

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Ned Lamont, Governor
Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner



Wednesday, November 27, 2019

LT. GOVERNOR BYSIEWICZ, COMMISSIONER HURLBURT PARDON TURKEY IN CELEBRATION OF STATE'S AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt participated in pardoning a turkey on Tuesday, November 26 at Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm in Moosup, CT. Lt. Governor Bysiewicz named the four-month-old hen, Ella, in a nod to the past recognizing former Governor Ella Grasso, and as a nod to the future after outgoing Kid Governor Ella Briggs.

"I'm delighted in the name of Governor Lamont and myself to pardon Ella and wish her many happy days," Lt. Governor Bysiewicz said. Ella will live out her life, estimated to be six to eight years, at Karabin Farms in Southington, CT.

Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, owned by the Hermonot family, is the state's largest producer of turkeys, raising more than 3,000 birds each year. Situated on 360 acres in eastern Connecticut, the farm has become a destination for consumers, more than 2,200 this year, looking for a pasture raised turkey as the centerpiece of their Thanksgiving table.

The pardoning ceremony took place in front of the farm store as a steady stream of customers walked in to



(L-R) Katie Hermonot holds Ella, while Elena and Rick Hermonot look on with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt.

pick up their order, with some traveling more than three hours. "This is our busiest time of year," said second generation farm manager Katie Hermonot.

Both the Lt. Governor and Commissioner Hurlburt noted the importance of Connecticut's agricultural industry which has an economic impact of \$4 billion represented by 5,500 small business men and women employing 22,000 people in the

state. "Today we celebrate what agriculture brings to Connecticut," said Commissioner Hurlburt. "Our state and nation is rooted in agriculture and Thanksgiving is a time to recognize the contributions made by our farmers and producers to provide a bountiful Connecticut Grown harvest for all to enjoy."



Ella the turkey.

CONNECTICUT AG WELLNESS SUMMIT

UConn Extension is hosting the Connecticut Ag Wellness Summit on December 5, 2019 at Maneeley's Conference Center 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT. This event is a follow up to UConn Extension's Farmer Stress Support Training that was held for Connecticut Ag Service Providers in May 2019.

The event includes presentations, networking, and lunch. A voluntary QPR (Question. Persuade. Refer.) training will be offered from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. QPR is a nationally recognized program designed to train individuals in suicide intervention to help save a life. You will need to register for this session in addition to the main program. It will be first come, first serve.

This free event is for farmers, producers, and ag service providers, including veterinarians in Connecticut. Space is limited. Please RSVP to mackenzie.white@uconn.edu or 860-875-3331 by November 26, 2019. For more information go to <http://s.uconn.edu/farmstress>.

UConn Extension Offers Hydroponics Webinar Series

UConn Extension is offering a four-part webinar series on nutrient management and root health in hydroponically-grown leafy greens. The webinars are scheduled for December 2-6, 2019, 12:00 noon - 1 p.m. Each webinar will be 30 minutes plus 10 minutes for Q&A. Topics in the webinar will include basic and advanced nutrient management, diagnosis and control of root pathogens, and system design for a closed irrigation system in hydroponics. Registration is free. For more information, go to <https://greenhouse.uconn.edu/webinars>.

HEMP PRODUCER LISTENING SESSIONS

Topics will include: Information from the 2019 Growing Season, New USDA Hemp Regulations, CT Agriculture Experiment Station research, and Q&A with DoAg staff.

- Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
UConn Avery Point Campus Auditorium, Groton, CT
 - Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
CT Agricultural Experiment Station Auditorium, New Haven, CT
 - Thursday, December 5, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Litchfield County Extension Center Meeting Room, Torrington, CT
 - Thursday, December 12, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
UConn Storrs, WB Young Building Room 101, Storrs, CT
- Growers, Processors, and Manufacturers are encouraged to attend. Great networking opportunity! Please RSVP to: AGR.Hemp@ct.gov; 860-713-2502. www.CTGrown.gov/hemp.

INNOVATIONS IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

Farmers of all experience are encouraged to join the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, University of Connecticut, and the American Farmland Trust on Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon, Connecticut to hear the latest in IPM, soil management, and water programs. Aaron Ristow of the American Farmland Trust will discuss his findings on the economic and environmental impacts of soil health practices. This is a free program and pesticide credits will be offered. For more information or to register, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CTGrown.gov

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.

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**VOL. XCIX
No. 48
November 27, 2019**