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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](https://CTGrown.gov).

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February 24, 2023; Vol. F, No. 7

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Heading to the [CT Flower and Garden Show](#) at the CT Convention Center this weekend?

Stop by booth 519 to sign up for the CT Grown newsletter, receive a wildflower seed stake and be entered to win one of our door prizes!

While there be sure to check out the other CT Grown businesses offering everything from landscape inspiration and flower and veggie plants to jams, jellies, and hot sauces.



## Ag Day at the Capitol Returns

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) announces that Connecticut Agriculture Day will return to the Capitol on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Connecticut Agriculture Day will take place during National Agriculture Week, a time to recognize and celebrate the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. Connecticut's diverse agriculture community consists of more than 5,500 farms which contributes \$4 Billion to the state's economy and more than 20,000 jobs, while providing a safe, abundant supply of food, fiber, and flowers.

Agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities are invited to register for a tabling space and encouraged to offer product samples that showcase Connecticut agriculture to state and legislative officials. [Register online by March 3, 2023.](#)

Do you know an Outstanding Young Farmer? Awarded annually at Ag Day, the Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer Award recognizes the winner's progress in their agricultural career, their soil and water conservation practices, and their contributions to the well-being of the community, the state, and the nation. Connecticut is nationally-recognized in the Outstanding Farmers of America Program, with a leading number of national finalists. Help us keep growing an excellent tradition by nominating a worthy candidate today. Applications must be submitted electronically via email to [erin.pirro@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:erin.pirro@farmcrediteast.com) by February 24, 2023. Download the nomination form here: <http://ctaginfocouncil.org/outstanding-young-farmer-application.html>

CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Ag Journalism awards. For more information on the awards or participating in Ag Day, contact Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov) or 860-573-0323.

## CT FSA PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program

**Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) enrollment opened Jan. 23, 2023 and runs through June 2, 2023.**

PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers who participated in previous USDA pandemic assistance programs may receive additional assistance through PARP if they exhibit a revenue loss after factoring in other payments.

#### Who is Eligible?

PARP provides financial assistance for producers who suffered at least a 15% decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to 2018 or 2019. PARP helps address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. Producers must meet additional FSA eligibility requirements including but not limited to AGI limitations.

For more information: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp>



**Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two enrollment opened Jan. 23, 2023 and runs through June 2, 2023.**

ERP Phase 2 is a tax year-based certification program that provides assistance for producers who suffered a loss in revenue due to necessary expenses associated with losses of eligible crops (excluding crops intended for grazing), due in whole or in part, to a qualifying disaster event that occurred in the 2020 or 2021 calendar

## Who is Eligible?

ERP Phase Two covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021. Eligible crops include all crops for which federal crop insurance or NAP coverage was available except for crops intended for grazing. Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions. Producers must meet additional FSA eligibility requirements including but not limited to AGI limitations.

For more information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-relief/index>



### Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program

**Farm Service Agency will accept On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers (FSCSC) applications for calendar year 2023 from February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.**

**Enrollment for calendar year 2022 closed January 31, 2023.**

Did your specialty crop operation recently incur on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023? You may be eligible for financial assistance through USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC).

For more information: <https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/food-safety>



**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-ups open Feb. 27, 2023 and run through Apr. 7, 2023.**

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in CRP agree to remove

from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

### Continuous CRP

In addition to the CRP general enrollment period, producers at any time can participate in CRP continuous enrollment period, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is also available in the Continuous signup.

For more information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>

### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

U.S. cheese champion: Best cheese is from Connecticut, but the cheese maker is from Wisconsin, Yahoo News, 2/23

"We grow community:" How urban agriculture has sprouted in New Haven, Yale Daily News, 2/23

Historic, family-run Roxbury farm receives \$5,000 state grant to buy new cultivation equipment, Stamford Advocate, 2/21

Maple Syrup season is underway at The River's Edge Sugarhouse, Fox 61, 2/20

An emerging agricultural practice offers new promise for a climate-smart future, Phys.org, 2/20

Groton, Stonington Oyster Farms Awarded State Grants, Patch, 2/17

Warmer winters feed into growth and spread of invasive plants in Connecticut, CT Public Radio, 2/17

North Central Connecticut Bee Farm Gets Boost From State, Patch, 2/16

Nyberg – Maple View Farm in Granby brews up award-winning beers, WTNH, 2/15

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## JOIN A FREE WEBINAR ON FEBRUARY 28 ON "NAVIGATING AVIAN INFLUENZA: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED"

Dr. Patricia Fox, DVM, National Epidemiology Officer for Avian Health for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will lead a virtual Q&A with poultry growers to address questions and concerns about avian influenza. The free session, part of APHIS' annual Bird Health Awareness Week, will focus on what avian influenza is, how poultry are affected, and what growers can do to minimize the risk of outbreaks. Avian influenza, known technically as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or HPAI, is mostly fatal to poultry, and can rapidly spread within and between domestic poultry flocks and wild bird (especially waterfowl) populations. To date, HPAI has been detected in 47 states and affected more than 57 million birds.

USDA's ***Defend the Flock*** education program offers free tools and resources to help everyone who works with or handles poultry follow best practices in biosecurity. Biosecurity refers to everything people do to keep diseases – and the viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and other microorganisms that cause disease – away from birds, property, and people.

The ***Defend the Flock Resource Center*** brings together biosecurity information and free resources from USDA and other experts, including growers, veterinarians, state agencies, scientists, and industry professionals, including checklists, resource guides, videos, and other tools.

The "Navigating Avian Influenza: Your Questions Answered" webinar will take place on Tuesday, February 28 from 2:30-3:30 PM EST. Register for this FREE webinar at [https://bit.ly/APHISWebinar\\_Feb2023](https://bit.ly/APHISWebinar_Feb2023).

As part of Bird Health Awareness Week, February 28-March 3, APHIS will release additional new ***Defend the Flock*** resources:

- New Flock Defender Youth Program resources, including an interactive game and educator handbook.
- New translations of ***Defend the Flock*** Biosecurity Checklists in Arabic and Hmong. Based on the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) principles,

- “Biosecurity Workbook,” a biosecurity planning workbook designed especially for new and experienced backyard poultry owners to help them protect and care for their birds throughout the year.

APHIS’ ***Defend the Flock*** campaign also shares tips and important information on social media, at [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). The ***Defend the Flock*** e-Newsletter is published twice a year. Select “***Defend the Flock*** e-Newsletter” under Veterinary Services at [bit.ly/2UC7iLi](https://bit.ly/2UC7iLi) to sign up.



## STILL TIME TO RESPOND TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Farmers and ranchers still have time to be counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the deadline for submitting the ag census has just passed, NASS will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the spring to ensure all farmers and ranchers take advantage of the opportunity to be represented in the widely used data.

NASS will continue to follow up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their ag census either online at [accounts.usda.gov](https://accounts.usda.gov) or by mail as soon as possible.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 mandates that everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete and return it, even if they are not currently farming. The same law requires NASS to keep all submissions confidential, use the information for statistical purposes only, and publish aggregate data to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow USDA NASS on Twitter at [@usda\\_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass).



## SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT GUIDANCE NOW AVAILABLE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is now accepting applications for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) for the 2023 program year. Applicants must submit a completed application by March 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM using [Cognito Forms](#).

Funding priorities for the 2023 SCBGP include:

- Research, development, and dissemination of innovative production practices to enhance farm viability, natural resource conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Market access (local, regional, national, or international), marketing, branding, and consumer education
- Producer collaboration—including establishing or strengthening producer associations and cooperatives
- Value chain enhancement—including strengthening relationships between producers, aggregators, processors, distributors, retail businesses, and consumers
- Pest and disease management
- Technical assistance to address efficiency, conservation, climate change, business viability, workforce development, labor issues, succession planning, and challenges facing beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers
- Enhancing food safety and improving the capacity of specialty crop businesses to comply with Food Safety Modernization Act or food safety audit program requirements

“Specialty crops contribute significantly to Connecticut’s agriculture sector and this funding is pivotal to supporting initiatives that will benefit a wide variety of specialty crop producers,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt said. “From pest and disease management to technical assistance and enhancing food safety modernization, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds strengthen our food systems through enhanced agricultural production.”

must benefit the industry as a whole and not a single organization, business, or commercial product. As a result, individual farms or businesses are encouraged to apply and partner with other eligible applicants rather than apply themselves. This is a reimbursement grant with awards up to \$100,000. CT DoAg strongly encourages innovative projects to develop new knowledge that can strengthen specialty crop businesses.

The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. Specialty crops are defined as any fruit or vegetable, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Also included is honey, maple syrup, Christmas trees and processed foods/food products which are made of at least 50% specialty crops (excluding added water). An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop.

For more information on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, including grant guidance, application link, and project profile template, please visit the website, <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/Publications/Specialty-Crop-Block-Grant>.



### UConn Cannabis Symposium

The University of Connecticut has been a leader nationally in developing the first series of courses offered at a U.S. academic institution on cannabis production. Join

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future of the industry. The UConn Cannabis Symposium will be a premiere event for students, scientists, educators, and members of the cannabis industry to network and share information in the emerging cannabis field. This is an event that you will not want to miss!

[Register Here](#)

### **ADDITIONAL HEMP AND CANNABIS EVENTS**

#### **UVM Hemp Conference: Feb 23**

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/2023-industrial-hemp-conference>

#### **Univ. of Maine: Hemp online course**

1 hr sessions in the evening online with the instructor, then 2 hrs on your own.

Every Tuesday for 5 weeks, starting March 7, 14, 21, 28, & Apr 4

Couse is taught by John Jemison, University of ME agronomy professor/extension

[jemison@maine.edu](mailto:jemison@maine.edu)

#### **Connecticut Cannabis Expo- Xpocanna: March 25-26 at Mohegan Sun**

<https://xpocann.com/event/connecticut-cannabis-expo/>

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**MARCH 2, 2023**  
**1-4PM**

# SOIL HEALTH & CONSERVATION FARM EQUIPMENT

**UConn Extension Center Annex**  
**1066 Saybrook Road**  
**Haddam, CT 06438**

*Soil Health and Climate Smart Agriculture Presentations, Conservation Tillage & Farm Equipment on Display, Farmer-to-Farmer Networking & Refreshments*

Free to Register at: [bit.ly/CTSoilHealthEvent](https://bit.ly/CTSoilHealthEvent)

This event was made possible with support from:



## 2023 FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE REMOTE GROWER TRAINING COURSE

### Date/Time of Event:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Instructors

- Indu Upadhyaya, Ph.D., Food Safety Specialist, UConn Cooperative Extension
- Diane Hirsch, MPH, Food Safety Specialist, UConn
- Jacqueline Kowalski, Urban Agriculture Specialist, UConn Cooperative Extension

### Course Summary:

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge that includes emphasis on co-management of food safety and environmental management goals,

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FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.' This course will be taught remotely on a Zoom platform as per the remote delivery guidelines established by PSA.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

In order to obtain a certificate that provides evidence of compliance with the training requirements of the rule, you must be present for the entire two-day course. Please make sure you have a **computer/laptop (no phones or tablets allowed)** with built-in video or external webcam and microphone with sufficient internet connectivity for the entire duration of the course. There will be 15-minute breaks and lunch break during the course.

- **No more than 2 people from the same operation should register for the course.**
- **If you are joining in the same physical room as someone else, you must utilize headphones to minimize background noise and feedback.**

### **Registration Types and Their Associated Fees:**

Course registration fee (includes all course materials and certificate): **\$50**

**The preferred method of registration/payment is by paying with a credit card. Please include both a work and cell/home phone number and regularly used email address in case of emergency or cancellation.**

**Please provide the correct shipping address for shipping of manuals to reach you before the course. This is a requirement.**

**To register:** Go to <https://s.uconn.edu/fsmaproducesafety>.

Registration is first come, first served, so please register early. You must pre-register. Space is limited. Registration materials must be received by **February 24th**.

### **Cancellation Policy:**

No refunds or cancellations will be accepted after **February 24th**.

If you have further questions regarding the course, please contact [indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu](mailto:indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu)

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Development Council

## 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:

On-line businesses (see <https://ctwbdc.org/chilicare-business/funding> for info on funding opportunities for on-line 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 retailing, 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 sale; 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](https://ctwbdc.org/class-listings)

## ENGLISH

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

## SPANISH

Wed, 1/18 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
Wed, 2/1 10:00 – 11:00 AM  
Thurs, 2/16 5:30 – 6:30 PM

## 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](https://ctwbdc.org) | [info@ctwbdc.org](mailto:info@ctwbdc.org) | 203-353-1750



Learn more at [ctwbdc.org/equity-match-grant-program/](https://ctwbdc.org/equity-match-grant-program/)



### AGRICULTURE BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVITED To APPLY TO EXHIBIT IN THE CT BUILDING AT BIG E

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building at The Big E, September 15-October 1, 2023, with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service.

This is a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture to over one million attendees who come through the Connecticut Building. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, and Harvest New England Day will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the exhibitor guidelines, and submit a completed application by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023. Licensed Connecticut farm wineries interested in having their wines available by the glass will be receiving a separate application to participate.

[Guidelines and Application here.](#)

For more information, please contact Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov), or 860-573-0323.

### SOLID GROUND FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION GUIDANCE FOR 2023 STIPENDS

UConn Extension is excited to announce their 2023 Solid Ground Stipend Program! UConn Extension's Solid Ground Program and the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources - Strategic Vision Implementation Committee are pleased to join forces to offer up to \$2,000 in stipends to new and beginning farmers in Connecticut.

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operating their own business. Stipends can be used to purchase better tools and make upgrades to your operation instead of relying on low cost/low quality inputs.

Please read over the [Guidance doc](#) prior to completing the application.

Note that priority funding this year will go to:

- Supporting the success of early phase beginning farmers (those who have been operating their own farm business for 3 years or less)
- Supporting the viability of farmers/market gardeners who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color
- Potential of stipend to contribute to conservation of natural resources, climate resilience, climate adaptation, or climate mitigation strategies
- Applicants who did not receive a Solid Ground Stipend in 2022 will receive priority for funding. *Applicants that were funded in 2022 are still eligible to apply.*

**Applications are due no later than 5 pm on 3/3/23.** Applications need to be submitted online.

[Click here to apply.](#)

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### CT NOFA PRESENTS 41ST WINTER CONFERENCE

CT NOFA is proud to present their 41st Winter Conference, to be held the second week of March, kicking off on Monday, March 6, 2023 with a week of live virtual workshops and concluding on March 11 with an in-person gathering and celebration at Wesleyan University.

Join us as we learn, grow, innovate, and think critically about what we want our food system to look like in the future. Registration is open on a sliding scale — this model allows us to practice economic solidarity, providing mutual support for the cost of our programs. In this way, we make our education more accessible and help cover costs of operation. Choose the pricing tier that fits with your income and access to wealth, and help us create a more just, inclusive, and equitable conference.

Conference registration includes invitations to all live virtual workshop sessions and our in-person celebratory gathering on March 11, as well as exclusive access to all workshop recordings for 3 months after the event. [Visit our website to register for the event and to explore our growing list of presenters, workshops, and more.](#)

## USDA ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available up to \$7.5 million for grants through its Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 27, 2023.

### Planning Projects

Planning Projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers and the development of plans related to zoning and other needs of urban production. For example, the Texas Coalition of Rural Landowners used 2022 awarded funds to conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan to establish a cooperative for small-scale agricultural producers serving low food access markets in Harris County, Texas.

### Implementation Projects

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors. For example, the Moka Urban Agriculture Initiative used 2022 awarded funds for a project to increase local food access and provide culturally relevant options that create economic opportunities for urban farmers. The project will help to reduce food insecurity, improve health and establish outdoor spaces for food production in Missouri.

### Webinar

A pre-recorded webinar on Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants | USDA provides an overview of the grants' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application.

### More Information

OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. The grants are part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:

- Creating and managing a Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to advise the Secretary on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban agriculture.

teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife and greenspace for neighbors.

- Providing cooperative agreements that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.
- Providing technical and financial assistance through conservation programs offered by NRCS.
- Organizing 17 Farm Service Agency urban county committees.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov)



## Farm Succession School

For senior farmers and farm partners in **Connecticut**, like Chris, who are looking toward retirement and farm transition.

Three-day winter course:  
February 7, February 28, March 28



DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE



**FARM SUCCESSION SCHOOL - STILL TIME TO REGISTER**

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done. The **Farm Succession School** is for senior farmers and farm partners in Connecticut, like Chris, who are looking toward retirement and farm transition.

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.

Tuesdays from 9:30am - 3:30pm

**February 28, 2023**

**March 28, 2023**

**[Learn more and register](#)**

### **Additional Support Opportunities**

**Online Training** - Join a free **live webinar series** for transitioning farmers and junior generation farmers to learn the basics of succession planning, like how to get started, where to find advisors and resources, ask questions, and get help. All generations, including family and non-family members, who may play a role in the farm's future are encouraged to attend. Farmers from across New England are welcome. Four-part series meets virtually, January – February. [There's still time to register!](#)

**One-on-One Advising** - Our field agents offer **one-on-one advising** to help New England farmers start, continue or complete their farm succession plan. We've helped hundreds of farmers and partners find innovative solutions that keep their farms in farming, provide a meaningful legacy and address the financial, legal and business challenges involved in transferring a farm to a next generation family member or unrelated successor. Low or no-cost assistance is available. Costs vary depending on your needs and available funding, with always a sliding scale option. Complete this [Farm Succession Form](#) or call us at 603-357-1600 to initiate a no-cost informational session.

*Connecticut Farm Succession School is in partnership with UConn Extension and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, this work is supported by the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Grant, grant no.: 2021-70035-3555, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.*

*Funding for the free live webinar series provided by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board through the VT Viability Program, and the Farm and Ranch*

[Learn More](#)

## 2023 NEW ENGLAND LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD SEEKS NOMINEES

Are you a New England farmer or forestland owner improving soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat on your working land? Apply for the 2023 New England Leopold Conservation Award®.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 25 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In New England the \$10,000 award is presented with, New England Forestry Foundation and Wildlands Woodlands Farmlands & Communities.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Landowners may also nominate themselves. The application can be found at [www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA](http://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA).

The application deadline date is July 18, 2023. Email applications to [award@sandcountyfoundation.org](mailto:award@sandcountyfoundation.org). Applications will be reviewed by an

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### **Ag Market Pricing**

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

*Prices provided on February 20, 2023*

[New Holland Dairy Auction - New](#)

[Holland, PA](#)

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)

*Prices provided on October 27, 2022*

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[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -](#)  
[Eighty Four, PA](#)

### **Advertisements**

[Advertisement space can now be purchased online. Click here to have your posting added.](#)

### **For Sale**

2017 Eliminator Model 224 Seed & Grain Cleaner, includes extra screens. Additional screens are available from manufacturer for any grain or seed imaginable. Asking \$5,400 obo. Call or text Dan Dzen (860) 548-6763 (3/3/2023)

Bushel wooden apple boxes; in good-excellent condition \$250 for a quantity of 25 boxes. Call or text: 860-908-3899. (3/3/2023)

4500' plus and 3.5' wide Fruit-Zone Roll Premium Grade Bird Netting made of black colored polypropylene with a 3/4 inch mesh (approximately 2.3#MSF), also called "side netting". Can be cross-cut or parted into narrower widths for fruit zone netting / side netting. Was a 5000' roll and we used about 220'. Asking \$150 please. Located in Colchester, CT. Rosemary or Tim: 508/873-6781 (3/10/2023)

Slightly used, very clean, 4 gallon white plastic buckets and matching lids; HDPE, food-grade. Bucket \$3.75, Lid \$1.00. Email for photo/dimensions. Minimum 50 please. Pick up in Lyme, CT, or large quantity delivered. [bill@fatstonefarm.com](mailto:bill@fatstonefarm.com) (3/17/23)

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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](http://www.bludon.com)

Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://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](mailto:Griffinfarm@aol.com); [www.griffinfarmtools.com](http://www.griffinfarmtools.com)

## Wanted

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

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

## Employment Opportunities

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Responsible for overseeing and coordinating agricultural programs and initiatives aimed at improving agricultural production and sustainability. For more information, visit their [website](#). To Apply: Email cover letter, detailing degree, experience, professional qualifications, and resume to [employment@ctrctd.org](mailto:employment@ctrctd.org) by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 17, 2023.

Do you have a passion for agricultural and public health? Are you a student who is currently applying to or enrolled in a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program? If so, an internship with the **United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)** may be right for you!

We are now accepting applications for the [Saul T. Wilson Jr. Internship program](#). Through this program, you will gain valuable, real-world experience in promoting and protecting the nation's agricultural animal health. For example, on any given day, you might work in a pasture collecting statistical information, spend time in a laboratory analyzing data, or conduct routine tests alongside seasoned veterinarians, among many other tasks.

Selected Saul T. Wilson, Jr. interns receive tuition assistance from USDA—up to \$7,500 per year for undergraduate studies and \$15,000 per year for graduate studies. After you successfully complete the program and have your DVM degree, you may be eligible for a permanent position as a Veterinary Medical Officer. Learn about the many benefits of working with us at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/careers>.

**Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT)** is seeking a people-oriented, self-motivated team player with a passion for farming to join its team. The **FarmLink Coordinator** will assist with one of CFT's core programs, CT FarmLink. This is a full-time position with generous benefits and room for growth. Candidates of diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. [Learn more here](#).

**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](#).

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## Leaders of Color in Conservation CT (LOCC)

**PARTICIPANT APPLICATION OPEN!**

**Project Overview:**

- Learn conservation planning and standard of practice on small farms
- In-person and virtual lessons
- Field Days
- Learn from conservation specialists
- Summer field practicum
- Participation and travel stipends
- April 4th-September 1st

**Application Deadline: March 3rd**

MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING:  
USDA-NRCS AWARD NR221106XXXXG002

UConn In Partnership with: 




## SOLID GROUND

A Program Of UConn Extension

### AGROECOLOGY SERIES

**IPM IN HIGH TUNNELS**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2023 @ 12:00-1:30PM**  
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM  
**PRESENTER: DR. ANA LEGRAND**  
UConn DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ana will explore using beneficial insects and other biocontrol agents for insect pest management in high tunnels. This presentation will review arthropod predators and insect parasitoids available for growers to purchase and release against key pests in high tunnels. She will also address the benefits and limitations of these biocontrol agents plus discuss other tools such as microbial pesticides.

**ECOLOGICAL GROWING**

**THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023 @ 6:30-8:00PM**  
CT AG EXPERIMENT STATION, WINDSOR, CT  
**PRESENTER: NIGEL PALMER**  
AUTHOR: THE REGenerative GROWERS GUIDE TO GARDEN AMENDMENTS

Nigel will begin by introducing concepts of mineral and biological soil characteristics required to grow healthy crops. Exploring both short and long term strategies for improving plant health, and benefits of having healthy plants. He'll focus on short term plans, finding out the trace minerals needed and applying them in correct proportions that influence the phases of plant development using foliar sprays. Hands-on demo making mineral amendments and foliar feeding with time for Q&A.

**NO-TILL FIELD DAY**

**SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023 @ 1:00-4:00PM**  
TOBACCO ROAD FARM, LEBANON, CT  
**PRESENTER: BRYAN O'HARA**  
AUTHOR: NO-TILL INTENSIVE VEGETABLE CULTURE

Bryan will share a wealth of knowledge on his no-till practices with a focus on long term strategies for fertilization and overall soil health. He will demonstrate his customized and mechanized pieces of equipment for both dry amendments and foliar fertilizers. These specialized tools can be absolute game changers for saving on labor and maximizing efficiencies on your farm.

USDA UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

   

REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR](https://tinyurl.com/urbanagtour)

## URBAN AG CONSERVATION TOUR

APRIL 29TH 1-3PM AT RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM

SPANISH TRANSLATION PROVIDED

LEARN ABOUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HIGH TUNNELS, RAISED BEDS, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, AND OTHER CONSERVATION PRACTICES!

USE THIS QR CODE TO REGISTER, AND SIGN UP FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE EVENT



Get your soil tested for heavy metals on site!



1449 RESERVOIR AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR](https://tinyurl.com/urbanagtour) 203-612-4107 INFO@GOGVI.ORG

   

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## TOUR DE CONSERVACIÓN AGRÍCOLA URBANA

29 DE ABRIL 1-3PM EN RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM

TRADUCCIÓN AL ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE

Conozca las oportunidades en financiación federal para proyectos de túneles altos, camas elevadas, sistemas de riego, y para otras prácticas de conservación!

USE ESTE CÓDIGO QR PARA REGISTRARSE E INSCRIBIRSE PARA EL TRANSPORTE AL EVENTO



Obtenga un análisis de metales pesados para su suelo!



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