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover), and also by online check.

Food Safety licenses: Bulk Milk Tankers, Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Animal Control licenses: Animal Control Officers, Animal Importers, Animal Shelters, Commercial Kennels, Grooming Facilities, Pet Shops and Training Facilities

Animal Health licenses: Cervidae Herds, Swine Growers

Agricultural Commodities licenses: Commercial Animal Feed Manufacturers, Commercial Feed (Product) Registration

FARM SUCCESSION SCHOOL RETURNS TO CONNECTICUT

As you know, the biggest hurdle in farm succession planning is getting the plan done. For senior farmers and farm partners in Connecticut, like Chris, who are looking toward retirement and farm transition, the Farm Succession School is here to help!

This **three-day winter course** is for senior farmers who are ready to do the work and dig into creating a farm succession plan.

This curriculum is designed to help farmers think through the many aspects of succession planning, clarify vision and goals, get next steps on paper and review necessary documents to provide for a smooth transition. Sessions include ample time to share and learn from other farmers facing similar questions. There is also homework and assistance available between sessions. Farmers do not need to have an identified successor to participate in this course.

Farm Succession School meets at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Route 30, Vernon, CT

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Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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January 24, 2023

February 28, 2023

March 28, 2023

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

\$5,000 GRANTS TO 75 YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

For the last three years, the National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers) has partnered with Chipotle to support young and beginning farmers and ranchers start up and grow their businesses with a flexible funding opportunity each spring. The program provided 50 farmers and ranchers with \$5,000 each in the spring of 2020, 2021, and 2022. Grant recipients also received a one-year membership to the National Young Farmers Coalition.

In the fourth year of the program, the program will offer 75 grants to a new cohort of young farmers and ranchers in 2023.

In addition to growing the number of grants we are offering this spring, we are adding an additional lens to the program of **regenerating soil and community** to celebrate the deep and visionary care for land and community that the next generation of farmers embodies.

What can a Young Farmer Grant do?

Young Farmer Grants are designed to provide a flexible financial boost to young farmers building long-term careers in agriculture. This fund can be used for anything that will further your goals as a farmer, even if that means just getting started. The goal of this fund is to provide financial assistance for any cost that currently limits your ability to start, run, or grow your operation in the way you'd like.

Grant funding may support completing a project, purchasing a new piece of equipment, covering operating costs such as seeds and compost, building new infrastructure, attending a farmer training program or conference, hiring additional farm labor, or covering personal finances that stand in the way of farm success, including but not limited to childcare, housing, or student loan payments. Funds, once awarded, may be used to match other grant opportunities.

These grants are available to farmers of all races and gender identities. To ensure that our grants are contributing to ending inequity in access to agricultural careers, **we commit to providing a minimum of 50% of our grants to Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and 50% of grants to female-identifying, non-binary, and trans farmers.** These are not mutually exclusive identity categories and should not be understood as adding up to 100% of available grants.

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NRCS EXTENDS APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FY2023 CSP FUNDING

Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that due to the amount of interest and some newly-included climate smart activities for the agency's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), he is **extending the application period from December 16, 2022, to February 17, 2023.**

CSP is perfect for agricultural producers who want to continue to farm and forest landowners wanting to manage their forestland but want to use less resources and have less of an effect on the land. Implementing climate smart agriculture and forest activities under CSP will assist producers in their work to address the climate crisis and build more resilient operations through enhancements that may deliver measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase carbon sequestration. Many CSP activities offer co-benefits and ancillary benefits that help operations build climate change resilience while addressing other natural resource concerns such as soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat, and air quality.

Through CSP, 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 or forestry production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rates, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

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 February 17, 2023.

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

**ONLINE COURSE OFFERING:
SOIL HEALTH & CLIMATE ADAPTATION
FOR CT GROWERS**

Deadline to enroll is Jan 3rd!

This online course includes:

- How to analyze soils
- Understanding soil health
- Assessing farmland
- Implementing conservation practices
- Climate adaptation and mitigation strategies

When: Online, asynchronous, 10 module course running from Jan 11-Apr 1
 Cost: \$60 (\$30 reimbursed upon completion by April 1st)

About the trainer: Kip Kolesinskas is a former USDA-NRCS State Soil Scientist and current Solid Ground Professional in Soil, Conservation, and Land Use

SIGN UP AT S.UCONN.EDU/SOILCLASS

The project is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2020-70017-02103

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SOLID GROUND PRESENTS: A NEW ONLINE SOIL COURSE

The Solid Ground program is sharing a NEW online Soil Course: **Soil Health and Climate Adaption for CT Growers**, led by the one and only soil scientist, Kip Kolesinskas!

This 10-module online course is for growers looking to learn more about analyzing their soils, understanding soil health, assessing farmland, implementing conservation practices on the farm, and adaptation and mitigation strategies that can be used in the face of a changing climate. The course will run from 01/11/23 until 4/01/23.

The course was created by Kip Kolesinskas, a former USDA NRCS Soil Scientist and current UConn Solid Ground Professional Soil, Conservation, and Land Use Consultant.

The course will begin with a live online event on January 11th hosted by Kip, after that you may work through the course at your own pace. Kip will host another live online event on March 29th to wrap up the course, you will have until April 1st to complete the modules. The fee for this course is \$60, if you

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Deadline to enroll is January 3, 2023.

[Sign up here!](#)



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**Grant Reviewer
Interest Form**

Are you interested in participating on a review panel to evaluate DOAG grant applications? If so, [click here](#) to sign up!

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APPLICATION PERIOD: JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Women's Business Development Council's Equity Match Grant Program is designed to help Connecticut women-owned businesses grow! 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. Applicants are required to provide a minimum 25% match.

Eligibility

Businesses must:

- be at least 51% woman-owned
- have been established for at least two years
- have a record of annual sales/revenue in the last twelve months greater than \$25,000 and less than \$2,000,000
- be headquartered in CT, registered in the state of CT and owned by a CT resident
- be owned by a woman at least 18 years old
- be in good standing with the CT Department of Revenue Services (DRS)
- have an established business checking account
- utilize a formal, digital bookkeeping/financial system (e.g., QuickBooks)
- be a for-profit business

The following businesses are not eligible:

Child care businesses (see <https://ctwbdc.org/childcare-business/funding> for info on funding opportunities for child care businesses); businesses or individuals that have previously received an EMC or WBDC municipal grant; medical marijuana dispensaries and alcohol distributors; adult businesses such as strip clubs, vape retailers; tobacco shops and smoking lounges; businesses having to do with gambling; gun stores and ranges; cash advance, check cashing, or pawn shops; bail bonds; collection agencies or services and auction or bankruptcy or fire or "lost our lease" or "going out of business" or similar; current WBDC vendors or contractors (former vendors are eligible a year after working with WBDC)

Match Requirement

Applicants are required to provide a minimum 25% match, unless their business is located in an economically distressed community, as defined by CT DECD.

For example, if the business receives a \$10,000 grant, the business must have invested \$2,500 in their business over the past 12 months OR be able to invest an incremental \$2,500 of their own funds in the purchase they are seeking to fund.

Information Sessions

For more information on the application process, register for a live or pre-recorded information session at ctwbdc.org/class-listings

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Thurs, 1/19 12:00 – 1:00 PM	
Wed, 1/25 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Wed, 1/18 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Mon, 1/30 5:30 – 6:30 PM	Wed, 2/1 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Thurs, 2/9 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Thurs, 2/16 5:30 – 6:30 PM
Wed, 2/15 5:30 – 6:30 PM	
Tues, 2/21 10:00 – 11:00 AM	

What Previous Recipients are Saying

"The grant has been inspirational for me. I feel very motivated to show my worth and prove to myself that I can achieve the goals I have set. Having the equipment I needed to create a new line of products by using a more effective production process has challenged me to get focused and committed to the goal I had set. That motivation is priceless."

"It's been a year since I received my equity match grant and sometimes I pinch myself at where we've come in that time. I'm so proud to have a studio space I can call my own and bring our clients and employees into. Anytime I see our employees using the equipment we acquired with the grant funds, I recall how vital those items were to get us up and running."

Stamford • New Haven • New London | ctwbdc.org | info@ctwbdc.org | 203-353-1750



Learn more at ctwbdc.org/equity-match-grant-program/

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FOUNDATIONS OF SHELLFISH FARMING TRAINING COURSE 2023

Foundations of Shellfish Farming is a training course for new and prospective farmers and those who simply seek to learn more about aquaculture practices and techniques. Topics that will be covered include: how to establish and operate a shellfish business; leasing and permitting requirements; considerations for gear, vessels, and facilities, shellfish biology, aquaculture techniques and best practices, and risks involved in farming shellfish. Although the course will concentrate on Long Island Sound waters within the jurisdiction of Connecticut, the topics and practices covered are applicable in the Northeast United States and potentially beyond.

When: Tuesdays, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, weekly from January 24 to April 11

Location: UConn Avery Point Campus, Groton, CT, Lowell P. Weicker Jr. Building, Room 312

Cost: \$300

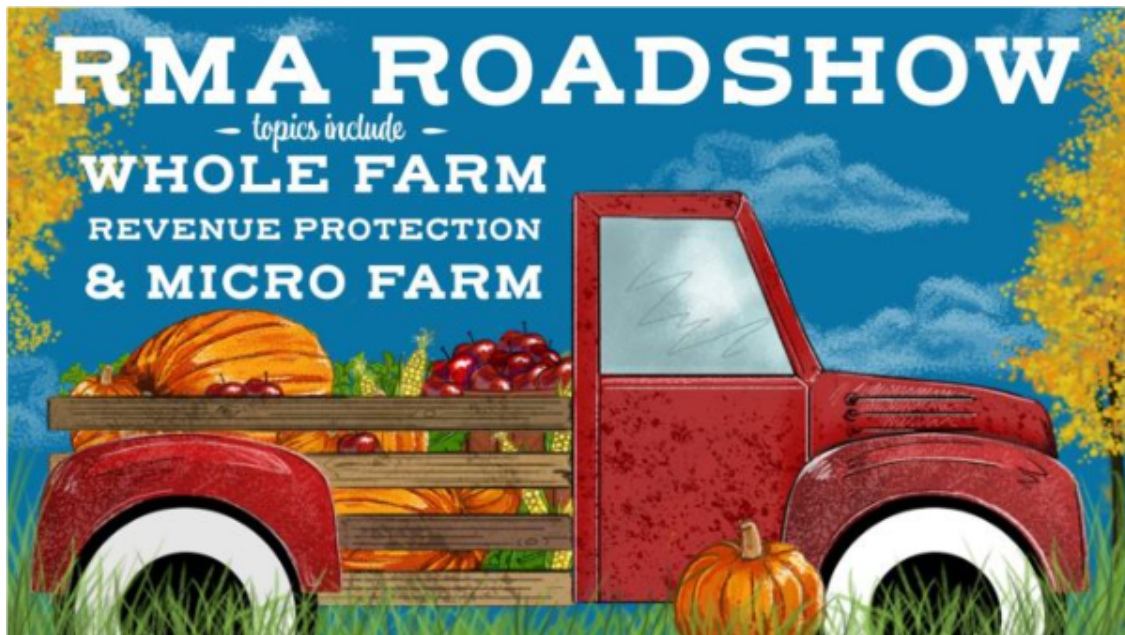
Registration: <http://s.uconn.edu/shellfish>

Outline: <http://s.uconn.edu/course-schedule>

Instructors: Michael Gilman and Tessa L. Getchis

Sponsors: Connecticut Sea Grant, UConn Extension, and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

**This course meets the Connecticut Department of Agriculture eligibility requirement for the submission of a Joint Agency Application for Marine Aquaculture.*



WORKSHOPS ON CROP INSURANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROP, ORGANIC PRODUCERS

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) is offering workshops for agricultural producers to learn about the latest updates and improvements to the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and the Micro Farm insurance options. These workshops are especially important to specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct-market producers. The Roadshows will include RMA Administrator Marcia Bunger and other team members to highlight and answer questions about these insurance options.

In-Person Events

- **Tuesday, January 10 at 10 a.m. ET**– Vernon, Connecticut
 - Tolland Agricultural Center, Tolland County UConn Extension, 24 Hyde Ave, Vernon, Connecticut
 - Hosted by: Valdosta Regional Office

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2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE UNDERWAY IN NEW ENGLAND

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed the 2022 Census of Agriculture paper questionnaires to all known agriculture producers across the nation and Puerto Rico. Last month, producers in the states received their survey codes with an invitation to respond online. Any New England producer who did not respond online now has the option to complete the ag census at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail. Producers who have already responded to the 2022 Census of Agriculture online do not need to respond again. The deadline for response is Feb. 6, 2023.

“The census is a critical tool that gives farmers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry, and operation,” said Angie Considine, acting state statistician of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, New England Field Office. “Your answers to the census impact farm programs and rural services that support your community. When you receive your form, don’t miss the opportunity to be counted. Every operation small and large makes a difference.”

The Census of Agriculture remains the nation’s only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and U.S. territory. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, are included in the ag census. The data inform decisions about policy, programs, rural development, research, and more. The Census of Agriculture is the producer’s voice in the future of American agriculture.

Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. NASS will release the results of the ag census in 2024.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus.

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**SEEKING ROOTS FOR SCHOOLS
+ SCHOOLS FOR ROOTS!**

Our Rooting for Winter campaign is here!
where local farms and districts connect to
bring seasonal delicious carrots, potatoes,
turnips and more to the cafeteria!

Are you a farm with Roots for sale?
Let us know and we can connect you
to a district looking to buy!

Connect at s.uconn.edu/R4W



[Click here for more information.](#)

**LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
FARM GRANTS**

Funding for farmers seeking or holding
humane certification, and to improve
pasture-based systems for their animals.

APPLY ONLINE BY JANUARY 10, 2023
foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants

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FACTS THEIR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FARM GRANTS

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Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is now accepting applications for our next round of **Fund-a-Farmer Grants!** The deadline for livestock and poultry farmers to apply is **January 10, 2023**. Grants will be awarded in March 2023. ([Learn more & apply online](#))

FACT awards competitive grants of up to \$3,000 to working, independent farmers located in the 50 United States and five major U.S. territories who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. **This year, FACT will fund the following types of projects:**

► **Farms that wish to improve and expand pasture for animals.** These grants for farms to transition to pasture-based systems, expand animals' access to well-managed pasture, and improve the quality of pasture for animals.

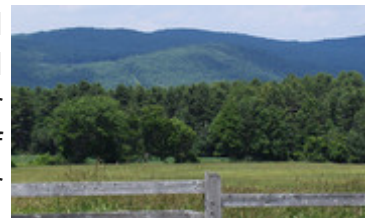
► **Farms seeking one of three animal welfare certifications:** Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World, Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership Animal Welfare Certified (steps 4 to 5+). These grants will be made for on-farm projects that help improve animal welfare.

► **Farms that already hold one of the welfare certifications** above to build capacity or maintain certification. These grants can be for on-farm production-related projects, or for other projects related to the marketing, sales, and distribution of welfare-certified products.

Before beginning your application, we encourage you to review the complete list of [grant guidelines](#) and other resources, including several example applications and tip sheets. If you have questions, please email us at grants@foodanimalconcerns.org. We are happy to assist you and look forward to receiving your application!

PROTECT YOUR AGRICULTURAL LAND WITH A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Are you a farmer with a deep connection to your land or interest in protecting the future of the nation's food supply? Maybe you're an agricultural landowner or eligible entity interested in protecting the integrity of your property? Why not consider safeguarding your land with a conservation easement through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). **NRCS accepts applications year round; however, applications for FY2023 funding are being accepted from now until January 31, 2023.**



The [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) (ACEP) protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation

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wetlands on eligible land. Under the **Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)** component funds are provided to eligible entities that use ACEP funding to purchase permanent agricultural land easements that not only protect the future of the nation's food supply, but also support environmental quality, wildlife habitat, and historic preservation and protection of open spaces. Landowner applicants who are interested must apply through an eligible entity – such as a land trust, municipality, or the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use.

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, grassland, and pastureland; non-industrial private forest land may be enrolled when associated with active agricultural land. Native American Tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to purchase conservation easements.

Enrolling agricultural land helps secure the future of the nation's food supply, prevents it from being developed or going to a non-agricultural use, and provides public benefits including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat, and protection of open space.

Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2023, to:

Carol Grasis
Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
344 Merrow Road, Suite A
Tolland, CT 06084-3917

Not sure how to begin? Visit our [website](#) where you will find information on benefits, how to apply, all the forms you will need, and more.

To speak to someone about filling out eligibility forms with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), or to obtain an application, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#): Danielson – (860) 779-0557; Hamden – (203) 287-8038; Norwich – (860) 887-3604; Torrington – (860) 626-8852; Windsor – (860) 688-7725; Connecticut State Office, Tolland – (860) 871-4028.



NORTHEAST **DAIRY BUSINESS**
INNOVATION CENTER

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY NE-DBIC

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New England Dairy Business Innovation Center is preparing to release guidance on grants for this fall. Below is a list of funding opportunities coming this fall.

Grants for Dairy Processors

- **Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant (January):** This grant will be split into multiple funding tiers to accommodate processors of all scales. Projects will be focused on acquiring specialized equipment needed to increase the processing capacity of regionally produced milk and other activities to support expansion to meet demand. Grant opportunity released in January.
- **Dairy Processor Innovation Grant (January):** Projects funded through this program will support long term business investments that increase dairy processor business consumer appeal and marketability of value-added dairy products. Project areas can address sourcing, product development, transportation/distribution, marketing/supply chain, operations, employee welfare, consumer experience, utilization of materials or systems that reduce carbon footprint, and beyond. Grant opportunity released in January.

For more information visit their site below.

NEW DAIRY FARM INNOVATION & ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT GRANT LAUNCHES

Between the economy, climate change, changing consumer preferences, and generational transitions, dairy farmers juggle many challenges – but they're also in a unique position to positively address those challenges through business innovation.

At the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, we're excited to announce the new Dairy Farm Innovation & Alternative Management Grant to support farmers and producers in implementing community- and climate-forward practices.

Open to licensed dairy farmers, producer associations, and technical assistance providers in all Northeast states, this grant will fund projects that lead to improved ecological and economic outcomes, as well as benefit the broader dairy community.

Projects may include:

- Utilization of new technologies to improve animal health, enhance labor efficiencies, reduce energy costs, and/or increase utilization of the farm's land base
- Adoption of non-standard animal management practices

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- Water, waste, and manure management improvements
- Conversion or pilot testing of electric-powered equipment to replace fossil fuel powered equipment
- Technological advancements associated with improved production practices, soil management, nutrient management, financial analysis, greenhouse gas emissions, and crop production
- Or other activities that improve management strategies and/or implement innovative practices

Awards will range from \$15,000 - \$75,000 with a 25% match commitment.

The Dairy Innovation Grant Request for Applications (RFA) is available now on our website.

The application period will be open December 1, 2022 – February 2, 2023.

[Read the RFA to prepare for your grant proposal](#)

[Visit NE-DBIC](#)

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on December 19, 2022

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

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)
Prices provided on October 27, 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

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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. (1/27/23)

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. [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

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

Employment Opportunities

New London Community Meal Center is seeking a **Local Food Access Coordinator** (LFAC) to perform all aspects of purchasing for the LFPA project and for managing the inventory, distribution and control of those items for all distribution locations. The Coordinator must work with organizational representatives to identify the products to be purchased, identify the most appropriate source for the products, confirm all aspects of pricing, confirm all deliveries, maintain an inventory control database and work with the NLCMC bookkeeper on invoicing. In addition, the Coordinator will work with the Food Justice Action to research and plan for sustaining this and other local food initiatives, with a particular focus on the overlapping goals of farm viability and healthy food access for low income consumers. Within this framework, the Coordinator will work towards long term systemic change, through a food justice lens, with partners including , FRESH New London, the HIC, and other area organizations. The position is “housed” at the NLCMC with shared supervision by the NLCMC and community partners. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

The **Southern New England Farmers of Color Collaborative** (SNEFCC) is reaching out with exciting news that we are hiring three positions! This is an exciting opportunity to join our team and work closely with farmers of color in the region. All team members will contribute to the completion of deliverables associated with grant-funded projects. SNEFCC commits to hiring each of these positions for up to 20 to 24 months.

Position openings:

- Project Manager
- Project Coordinator 1
- Project Coordinator 2

Applicants are invited to submit a resume and cover letter expressing their interest in the position(s) below. Email your application package to Karen Spiller at kspiller4@gmail.com. In the subject line of your email please use: APPLICATION TO SNEFCC - [FIRST & LAST NAME]

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LEADERS OF COLOR IN CONSERVATION PROJECT
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**WE ARE HIRING:
PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Info:

- 10-12 hrs/week
- \$25/hour
- Mostly Remote Work with some travel
- Excellent organization and communication skills
- Comfortable with events, photography, and digital platforms

Now accepting applications



Photo of Lauren Little Edutainment

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES
in Partnership with **E&G** COLLABORACIÓN CONSERVACIÓN

**ESTAMOS CONTRATANDO:
COORDINADOR DEL PROYECTO**

Info:

- 10-12 hrs/semanal
- \$25/ Por hora
- principalmente trabajo remoto y ocasionalmente viajes
- excelente habilidades de organización y comunicación
- cómodo organizando eventos, tomando fotografía y manejando plataformas digitales

Estamos aceptando aplicaciones



Photo of Lauren Little Edutainment

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES
in Partnership with **E&G** COLLABORACIÓN CONSERVACIÓN

Upcoming Events (click on image below for info)

UConn Extension's 2023 Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Trade Show: 8:00-8:55, 10:00-10:45, 12:00-1:00
8:00-8:30 Registration, breakfast, socialize, visit, Trade show
Morning Moderator - Mary Conditin, Fruit Extension Specialist Emeritus, UConn
8:55 Welcome: Indraaet Chaubey, Dean of CAHR, UConn
9:00 Nutrient management in sweet corn George Hamilton, Emeritus Professor, UNH
9:30 Vegetable benefits and disease control of nanotechnology Wade Elmer, CAES
10:00 Announcements
10:15 Break (trade show/coffee \$4ea)
10:45 Plug strawberries VS bare root strawberries - pros and cons of both Tim Nourse, Nourse Farms
11:15 Small scale bean threshing project with UConn engineering students Susan Mitchell, Coverleigh Farm
11:35 Trap crop- UConn research update Ana Legrand, UConn
11:50 New opportunities to sell to K-12 schools and early care providers. Jiff Martin, UConn
12:00-1:00 Lunch break/trade show
Afternoon Moderator - Shuresh Ghimire, Vegetable Extension Specialist, UConn
1:00 Winter Growing in low tunnels. Robert Durgy, CAES
1:30 Drone imaging to monitor potato leafhopper damage in the field. Chand Witharana, UConn
1:45 Strawberries and in-garden irrigation: on Trevor Hardy and Zoe Sano, Brookdale Fruit Farm
2:15 Ozone microbubble for produce safety Abhinav Upadhyay, UConn
2:30 No4-11 and soil health growers' panel, Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm, Bryan O'Hara, Tobacco Road Farm, others TBD
3:30 Pesidde recertification credits and socialize: 4 CEU approved

REGISTRATION:

Regular: Early Bird (prior to 12/29) \$50.00 (+\$1.00 processing fee)
After 12/29 \$70.00 same day registration will be available, cash or check only.
<https://s.uconn.edu/ctvc/2023registration>

Student: Early Bird (prior to 12/29) \$30.00
After 12/29: \$50.00, same day registration will be available, cash or check only. You MUST present your school or student ID when you check in the day of the event.
<https://s.uconn.edu/ctvc/2023studentregistration>

Contact tolland@uconn.edu 860 875 3331 if you have any questions.

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES
CAES COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES

The University of Connecticut and CT Agricultural Experiment Station are proud sponsors of this program. We are proud to have you as a participant in this program. We are proud to have you as a participant in this program.

UConn Extension VEGETABLE & SMALL FRUIT GROWERS CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW

WHEN & WHERE

January 4, 2023
Located at Sheraton Hotel
100 Capital Blvd., Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Set up is from 7:00-7:45, trade show is from 8:00-8:55am, 10:30-11:00am and 12:00-1:00pm.

WHAT?

The annual UConn Extension Vegetable and Fruit Growers' Conference will take place on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Roughly 225-250 people attended this conference in past years. We have 30-35 tables available for a trade show held during the conference for \$150.00 per table. Tables will be first come, first serve basis, and have sold out in the past.

SIGN UP! REGISTER TODAY!

Register Online at: <https://s.uconn.edu/ctvc/2023tradeshow>

Conference agenda is available at: <https://s.uconn.edu/ctvc/2023agenda>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

860-875-3331
tolland@uconn.edu
<https://jipm.caahr.uconn.edu/>

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GROWING FARMS

SAVE THE DATE

Northeast
Disability and Agriculture
Conference

February 4, 2023*
9am - 3pm
Harkness Park
Waterford, CT

Our first Northeast conference invites farmers, service providers and community supporters to engage in active dialogue around disability, mental health, and suicide. Interactive workshops will build connections and equip participants with skills and resources to promote advocacy, equity, access, and a just agricultural system.

A post conference stipend will be given to the first 50 farmers who identify as having a disability, have registered in advance, and attend the full conference.

*Snow date: February 11, 2023



Scan to register

<https://forms.gle/5GPR6JHT75W4Lz>

GROWING FARMS

GUARDE LA FECHA

Conferencia Noreste
sobre Discapacidad y
Agricultura

Febrero 4, 2023*
9am - 3pm
Harkness Park
Waterford, CT

Nuestra primera conferencia del noreste invita agricultores, proveedores de servicios y comunidades de apoyo a participar en un diálogo activo sobre la discapacidad, la salud mental y el suicidio. Los talleres interactivos construirán conexiones y equiparán a los participantes con habilidades y recursos para promover abogacía, la equidad, el acceso y un sistema agrícola justo.

Se dará un estipendio después de la conferencia a los primeros (50) agricultores que se identifiquen como discapacitados, se hayan registrado con anticipación y asistan a la conferencia completa.

*Fecha si nieva: Febrero 11, 2023



Escanea para registrarse





<https://forms.gle/5GPR6JHT75W4Lz>

Register at: www.uconn.edu/solidground

SOLID GROUND

A Program Of UConn Extension

AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES: 2022-2023

	DEC 3RD	POWER TOOLS & CARPENTRY BASICS PACONVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM Get familiar with the power tools and carpentry skills that you'll need on your farm. Learn to use an impact driver, drill, skill saw, table saw, & more. You'll work with your new skills to complete a project to take home.
	DEC 10TH	BCS/WALK BEHIND TRACTOR NONNEWICK AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WATERBURY CT - 9AM-3PM Interested in scaling up and incorporating a walk behind tractor into your farming operation? Come learn the about the Italian made BCS walk behind tractor. We'll cover how it can be used on the farm, safe operation, and practice attaching different implements.
	JAN 7TH	SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 2-STROKE NONNEWICK AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WATERBURY CT - 9AM-3PM Take apart a small engine that you find yourself using on the farm on a regular basis, and then learn how to put it back together again. All the while finding out how it works and how to address common problems.
	JAN 28TH	SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS; 4-STROKE NONNEWICK AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WATERBURY CT - 9AM-3PM Gain hands on experience working on 4 stroke engines, walk behind tillers, log splitters and more. Maintenance and trouble shooting skills to put right to work on your own farm equipment.
	FEB 11TH	BASIC WELDING FOR BEGINNERS PACONVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM Intro to the basics of welding. Learn the proper personal protective equipment required and safety protocols to know before getting started. Instructor will go over the fundamentals of MIG and stick welding, teaching you techniques to get welds done safely and efficiently.
	FEB 25TH	ADVANCED WELDING USING METAL INERT GAS METHODS PACONVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, VERNON CT - 9AM-3PM Did you attend our welding workshop in the past? Are you a novice welder? This workshop is perfect for you as we go deeper into welding using MIG (Metal Inert Gas) and take on bigger weld projects that you might encounter on your farm.

COST PER WORKSHOP: \$25. Lunch included | SPACES ARE LIMITED REGISTER TODAY!
If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a stipend for test wages and/or travel by emailing reference@uconn.edu

UConn Extension | USDA | University of Connecticut

CFBA YOUNG FARMERS COMMITTEE

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP



LEARN TIPS AND TRICKS FOR FILLING OUT FARM GRANT PROPOSALS

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UCONN EXTENSION AND LOCAL FARMS. JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY.

THURS JAN 5 **START AT 5:30 PM**

TOLLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
24 HYDE AVE, VERNON CT 06066

RSVP to Rachel Holden for the virtual meeting link or to reserve a spot in person. rachelholden207@yahoo.com

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