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Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt visited Clover Nook Farm in Bethany on Wednesday, August 2, to to see the completion of their 2022 Farm Transition Grant project which expanded their farm retail store and added additional cold storage. Joining them for a tour were State Rep. Lezlye Zupkus and the farms veterinarian Dr. Kim Brinton. Pictured: Debbie Demander, State Rep. Zupkus, Lars and Amanda Demander, Commissioner Hurlburt, and Dr. Kim Brinton.

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Harvested oysters are immediately placed in an ice slurry, which drops the internal temperature to lower than 50 degrees within three hours of harvest.

Important Information About Connecticut's Shellfish Monitoring Program

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) Bureau of Aquaculture has a detailed, and proven, testing program to monitor Connecticut's raw shellfish through partnership with UConn SeaGrant and industry members. In addition, to routinely monitoring water quality of shellfish growing areas statewide, the Bureau tests oyster harvest areas statewide for vibrio levels during the summer months. Vibrio are naturally occurring bacteria in Long Island Sound, and prefer the warm summer water temperatures.

CT DoAg screens oyster samples for levels of total vibrio bacteria and then *Vibrio vulnificus* and pathogenic *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* levels. Recent samples collected on August 1 with results on August 3 did not detect *Vibrio vulnificus* in any samples. Connecticut shellfish has never been associated with *Vibrio vulnificus* infections. *Vibrio vulnificus* can also cause severe infections when wounds come in contact with saltwater, brackish waters, or raw or undercooked shellfish.

"Connecticut's shellfish industry has stringent protocols in place and our agency utilizes an FDA-approved testing method for Vibrio parahaemolyticus and Vibrio vulnificus when testing shellfish collected from statewide commercial

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Vibrio control plans are extremely effective since they were established in 2014."

Connecticut shellfish growing areas are annually managed with Vibrio control plans when water temperatures exceed 68 degrees. In high-risk areas, rapid cooling is required. Harvested oysters are immediately placed in an ice slurry, which drops the internal temperature to lower than 50 degrees within three hours of harvest. However, this process typically takes less than 20 minutes.

In lower risk areas, harvesters are required to refrigerate or ice all oysters within five hours of harvest. Under this control plan, oysters must reach a temperature of lower than 50 degrees within five hours of refrigeration or icing. However, most harvesters choose to rapidly cool oysters statewide and all harvesters are required to shade oysters while on their vessels.

All certified Connecticut shellfish dealers are required to implement Vibrio time-to-temperature controls, which have been successful in preventing Vibrio outbreaks since implementation in 2014.

Additional information about Vibrio controls can be found on the Department of Agriculture's website.

FARMLAND RESTORATION FLOOD RESPONSE GRANT AVAILABLE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is offering the Farmland Restoration Flood Response Grant (FRFRG) to provide matching funds to Connecticut farmers, nonprofits, and municipalities impacted by excessive rainfall and flooding in July 2023.

Funds will enable projects with one of the following predetermined scopes of work:

Project Scope of Work #1: Repairs, Replacement, and Reinstallation

- Fencing
- Well heads
- Irrigation pumps and pipes

Project Scope of Work #2: Site Reconstruction

- Drainage
- Riparian buffers
- · Grading and shaping of farmland topography
- Diversions and waterways
- · Culverts and stream banks
- Farm roads

 Purchase and application of soil amendments to adjust soil pH, or other justified reasons including topsoil, compost, manure, and seed for cover crop.

The following entities are eligible to apply for the Farmland Restoration Flood Response Grant Program:

- 1. Agricultural producers, who are owners of an existing agribusiness within the State of Connecticut with at least one year of production experience who experienced flooding or damage to crops, infrastructure, and site due to excessive rainfall in July.
- 2. Not for profits owning or leasing farmland, in use by a farmer, who experienced flooding or damage to crops, infrastructure, and site due to excessive rainfall in July.
- 3. Municipalities leasing farmland, currently in use by a farmer, who experienced flooding or excessive rainfall in July. The lease must be no less than five years in duration, with a five-year option to renew in the terms.

A maximum award of \$20,000 can be provided. A match of cash or in-kind services is required.

Applications are due on August 21, 2023. Additional information can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/Grants.



Disaster Relief Resources

UPDATED DISASTER RELIEF RESOURCES

<u>Federal Agriculture Disaster Declaration Requested from Governor Lamont Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program</u>

<u>Farm Credit East Cares Community Fund</u> will make available up to \$250,000 in flood relief to impacted Northeast producers. Impacted producers are eligible for \$500 individual donations. This financial assistance is not intended to

rolling basis until September 15, 2023.



THE FARMER'S VOICE: OFFER SAMPLES

Samples of free food largely vanished during the COVID-19 pandemic but, with the end of the public health emergency, now is a great time to bring them back! Samples are a great way to introduce customers to new types of food or showcase the quality of your products, and several studies have shown that samples not only boost sales, but increase them significantly. Make sure to take steps to prepare samples safely, including limiting exposure for perishable foods and alerting customers about any potential allergens.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

<u>U.S. Rep John Larson holds roundtable discussion in Glastonbury about state's flooded farms</u>, Hartford Courant, 8/3/23

<u>Connecticut supporting climate-smart agriculture</u>, The Produce News, 8/1/23 <u>Connecticut getting \$500K to help veterans become farmers</u>, WTNH, 7/31/23 <u>Late winter and early spring freezing still impacting farms across Connecticut</u>, NBC CT 7/31/23

Agriculture commissioner visits Groton to highlight importance of school meal programs, The Day, 7/31/23

This Week in Connecticut: Farmers face flood-ravaged harvest, WTNH, 7/30/23

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\$550,000 GRANT TO HELP VETERANS BECOME FARMERS

Members of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Connecticut gathered on Monday, July 31 to celebrate the announcement of a \$550,000 federal grant through the U.S. Small Business Administration for the Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development (CT RC&D) to create a Connecticut Veteran Farmer Educational Resource Hub.

This new hub will help connect new and existing Veteran-owned farms with grant opportunities and other services. Funding will provide educational resources and assistance to help military Veterans get started in farming.

Guest speakers included U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal; Chris Wellington and Kirsten Marra, Owners of Muddy Roots Farm; General Ronald P. Welch, Commissioner of the CT Veterans Affairs; Jared McCool, President of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Connecticut; and Jocelyn Lahey, Executive Director, CT RC&D.

For more information on the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Connecticut, <u>click</u> here.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED ON RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCUTRE PROGRAM

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is now soliciting input on

(RFSIP) state plan. This plan will be submitted to US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) which is partnering with states on RFSIP to invest in food supply chain resilience, farm and food business market access, and value-added agriculture industry development.

Connecticut is slated to received more than \$2.7 million in funds to award to eligible entities. The Connecticut RFSIP will support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Your feedback is critical as CT DoAg develops the Connecticut state plan to address the major food system supply chain gaps and infrastructure needs that should be addressed through this program.

Comments should be submitted online using <u>Cognito Forms</u> or may be emailed to <u>Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov</u> with the subject line "RFSI" or call 860-895-3094. For more information on eligible entities and project activities, please visit the <u>Resilient Food System Infrastructure webpage</u>.



FREE CONSULTATIONS FROM SOLID GROUND

Hey Farmers!

For those of you that are growing commercially, aka are a farm businesses, reminder that there is still time left for you to sign up for a FREE consultations with some of the experts in the state surrounding a wide variety of topics! And BONUS we just added a limited number of Cut Flower Consults to our list of experts so you better hurry and sign up! And for all you veggie growers, NOW is the time for Shuresh to come and visit and help you identify pests, diseases, nutrient deficiencies, etc!

These are free one on one consultations for Connecticut Farmers, with specialists in certain fields of knowledge. These consultations are intended for

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Sign up for a consultation with an expert on the topics of:

- Vegetable Production
- Cut Flower Production
- Conservation and Land use and Soil Health
- Urban Farming
- Fruit Production and IPM
- Hemp production

The consultations will be awarded on a *first come, first serve basis* and are subject to the consultant's availability. If all spots are filled, we will maintain a waiting list. Deadlines for sign ups are dependent on each consultant.

Here's what some farmers had to say about how helpful the consultations are:

"I appreciated that flexibility, being able to walk our fields with Joe who is full of both theoretical and practical knowledge, have him be able to notice things, comment on what he saw, that turned out to be really helpful for us. We changed our grazing plan for the rest of the season and it will impact the way we will graze this upcoming season as well."

"We learned a lot about the history and how our land was formed. Particularly, we learned about the pingos (small ponds) we have in the woodland area. Also - taking a profile of the soil out and being able to touch/feel it and compare the colors was very memorable."

"I like the one on one time that the farmer gets, especially for a newer farmer, who doesn't have a mentor, having the time to pick someone's brain was great."

Please note: These consultations are intended for Commercial Farmers and Farm businesses. If you are homesteading, have a hobby farm, or simply love gardening, please access the <u>UConn Home and Garden Education Center.</u>

Sign up here!

CT NOFA RECRUITING FOR THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CT NOFA is proud to be a Core Partner in the <u>Northeast Transition to Organic Partnership Program</u>. CT NOFA is currently recruiting:

transition their farms for certification

- Farmers looking to transition to organic: if you are operating a farm and would like the assistance of an experienced organic farmer during your transition to organic we welcome you to join our group of mentee farmers
- Partner organizations which wish to help grow the program
- **Technical experts** who are interested in helping provide guidance on specific topics, skills, or areas of interest to farmers who are transitioning to organic methods

CT NOFA will be connecting paid mentors to mentees for one year. The mentorship program is expected to commence in the 4th quarter of 2023. CT NOFA staff will assist with helping mentee farmers to navigate the organic certification process.

We welcome partner non-profit or public organizations to work with CT NOFA to provide community building opportunities, technical assistance, train-thementor support, and workshop and field day activities covering topics including organic production practices, certification, conservation planning, business development, regulations, and marketing.

To learn more, <u>visit our website</u>. Interested parties can <u>sign up to participate</u> <u>here</u>

UNDERSTANDING PA 490 WEBINAR INTRODUCTION TO LAND AS YOUR LEGACY FARM ESTATE PLANNING

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 or Thursday, October 12, 2023 6:00PM - 9:00PM

Live Videoconference Joan Nichols, Executive Director, CFBA Henry Mondschein, Land-As-Your Legacy Advisor

Are you interested in reducing your property taxes? Enrollment in Connecticut's Public Act 490 (PA 490) program allows open space, farmland and forests to be taxed at a lower rate.

"PA 490 is the premier program to help our state maintain working farmland, forestland and open space land but it is complex. Since PA 490 was enacted, The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA) has become the trusted resource for municipalities and landowners when it comes to understanding how the program works," says Joan Nichols, CFBA's Executive Director.

process, as well as tips for maintaining the PA 490 classification. Time is allocated for questions and answers.

Attendance is especially recommended for anyone wanting to understand how land transfers and estate planning impact PA 490 land classification.

All registrants will receive a complimentary copy of CFBA's Guide to Connecticut's PA490.

This program is designed for farmers, landowners, tax assessors, government officials, municipal planners & forestry professionals.

Seminar Fees for CFBA Members
CFBA Standard Members - Free
CFBA Limited Members - \$20
CFBA Associate & Friend of Ag Members - \$40

Seminar Fees for Non Members Non members - \$40

Special Offer for non members and Limited members
Become a CFBA Standard member for \$200 today and the PA 490 program is
free! Upgrade from a Limited member to Standard level and the PA 490
program for free!

Call 860-768-1100 or email roxannl@cfba.org to join or upgrade.

Register for August 29 Webinar

Register for October 12 Webinar

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION OPENS FOR USDA BORROWERS WHO HAVE FACED DISCRIMINATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the opening of the financial assistance application process for eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) directs USDA to provide this assistance. Since the law's passage, USDA has worked diligently to design the program in accordance with significant stakeholder input.

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discrimination in USDA farm lending, as swiftly and efficiently as possible," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "USDA will continue to work with our national vendor partners and community-based organizations to make sure eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners have clear information about what is available to them, how to apply, and where to obtain assistance with their questions at each step of the way."

The program website, <u>22007apply.gov</u>, is now open. The website includes an English- and Spanish-language application that applicants can download or submit via an e-filing portal, information on how to obtain technical assistance in-person or virtually, and additional resources and details about the program.

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination by <u>USDA</u> in its farm loan programs prior to January 1, 2021 and/or are currently debtors with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021, are eligible for this program.

To apply, borrowers have the option to apply via the e-filing portal at <u>22007apply.gov</u> or submit paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to the program's local offices. The application process will be open from July 7 to October 31, 2023. Under the planned timeline, applications will be reviewed in November and December, with payments reaching recipients soon thereafter. Importantly, applicants should know that the application process is not on a first come, first served, basis. All applications received or postmarked before the October 31 deadline will be considered.

To support producers throughout the application process, USDA is ensuring that organizations with extensive experience conducting outreach to farm organizations are able to support individuals who may be eligible for the program. These groups include <u>AgrAbility</u>, <u>Farmer Veteran Coalition</u>, <u>Farmers' Legal Action Group</u>, <u>Federation of Southern Cooperatives</u>, <u>Intertribal Agriculture Council</u>, <u>Land Loss Prevention Project</u>, <u>National Young Farmers Coalition</u>, and <u>Rural Coalition</u>.

Click here to read more.

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EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS ON CUT FLOWERS

Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo will feature these educational sessions on cut flowers on November 9, 2023.

"Outdoor Dahlia Production for Cut Flowers"

Stephanie Burnett, University of Maine

Stephanie Burnett is an Associate Professor of Horticulture in the School of Food and Agriculture at the University of Maine. Her research program focuses on irrigation management, novel plant propagation techniques, and field grown flower production.

"Pest Issues for Cut Flowers"

John Sanderson, Cornell University Entomology

For 36 years, John Sanderson has been a professor in the Cornell University Entomology Department, with research, teaching, and extension responsibilities for the biology and management of pests and beneficial arthropods of greenhouse/Controlled Environment Agriculture crops with an emphasis on biological control and integrated pest management.

Click here to view the conference schedule.

Exhibit space and sponsorship opportunities are available! Click here for more information or contact Cindy Sherwood at (802) 448-9063 or sales@delaneymeetingevent.com.



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PROTECT YOUR HORSE: VACCINATE FOR MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is reminding the state's equine community to take appropriate measures to protect against Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile virus (WNV). The mosquito-borne diseases affect horses, birds, and humans. Horses are the domestic animals most susceptible to infection with EEE and WNV viruses.

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program announced that mosquitoes trapped in Wethersfield on July 17 tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

Equine owners are encouraged to implement the following, in coordination with their veterinarian, including:

- Administering the initial two-dose vaccine series, four to six weeks apart
- Administer regular boosters at least annually
- Consult with your veterinarian if boosters are needed every six months
- Give vaccinations at least one month prior to mosquito season to develop protective immunity
- Remove sources of standing water to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds
- Clean and refill water troughs regularly
- Apply fly sprays containing pyrethrin regularly

If your horse is showing neurologic signs, i.e. hyperexcitability, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, head tilt, head pressing, incoordination, drowsiness, recumbency, colic, or death, it's important to call a veterinarian to determine a diagnosis and treatment.

Neurologic diseases of domestic animals, such as EEE, WNV and Rabies, are

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To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes residents should:

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are more active. Clothing should be light colored and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect infants when outdoors.
- Consider the use of an EPA-approved mosquito repellent and apply according to directions when it is necessary to be outdoors.

For information on WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases, what can be done to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, the latest mosquito test results, and human infections, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program web site at https://portal.ct.gov/mosquito.

WBDC GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR NEW LONDON, TORRINGTON AND WATERBURY BUSINESSES

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is partnering with the Town of New London, City of Torrington, and the City of Waterbury to offer grants between \$2,500 and \$10,000 to businesses based in those cities for clearly defined projects that will have a measurable impact on the business, its growth, and profitability.

Businesses do not need to be women-owned to be eligible.

Applications are currently being accepted and will be reviewed on a rolling basis each month until funds are exhausted.

You do not need to be a WBDC client to apply. Please spread the word to all Waterbury and Torrington business owners in your network!

Click here for more information on the New London/WBDC Small Business

Grant Program.

Click here for more information on the Torrington/WBDC Small Business Grant Program.

Click here for more information on the Waterbury/WBDC Small Business Grant Program.

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WBDC EQUITY MATCH GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN IN AUGUST

The Women's Business Development Council (WBDC) is excited to announce our next round of the Equity Match Grant Program, which will open August 14th, 2023! **The deadline to apply is September 27, 2023.** The application will also be offered in English and Spanish.

The program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to women-owned businesses in the state of Connecticut who have been in business for 2 or more years and have revenues between \$25K and \$2 million. Since the start of the program, we have distributed 216 grants of over \$2 million to women-owned businesses in Connecticut. For additional information and more details on the program, please visit our website.

Starting August 14, we will hold one-hour informational webinars each week throughout August and September to assist prospective applicants with their applications before submitting. Information sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. Interested applicants can register for a live information session here: <u>Class Listings</u>

The next application period opens in August, but there's no need to wait until then to prepare!

Start now by reviewing the information and resources on the <u>EMG page</u> of the WBDC website. A recorded <u>EMG Information Session</u> provides more details, along with guidance on the application process. If you have additional questions, you can meet now with a WBDC Business Advisor so you'll be ready to apply as soon as the application period begins!

Click here to learn more.

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CT DEEP is accepting applications from municipalities, land trusts, and water companies for the next round of the competitive <u>Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program</u> (OSWA) and from targeted and distressed communities* for the <u>Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program</u> (UGCG). The application deadline for both programs is October 2, 2023.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT

Prices provided on July 31, 2023

CT Farmers' Market Prices
Prices provided on October 27, 2022

Northeast Regional Eggs

New England Shell Eggs

<u>Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction</u> <u>Summary</u>

<u>Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -</u> <u>Eighty Four, PA</u> New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

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

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly
Update

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston

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For Sale

Three-speed exhaust fan, 110 volts. \$250. Never used. 860-376-9803. (8/4/23)

Lynn Blackmer, Agribusiness and Farm Insurance Specialist. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for a discount. Cell: 860-377-8947. Iblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time. (10/27/23)

Logging, forestry services for landowners in all of Connecticut. Fully licensed and insured. - Josh Miller 860 398-1776 (11/10/23)

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 locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com

Wanted

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

Interested in Advertising? Click <u>here</u> for details on rates and submission.

Employment Opportunities

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working in collaboration?

Join our team as the next **Maine Field Agent** or our new **Southeast New England Field Agent** (serving Eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Eastern Connecticut).

Land For Good is a regional and national leader on issues of farmland access, land tenure security, and farm transfer and succession. Since 2004, we have been working with farmers, landowners and a wide network of collaborators to put more farmers more securely on land in New England, to support farm viability, to expand farming opportunity, and to keep farmland in farming.

View the full job description and apply at landforgood.org/jobs.

Review of applications will begin August 15. Position will remain open until filled.

The United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut is hiring a Food Farmacy Manager based in Danbury, CT. The Food Farmacy is a new food as medicine initiative created in partnership with United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut and Nuvance Health that seeks to improve health outcomes and food security amongst Nuvance Health Danbury clients experiencing diet-related comorbidities who also screen positive for food insecurity. The Food Farmacy Manager will be responsible for overseeing the launch and operation of the Greater Danbury Food Farmacy, while effectively managing grant funding and ensuring compliance with grant requirements. Please visit https://www.unitedwaycwc.org/employment to learn more and apply.

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





PA 490 Live Webinars

Connecticut's Current-Use Tax Law for Farmland,
Forest Land and Open Space Land

Information on applying for, maintaining and transferring PA 490 land

Tuesday August 29th, 2023
Thursday October 12th, 2023
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Registration fees: CFBA Standard members - Free
CFBA Limited members - \$20.00
Non-CFBA members - \$40.00
Registration fee includes hard copy of 2020 PA 499 Guide

in or upgrade to CFBA Standard membership and registration is free Registration for August 29th webinar click here. Registration for October 12th webinar click here. 1 CEU CT Certified Forest Practitioners - CT DEEP

For more than 40 years Connecticut Farm Bureau Association has been the trusted source for guidance and information on Public Act 490.



Questions or to join or upgrade CFBA membership call 860-768-1100 or email roxannl@cfba.org













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