

Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, December 18, 2019

PURCHASE CONNECTICUT GROWN FOREST PRODUCTS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

The annual gross state output of Connecticut's forest products industry totals more than \$2.1 billion according to a recent report from the North East State Foresters Association on the economic importance of Connecticut's forest-based economy.

In an effort to promote the manufacture and sale of products made from trees grown in Connecticut the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and have created the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program.

Established in 2011, this program allowed forest products to be included as part of the Connecticut Grown Program.

"We're happy to work with DEEP to ensure that another Connecticut industry receives the advantage of the Connecticut Grown marketing program," said DoAg Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. "The industry, Connecticut consumers, and the environment benefit from a sustainable locally grown and processed forest products industry in our state."

The program highlights producers of furniture, outdoor structures, and decorative accents. By purchasing Connecticut Grown Forest Products, consumers make a statement in support of the state's forests, including those owned by private woodland owners.

Doug Emmerthal of DEEP's Division of Forestry was instrumental in creation of the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program which allows producers of Connecticut Grown forest products to use the Connecticut Grown logo in advertising and marketing efforts. The Connecticut Grown Program was developed by DoAg in 1986, when the now-familiar green and blue logo was created to identify agricultural products grown in the state.

Doug said use of the Connecticut Grown logo is a great marketing tool for the state's forest product producers.

"We have seen the Connecticut Grown logo appear on various forest products such as packages of kiln

dried firewood and signs on buildings made with Connecticut Grown timbers," said Doug. "In the near future we'll start seeing picnic tables branded with the Connecticut Grown logo in everyone's favorite state parks."

Doug said most people are surprised at the size and diversity of Connecticut's forest products industry. "It's quite likely folks have walked on floor or dined on a table made of lumber that was locally grown, sawn, and built," said Doug.

DEEP maintains an interactive map of 23 businesses that currently participate in the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program. The map allows users to search by producers of different kinds of forest products including lumber, furniture & cabinets, and building components.

In October 2011, Strong's Farm and Sawmill in East Hampton was one of the first businesses to register as a Connecticut Grown Forest Products producer.

Steve Strong of Strong's Farm and Sawmill said the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program has helped him gain customers that value the use of sustainably harvested, locally grown forestry products.

Steve uses native trees to make the timbers he uses to build post and beam homes and barns. He said the main reason his customers support the use of locally grown forest products is the reduced impact on the environment compared to timbers that have been shipped to Connecticut from farm away.

"Customers definitely appreciate the fact that most of the wood I use is from Connecticut," said Steve.

The pavilion at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm in Hamden is an example of a post and beam structure designed and built by Steve using Connecticut Grown timbers.

"All the timbers were from Babcock Pond [Wildlife Management Area]" said Steve.

Businesses interested in participating in the Connecticut Grown Forest



Pavilion made from Connecticut Grown forest products at the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm.

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Products Program must register as a Connecticut Grown Forest



The sign at Strong's Farm and Sawmill in East Hampton is able to incorporate the Connecticut Grown logo thanks to the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program.

Products producer by submitting an application and providing evidence of compliance with the program requirements.

Requirements within the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program assure that "Connecticut Grown" forests are managed in a sustainable and responsible manner. Additional requirements for forest products to be sold as Connecticut Grown include the following:

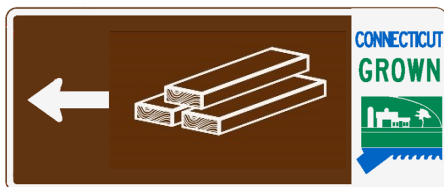
- Must be harvested, grown and produced:
 - ◊ Using sustainable forestry practices;
 - ◊ Utilizing best management practices as described in DEEP's 2007 Field Guide for Best Management Practices for Water Quality While Harvesting Forest Products;
 - ◊ In compliance with the Connecticut Forest Practices Act (Section 23-65f through 23-65o of the Connecticut General Statutes);
 - ◊ In Connecticut in compliance with Section 22-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes which requires the product came from Connecticut and was produced in a sustainable manner.
- May include trees from urban forests provided there is evidence of a program of urban tree sustainability; and
- Products sold under the CT Grown label must have an origin traceable to Connecticut.

For more information about the Connecticut Grown Forest Products Program, including the interactive map of registered producers, and information about applying to participate in the program go to https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&Q=484488&deepNav_GID=1631.

In 2019, producers of Connecticut Grown Forest Products were added to the list of businesses eligible to participate in DoAg's Agricultural Directional Signage program. The Agricultural Directional Signage program, administered in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT), is designed to direct tourists and regional consumers off state roadways to local roads where farm operations are established.

"We are excited that a new Connecticut Grown Forest Products symbol has been approved for use along state highways," said Doug Emmerthal, who worked with DOT to develop the symbol which looks like a stack of lumber with a brown background. "Producers of Connecticut Grown Forest Products can now apply to have directional signage placed on a state highway pointing customers toward their business located on adjoining municipal roads."

For additional information about the Agriculture Directional Signage program go to <http://www.ctgrown.gov> or contact Mark Hood at Mark.Hood@ct.gov or 860-713-2530.



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

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227

5-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

59-R. Compost, screened & unscreened Top Soil, Mulch. Pick up at any of our 3 yards. Supreme Forest Products. Southington, Harwinton, West Hartford. Please call 860-485-1636

60-R. E.R. Hinman Since 1830. Producing fine Native Hardwoods & Softwood. Rough sawn, planed, kiln dried lumber. Native Hemlock for your out building needs. For the Farmer, Contractor, Homeowner. Please call 860-673-9170

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

82. Tobacco spear lath, like new condition. Call 860-749-0297

83-R. Kiln dried sawdust shavings mix delivered in 100 yard loads or picked up at the farm. Call 860-749-0297.

WANTED

6-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

MISCELLANEOUS

65-R. Connecticut Greenhouse Co. Installation, maintenance and fabrication of greenhouses, cold frames and NRCS high tunnels. 12' to 30' wide by any length. Designed and manufactured in CT, a farmer owned and operated business. Maintenance parts, supplies and custom plastic. www.ctgreenhouse.com or call Toby 203-654-1595

CT FARM ENERGY WORKSHOPS

Are you a farm or rural small business who would like to reduce your energy consumption and costs?

The Connecticut RC&D and the Connecticut Farm Energy Program will be hosting the following Farm energy Workshops:

- January 16, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., USDA Service Center - 238 W. Town St. Norwich, CT. Snow date: January 17th. Hosted by Eastern CT Conservation District & CT Farm Energy Program. For more info call 860-345-3977 or email amanda@ctfarmenergy.org
- January 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., UConn Extension Center - 843 University Dr, Torrington, CT. Snow date: January 30th. Hosted by Northwest Conservation District & CT Farm Energy Program. Advanced registration requested. For questions and to RSVP, call 860.626.7222 or email info@nwcd.org.

Speakers will cover energy efficiency, renewable energy, State & Federal incentives including Energize CT, USDA REAP, ZREC, Metering, Tax Incentives, and C-PACE. For more information go to <https://ctfarmenergy.org>.

CONNECTICUT HEMP CONFERENCE AND TRADESHOW

UConn Extension, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and CT RC&D are hosting the first annual Connecticut Hemp Conference and Tradeshow on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at Maneeley's Conference Center, 65 Rye St., South Windsor, CT. The conference will cover healthy soils practices, local policy and regulations, Connecticut field trial results, as well as innovative production markets. The event will be a valuable resource for local producers and farmers who are seeking connections in the state as well as knowledge about local issues and opportunities. Registration is required. The registration fee is \$50 until January 31, 2020 and \$65 starting February 1, 2020. For additional information and registration call 860-345-3977 or go to <https://ctrcd.org/ct-hemp-conference-trade-show/>.

SEEKING INDUSTRY INPUT FOR CONNECTICUT GROWN MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will be embarking on an integrated marketing campaign promoting Connecticut Grown during 2020 and beyond. Internally, we are working to identify multi-media marketing firms to carry out the campaign, but first, we want your input.

We want each Connecticut farm to interact and engage with this campaign, not only in the coming months, but well into the future. Please take three minutes of your time and share your thoughts with us by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTGrown>

We value and appreciate your time and input as we work together to strengthen the Connecticut Grown brand.

PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE - BACK TO BASICS

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.

ARTISAN DAIRY FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP

UConn is hosting a coaching workshop intended for artisan cheese and dairy food producers who are preparing to develop, or are already developing, a Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) compliant, preventive control (PC)-based, food safety plan for their facility.

The two-day workshop will be held January 16-17, 2020 at the Hartford Times Building, 10 Prospect Street, Hartford, CT. The goal of the workshop is to provide Food Safety Plan review and coaching sessions to guide attendees through each step in development process. This course is being offered at a reduced cost to artisan dairy producers for \$49. Registrations and payments must be received by January 9, 2020. This course is limited to the first 20 registrants. For information and registration visit <https://dairyextension.foodscience.cornell.edu/programs/artisan-dairy-food-safety-coaching/>.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact Crystal.Morris@ct.gov or call 860-713-2533.

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

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