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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 espanol disponible en linea en CTGrown.gov.

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March 10, 2023; Vol. F, No. 9

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CONNECTICUT AG DAY
RETURNS
TO THE CAPITOL
March 22, 2023

Connecticut Agriculture Day is returning to the Capitol on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Join us for CT Grown product samples, presentation of Outstanding Young Farmer, Century Farm and Ag Journalism awards, and more!

Collaboration between State and Town Shellfish Commissions Critical to Providing Access to Local, Fresh Seafood

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture (CT DoAg) is the lead state agency on molluscan shellfish and regulates the commercial and recreational shellfish programs throughout Connecticut's Long Island Sound. CT DoAg is responsible for conducting sanitary surveys of each town with an active shellfish program every 12 years; classifying shellfish growing areas statewide; collecting and analyzing routine water quality and shellfish samples for commercial growing areas; and preparing annual, triennial, and sanitary survey reports for each town. Each coastal town has jurisdiction over town waters and can establish recreational growing areas that are managed cooperatively between Town Shellfish Commissions and the DoAg.

Shellfish Commissions are comprised of passionate volunteers that act as stewards for their growing areas, and help to guarantee access to local, fresh seafood. Town programs must collect routine water quality samples year-round, sell permits and manage the administration of their areas, update the status of their areas when they close due to rainfall events or other environmental impacts, and patrol the areas to prevent illegal harvesting.

There are currently 16 Shellfish Commissions throughout Connecticut's Long Island Sound. Members volunteer hundreds of hours to maintain and keep their shellfish growing areas open, and even to upgrade areas to keep them open for longer periods of time. Commissions have also become more active in restoring shellfish populations, stocking their areas to increase the number of harvestable shellfish, and conducting education outreach to promote shellfishing and increase permit sales. A report by Connecticut SeaGrant found that recreational shellfishing contributes more than $1.6 million to the state's economy annually.

The Greenwich Shellfish Commission hosts annual Experience the Sound events, focused on introducing residents to marine sporting activities and environmentally-focused organizations in the area, which attracted 150 attendees in 2022. The Greenwich Shellfish Commission has also collaborated on research projects with the University of Connecticut and Milford National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Laboratory.

The 2021 study with NOAA valued nitrogen sequestration by Greenwich aquaculture at $2.8-5.8 million annually. The Greenwich Shellfish Commission is interested in expanding their program by mapping current shellfish populations, recycling and planting oyster shell, reducing shoreline erosion and/or restoration of the recreational areas by collecting spat and reseeding their beds.

Rindy Higgins has served as a member or Chair of the Westport Shellfish Commission for 16 years. She said, "The more involved I got, the more I became amazed at and grateful for the wonderful role these small shelled creatures can be for our waters. I wanted to bring public attention to [the Town's recreational shellfish beds and Westport's Shellfish Commission]. I even wrote 10 articles for the Norwalk Hour and then got an Aquarian grant to put these into a booklet called Raking It In. I also have taught school kids about Long Island Sound and included lessons and exhibits on shellfish."

FAIRFIELD SHELLFISH COMMISSION
OYSTER SHELL RECYCLING PROGRAM
Oyster Shell Recycling Program: How It Works
1.
2.
3.

The Fairfield Shellfish Commission has also been active in education outreach events. Their annual Clam Clinics have attracted up to 400 attendees from as far as New Jersey. Free of charge, the Commission provides clam rakes, educational demonstrations on how to harvest clams, and ice for each attendee to safely transport their clams home. Fairfield's First Selectwoman attended this year's event, and the event regularly boosts recreational shellfishing permit sales.

The Fairfield Shellfish Commission initiated a shell recycling program 7 years ago and has recycled over 80,000 pounds of shell. Oysters naturally set on cleaned, dry oyster shell; however, a majority of the available shell at restaurants is currently not recycled and put back into Long Island Sound. Therefore, this is one of the first shell recycling programs in the State. The Fairfield Shellfish Commission has been working with 3-5 restaurants each year, and recently doubled the size of their shell storage area, allowing them to recycle 12,000 pounds in 2022 alone.

The Fairfield Shellfish Commission has also been active in shellfish restoration efforts, including collecting 70,000 oyster spat from Ash Creek in 2022, culturing oysters in their upweller system, and eventually planting these oysters and recycled shell on their recreational beds to provide more opportunities for permit holders.

The Stratford Shellfish Commission has a unique role in Connecticut, as they do not have a recreational shellfishing area, but they manage the Housatonic River, which has some of the state's most productive natural beds. Oysters have historically and continue to recruit at high densities in the Housatonic River, making it a critical source of oyster seed for the commercial shellfish industry in Connecticut. Last year, the Stratford Shellfish Commission paid harvesters to stir the River, which involves removing silt and mud from the shell layer throughout, providing enhanced habitat for oyster larvae to set on. As a result, the Housatonic River had one of its best set in decades.

The Stratford Shellfish Commission is continuing restoration efforts in 2023. In addition to conducting a resource assessment of the river, the Commission has suspended seed oystering from January-March to protect the resource. Seed oystermen, who would normally be moving oysters out of the river during the time, are being paid to collect and transplant oyster shell to the northern portions of the river to support another successful set in the summer of 2023.

The eastern Shellfish Commissions, including Stonington, Groton, Waterford, Waterford/East Lyme, and East Lyme, have been instrumental in helping CT DoAg upgrade shellfish growing area classifications and rainfall triggers. As a result, recreational and commercial opportunities are increasing in eastern Connecticut and areas are open for longer periods of time. Richard Conant worked his way up through the Commission's ranks, starting as a Shellfish Warden to now serving as the Commission Chair. He has found it to be rewarding. "It reconnects me with the marine environment and allows me to give back to the local community where I have lived and raised a family over the past 30 years," said Conant.

In addition to the work required to upgrade areas, establishing new recreational areas is a time-consuming and multifaceted task that can take up to five years. The interested town must establish a water sampling program and collect the minimum number of samples, and CT DoAg must demonstrate that the area is suitable and meets the national criteria through water quality analysis and completion of a sanitary survey and report. The newest recreational area was established in Clinton in 2019.

The Clinton Shellfish Commission members routinely teach permit holders how to dig for clams and are very active on social media. Over the past few years, the Clinton Shellfish Commission has increased the number of samples they are annually collecting, allowing CT DoAg to expand the seasonal timeframe that the area is open, providing more opportunities for recreational harvesters.

CT DoAg is currently working with multiple towns to establish new recreational areas, including Old Saybrook. Andy Pandiani has been on the Old Saybrook Shellfish Commission for the past three years. Pandiani said, "It's been a three for one effort. I can serve my community, and help the environment, doing something fun with people whose company I enjoy. We are very much looking forward to reestablishing recreational shellfishing in Old Saybrook, so folks in our community can dig some clams, and bring them home for a clambake without having to drive for miles and miles."

Each town sells permits for their recreational areas, and establishes shellfish size and daily limit harvesting restrictions. Additional information can be found on the CT DoAg website: https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Aquaculture1/Aquaculture/Recreational-Shellfishing.

2023 Farmers Market Manager Meetup

Registration is now open for the 2023 Farmers Market Manager Meetup

El registro es ahora abierto para los 2023 Reunión de gerentes de mercado de agricultores

Sign up now! Regístrate ahora!

FARMERS' MARKET MANAGER MEETUP

Spring is here and that means our farmers' markets are preparing for another season. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is looking forward to promoting your markets and providing outreach on benefits programs to increase participation.

What does that mean for our market managers? This year, through funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Benefit Delivery Modernization Grant, the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is transitioning to an electronic platform. To ensure a smooth transition, ALL market managers will need to attend one of our Market Manager Meet-ups before receiving their annual agreement to participate in the program.

Join us on April 10, 2023, at the Connecticut Ag Experiment Station Jones Auditorium in New Haven from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Additional dates will be added.

We will go over listing your market with CT DoAg, eFMNP regulations and requirements, SNAP, doubling incentive programs, and more. The day will include a chance for new and seasoned farmers' market managers to network as well.

Registration is now open at https://bit.ly/FMMMeetup and will close 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Questions can be directed to CTFMNP@ct.gov.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

CT's Defense Against Spotted Lanternfly Destruction Begins Now, Patch, 3/9
Hartford's urban farmers grow produce and opportunity, CT Insider, 3/7
Connecticut Farmers Share Top Priorities for Farm Bill, NBC CT, 3/3
Connecticut farmers advocate for $300B federal agriculture bill, WTNH, 3/3

American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

CONNECTICUT FARMER-TO-FARMER SOIL HEALTH COHORT PROGRAM

The New England Climate and Agriculture team at American Farmland Trust is offering a 1-year peer-to-peer soil health planning program for small-scale Connecticut farmers. Participants will:

- Receive $2000 in financial assistance
- Build a community with other farmers
- Receive support from peers and service providers to craft a soil health plan for their own farm
- Learn from regional experts about the science and practice of building soil health, and planning approaches for soil health and climate adaptation
- Receive an on-farm visit from a soil health specialist
- Learn with a specialist how to collect soil health samples and complete a field soil health assessment

This course runs from September 2023-September 2024, with most program activities concentrated into the winter months. Most classes take place virtually on Zoom, with one scheduled one-on-one field visit and one group field trip to a local farm.

Participants who complete soil health plans that comply with the technical specifications required by NRCS will have the option to have their soil health plans submitted to their local NRCS office for cost-share consideration (financial assistance to implement the plan).

Space in this program is limited. Applicants will be selected based on interest, farm operation criteria, and best fit for the cohort. This program is not limited to but will prioritize small-scale producers, urban farmers, and farmers who have been historically underserved by USDA programs.

Applications are open from March 1- May 15 and take 20-30 minutes to fill out. Click here to apply. Questions? Contact Caro Roszell, croszell@farmland.org.

CT FSA PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program

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

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

Who is Eligible?

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

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

Emergency Relief

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

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

Who is Eligible?

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

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

Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program

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

Enrollment for calendar year 2022 closed January 31, 2023.

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

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

Conservation Reserve Program

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

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in CRP agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

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

Continuous CRP

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

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

GROWERS NEEDED FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY ADOPTION SURVEY

Carnegie Mellon University is seeking growers to participate in a survey about nanotechnology adoption. The project, titled **"Developing a Mental Model for Grower Agricultural Nanotechnology Adoption"**, is focused on understanding how growers who produce food for human consumption would think about adopting nanotechnology for agriculture.

The intent is to understand how growers think about this emerging type of technology so that it can be developed with their concerns and needs in mind. In brief, nanotechnology is being developed to deliver agrochemicals, like fertilizers and pesticides, more efficiently to reduce waste and improve farming efficiency. This study involves a semi-structured 40-minute interview conducted virtually via Zoom. There is no preparation necessary to participate in the interview and all published results will be de-identified to protect your privacy. There is no compensation for participating in this study. However, the information gathered is critical to the development of this new technology and your responses will help direct research and communication efforts moving forward.

If you are interested, please **contact** Ben Therrien (btherrie@andrew.cmu.edu), a graduate student in the departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Engineering & Public Policy, with any questions or to schedule an interview.

2022 CENSUS of AGRICULTURE
THERE'S STILL TIME
RESPOND TODAY
#AgCensus

2022 CENSO de AGRICULTURA
RESPONDA AHORA
EL CENSO DE AGRICULTURA CUENTA
#AgCensus

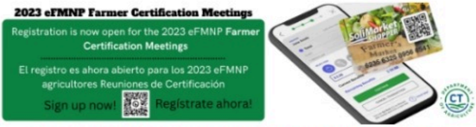
STILL TIME TO RESPOND TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

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


2023 eFMNP Farmer Certification Meetings

Registration is now open for the 2023 eFMNP **Farmer Certification Meetings**

El registro es ahora abierto para los 2023 eFMNP agricultores Reuniones de Certificación

Sign up now! Regístrate ahora!

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM TRANSITIONS TO ELECTRONIC PLATFORM

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) is pleased to announce the transition of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) from paper benefits to a mobile closed loop, EBT payment solution for the 2023 season. In September 2022, CT DoAg received $250,000 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Benefit Delivery Modernization Grant to invest in technology that will streamline benefit delivery for participants and improve equitable access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. CT DoAg will utilize SoliSYSTEMS to administer and redeem FMNP benefits.

FARMER CERTIFICATION & TRAINING

All fruit, vegetable, and honey producers selling at Certified Connecticut Grown Farmers' Markets must be certified with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

The certification allows farms to accept the FMNP benefits for only Connecticut Grown fresh fruits, vegetables, fresh-cut herbs, and eggs for WIC participants and income-eligible seniors over the age of 60. Seniors may also use their benefits for honey. Attend one of the below farmer certification meetings to become certified, learn about the SoliSYSTEMS platform, grant funds available, and accepting SNAP to expand sales.

To ensure a smooth transition, ALL certified farmers, farmers' markets, and distribution partners will be required to attend an in-person training to participate in the program.

Following are the current certification dates for farmers, which will be held in person across the state. Dates for farmers' markets and distribution sites will be announced shortly.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM
Hartford County Extension Center, 270 Farmington Avenue, Building 4, Exchange Building - Suite 262, Farmington, CT, 06032
Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 2 PM to 5 PM
Litchfield County Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT, 06790
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM
Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT, 06438
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 2 PM to 5 PM
New London County Extension Center, 562 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT, 06360-6599
Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM
Windham County Extension Center, 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT, 06234-1729
Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 2 PM to 5 PM - TENTATIVE
Tolland County Extension Center- 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT, 06066
Friday, March 31, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM
Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Registration is now open at https://bit.ly/eFMNP. Registration must be received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Please note that you will receive meeting information the day before the meeting.

Questions can be directed to Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-6083 or Ally Hughes at Allison.Hughes@ct.gov or 860-500-8918.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NASDA FOUNDATION'S $3 MILLION EPA GRANT FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED FARMERS

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation is pleased to announce that the pre-application period of the NASDA Foundation - EPA Historically Underserved Farmers Grant application period is now open. The NASDA Foundation expects to award up to 16 sub-awards to organizations in the EPA's Ohio-Tennessee Region to help underserved farmers improve water quality, habitat resilience and information exchange to benefit Gulf of Mexico Watershed ecosystems. Awards are expected to range from $75,000 to $225,000 in total funds with a duration of up to three years. The pre-application period will run from March 1 – April 15, 2023.

The awards will be used to implement programs to prevent or reduce water pollution. The states within the Ohio-Tennessee region are Kentucky, Tennessee and portions of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

The following organizations and groups are encouraged to apply: beginning farmer organizations, conservation districts, institutions of higher learning, local state government agencies, non-government organizations and non-profit organizations with influence on underserved farmers, tribal nations, and veteran farmer and rancher groups.

Applicants will be notified in May 2023 if they are invited to complete the full application. Successful sub-awardees will be notified in July 2023 and projects will begin in August 2023.

"It is outstanding to see the state departments of agriculture collaborating with local organizations to communicate this opportunity to underserved farm communities," NASDA Foundation Senior Director Chris Jones said. "I am excited about the continued partnerships these grants will help foster, the improvement of the Gulf of Mexico Watershed ecosystem, and the impact these projects will have on future generations."

For more information, please visit nasda.org/epa. Technical assistance questions can be directed to the NASDA Foundation at epagrants@nasda.org or (571) 418-6426.

UCONN CANNABIS SYMPOSIUM

The University of Connecticut has been a leader nationally in developing the first series of courses offered at a U.S. academic institution on cannabis production. Join us on **March 16-17** as expert speakers cover topics related to cannabis such as: plant production, biochemistry and genetics, clinical impacts, law and policy, and the future of the industry. The UConn Cannabis Symposium will be a premiere event for students, scientists, educators, and members of the cannabis industry to network and share information in the emerging cannabis field. This is an event that you will not want to miss!

Register Here

ADDITIONAL HEMP AND CANNABIS EVENTS

Univ. of Maine: Hemp online course
1 hr sessions in the evening online with the instructor, then 2 hrs on your own.
Every Tuesday for 5 weeks, starting March 7, 14, 21, 28, & Apr 4
Couse is taught by John Jemison, University of ME agronomy professor/extension
jemison@maine.edu

Connecticut Cannabis Expo- Xpocanna: March 25-26 at Mohegan Sun
https://xpocann.com/event/connecticut-cannabis-expo/

NORTHEAST
DAIRY BUSINESS
INNOVATION CENTER

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER MARCH UPDATES

NE-DBIC is offering an informational webinar on the **Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant on Wednesday, March 15 at 11:00 am.**

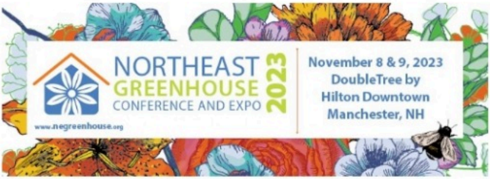
This will be a chance for producers to learn more about the expansion grant program and ask questions directly to the NE-DBIC team.

- Register for the webinar here
- Learn more about the Dairy Processor Expansion grant here

The Central New York Grazing Conference is on March 25

Dairy farmers can learn about adaptive grazing management, innovative farming techniques, and what practices other successful grazers are implementing on their farms at the Central New York Grazing Conference.

This conference is hosted in partnership with NE-DBIC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and PASA Sustainable Agriculture. You can register through Cornell Extension.



NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE AND EXPO

Save these dates for the Northeast's premier horticultural event on **November 8 and 9, 2023 in Manchester, New Hampshire!** Don't miss this great opportunity to learn, share and connect with other industry professionals!

Please note the new location at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Manchester, NH. The hotel is located among the shops and restaurants of Elm Street in the downtown area.

Educational sessions focusing on advanced biocontrol, disease management, business and marketing, greenhouse vegetables, and perennial production, and sessions in the Spanish language will be offered. Come visit vendors at the trade show with three dedicated hours each day of the program.

The biennial Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo is co-sponsored by New England Floriculture, Inc. - a group of grower representatives from the Northeast, augmented by University and Cooperative Extension staff in each state who specialize in greenhouse crops and management.

Exhibit space and sponsorship opportunities are available! Visit the website for more information (https://www.negreenhouse.org/sponsor.html) or contact Cindy Sherwood at (802) 448-9063 or sales@delaneymeetingevent.com.

USDA ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

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

Planning Projects

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

Implementation Projects

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

Webinar

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

More Information

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

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

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APPLY
TO EXHIBIT
Showcase your CT Grown products, services, and specialty foods in the CT Building at Big E Agriculture booths.
LEARN MORE
www.CTGrown.gov

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

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

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

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

Guidelines and Application here.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov, or 860-573-0323.

STONE WALL
DAIRY FARM

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

CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Land for Good

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 questions. There is also homework and assistance available between sessions. Farmers do not need to have an identified successor to participate in this course.

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

Tuesdays from 9:30am - 3:30pm
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

2023 NEW ENGLAND LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD
SEEKING NOMINEES
LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD
DEADLINE: JULY 18, 2023
sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA

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.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT
Prices provided on March 6, 2023

CT Farmers' Market Prices
Prices provided on October 27, 2022

Northeast Regional Eggs

New England Shell Eggs

Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

Lancaster Farming Hay Market Report

USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update

Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston

Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston

Advertisements

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

For Sale

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

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

For Sale: 1972 MF 135 $4500; 1987 SAME CORSARO 70 $4500; KORVAN 9000 Over the Row Blueberry picker $15000 OBO; Call Pedro 860-368-1564 or Mike 860-508-0776 (3/31/23)

HONEYBEES - 5-FRAME NUCS, DEEPS only Available 1st week May JONES' APIARIES LLC PH 860-677-9391 (5/5/23)

Rain Flo irrigation pump. Four-inch discharge. New condition. Please call 860-841-3082.

Dried Sawdust / Different Grades, $20 per yard. You pick up or delivered with additional charge. 860-642-7084. Blue Slope Sawdust.

Bush Hog Subsoiler Model HDSS1L single shank, 3 pt. Hitch, goes 23" deep. Like new condition. No rust. $425 or best offer. 203-283-1459.

John Bean 200-gallon stainless-steel high-pressure sprayer on skids. 100 ft. hose on reel, premium J. Bean model 785-gun, mechanical agitation, Honda OHV motor. $2,200 or best offer. 203-283-1459.

Walk behind Gravely tractor with sickle mower. $400. Very good, workable condition. 860-875-8056.

Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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

The **State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture (DOAG), Resource Preservation Unit** is currently accepting applications for one (1) **Secretary 1 position.** The Resource Preservation Unit ensures that farmland remains available for agricultural use in perpetuity through the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

and the Community Farms Preservation Program. This is a full-time, 40 hours per week, hybrid position (telework and in office) located at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 703, Hartford, CT. Application closes at 11:59 PM on March 30, 2023. For more information or to apply, click here.

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. (CT RC&D) is seeking an **Agricultural Programs Coordinator**, part time, 15 hours/week. Responsible for overseeing and coordinating agricultural programs and initiatives aimed at improving agricultural production and sustainability. For more information, visit their website. To Apply: Email cover letter, detailing degree, experience, professional qualifications, and resume to employment@ctrcd.org by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 17, 2023.

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

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

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

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

New London Community Meal Center is seeking a **Local Food Access Coordinator** (LFAC) to perform all aspects of purchasing for the LFPA project and for managing the inventory, distribution and control of those items for all distribution locations. The Coordinator must work with organizational representatives to identify the products to be purchased, identify the most appropriate source for the products, confirm all aspects of pricing, confirm all deliveries, maintain an inventory control database and work with the NLCMC bookkeeper on invoicing. In addition, the Coordinator will work with the Food Justice Action to research and plan for sustaining this and other local food initiatives, with a particular focus on the overlapping goals of farm viability and healthy food access for low income consumers. Within this framework, the Coordinator will work towards long term systemic change, through a food justice lens, with partners including, FRESH New London, the HIC, and other area organizations. The position is "housed" at the NLCMC with shared supervision by the NLCMC and community partners. For more information and to apply, click here.

Upcoming Events

(click on image below for info)

REGISTER: TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR

URBAN AG CONSERVATION TOUR

APRIL 29TH 1-3PM AT RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM

SPANISH TRANSLATION PROVIDED

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

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

Get your soil tested for heavy metals on site!

USDA
ctnofa

REGISTER: TINYURL.COM/URBANAGTOUR

TOUR DE CONSERVACIÓN AGRÍCOLA URBANA

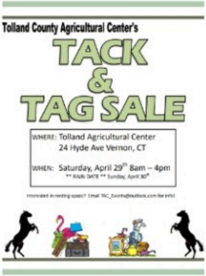
29 DE ABRIL 1-3PM EN RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM

TRADUCCIÓN AL ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE

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

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

Obtenga un análisis de metales pesados para su suelo!



Tolland County Agricultural Center's

TACK & TAG SALE

WHERE: Tolland Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Ave Vernon, CT

WHEN: Saturday, April 29th 8am – 4pm
** RAIN DATE ** Sunday, April 30th

Interested in renting space? Email TAC_Events@outlook.com for info!

Facebook Instagram Pinterest Website

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