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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

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Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz celebrates the ceremonial maple tapping with Rob Lamothe and Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt.

Maple Sugaring Season Kicks Off

Marking the Beginning of the 'Sweetest' Time of the Year

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt joined Rob Lamothe, owner of Lamothe's Sugar House in Burlington, on Friday, February 14 to participate in a ceremonial maple tapping in celebration of Connecticut's "sweetest" time of the year, the start of maple sugaring season.

"Connecticut ranks in the top 10 of maple syrup producers in the United States," Lt. Governor Bysiewicz said. "We have a lot to celebrate and be proud of and there's no better way to support this vibrant industry than by visiting a sugar house near you or attending the first-ever Maple Weekend happening in March with your family."

In 2018, Connecticut's 73,000 taps produced 18,000 gallons of syrup during the short season that sap runs from early February to late March. Connecticut maple syrup is valued at \$1.2 million in cash receipts, according to USDA.

“Maple sugaring is one of Connecticut’s treasures with small businesses across the state tapping into nature’s sweetest treat,” said Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We need to pay attention to the challenges that climate change brings upon these businesses as we work to protect this native industry ensuring families can continue doing this for generations to come.”

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Maple Weekend 2020

Celebrate all things Maple

Tour local sugarhouses and learn the process, meet maple syrup producers, taste a sample and purchase Connecticut Grown products

March 21-22, 2020

To locate a sugarhouse open to the public, visit www.ctmaple.org

LAST CHANCE - Opportunity at the New England Food Show

Are you a farm looking to connect with and sell to restaurants and chefs in New England? If so, this is the perfect opportunity to help create a unique advantage for you. The [New England Food Show](#) is working to support and promote a “Tasting Pavilion” where local businesses and farms will be featured. New England Food Show, being held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center March 22-24, 2020, will draw 7,000+ foodservice professionals and these buyers are always looking for new and local products to incorporate into their menus.

If you are interested, please contact Mari.Dannenberg@ExpoDevCo.com no later than February 27 to ensure your inclusion in the pavilion.

This opportunity is available for only \$300 and will include the following for all who participate:

- Dedicated exhibit/display space for 3 days of the show within the pavilion
- Carpet, One 6 foot draped table, Booth ID Sign, Wastebasket
- Listings in the online exhibitor directory and the onsite printed directory

For full details, please visit www.NewEnglandFoodShow.com.

Your Future” scheduled for Saturday, February 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Asnuntuck Community College, 170 Elm Street, Enfield, CT.

The event is geared toward current and prospective farmers to raise awareness and provide educational seminars to those interested in farming. The schedule includes seminars on Hemp; Beekeeping Basics, Climate Change Impacts and Adaption Strategies, Social Media and Hydroponics. Other seminars scheduled are Pollinating, Farm Regulations & Permits, Raising Backyard Poultry, Farmland Access and Insurance, as well as improving soil health and information on available CT agriculture grants.

The agricultural summit is free of charge and includes a continental breakfast and vendor exhibits. Pre-registration is requested. Registration forms are available by calling Chris Casey, Event Coordinator at 860.698.6267 or email cwsmcasey@gmail.com, or on <http://www.enfield-ct.gov/1205/Agricultural-Commission>

Vegetable Production Certificate Course

We're offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course, beginning on March 12, 2020. It's a hybrid format, online and in-person for new and beginning farmers. This year only, we have a special introductory fee of \$100 or \$150 plus \$4 convenience fee depending on the course option you choose.

The course description is available at <http://bit.ly/Vegetables2020> and online registration is at <http://bit.ly/ExtensionStore>.

Registration is due by 5 PM on March 2, 2020.

FSMA Produce Safety Rule/Produce Safety Alliance Approved Grower Training Courses

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. A training session is scheduled for March 18 and 19 (snow date: March 20) at Hartford County Extension Center, Exchange Building, Suite 262, Building 4, 270 Farmington Ave, Farmington, CT. Registration deadline is Friday, March 6. Space is limited to 30 participants. [View flyer here](#) or [Register online here](#) \$50 registration fee.

Contact: Indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu with any questions.

Tomato Workshop: For Production in Soilless Media in Greenhouses

One-day educational program co-sponsored by UConn Extension, USDA Risk Management Agency and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Funding is provided by a grant from UConn Extension and a cooperative effort of UConn Extension and the USDA Risk Management Agency.

- March 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Jones Auditorium at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT


Five pesticide re-certification credits have been approved for this event for attendees from all New England states. For more information and to register

Productive Conversations: Dairy Training Workshop

Do you think we can do a better job explaining why we do what we do as dairy farmers? Are you hesitant to engage in conversations with the average consumer? Misinformation abounds, but it's up to us in the agricultural community to set the record straight.

Join us at the upcoming "Productive Conversations" training workshop on Thursday, March 26 at the Tolland County Agricultural Center to learn how to lead positive conversations about the tough issues surrounding our industry, with a specific focus on water quality and the environment.

The workshop will train you to get your point across in all types of settings including in person, in a town hall setting, online or when speaking to a reporter. Lunch will be included. RSVP through the [Facebook event](#) or by emailing your name, farm name, and number attending to Annalise Kieley at AKieley@newenglanddairy.com



Seeking Industry Input
for Connecticut Grown Marketing Campaign

We want to hear from you.

Take our Connecticut Grown Producer Survey.

Ag Market Pricing

[Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT](#)

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

[Northeast Regional Eggs](#)

[New Holland, PA Hay Report](#)

[New England Shell Eggs](#)

[Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction Summary](#)

[Wholesale Ornamental Flowers - Boston](#)

[Pennsylvania Livestock Auction - Waynesburg, 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

beehives. Compare Power Fence 800-451-2200

4-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

5-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039

7-R. Black angus heifers, 23 months old. 3 available. Each to calf in or around May. Asking \$1,400 each. Call 860-212-5463

12-R. Unrooted succulents \$0.55 each, unrooted variegated ivy \$0.75 per 18 inch piece, 11 inch hanging basket pot with hanger \$0.75 each, slim jim flats \$0.55 each, 14 inch plastic clay wall planter \$3 each, 12 inch plastic clay oval \$2 each. Call Bill 203-430-8229

14-R. Honeybees: 5-frame NUCS, DEEPS only available first week of May. Jones' Apiaries LLC 860-677-9391

15-R. Need Honey Bee Pollination? Call Heritage Apiaries, Canton, CT. 860-805-7191

Wanted

9-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned

Interested in Advertising? Click [here](#) for details on rates and submission.

Upcoming Events

CONNECTICUT FARM WINE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

2020 GROWER EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Jonathan Edwards Winery
 74 Chester Maine Rd.
 North Stonington, CT 06359

Dr. Elsa Petit
 Grape Trunk Diseases

Christian Moore
 Vineyard Pruning Demonstration

Please RSVP by Friday, February 28, 2020
 to Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov. Program is free to growers.

OrganiConn 2020:

"Onward Together for a Resilient Future"

March 7 | Wesleyan University | Middletown

Keynote Speaker: **Niaz Dorry**
 of the National Family Farm Coalition
 & Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

30+ Food, Farm & Garden Workshops

join us

CONNECTICUT DAIRY

STRATEGIC VISION PLANNING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
CT FOOD BANK, WALLINGFORD, CT

All Connecticut dairy farmers welcome.
 Discussion on how to make your checkoff dollars work now and in the future.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

RSVP's required: Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov;
 860-573-0323 (cell) or 860-713-2538 (desk)



CONNECTICUT COMPOST CONFERENCE

MARCH 23, 2020 | 8:30AM - 5PM
 Hosted by Central Connecticut State University

This informative day will feature keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussion, networking, exhibitors, and a Q&A. This critical event will provide information and resources for farmers and municipalities to expand their leaf and/or manure composting operation to include food scraps. Focus of workshops will include the benefits to soil health, conservation, food waste management, and climate adaptation. Compost manufacturing and utilization are vital to producing healthy soils, clean air and water, and a sustainable society.



Visit ctrcd.org for more information.

REGISTER AT [HTTP://CTNOFA.ORG/EVENT/CONNECTICUT-COMPOST-CONFERENCE](http://CTNOFA.ORG/EVENT/CONNECTICUT-COMPOST-CONFERENCE)

Generous Sponsors: Northern CT Farm Credit Northeast Ag Enhancement, Recycle CT, UConn Master Composter Program, American Landstreat, Trust CT, Maple Hill Cattle Co., Webb & Wheeler Consulting, and Council on Soil and Water Conservation

Planning Partners: CT ASEA, CT ASEA, CT DEEP, CCOIL, USDA NRCS, UConn Master Composter Program, CT DDMC, American Landstreat, Trust CT, RiverCOG, and Connecticut DNR, Center for Ecotechnology, and Composting Association of VT

FREE WEBINAR

Defend your Flock from Poultry Disease: Know the Signs & How to Respond

*Learn about preventing poultry disease with
USDA/APHIS vets and state poultry experts.*



Thursday, February 27, 2:30pm ET



Register at: bit.ly/APHISWebinar



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