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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  
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The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show returns to the Connecticut Convention Center on Thursday, Feb. 23 thru Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023! The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will be exhibiting this year - be sure to come visit us for information on where to find CT Grown flowers, seeds, and food products as you plan your garden for the year ahead. For more information, tickets, and details visit [www.CTFlowerShow.com](http://www.CTFlowerShow.com).



# Connecticut Dairy

## Connecticut Milk Promotion Board Announces Funding Opportunities

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board (CTMPB), administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, is pleased to announce up to \$660,000 available in funding opportunities for programming in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. These opportunities align with their core focus which includes the vision of increasing purchases and expanding the access of milk and dairy products to consumers, retailers, institutions, and other applicable outlets. The funding is intended to support the CTMPB's mission to develop, coordinate, and implement promotional, research, and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and the consumption of milk and dairy products.

"Now more than ever it is important to share the sustainability initiatives and innovation happening on Connecticut's dairy farms while pointing consumers to where they can find milk and dairy products locally," said Seth Bahler, Chairman of the CTMPB and owner of Oakridge Dairy in Ellington. "We look

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farmers.”

The CTMPB has earmarked up to \$660,000 available for two years of programming and expects to award contracts up to \$260,000 each in the first two bulleted program areas and no more than \$140,000 in the third bulleted program area:

- Partnerships with various types of retail, educational, and professional organizations that will lead to the increase in dairy consumption.
- Multi-media campaigns promoting the value of Connecticut’s dairy farms and the accessibility of milk.
- Farmer engagement programs to educate and engage dairy farmers on the utilization of their checkoff dollars.

Eligible applicants can apply for any combination of the above program areas and are not limited to applying for only one. Qualified entities include businesses, extension agencies, agricultural and non-profit organizations, universities, community colleges, educational institutions, agricultural science schools, research organizations, and contract media vendors. Interested applicants should review each funding guidance document to confirm their eligibility.

Funding is provided through dairy checkoff dollars, established through the national dairy checkoff order. CGS Sec. 22-authorizes the CTMPB to award grant funds from Connecticut’s portion of checkoff dollars. All projects should be conducted in accordance with the national dairy checkoff order, which can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/dairy>.

Additional details on the dairy grant funding opportunities can be found on [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants). For more information on Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and Connecticut Dairy, visit [CTDairy.org](http://CTDairy.org).



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The Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting was held jointly with the Northeast Region State Produce Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) partners at the CT Convention Center in Hartford from January 18-19, 2023.

NECAFS is one of four USDA funded regional centers tasked with coordinating training, education and outreach related to the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and the FSMA Preventive Controls for Human Foods Rule. NECAFS is a collaboration among the 12 states (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, WV) and the District of Columbia focused on coordination and facilitation of the Northeast regional network to support a national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance system among small and medium-sized producers and small processors.

This meeting was the first opportunity since 2020 to gather in person to formulate deeper connections to discuss current training, education, and outreach trends related to FSMA associated Produce Safety Rule and Preventative Controls for Human Food Rule, as well as share stories and solutions.

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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](#).

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## CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[West Hartford school among those to receive farm-to-school grant funding](#), Stamford Advocate, 1/18

[Wine Wednesday: Aquila's Nest Vineyards](#), WFSB, 1/18

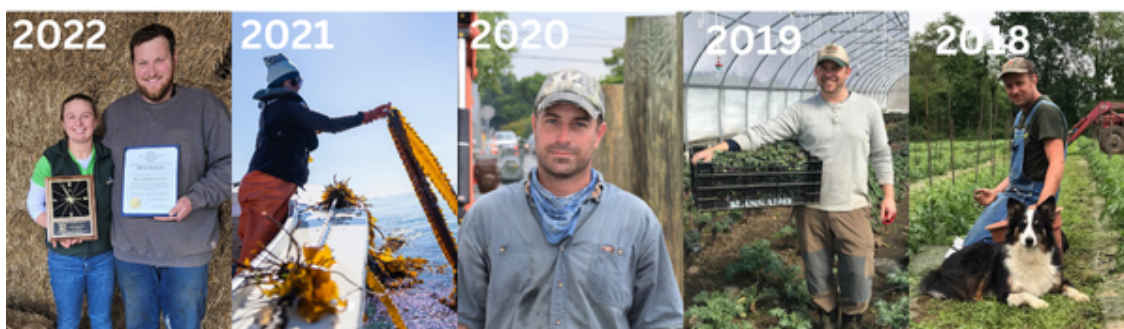
[Lachat Town Farm in Weston hosts 4th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event](#), News 12 CT, 1/16

[Ticks now active in Connecticut 'year-round,' expert says](#), Greenwich Time,

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CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL  
INFORMATION COUNCIL

## 2023 Outstanding Young Farmer Nominations Requested



### CONNECTICUT SEEKS OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER NOMINATIONS

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) is seeking nominations for the 2023 Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer. Awarded annually during Ag Day at the Capitol, 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.

Nomination applications must be submitted electronically via email to [erin.pirro@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:erin.pirro@farmcrediteast.com) by Friday, February 24, 2023. Self-nominations are allowed. [Details and application here.](#)

The purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmers Program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of the farmers' endeavors, to develop a further appreciation for their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of farmers' importance and impact on America's economy. The Connecticut OYF Program is modeled directly on the National OYF Program.

CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Century Farm and Ag Journalism awards. [Nomination forms are available online.](#)

## INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH: CULTIVATING A HEALTHY MIND TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP

The teen years can be particularly difficult when it comes to mental health. **UConn Extension** and the **Connecticut Department of Agriculture** are partnering with Agrisafe to offer *Cultivating a Healthy Mind*, part of their Invest in Your Health Trainer Exchange, where educators can be certified to train on the AgriSafe modules. Once certified, educators are free to use the training materials in their classrooms or out-of-school settings.

This course will help prepare you to train your students on the *Cultivating a Healthy Mind* module, offering your students an introductory discussion of mental health among teens and young adults with a focus on decreasing stigma, improving mental health literacy, and learning positive coping skills.

The AgriSafe Network, a non-profit organization, represents health professionals and educators who strive to reduce health disparities found in the agricultural community. They believe agricultural injuries, diseases, and fatalities can be prevented through the effective delivery of agricultural occupational health services.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth in the United States. According to the CDC, rates of depression and anxiety climb significantly during the ages of 12-17. This module opens an introductory discussion of mental health among teens and young adults with guidance from an adult educator. This program showcases a high school agricultural student's understanding of the agricultural mental health crisis, helping to frame mental health distress to academic and future career success.

**Join us for one of our upcoming sessions to learn more and receive your certification.**

**Friday, January 27, 2:00-3:30 pm**, Middlesex County Extension - Register [here](#) for Middlesex

**Saturday, January 28, 1:30-2:30 pm**, VIRTUAL- Register [here](#) for virtual

**Monday, January 30, 6-7:30 pm**, Litchfield County Extension Center- Register [here](#) for Litchfield

*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.*

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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.](#)

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## 2023 RACIAL EQUITY HABIT-BUILDING CHALLENGE REGISTRATION OPEN

Food Solutions New England will host the 9th version of its food system-oriented 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge from **April 3, 2023, to April 23, 2023.**

Each year, thousands of individuals and hundreds of officially participating organizations join in a shared journey of learning and charting a course of action to dismantle racism in our food system and our world.

The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge is simple!

You commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for twenty-one consecutive days in April of each year and the Racial Equity Challenge will:

- Raise your awareness, change your understanding and shift the way you behave.
- Go beyond individual or interpersonal racism by helping to demystify structural and institutional racism and white supremacist patterns that are sometimes invisible to people.
- Inspire you to act, on your own or with others in your organization, business, or group, to dismantle these systems, to make changes in your work and the world that can build true equity and justice for all.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

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## ANNOUNCING: FEBRUARY 2023 INTENSIVE SERIES

This February, Food Solutions New England (FSNE) will host a virtual gathering, in two parts, designed to inspire, connect, and mobilize our values-aligned regional network from around the country and globe. We will be joined by friends and partners from [The Full Frame Initiative](#) and the [Othering and Belonging Institute](#) at UC Berkeley.

The gathering, free and open to the public, will create space for us to explore ways to advance equitable well-being and belonging in food and related systems. It will help galvanize FSNE's second decade of work in the direction of the [New England Food Vision](#) and [Values](#), while strengthening relationships and creating new ones through participatory engagement. The gathering will also build the momentum for upcoming FSNE and partner offerings, including the [FSNE 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge](#) and the [Northeast Farm to](#)

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**Wellbeing:** Friday, February 3 from 10am-4pm  
[Click here to register.](#)

Join FSNE co-hosts Karen Spiller and Curtis Ogden for conversation with staff from [The Full Frame Initiative](#), creators and convenors of the [Wellbeing Blueprint](#), a network of community leaders, advocates and change agents who are united across sectors and issue areas to steer the US towards equity, well-being and justice. During the morning we will be in conversation with our guests and one another about what well-being is, structural and systemic barriers, and how we can work to ensure everyone has a fair shot at it. During the afternoon we will do a deeper dive into the Wellbeing Principles and break out into groups to discuss how to bring these into our work and communities. There will be an hour break for lunch.

**Belonging:** Friday, February 17 from 10am-4pm  
[Click here to register.](#)

Join FSNE co-hosts Karen Spiller and Curtis Ogden for conversation with staff from the [Othering and Belonging Institute](#) at the University of California-Berkeley, a community of scholars, organizers, communicators, researchers, artists, and policymakers committed to building a world where all people belong. In the morning participants will have a chance to meet one another and explore a few techniques for “building belonging” that people can bring to their work and communities. Our guests will join us in the afternoon as we collectively explore how to move from othering to belonging in food and related systems. There will be an hour break for lunch.



**FARM SUCCESSION SCHOOL**

Most farmers want their land to stay in agriculture, but very few have plans in place that articulate how the land, equipment, business, and other assets will be divided among the next generation or unrelated operator. Succession planning can present challenges, and each situation is unique. Land For Good has helped hundreds of farmers find innovative solutions that keep their farms in farming, whether they have an identified successor or not.

The Farm Succession School hosted by Land For Good, in partnership with Connecticut Department of Agriculture and UConn Extension, is a three-session winter course with curriculum designed to help senior farmers think

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transition. Sessions include ample time to share and learn from other farmers facing similar questions. Farmers do not need to have an identified successor to participate in this course. The Farm Succession School will take place at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Route 30, Vernon, meeting **January 24, February 28, and March 28**. [Learn more and register](#).

Additional support opportunities are available. A free live webinar series for transitioning farmers and junior generation farmers will offer 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. This online four-part series meets weekly, **beginning January 18**. [Learn more and register](#).

Land For Good also offers one-on-one advising to help farmers start, continue, or complete their farm succession and address the financial, legal, and business challenges involved in transferring a farm to a next generation family member or unrelated successor. Costs vary depending on farmer needs and available funding, with always a sliding scale option. [Learn more](#) or call 603-357-1600 to initiate a no-cost informational session.

*"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."*

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**Healing By Growing Farms Presents**  
**"United in Healing"**

**1st Northeast**  
**Disability and Agriculture**  
**All Day Conference**

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

*A stipend will be provided to farmers and community participants who attend the full conference.*

 **REGISTER NOW**

<https://forms.gle/jCui5va7KLwBFz526>

### CAES ANNOUNCES RENEWAL OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY QUARANTINE FOR CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) continued to detect expanding populations of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) in Connecticut through 2022. The Director of CAES hereby announces the renewal of the Order of Quarantine for SLF that was established 1 July 2021, effective January 1, 2023. More information about SLF, the quarantine order and state quarantine requirements can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/CAPS/CAPS/Spotted-Lanternfly---SLF>.

In 2020 through 2022, multiple adult SLF populations were detected in Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, and New London Counties. The distribution of this insect continues to expand, posing a threat to the agriculture and forests of Connecticut, hence the renewal and expansion of the quarantine noted in the original order. Early detection is important, and the public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest when they become active again in 2023. Currently, the insect is overwintering in egg masses. If you suspect you have

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Connecticut should enter into a compliance agreement to help mitigate movement of this pest, to prevent the spread of the insect and to protect our trading partners.

Native to China, India, and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF infestations have been reported in Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. The nymphal stage of this insect is currently active with adults appearing late summer. In the fall, adults about 1 inch long can often be found congregating on tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus), willows and other trees. They will lay egg masses on trees and almost any nearby surface like rocks, decks, houses, outdoor equipment, and furniture, etc. Nymphs of SLF will hatch from the eggs in the spring (late April-June). This insect attacks many hosts and has the potential to severely impact Connecticut's farm crops, particularly apples, grapes, and hops, and several tree species. The secretion of excess sap called honeydew can also be a nuisance for residential infestations.

Additional information is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Spotted-Lanternfly> and <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.

### 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

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**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.**

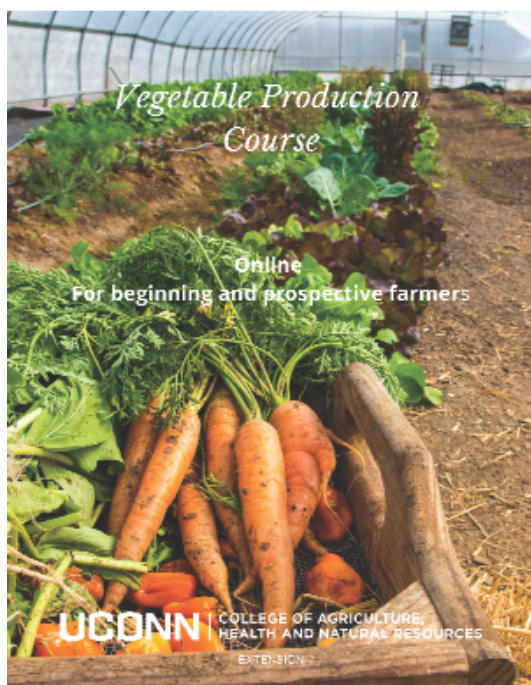
[Register HERE](#)

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](mailto:shannon.raider@uconn.edu) or [Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov](mailto:Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov).



## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CERTIFICATE COURSE

UConn Extension is offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course, beginning on January 30, 2023. It is a fully online course for new and beginning farmers who have 0-3 years of vegetable growing experience or no formal training in agriculture. Full details are at [s.uconn.edu/vegetable](https://s.uconn.edu/vegetable).

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planning, planning and preparing for vegetable farm, warm and cool-season vegetable production techniques, season extension, identification of biotic and abiotic issues, and marketing. The price of the course is \$149.

[Learn more and register here.](#)



### NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE TRI-STATE SARE PROJECT

The Tri-State (CT, MA, RI) SARE Professional Development Program is planning activities for the next three years – through 2026. The project will focus on training agricultural service providers as well as farmers in CT, MA, and RI on sustainable livestock production practices. Specific content areas will be determined based on the feedback and needs of those who participate in this survey and attend the workshops. Although voluntary, I would appreciate your completing this 5-minute anonymous needs assessment by **Thursday, February 2**. Please reach out to ([rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu](mailto:rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu)) with any questions or comments.

[Take the Survey](#)

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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.**

*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.



CTGrown.org

# 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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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/)



### 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.*



## 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](https://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.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

January's a natural time to take stock of your business and goals. As you prepare for the year ahead, you might be asking questions like:

- *What areas of our business do we want to expand?*
- *Are there any practices we want to implement or build upon?*
- *How can we become more financially sustainable and environmentally sustainable?*

At NE-DBIC, our goal is to help dairy farms and processors innovate to become more sustainable and resilient – so when the unexpected happens (a pandemic and extended supply-chain issues, for instance), you're equipped to meet those challenges and continue milking, processing, and distributing your dairy products throughout your community and region.

Whether you're looking for funding to purchase specialized equipment, to implement an innovative practice, or to receive technical assistance, consider applying for an NE-DBIC grant this year.

### **Our open funding opportunities are:**

Dairy Innovation & Alternative Management Grant – for community and climate forward farm production and business operation models. Open now through February 2, 2023.

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handling, and energy efficiencies. Open now through February 9, 2023

### Grants opening in January:

Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant – for long-term business investments that increase processor business consumer appeal and marketability of value-added products. Opens in January.

Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant – tiered grants for specialized equipment needed to increase processing capacity of regionally produced milk. Opens in January.

### Upcoming funding opportunities:

From spring through fall, we'll be opening more grants for farmers, processors, and technical service providers. Those include the popular Dairy Farm Cohort Technical Assistance, Dairy Packaging Innovation, and another round of On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling.

For more information on each grant, view our [funding calendar](#).

**Stay up to date and get notified about upcoming grants and events when you [sign up for our monthly email newsletter](#).**

From our team to you and yours – may you have a happy and healthy New Year!

[Visit NE-DBIC](#)

### Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT  
*Prices provided on January 16, 2023*

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

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

### For Sale

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)

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 (3/17/23)

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

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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.

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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)

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:kspiller4@gmail.com). In the subject line of your email please use: APPLICATION TO SNEFCC - [FIRST & LAST NAME]

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## Upcoming Events

(click on image below for info)

### 2023 CT Farm Energy Workshops



**FEBRUARY 1 | 3:30-5PM**  
AUDUBON CENTER, 218 DAY ROAD  
POMFRET CENTER, CT 06259

**FEBRUARY 9 | 3-4:00PM**  
(PART OF CLIMATE SMART AG MEETING)  
UConn Extension Center,  
843 UNIVERSITY DRIVE,  
TORRINGTON, CT 06790

**FEBRUARY 16 | 6-7:30PM**  
UConn Extension Center,  
1066 SAYBROOK ROAD,  
HADDAM, CT 06438

FREE REGISTRATION AT: [WWW.CTFARMENERGY.ORG](http://WWW.CTFARMENERGY.ORG)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER & PROVIDER



### Climate Smart Agriculture



**3-4pm** Farm Energy Programs  
**4pm** Berkshire AG Ventures  
**4:15pm** Break  
**4:30-5:30pm** Soil Health-Lessons Learned from the Field  
**5:30pm** Dinner & Networking

**FEBRUARY 9, 2023**  
3 pm - 6 pm

**UConn Extension Center**  
843 UNIVERSITY DRIVE,  
TORRINGTON, CT 06790

**DINNER PROVIDED**



Interested in making your farm more resilient? Concerned about climate change? Join us to learn about ways to enable your operation to be sustainable.

For more information & register visit:  
<https://nwcd.org/events/>

Should you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact [info@nwcd.org](mailto:info@nwcd.org)

### 2023 Tri-State SARE Project Webinar Series

## Improving Pasture Management for Sustainable Livestock Production



**WEBINAR 1**  
**Principals of Nutrient Management**  
Wednesday, February 22nd  
Speaker: Kirsten Workman (Cornell Extension PRO-DAIRY)

**WEBINAR 2**  
**Integration of pasture management and nutrient management**  
Wednesday, March 15th  
Speakers: Cheryl Cesario (UVM Extension)  
Rich Meinert (UConn Extension)

**WEBINAR 3**  
**Nutrient management decision making based on soil testing**  
Wednesday, April 19th  
Speaker: Heather Darby (UVM Extension)

**All webinars will be held from 10 am to 12 noon**

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers and will be comprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout sessions. Partaking in all webinars is encouraged, but not required.

For more information, visit <https://livestock.extension.uconn.edu/> or contact Rachel Bispuda, Project Director at [rachel.bispuda@uconn.edu](mailto:rachel.bispuda@uconn.edu)

**REGISTER HERE - [s.uconn.edu/regsaresspring23](https://s.uconn.edu/regsaresspring23)**



This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under award number 2019-28023-CT-34766.

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### Are YOU interested in learning about *Urban Farming*?

Join us Monday, February 6th from  
5 - 7 PM for our

#### **KNOX Urban Farming Mixer**

at 75 Laurel Street Hartford, CT 06106  
in Greenhouse 2.

Meet farmers in the program  
and enjoy refreshments!



Contact Ally at  
[allyg@knoxhartford.org](mailto:allyg@knoxhartford.org) to **accept**  
**this invitation.**



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GROW OUR FUTURE**

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