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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

In This Issue

[December 10, 2021; Vol. D, No. 48](#)

[Loan Guarantee Program](#)

[Farmer Veteran Meet & Greet](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Commodity Procurement](#)

[Build Your Network, Grow Our
Future Meeting](#)

[National Farmers Union Women's
Conference](#)

[Vegetable Production Certificate](#)

[Ag Market Pricing](#)

[Advertisements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Watch [Great Day Connecticut](#) on WFSB Channel 3 today for ways to incorporate Connecticut Grown in your home this holiday season, including gifts, decorations, and meal planning.

Looking for more ideas? Visit ctgrown.org for holiday blogs, an interactive map, and upcoming events.

USDA Launches Loan Guarantee Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA is deploying \$100 million under the new [Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program](#) to make available nearly \$1 billion in loan guarantees; these loan guarantees will back private investment in processing and food supply infrastructure that will strengthen the food supply chain for the American

USDA is making the funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act. The program is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to address food system challenges dating back decades and further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These investments will help essential processing and supply chain infrastructure that will ultimately deliver more opportunities and fairer prices for farmers, they will give people greater access to healthier foods, and they will help eliminate bottlenecks in the food supply chain.

Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program

Through the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program, USDA will partner with lenders to guarantee loans of up to \$40 million to help eligible entities expand meat and poultry processing capacity and finance other food supply chain infrastructure. Lenders may provide the loans to eligible cooperatives, corporations, for profits, nonprofits, Tribal communities, public bodies and people in rural and urban areas.

USDA Rural Development (RD) will administer the loans. Funding may be used to:

- start-up or expand food supply chain activities such as aggregating, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling or distributing food.
- address supply chain bottlenecks.
- increase capacity and help create a more resilient, diverse and secure U.S. food supply chain.

USDA is accepting electronic applications from lenders through the Food Supply Chain Online Application System until funds are expended. Paper applications will not be accepted. To access the online application system, lenders must submit a request to rdfoodsupplychainloans@usda.gov. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/foodsupplychainloans or see the notice published in the Dec. 9 Federal Register.



CT FARMER VETERAN COALITION MEET & GREET

The CT Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) Chapter in Formation is hosting an informal Meet and Greet Social on December 17 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Terryville, CT.

Please RSVP by December 11 to ctfarmvetco@gmail.com. Cost is \$10 per person and significant others are welcome. to get together and build some camaraderie.

COVID-19 PRODUCER RESOURCES

Agriculture businesses, non-profits, and other organizations should follow the sector rules that apply to them. Private business owners can implement or continue to require social distancing and other measures as deemed necessary.

The Department of Agriculture has archived information from various sources related to COVID-19, which can be found here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>.

REGISTER FOR ON-FARM MOBILE VACCINATION SITE

Farms interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic for farm employees are encouraged to fill out the [DPH vans intake form](#).

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS

[Christmas tree farms, including Dzen Tree Farm in South Windsor, forced to limit hours or close due to tree shortage](#), WFSB, 12/6

[Jingle Bell Horse Parade Set For Dec. 12 In Newtown](#), Patch, 12/6

[Where in the Hartford area can you buy live Christmas trees?](#), Hartford Courant, 12/3

[Hurst Farm in Andover has a honey of a store](#), Yahoo News, 12/2

[Windsor students now offered unique jump-start into agriculture](#), Spectrum News 1, 12/1

2022 FARM VIABILITY GRANT WORKSHOP

A virtual workshop to assist interested applicants in learning about the structure of the Farm Viability Grant and application process will occur on **December 14, 2021** (initially planned for December 8), at 10:00 a.m. via a Webex call. [Please click here to register for the webinar](#).

The 2022 program will again fund projects which directly respond to problems, interests, or needs in the state's agricultural industry, specifically in the following areas:

- Urban agriculture
- Food systems
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in Connecticut agriculture
- Farmland access

Questions regarding the Farm Viability Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov or found online at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

The FVG is a matching grant program for Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments and agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that directly impact and/or foster agricultural viability. Funding for the Farm Viability Grant is provided through the State of Connecticut Agricultural Viability Grant Program, established in 2005 through Public Act 05-228, An Act Concerning Farmland Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation.



UConn
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
EXTENSION

VEGETABLE PRODUCER SURVEY



UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
EXTENSION

UConn IS SEEKING VEGETABLE PRODUCERS' INPUT TO DESIGN A PROJECT ON WASHING PRODUCE

The purpose of this survey is to prioritize research and extension efforts at UConn regarding the application of natural antimicrobial and probiotic based produce wash to control food-borne pathogens on vegetable produce and reducing pathogen loads in wash water.

We would also study the use of dump tank wash versus spray systems to reduce Ag water use and wastewater disposal. Results will be used in the development of a grant proposal for a project to address these needs.

This survey should only take 7-10 minutes or less to complete. This survey is open to all vegetable producers in the Northeast. Your responses are confidential, and this survey does not contain questions that may personally identify you.

[Take the Survey](#)



BUILD YOUR NETWORK, GROW OUR FUTURE

Join the New CT Farmer Alliance for their annual community building event, Build Your Network, Grow Our Future on **Saturday, December 11, 2021**, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST.

It is their mission to foster a more accessible, successful, and diverse agricultural community in CT. To do that, farmers need to be well resourced and connected to the service providers that can help them in their farming journeys.

This online event will feature the opportunity to connect (in small groups, speed dating style) to:

- Connecticut Department of Agriculture
- UConn Extension
- USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service
- Land for Good
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Farm Credit East
- Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
- USDA Rural Development
- New CT Farmer Alliance
- and more!

These organizations offer a wide range of services, from capital loans to land access assistance to farmer education opportunities.

Please come prepared with questions and ready to take notes. Is there a farm service organization you'd like to connect with, but don't see on the above list? Reach out to: newctfarmers@gmail.com

[Register Here](#)



**Now Available:
CT Grown Tents**

10' x 10' King Canopy Tents

Order online at:
www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com

Pickup only



	MON Dec. 13	TUES Dec. 14	WED Dec. 15	THURS Dec. 16	FRI Dec. 17
Morning Session 9:00-11:00am	Tillage Reduction Innovations	Tree Fruit 1	Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates	Berry Crops 2	Automation for Small Vegetable Growers
Afternoon Session 1:30-3:30pm	Climate Adaptation Strategies on the Farm	Berry Crops 1	Soil Health	Tree Fruit 2	Inspiration from Away

NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE

The premier vegetable and fruit conference in the Northeast will take place **online December 13-17, 2021**. Conference organizers have designed a high quality program with grower input, recruiting some of the most innovative farmers, educators, and researchers across the northeast and beyond.

The \$50 registration fee gains you full access to the program and 3-months access to the recordings. Each person seeking pesticide or CCA credits must register individually and join the Zoom meeting from your unique device (2-farmers seeking credits cannot be sharing 1 computer to view the talks).

Topics include: Tillage Reduction and Innovation, Tree Fruit 1 & 2, Berry 1 and 2, Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates, Automation for Small Vegetable Growers, Climate Adaptation Strategies on the Farm, Soil Health, Inspiration from Away.

For more information, and to register for the conference, click [here](#).



NEW CT FARMERS ALLIANCE PRESENTS: SEED VARIETY DISCUSSION

Monday, December 13, 3:00-5:00.

For those of you who didn't join the discussion last year, I must say, the discussion was incredibly useful, full of interesting insights, yielding copious amounts of notes! (the video is still available here) As climate change makes our work increasingly more difficult, it's great to be able to swap notes about what varieties performed well despite these challenges.

We'll be holding the meeting virtually on Zoom again this year but we're hoping that'll mean more folks will join us!

In order to have a productive and orderly discussion, **please submit 3 crops/topics (for example greenhouse tomatoes, radicchio, etc.) you would like to discuss.** We will compile these submissions to build a structured agenda so that we can cover as many topics as possible. We look forward to a discussion that includes cultural information (spacing/seeding/season) as well as soil/pest/disease management practices. Perhaps we'll find out that the same variety can be great for one system and not so great for another.

Please send your 3 crops/topics to takemura.yoko@gmail.com. This will pre-register you for the event. Zoom details will be sent to registrants closer to the date.



AFT'S NEW ENGLAND FARMER MICROGRANTS PROGRAM OPEN

The program provides direct financial support to farmers in New England of up to \$5,000 each. This year's funding will have a special emphasis on livestock farmers and the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices.

Funding will be given to projects that involve equipment or services related to:

1. Finding or getting onto farmland
2. Bringing more farmland into production
3. Planning for the future of the farm
4. Adopting regenerative agriculture or soil health practices.

Round 1 is open now and will close on January 7, 2022.

[Learn More About the Program](#)



A Statewide Grant
Opportunity for Farm to
School Programs!

Applications open now-
December 20, 2021

For more information visit
www.CTGrown.gov/grants

CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT

CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for the newly launched Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant Program administered by Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Farm to School Collaborative (FTSC). The pilot program will be funded for two years with a total of \$500,000 through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Eligible entities will be able to apply for up to \$24,999 in funding with no match required for projects that fit within the four priority categories: Infrastructure, Experiential Learning Opportunities, Farm to School Planning and Pilot CT Grown Purchasing Programs.

A recording of the November 9 webinar with question and answer session is posted on CTGrown.gov/grants. A video recording walking through how to submit your application via Salesforce will also be posted. The deadline for final submissions is December 20, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Additional details can be found at the [CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program page](#).



SEEKING ROOTS FOR SCHOOLS + SCHOOLS FOR ROOTS!

Put Local on Your Tray is here to help schools and farms connect to source local roots for our Rooting for Winter campaign.

Did you know that 20 lbs. of mixed roots vegetables can make approx. 125 1/2 cup servings!

CT Grown carrots, turnips, potatoes and more range from .75¢ to \$3lb. That is a big range to work with when talking with farmers.



Check out more and Root for Winter at <https://putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/rootingforwinter/>



Contact nicholas.e.tedesco@uconn.edu with any questions & to connect with a local school market



COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) presents the Community Food Projects (CFP) competitive grant program. This program intends to solicit applications and fund two types of grants. The types are entitled (1) Community Food Projects and (2) Planning Projects.

are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) primary goals. The purpose of a Planning Project is to complete a plan toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP.

Projects and plans are to focus on a defined community and describe in detail the activities and outcomes of the plan or project. **Applications are due December 20, 2021.**

For more information, [click here](#).



FARM CREDIT EAST IS SEEKING INTERESTED YOUNG LEADERS TO ATTEND GENERATIONNEXT SEMINARS

A successful manager is required to master many aspects of the farm business. To help the next generation develop the necessary business and financial skills, Farm Credit East is once again hosting GenerationNext seminars, and is currently seeking interested young leaders to attend. In-person sessions are limited, however a virtual option is also available.

GenerationNext is optimal for those producers who will be the next generation operators of a farm business or for entrepreneurs starting their own business (Suggested age 20-35). The sessions will cover a range of topics, including leadership and management, human resource development, financial management, production economics, marketing, risk management, and farm transfer and estate planning.

Whether just entering into a management role or an experienced manager,

Virtual sessions will be two-hour sessions that run for eight weeks, starting January 5, and running every Wednesday through February.

A three-part in-person course will be held in the Bangor, Maine, area with each session running about 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The first session will be held on January 5, followed by sessions on January 19 and February 9.

For more information on the GenerationNext Seminars, or to sign up, click [here](#).



USDA BUILDS PANDEMIC SUPPORT FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIC AND TRANSITIONING OPERATIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide pandemic assistance to cover certification and education expenses to agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic. USDA will make \$20 million available through the new [Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program \(OTECP\)](#) as part of USDA's broader [Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative](#), which provides new, broader and more equitable opportunities for farmers, ranchers and producers.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, certified organic and transitional operations faced challenges due to loss of markets, and increased costs and labor shortages, in addition to costs related to obtaining or renewing their organic certification, which producers and handlers of conventionally grown commodities do not incur. Transitional operations also faced the financial challenge of implementing practices required to obtain organic certification without being able to obtain the premium prices normally received for certified organic commodities.

Signup for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be through Jan. 7, 2022. Producers apply through their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and can also obtain



NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ANNOUNCES 2022 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

National Farmers Union has announced the 2022 Women's Conference will be held **virtually from January 10-13, 2022** (Farm Union members and non-members) and **in-person from January 16-18 in Nashville** (members only) to connect women in agriculture and provide education on applicable business skills and innovative marketing tactics.

Farmers, policy makers, educators, and specialists will present on a number of subjects, including business management, leadership, community building, and more. The 2022 Women's Conference will be a hybrid event with virtual sessions focusing on cooperatives, business management, and food sovereignty.

For pricing information, COVID-19 protocols, the conference agenda, more information, and sign ups for the Conference, click [here](#).



community
involved in sustaining
agriculture

QUICKBOOKS AND ACCOUNTING FOR FARMERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS

record keeping professionals. It is designed for farmers and local food producers who are either new to QuickBooks or need to improve their current recordkeeping practices.

For the months of January and February, participants will have access to the following:

- **The Farmer's Office**, an online source of accounting and QB videos and resources designed for farmers (usually \$49/month access)
- 6 Quickbooks classes that cover Chart of Accounts, Revenue and Expenses, Assets and Liabilities, the Balance Sheet, Reporting, and Recordkeeping Best Practices.
- Office hours with Farmer's Office author Julia Shanks to ask questions specific to your business
- Eligible attendees can receive additional 1×1 support in financial recordkeeping, planning or analysis upon attendance of at least 3 classes. This assistance is available until June 2022. See below for qualification information.

Class Schedule:

Tuesdays, 9am-10:30am, January 11-February 15 (6 classes held over Zoom)

Available for:

- Massachusetts Farmers
- New York State Beginning Farmers
- Massachusetts Specialty Food Producers that produce a value-added product where at least 50% of the ingredient's volume, weight, or value come from local farms.

Click [here](#) to register.



UConn Extension is offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course, beginning on January 20, 2022.

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. 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.

Please contact the course coordinator, Shuresh Ghimire (Shuresh.Ghimire@uconn.edu, 860-870-6933) with any questions about this course.

Registration deadline: January 14, 2022

[Register Here](#)

ACQUIRING YOUR FARM ONLINE TRAINING SERIES

A virtual training series for aspiring, new and beginning farmers preparing to access farmland in New England. Learn how to identify your goals and set financial parameters, review pros and cons of owning versus leasing, conduct a land search, assess farm properties, discover keys to successful communication, and more.

The six-session training series will provide a thorough introduction to the complex issues of farmland access and tenure - and put you in a position to make a plan and take next steps toward getting on farmland and gaining more secure tenure.

Topics include:

- Farmland tenure
- Identifying your goals
- Affording farmland & financial preparedness
- Owning vs. leasing
- Finding farmland
- Communication & negotiation

Join us this winter! Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00pm each day:

February 2, 2022
February 9, 2022
February 16, 2022
February 23, 2022

Sliding-scale registration fee allows more access to events by paying an amount that fits one's budget. Those who pay the suggested rate will help support the participation for others. The suggested registration fee is \$50. Registration gives you access to the full series, as well as class worksheets, resource handouts, and session recordings to watch at your convenience.

For more information, call (603) 357-1600 or email info@landforgood.org. To register now click the button below!

[Register Here](#)



DAIRY FOOD SAFETY & CERTIFICATION GRANT

This grant will provide dairy farmers, processors, and/or producer associations with funds needed to take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products. Projects funded through this program will support increased production safety standards with the goal of accessing new markets. Projects that increase marketability of dairy products will be prioritized. Activities covered by this grant include accessing technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.

Grants available of \$10,000 - \$40,000.

Deadline to apply: February 3, 2022. Details [here](#).



PROMOTE YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS ON CT GROWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Did you know you can add events to our community calendar? It's a quick and easy way to get your events in front of the Connecticut Grown audience. Your events will be featured on the CT Grown events calendar, in email newsletters, and more! Let us market you.

To add your events to our calendar, fill out this form to receive a username, password, and instructions!

[Fill Out the Form](#)

ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the [CT Grown Map](#) page. All agricultural businesses, farm stands, and farmers' markets are welcome to apply. There is no fee to participate and applications are accepted year round. To apply to be listed, visit the [CT Grown Map Google Form](#).

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)
Prices provided on November 29, 2021

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

[CT Farmers' Market Prices](#)
Prices provided on October 22, 2021

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[USDA Mexico Canada Weekly Update](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Eighty Four, PA](#)

Advertisements

For Sale

1-R. 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

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

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

46-R. Lynn Blackmer, local Nationwide Farm Insurance Agent. AFIS certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT & RI. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discounts. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.

50-R. 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.

54-R. 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

55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.

56-R. Piglets for Sale: \$100, FlamigFarm.com, West Simsbury, 860-658-5070.

57-R. Christmas greens, wreaths, roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

Wanted
