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CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The latest news and updates in Connecticut agriculture

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

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Commissioner Hurlburt welcomed attendees at the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association (CGGA) annual meeting at Grower Direct in Somers on Wednesday, January 4.

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CT Department of Agriculture Announces CT Grown 4 CT Kids Grant Recipients

\$452,268 Awarded to 32 Public School Districts, Early Childcare Providers, Non-Profits, and Small Businesses to Develop Farm-to-School Programs

Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt announces that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has awarded 32 grants from the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant (CTG4CTK Grant), totaling \$452,268 to develop and enhance farm-to-school programs. Established under P.A. 21-0002, S. 364, these awards will increase the availability of local foods in child nutrition programs, allow educators to use hands-on educational techniques to teach students about nutrition and farm-to-school connections, sustain relationships with local farmers and producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of children in the state and enhance the state's economy.

“Response to the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant program has been tremendous and we are pleased to double the number of awardees this year with increased funding capacity,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We are especially appreciative of the advisory committee members who participated in the review process to ensure these projects will have a meaningful and immediate impact on students access to fresh, nutritious CT Grown foods while providing interactive learning opportunities related to agriculture, nutrition, food and health.”

Eligible entities were able to apply for up to \$24,999 in funding with no match required for projects that fit within four tracks:

- Track 1: Connecticut Farm to School (K-12) Local Procurement Grant
- Track 2: Connecticut Farm to School (K-12) Experiential Learning Grant
- Track 3: Connecticut Producer Capacity Building Grant
- Track 4: Connecticut Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant

The program received 72 applications totaling \$1,022,285 in requested grant funds. Selection was highly competitive, and the review was conducted by a statutorily authorized review panel and Commissioner Hurlburt. This is the

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	<p>Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Farm to School Collaborative (FTSC).</p> <p>The fiscal year 2023 Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant awardees include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Our Kin, Inc: Increasing Farm-to-School Initiatives Within Family Child Care Programs • Bright Beginnings of Fairfield, LLC: Bright Beginnings of Fairfield • Bristol Child Development Center: Little Chef • Bristol Public Schools: Seed to Table • Brooklyn Elementary School: BES Greenhouse Project • Center Elementary School East Hampton: Community Greenhouse • Charles Barrows STEM Academy: Farming in Education Technology • Charter Oak International Academy: Exploration of our Learning Garden Habitat • Cheshire Public Schools: Cheshire Greenhouse • Cobblestone Farm: Scaling Up Root Production • Common Ground High School: Increasing Farm-to-School Procurement at Common Ground • Community First School, Hartford: Farm to School Community • Creative Kids Daycare: CKD Grow box expansion • East Granby Public Schools: Nourish My Soul Farm to School • Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School: CREC GEHMS CTG4CTK • Lauren Little Edutainment: Tasting the Seasons • Hungry Reaper Farm: Wash & Pack Improvement • Hunts Brook Farm: High Tunnel Materials • KNOX Foundation: Expanding Farm-to-School Program through Education and School Gardens • Maple Bank Farm: Caterpillar Tunnel • Middletown Public Schools: Track 2 Experiential Learning • New Britain ROOTS: Expanding Farm to School in New Britain • Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy: Edible U • Sunset Farm: Farm to School Wash Station Expansion • Sweet Acre Farm: Cooler Build • Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA): Promoting Healthy Food Choices: A Partnership between ECE and Local Farmers • Thy Neighbor's Farm: Season Extension Equipment • Town of Manchester/ Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative (MECC): MECC Farm-to-School Program • Watertown Public Schools: Watertown Grown 4 Watertown Kids • West Haven Development Center, Inc: Onto Stage 2: From Farm to ECE, Expanding Children's Worldview • Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School: Growing, Eating, Learning • YMCA Hartford Region, Inc: YWCA Hartford Region Early Learning Center Farm-to-School Program 	

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[To learn more about the CTG4CTK Grant, including success stories from previous recipients, please visit.](#)[Translate ▼](#)<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Grants/CT-Grown-for-CT-Kids-Grant/Success-Stories>.


CT NOFA's 41st Winter Conference
Wesleyan University - Middletown, CT

<p>March 6-11, 2023</p> <p><i>virtual workshops all week</i></p>	<p>March 11, 2023</p> <p><i>in-person gathering and celebration</i></p>
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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

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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.](#)



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

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CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

WINE WENDESDAY: More from the Hopkins Vineyard, WFSB, 1/4

Connecticut farm asking for donated Christmas trees to feed animals, WTNH, 1/3

Connecticut Farm Loses 25 Ducks After Bobcat Attack, New England Cable News, 12/30

FARMERS MARKETS: Local winter markets to resume Jan. 7, Journal Inquirer, 12/29

Congressional lawmakers seek more federal drought relief for farmers, Just the News, 12/24



**Farm
Transition Grants**

APPLY TODAY
www.CTGrown.gov/grants

**5 DAYS REMAINING:
APPLY FOR THE FARM TRANSITION GRANT TODAY**

Are you a producer or agricultural cooperative looking to expand, transition, diversify, or innovate your operation? The 2023 Farm Transition Grant informational guidance and application are available. **Applications will be**

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New Farmer Micro Grant:

Open to CT Farms with one full year to three years of production history. Maximum award is \$5,000, and the required cash match is 25%.

Examples of eligible expenses: Production or processing equipment directly related to agriculture, small buildings, greenhouses/hoop houses, irrigation, pasture fencing, other equipment purchases related to increasing production.

Infrastructure Investment Grant:

Open to CT Farms with at least three years of production history with a need for infrastructure to expand the farm's production and operation. Maximum award is \$20,000, and the required cash match is 50%.

Examples of eligible expenses: Livestock/pasture fencing to increase herd size/production type, barn remodeling/expansion, equipment to assist in increased production of farm products, irrigation systems for increased production, tractor attachments specific to agriculture to diversify farm products, etc.

Research & Development Grant:

Open to CT Farms with at least three years of production history to conduct research, explore or assess the viability and interest in developing a new product line, service, or market. Maximum award is \$25,000, and the required cash match is 40%.

Examples of eligible expenses: Consultant fees, equipment to pilot a product or concept, other expenses related to exploratory product development including fees associated with product, recipe, and market testing.

Innovation & Diversification Grant:

Open to CT Farms with at least three years of production history looking to implement a new product or service for market or business expansion. Maximum award is \$49,999, and the required cash match is 50%.

Examples of eligible expenses: Expansion of product offerings including value-added processing equipment, equipment that will assist in diversification of farm products, construction of a farm store or processing kitchen, innovative technology or software, or marketing and outreach to promote the new product, service or market.

If you have any questions on applying for the Farm Transition Grant or need assistance with the application, contact AliRose Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov or (860) 993-5275.

The FTG is a competitive matching reimbursement grant for Connecticut agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives. The Farm Transition Grant is provided through the State of Connecticut Farm Transition Grant Program,

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Click here for more information on the FTG.](#)[Click here to apply for the FTG.](#)

FACT PRESENTS THEIR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FARM GRANTS

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

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

- **Farms that wish to improve and expand pasture for animals.** These grants for farms to transition to pasture-based systems, expand animals'

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

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

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



WORKSHOPS ON CROP INSURANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROP, ORGANIC PRODUCERS

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

In-Person Events

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	<p data-bbox="378 159 920 233">Hyde Ave, Vernon, Connecticut ◦ Hosted by: Valdosta Regional Office</p> <hr data-bbox="253 321 1372 325"/> <p data-bbox="323 382 1300 453">NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) PRODUCER TRAINING</p> <p data-bbox="253 501 1372 615">The Hartford/Tolland Farm Service Agency office will be conducting free in-person NAP producer training on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the FSA State office (344 Merrow Rd, Tolland, CT) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.</p> <p data-bbox="253 661 1372 774">As NAP is one of our more complicated programs, we would like to have the opportunity to give any interested producer the ability to know more about how the program is implemented.</p> <p data-bbox="253 821 1372 892">If you would like to attend, please RSVP here and feel free to reach out to the Hartford/Tolland FSA office at any time if you have questions on the training.</p> <div data-bbox="693 915 930 1016">RSVP Here</div>	

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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>





Producer Training for Farmers to access the school market

FEB. 23RD
 AUER FARM
 BLOOMFIELD

 **BRINGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL**

A day long, FREE, in-person workshop to help CT producers understand and connect to the schools!

Learn more and register at
s.uconn.edu/producertraining

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH    

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!](#)

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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.

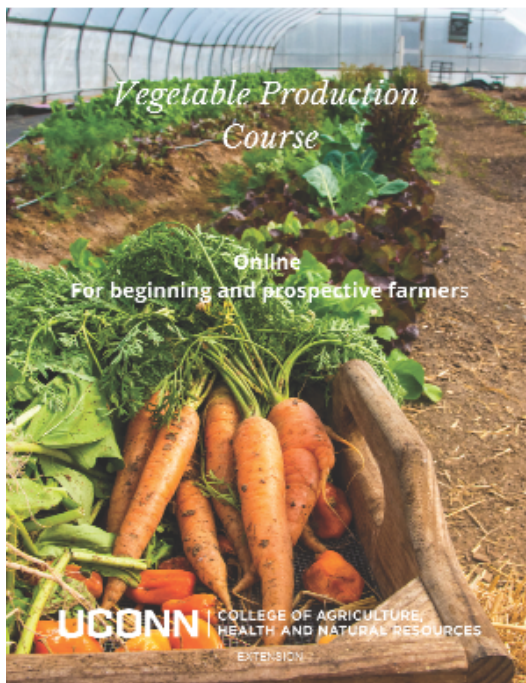
[Register HERE](#)

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.



VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CERTIFICATE COURSE

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UConn is offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course

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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 uconn.edu/vegetable.

The participants will learn answers to the basic questions about farm business 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.](#)



2023 NORTHEAST GRAZING AND LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE

The New England Grazing Network, Maine Grass Farmers Network, Granite State Grazers, The Livestock Institute, Vermont Grass Farmers Association, University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Capital Area Ag & Hort Program present a region wide virtual grazing conference from **January 20-21, 2023**.

The conference is the largest of its kind in New England, gathering over 300 participants from the northeast for two days of networking and educational workshops. This conference brings together new and experienced farmers alike as well as service providers, and non-farmers seeking to learn more ways to align with and support well managed **pasture-based livestock production** across our region.

Our 2023 Keynote speaker will be **Dr. Allen Williams**, who will lead a discussion on adaptive grazing. Additional programming will prioritize peer-to-peer farmer networking and practical implementation of managed grazing practices.

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- Keynote - Dr. Allen Williams
- Meat End Product Quality moderated by Dr. Joe Emenheiser
- Holistic Management & Farm Life Balance moderated by Jenn Colby
- A Look at the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program in New England moderated by Dr. Glenda Pereira and Mary Ellen Franklin
- Grazing Across the Northeast: A Regional Approach (Introducing NEGN Partners) moderated by Alex Gulachenski

Saturday:

- Coffee Chat with Troy Bishopp and Brian Maloney
- Principles of Grazing - 101 - Taught by Daimon Meeh
- 50 Shades of Graze - Shade Management moderated by Steve Gabriel
- Forage Biodiversity moderated by Dr. Heather Darby
- Calving and Lambing on Pasture moderated by Jennie Kapszukiewicz

[Register Here!](#)

UPCOMING COURSES FROM CORNELL SMALL FARMS PROGRAM

Access to Capital

Mondays: January 9 – February 13, 2023

It can be very difficult to navigate the process of getting grants or loans, especially if you did not come to farming with a background in finance. This new course will cover the various aspects of seeking funding for a farm enterprise.

Cómo Iniciar su Negocio Agrícola

Jueves: 12 de Enero hasta el 16 de Febrero del 2023

Con este nuevo curso usted podrá aprender en su propio idioma y con la Comunidad Latina sobre cómo iniciar un negocio agrícola. aprender de las experiencias de mujeres y hombres Latinos que ya tiene su negocio agrícola establecido en diferentes Estados y que aman hacer agricultura, encontrando en esta el estilo de vida que responde a sus valores, metas, habilidad y recursos.

Exploring Markets and Profits

Thursdays: January 12 – February 16, 2023

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where [BF 101: Starting at Square One](#) (*not a prerequisite*) left off.

Goat Production

Wednesdays: January 11 - February 15, 2023

This new course will guide beginning farmers through the production and marketing of goats for dairy, meat, and fiber. Goats can function as a profitable stand-alone enterprise or can be integrated into your existing farm structure to provide a variety of products and make use of marginal lands that would otherwise go unused.

Holistic Financial Planning

Tuesdays: January 10 – February 14, 2023

If you've been struggling to make your farm operation profitable without driving yourself into the ground, this financial planning course is for you. You will learn how to make financial decisions toward farm and family values and goals.

Indoor Specialty Mushroom Production

Tuesdays: January 10 – February 14, 2023

Mushrooms are an emerging niche crop and can easily be grown. This course trains new and experienced farmers in the background, techniques, marketing and economics of farm-scale indoor commercial production.

Introduction to Beekeeping

Tuesdays: January 10 – February 28, 2023

Whether you are currently keeping honeybees or are considering them for your farm, a basic knowledge of bee biology, diseases, pests, and setting up your colony are essential for success. This 8-week course will give you real-world experiences paired with academic concepts.

Season Extension with High Tunnels

Tuesdays: January 10 – February 14, 2023

Adding weeks to your growing season can mean attaining a premium for having products available well before (or long after) other local growers. This course will introduce you to unheated plastic-covered "high tunnels," covering cost, management and more.

Sheep Production

Thursdays: January 12 – February 16, 2023

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no one right way to raise sheep — this course covers many of these different options.

Vegetable Production II

Wednesdays: January 11 – February 15, 2022

This course continues where [BF 120: Vegetable Production I](#) (*not a prerequisite*) ends, covering vegetable production from transplanting to harvest, including: in-season fertility, integrated pest management, weed control, harvesting, and marketing.

[Browse Course Offerings](#)



CLIMATE SMART FARMING: AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY GRANT

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

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

1. Providing technical assistance.
2. Distributing a grant to producers.
3. Coordinating training programs.

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	<p>4. Coordinating projects that pilot or demonstrate water and land-based conservation practices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Creating tools that help reduce barriers to accessing assistance for climate smart farming. 6. Establishing equipment-sharing programs. 7. Other activities that will increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices. <p>Any agribusiness or entity, including nonprofit organization, soil and water conservation district, colleges and universities, municipality or for-profit organization in the State of Connecticut are eligible to apply.</p> <p>All agricultural commodities can participate including aquaculture, agriculture and forestry. In addition, all production types will be supported including conventional/organic, indoor/outdoor, soil/water, and urban/rural.</p> <p>CT DoAg plans to issue awards in varying amounts for program implementation from May 1, 2023, through May 1, 2028.</p> <p>There will be four application funding tiers:</p> <p>Tier 1: \$100,000 to \$249,999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project duration: Up to 18 months <p>Tier 2: \$250,000 to \$499,999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project duration: 18 months up to 2 years <p>Tier 3: \$500,000 to \$999,999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project duration: 2-3 years <p>Tier 4: \$1,000,000 and up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project duration: 3-5 years <p>There is no match requirement for this grant.</p> <p>Questions regarding the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture & Forestry Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov. More information on application requirements, submission process, and accompanying forms can be found online at http://www.CTgrown.gov/grants.</p> <p>Click here for more information on the Climate Smart Farming Grant.</p>	

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FARM SUCCESSION SCHOOL RETURNS TO CONNECTICUT

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

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

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

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

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

January 24, 2023

February 28, 2023

March 28, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

What can a Young Farmer Grant do?

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for anything that will further your goals as a farmer, even if that means just getting started. The goal of this fund is to provide financial assistance for any cost that currently limits your ability to start, run, or grow your operation in the way you'd like.

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

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

Applications for the 2023 Young Farmer Grant Program are open until 3:00 p.m. Eastern on January 13, 2023.

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

NRCS EXTENDS APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FY2023 CSP FUNDING

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

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

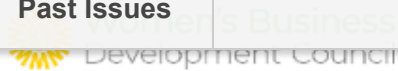
Subscribe	Past Issues	Through CSP, NRCS helps private landowners build their business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of their	Translate ▼
		<p>entire operation. Agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, 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/>	



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WBDC Equity Match Grant

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

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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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.*

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Additional questions can be emailed to: shellfish@uconn.edu

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2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE UNDERWAY IN NEW ENGLAND

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

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

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

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

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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 Food Safety & Certification Grant – this supports food safety projects including specialized equipment purchase, supplies, food safety training, and certifications. Open now through January 19, 2023.

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February 2, 2023.

[Organic On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling Grant](#) – open to organic dairy farmers to purchase equipment and related costs to improve milk storage, 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 2, 2022

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

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)
Prices provided on October 27, 2022

[Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

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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 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

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Upcoming Events

(click on image below for info)

SOLID GROUND
A Program Of UConn Extension

AG MECHANICS TRAINING SERIES: 2022-2023

Register at: www.uconn.edu/solidground

	DEC 3RD	POWER TOOLS & CARPENTRY BASICS ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE CT - 9AM-3PM Get familiar with the power tools & carpentry skills that you'll need on your farm. Learn to use an impact driver, drill, skill saw, sander, & more. You'll work with your new skills to complete a project to take home.
	DEC 10TH	BCS/WALK BEHIND TRACTOR WINSTON AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WINSTON CT - 9AM-3PM Interested in scaling up and incorporating a walk behind tractor into your farming operation? Come learn the about the Italian made BCS walk behind tractor. We'll cover how it can be used on the farm, safe operation, and practice attaching different implements.
	JAN 7TH	SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS: 2-STROKE WINSTON AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WINSTON CT - 9AM-3PM Take apart a small engine that you find yourself using on the farm on a regular basis, and then learn how to put it back together again, all the while finding out how it works and how to address common problems.
	JAN 28TH	SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS: 4-STROKE WINSTON AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, WINSTON CT - 9AM-3PM Gain hands on experience working on 4 stroke engines, walk behind tillers, log splitters and more. Risk taker and trouble shooting skills to put right to work on your own farm equipment.
	FEB 11TH	BASIC WELDING FOR BEGINNERS ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE CT - 9AM-3PM Learn the basics of welding. Learn the proper personal protective equipment required and safety protocols to know before getting started. An instructor will go over the fundamentals of MIG and stick welding, teaching you techniques to get welds done safely and efficiently.
	FEB 25TH	ADVANCED WELDING USING METAL INERT GAS METHODS ROCKVILLE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE CT - 9AM-3PM Did you attend our welding workshop in the past? Are you a novice welder? This workshop is perfect for you as we go deeper into welding using MIG (Metal Inert Gas) and TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) welding to show you right encounters on your farm. HOST FOR WORKSHOP: \$20 (lunch included) SPACES ARE LIMITED REGISTER TODAY! ***If the cost is prohibitive, you may request a refund for food, wages and/or travel by emailing refunds@solidground.org ***

Please see Solid Ground website for more information. For questions, call 860-405-7777 or visit www.uconn.edu/solidground

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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

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AUERFARM, BLOOMFIELD, CT

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FARMER ALLIANCE**

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- WORKSHOPS:**
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 - WORKING WITH USDA
 - FINDING YOUR MARKET
 - BEING A FARMER ADVOCATE
- NETWORKING WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS**
- SEED SWAP**



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