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CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

Brought to you by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Version en español disponible en línea en CTGrown.gov.

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January 27, 2023; Vol. F, No. 4

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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. To add your farm to this list, or to update the information on this page, please submit your information [here](#).

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Sub Edge Farm received a 2022 Farmland Restoration Program grant to clear land and install fencing to expand grazing for their cattle as shown in the before (left) and after (right) images.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Awards 21 Farmland Restoration Program Grants Totaling \$292,833

Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt announces that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has awarded funds to 21 projects from the Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP), totaling \$292,833 to increase food and fiber production by restoring prime and important farmland soils into active agricultural production and mitigating impacts of climate change by developing climate smart resiliency plans. Eligible entities included Connecticut farmers, landowners, non-profits, and municipalities.

“Continued investment into restoring prime and important farmland soils is critical to expanding agricultural production in Connecticut to increase access to food and fiber,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “The expanded program eligibility to assist landowners and producers in addressing the impacts of climate change will have long-term benefits to weather the challenges they face.”

Through 2022 the program has awarded a total of 362 grants which has restored 3,272 acres statewide contributing to a more resilient and sustainable agriculture sector in Connecticut.

2023 Farmland Restoration Program awardees include:

- **Oakridge Farm, Ellington**, Dredging drainage ditches for increased livestock feed crops yields.
- **Stone Acres Farm, Stonington**, Deer exclusion fencing for vegetables.
- **Lakeside Farm, Morris**, Land reclamation for vegetable production.
- **Wanungatuck Farm, Canterbury**, Land reclamation for livestock feed.
- **Kalenauskas Farm, Watertown**, Land reclamation for livestock pasture.
- **Studio Farm, Voluntown**, Land reclamation and well drilling for vegetable production.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gray's Farm, Sterling, Land reclamation and livestock fencing. • Twin Hill Farm, Scotland, Clearing hedgerow for livestock feed. • Fairvue Farms, Pomfret, Land reclamation for livestock feed. • Laurel Glen Farm, Shelton, Land reclamation for vegetable production. • Castle Hill Farm, Newtown, Livestock fencing. • Angevine Farm, Warren, Well installation for vegetable production. • Phoenix Farms, Ledyard, Land reclamation for livestock grazing. • Lions Tale Farm, Bloomfield, Land clearing, fence repair, pond installation. • Wheatfield Hill Farm, Salem, Land clearing and well installation • Mapleleaf Farm, Hebron, Land restoration and drainage for dairy. • Wind Hill Farm, Glastonbury, Land clearing and fence installation. • Lathrop Farm, Lebanon, Land restoration for fruit and vegetables, fence installation. • Raspberry Hill, Colebrook, Soil amendments and well installation. <p>The Farmland Restoration Program is a competitive matching grant program. It provides matching funds (up to \$20,000) with a focus on restoring and improving land with prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan (FLRP) and a Climate Smart Resiliency Plan. Funding for the Farmland Restoration Grant is made possible by Connecticut General Statutes 22-6c, and any awards are subject to requirements and provisions of state funding. Grant funds are reimbursed to the awardee after the project is successfully completed, a final financial and written report outlining all expenses and tasks associated with the project have been received and approved, and site inspection by agency staff is conducted. Additional information about the program can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/Grants.</p> <hr/> <h3 data-bbox="574 1293 1049 1327">2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES</h3> <p>The 2023 legislative session began on Wednesday, January 4 with more than 35 newly elected legislators taking the oath of office and Governor Lamont giving his State of the State outlining legislative priorities and budget agenda. A full copy of Governor Lamont's address can be found here.</p> <p>For the first time since March 2020, the Legislative Office Building has fully reopened to the public. This means that legislators, staff, and lobbyists have once again convened under the gold dome to navigate the legislative process. This session will still contain many of the hybrid components we've seen in recent years, with committee meetings and public hearings able to be viewed on committee YouTube pages, and testimony sign-ups happening online.</p> <p>During the first several weeks of session, more than 2,400 bill concepts have been proposed by individual legislators and committees will begin the process of narrowing down which concepts will be raised, fully drafted, and will result in a public hearing.</p>	

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assembly and that will kick off the Appropriations and Finance committees' negotiations to create the final state budget, which will need to be voted on by members of the House and Senate before being signed by the governor.

This year, the Department of Agriculture has submitted one agency bill covering all three bureaus within the agency – Regulatory Services, Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation, and Aquaculture. This agency proposal contains a significant number of livestock revisions to bring our statutory language in line with USDA, a small scale shellstock lease initiative program aimed at supporting new and beginning aquaculture ventures, and measures to increase land access across the state. All available agency proposals can be found on the Office of Policy and Management [website here](#).

In addition to our legislative package, the department will continue to work with fellow state agencies to address farmland preservation, working to meet our climate change goals, and will continue to support and promote the agricultural industry through the legislative process.

All events happening at the general assembly can be found on their [website here](#).

For legislative inquiries pertaining to Connecticut agriculture, please contact Kayleigh Royston at Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov.



CT GROWN MARKETING TOOLS: LIST YOUR CSA

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

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

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Syrup lines vandalized at farm in Portland](#), WFSB Hartford, 1/26

[Southbury's Platt Farm Preserve is a postcard-worthy pastoral experience](#), SF Gate, 1/25

[The Best Garden Centers in CT](#), CT Post, 1/20

[UConn Professor Makes A Breakthrough In 'Urban Agriculture'](#), Patch, 1/19



NORTHEAST DISABILITY AND AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The Northeast Disability and Agriculture Conference is a first-time regional event designed to educate and empower the agricultural community. Through workshops and presentations, farmer attendees will learn how to better advocate for themselves, and service provider and community supporter attendees will learn how to identify potential distress risks within the community. Together attendees will learn how to build a network sharing skills and resources to improve accessibility and reduce industry incidents of suicide.

Register Now!

There is no cost to attend the conference.

Registration closes on Tuesday, January 31

For conference registration questions please feel free to contact our conference support team at healingbygrowingconferenceteam@gmail.com.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

UNITED IN HEALING: A COMMITMENT TO WELLNESS

Chris Laughton of Farm Credit East
Director of Knowledge Exchange

We will hear and learn about Farm Credit East's forward and proactive approach to their community's needs. Chris will talk about the evolution and journey of the Customer Assistance Program (CAP).

The program is modeled after Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), often available to employees in organizations. The Customer Assistance Program

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growth, professional development, and counseling to working through financial and legal obligations and are all available to Farm Credit East customers 24/7 at no cost. Chris will share data, resources and lessons learned from people with diverse abilities from their many years utilizing the CAP program.

And, finally, we will hear stories from the field.

Farm Credit East's Chris Laughton will share about his years farming in his family's greenhouse and nursery business while working with individuals with disabilities.

In this interactive workshop, service providers and community supporters will learn how to identify potential distress risks within the communities they serve and acquire strategies on how to respond effectively. Chris will provide tools and resources in addition to the CAP program to equip learners. Through storytelling, Chris will highlight how to identify customer needs and will share best practices that will equip learners to better serve their clients. Together attendees will discuss how to build a more responsive AG network; sharing skills and resources that improve service accessibility and reduce industry incidents of suicide.

Mr. Chris Laughton is the Director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East, where he has worked for over a decade. Chris coordinates Farm Credit East's customer education and beginning farmer programs. He grew up in Eastern Massachusetts, where he worked in his family's greenhouse and nursery business before joining Farm Credit East. He holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Cornell University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, and a Master of Science in applied and resource economics from the University of Connecticut.

***A Dialogue on Disability
For Farmers, Forestry and Fishery Attendees Only
Mr. David Ingalls***

Everyone deserves respect, the freedom to live with dignity, with or without a disability, and to share equal responsibility ensuring equity and equality for all. This engaging presentation will provide a space for self-care, reflections and tough discussions. Attendees will learn how to advocate for themselves and exercise their voice as part of their healing process.

Mr. David Ingalls is a retired therapist who is enjoying retirement while running his own farm. "He picked up where his dad left off". He owns Ingalls Blueberry Hill Farm, a certified organic U-Pick blueberry operation in New York. His agricultural experiences began 11 generations ago on the family farm. He uses a gravity-fed drip irrigation system and powers his well-house with solar panels.

and enjoys worship at a local church. He knows the cure for whatever might trouble you: In an interview he said, "I get a lot of doctors here and I want to tell them they should write prescriptions for people to come and pick blueberries!" From counseling, to cows, vegetables, bees and honey to blueberries Mr. Ingalls has the remedy for us all.

RealTalk: Disability and Access in Agriculture **Dr. Ivette Ruiz**

In this interactive session, Healing by Growing Farms Founder, Dr. Ivette Ruiz will share highlights from the conference survey, answer the top (5) questions from the responses and lead us through a group activity and thought-provoking discussion.

Healing by Growing Farms founder, Dr. Ivette Ruiz, was inspired to create a healing trauma-based farm after suffering a Traumatic Brain Injury herself two years ago while preparing for a disaster relief deployment during Hurricane Isaias in 2020.

Her brain injury caused prolonged PCS (Post-Concussion Syndrome), and her life has not been the same since; she has experienced discrimination, unemployment, and a lack of proper and timely medical care and attention. After realizing how difficult it was to get any treatment or understanding, her salvation was working in her home gardens, tending to her chickens and finding a way to help those impacted gravely by the COVID pandemic.

As a Latinx 3rd generation new farmer and first-generation doctoral graduate, Dr. Ruiz wants to use her vast knowledge and experiences to help others who have gone and are going through similar hardships. Her executive work in healthcare, humanitarian relief, public service, food sovereignty, social justice and education helped lead her to this innovative ministry and the first Northeast Disability and Agriculture Conference.

Closing Healing Ceremony

This voluntary post-conference gathering will offer a calming space for attendees to unite in reflection and meditation as they process the content of the conference. Attendees will come together in prayer for healing, mind, body and soul. There will be a moment of silence to remember those we have lost



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"cold plunge" into ocean waters symbolizing healing and renewal.

Crystal (pictured left) has been a supporter of Healing by Growing Farms since 2021 as a member of the executive team. From a young age and through life experiences, she has cultivated a relationship with God and has made prayer a standard practice for living. She counts it a privilege to be a part of the Healing Ceremony.

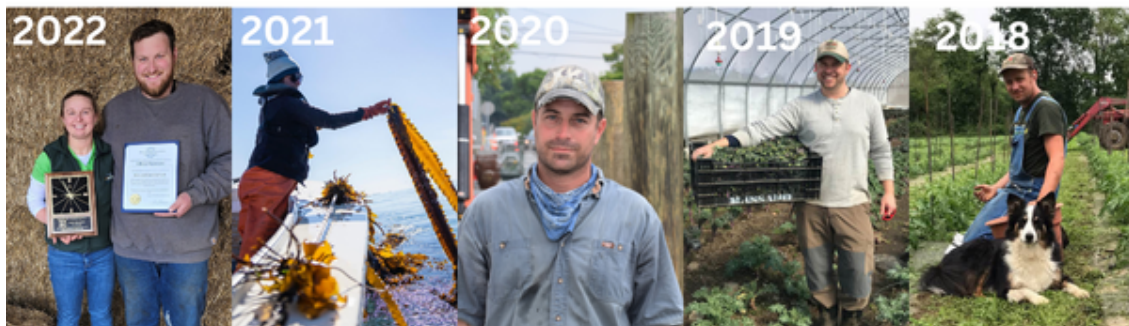


Ariel (pictured right) has been a part of Cultivemos since 2021, working with the Queer Service Provider cohort and currently leading the Mental Health cohort. They are honored to be able to support the Disability and Agriculture cohort with this conference.



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.

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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.](#)

Nominate A Young Farmer

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

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

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.



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

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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

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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.
- Reopening the People's Garden Initiative. People's Gardens across the country grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient, local food systems; 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

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:

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- 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.](#)

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 Institution Summit](#), both happening in April 2023. Plan to attend both or one of them!

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.](#)

from the Othring 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

*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

As you know, the biggest hurdle in farm succession planning is getting the plan 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

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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 7, 2023

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 Stress Assistance Network Grant administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in partnership with UConn Extension.

[Learn More](#)

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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.

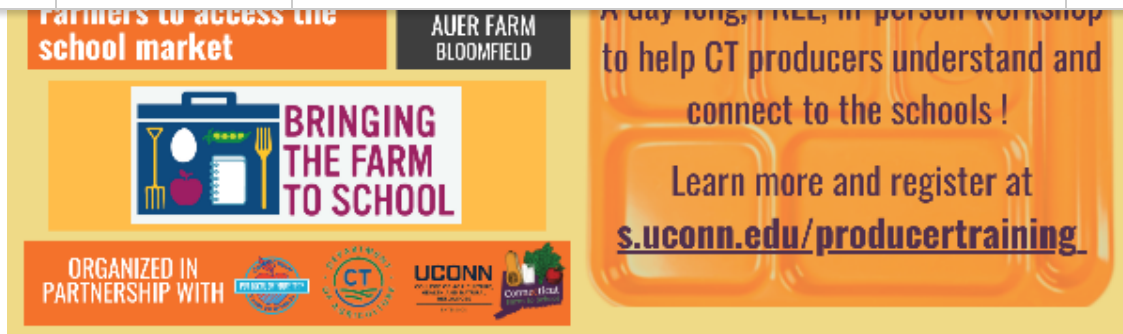
Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Landowners may also nominate themselves. The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA.

The application deadline date is July 18, 2023. Email applications to award@sandcountyfoundation.org. Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and forestry conservation leaders.

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REGISTER TODAY FOR FARM TO SCHOOL PRODUCER TRAINING

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

Learn more [HERE!](#)

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

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

Register [HERE](#)

Who is this for?

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

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

For service providers and supports interested in participating please email shannon.raider@uconn.edu or Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov.



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) with any questions or comments.

[Take the Survey](#)

NRCS EXTENDS APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FY2023 CSP FUNDING

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

CSP is perfect for agricultural producers who want to continue to farm and forest landowners wanting to manage their forestland but want to use less resources and have less of an effect on the land. Implementing climate smart agriculture and forest activities under CSP will assist producers in their work to address the climate crisis and build more resilient operations through enhancements that

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<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>While applications for CSP are accepted year-round, to be considered for FY2023 funds they must be received by February 17, 2023.</p> <p><i>Interested?</i> Find out if you're qualified for CSP by contacting your <u>local USDA service center</u> or visiting the <u>How to Get Assistance</u> portion of the website.</p> <hr/>		



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!



APPLICATION PERIOD: JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Women's Business Development Council's Equity Match Grant Program is designed to help Connecticut women-owned businesses grow! Grants between \$2,500 and \$10,000 will be awarded for clearly defined projects that will have a measurable impact on the business, its growth and profitability. The grant funds cannot be used towards operating expenses, payroll, or real estate improvements. Applicants are required to provide a minimum 25% match.

Eligibility

Businesses must:

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

The following businesses are not eligible:

Child care businesses (see <https://ctwbdc.org/childcare-business/funding> for info on funding opportunities for child care businesses); businesses or individuals that have previously received an EMC or WBDC municipal grant; medical marijuana dispensaries and alcohol distributors; adult businesses such as strip clubs; vape 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

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 | info@ctwbdc.org | 203-353-1750



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



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The Fellowship Fund is a grant program designed to purchase equipment for veterans in the beginning years of launching an agricultural business. The application will remain **open until February 14**, and award announcements will be made in April.

Visit the [Fellowship page](#) for more details on the program and eligibility. If you are a new applicant, please view this [video](#) to learn how to create a strong application.

[Learn More](#)



2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE UNDERWAY IN NEW ENGLAND

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<p>of Agriculture paper questionnaires to all known agriculture producers across the nation and Puerto Rico. <u>Last month</u>, 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 <u>agcounts.usda.gov</u> 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.</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit <u>www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus</u>.</p> <hr/>		



NEW DAIRY PROCESSING GRANTS FROM NE-DBIC

The new Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant is now open!

Projects funded through this program will support dairy processors in gaining knowledge that will allow them to make informed, long-term business investments with positive environmental and/or economic impacts.

Licensed dairy processors and producer associations from the Northeast are invited to apply. Educational or research institutions may apply but are required to partner with a minimum of two Northeast-based dairy processors.

Grants will range from \$75,000 to \$250,000 with a 25% (cash or in-kind) match commitment required. Total funds available: \$1,000,000.

The Dairy Farm Innovation & Alternative Management Grant closes on February 2.

This grant focuses on the implementation of community- and climate-forward dairy production. Grants will range from \$15,000 to \$75,000 with a 25% (cash or in-kind) match commitment required.

Total funds available: \$900,000.

NE-DBIC is accepting more Grant Reviewers.

As a grant reviewer, you'll help score grants and have an impact on what gets funded across the region. Please fill out our [Grant Reviewer Interest Form](#) and contact Kathryn Donovan with any questions: kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov or 802-585-4571.

Follow NE-DBIC on Facebook and Instagram!

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help spread the word about funding and more

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER



At the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC), our goal is to increase the resiliency of Northeast regional dairy.

Our wide range of grants includes funding for:

- Specialized equipment
- Food safety improvements
- On-farm milk storage and handling
- Dairy processing
- Technical support
- Innovation on the farm and in processing plants

We support dairy farmers, processors, and service providers through grants, events, workshops, and educational opportunities.

All to create more sustainable dairy businesses that benefit the land, livestock, farmers, processors, and our regional economy.



Scan to see our full grant calendar & learn how to apply for funding.

Or visit: agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic

Visit NE-DBIC

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

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

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Advertisements

[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

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

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

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

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

Wanted

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

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

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positions for up to 20 to 24 months.

Position openings:

- Project Manager
- Project Coordinator 1
- Project Coordinator 2

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

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER & PROVIDER



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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

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



DINNER PROVIDED





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 Bespuda, Project Director at rachel.bespuda@uconn.edu

REGISTER HERE - s.uconn.edu/regsaespring23



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 2019-28301-CT-0006.

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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 to **accept**
this invitation.



A project of Conservation Law Foundation
legalfoodhub@clf.org or call 844.529.4769

2023 WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

All webinars are free and run from 12NOON-1:15PM

- **FEB 1:** [Laws of the Land: What to Know About Your Farm BEFORE You Commit](#)
Presenters: Laura Hartz and Stacey Caulik, Drummond Woodsum
- **FEB 8:** [Hosting a Food-Focused Event on Your Farm: The Legal Side of a Delicious Activity](#)
Presenters: Corie Pierce, Bread and Butter Farm VT | Dr. Lisa Chase, University of Vermont | Attorney Andrew Marchev, Fellow at Vermont Law School
- **FEB 15:** [Media and Marketing 101](#)
Presenters: Elliot Brake, Kevan Lee Deckelmann, Chad W. Higgins, Matthew J. Saldaña, Bernstein Shur
- **FEB 22:** [Onboarding New Employees](#)
Presenter: Attorney Tara Walker, Bernstein Shur
- **MAR 1:** [Selling Value-Added Products on the Farm](#)
Presenter: Christine Dzuina, Farm-To-Consumer Legal Defense Fund

PHOTOS: SAATCHI/STOCK, COURTESY/KNX, BREAD AND BUTTER FARM

clf Conservation Law Foundation

LEARN MORE & TUNE IN: legalfoodhub.org/winterwebinars
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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



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