

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Ned Lamont, Governor
Melody A. Currey, Acting Commissioner



Wednesday, March 27, 2019

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 4, 2019

Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is seeking applications for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public.

Specialty crops are defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops. The detailed definition can be found online at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>.

Eligible applicants include universities and colleges, municipalities, registered nonprofits, state agencies, and councils of government. Projects cannot begin until after January 1, 2020, and must be completed by March 1, 2022. The maximum award is \$100,000. Applications are due to DoAg by 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 2019.

Previous Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) awards have gone to a variety of projects supporting honey bees, hops, apples, pears, peaches, and nectarines, among other specialty crops.

In 2017, Dr. Quan Zeng of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) was awarded SCBGP funding to identify environmental friendly options for fire blight control in Connecticut.

With a combined annual cash receipt value in Connecticut of more than \$29 million, apples and pears are important agricultural commodities that are dramatically affected by fire blight. Fire blight is one of the top apple diseases in Connecticut and management options are limited.

In Connecticut, most growers rely on streptomycin spray—

a spray apples and pears have developed a resistance to throughout most apple producing regions in the U.S.

Dr. Zeng treated fire blight infected McIntosh trees with various biological controls and organic chemicals, and evaluated their effectiveness. Results suggest that a combination of biological control agents with hydrogen peroxide provide fire blight control nearly as effective as that of streptomycin.

Dr. Richard S. Cowles of CAES was awarded SCBGP funds in 2016, for a project to investigate the breeding of honey bees resistant to the varroa mite.

Beekeepers throughout the U.S. have been struggling to keep their honey bees protected from invasive varroa mites, which parasitize honey bees. Dr. Cowles' project ultimately will "kick-start" the production of queen bees with hygienic behaviors, and antivarroa and disease-resistance characteristics to potentially reduce the annual winter loss of weak bee colonies.

Dr. Kimberly Stoner at CAES was awarded SCBGP funding for a project to increase the amount of pollinator habitat planted in Connecticut, and to evaluate the benefits of pollinator habitat on pollinators and specialty crops.

With annual losses of honey bee colonies in Connecticut at approximately 50% for each of the last three years, and the disappearance of at least 2 of 16 species of bumble bees, Connecticut beekeepers and growers of pollinator-dependent specialty crops are seeking ways to support both honey bees and other important pollinating bee species.

Dr. Stoner organized an annual pollinator habitat conference, conducted field tours of native plant meadows and pollinator habitats, and organized



Apple tree blossoms tagged for isolation of fire blight bacteria at the CAES Lockwood Farm.

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.88	1.04
LARGE	.82	.96
MEDIUM	.69	.82

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.76	1.95
LARGE	1.68	1.89
MEDIUM	1.23	1.32
SMALL	.84	.94

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Choice/Prime 3-4	125.00	128.00
Choice 2-3	128.00	124.50
Select 2-3	111.00	119.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Choice 2-3	114.00	119.50
Select 1-2	108.00	112.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	61.00	65.50
boners 80-85% lean	55.00	61.00
lean 88-90% lean	45.00	52.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 100- 130 lbs	100.00	122.00
No 2 94- 128 lbs	100.00	118.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
80-90 lbs	270.00	280.00
110-130 lbs	250.00	270.00
130-150 lbs	230.00	255.00
150-200 lbs	215.00	220.00
Choice 1-2		
40-50 lbs	255.00	280.00
60-70 lbs	255.00	275.00
70-80 lbs	250.00	265.00
80-90 lbs	240.00	265.00
Choice 2-3		
90-100 lbs	220.00	260.00
100-130 lbs	200.00	255.00
130-150 lbs	185.00	215.00
150-200 lbs	170.00	200.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
100-120 lbs	95.00	110.00
120-160 lbs	70.00	100.00
160-200 lbs	65.00	95.00
200-300 lbs	60.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	160.00	190.00
60-80 lbs	200.00	225.00
80-100 lbs	220.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	200.00	235.00
130-180 lbs	200.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	235.00	280.00
150-250 lbs	290.00	395.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
52-56	200-300 lbs	40.00 49.00
	300-350 lbs	38.00 46.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	32.00 40.00
	300-350 lbs	36.00 44.00
Sows, US 1-3		
	300-500 lbs	30.00 39.00
	500-850 lbs	32.00 39.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, GHS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 80	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88	30.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MAC, 125, #1	16.00	17.00
APPLE, MAC, 138, #1	16.00	17.00
APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 100	22.00	22.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	18.00	19.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 138	18.00	19.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	19.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	21.00
POTATOES, RED, 50 LB, #1, SZ A	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, M-L	18.00	20.00
TOMS, GHS, 25 LB, S-M	28.00	28.00
TOMS, GHS, ONVINE, 11LBS, S-M	19.00	19.00
TOMS, GHS, CHERRY, 12-10 OZ	25.00	28.00

SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 100	28.00	28.00
APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 80	36.00	36.00
APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 88	36.00	36.00
APPLE, GALA, FCY, 88	31.00	31.00
BROCCOLI, CTN, AZ/CA, 12'S	18.00	22.00
CABBAGE, GRN, FL, 50 LB, SACK	16.00	21.00
CABBAGE, RED, 50 LB, M/L	36.00	38.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	23.00	24.00
CAULIFLOWER, AZ/ CA, 12's	30.00	34.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, CD, GHS, CTN	7.00	9.00
KALE, GA, CTN, BNCH, 12	14.00	16.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, GHS, CD, 12-4OZ	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, AZ/CA, 24	18.00	23.00
LETTUCE, GRNLF, AZ, 24'S	18.00	23.00
MESCLUN MIX, AZ/CA, 3 LBS	6.50	8.00
MUSHROOM, OYSTER, 3 LB CTN	13.00	14.00
ONION, GREEN LEEK, BNCH 12	20.00	24.00
ONION, YELLOW, NY, 20-2 LB	19.00	21.00
ONION, RED GLOBE, NY, 24- 2 LB	22.00	24.00
PARSNIPS, MI, 20 LBS, M	23.00	26.00
POTATOES, RUSSETT, 50 LB, 70'S	22.00	24.50
SPINACH, FLAT, CA, BNCH, 24	25.00	28.00
SWEET POTATOE, NC, 40 LB CRT	20.00	20.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

CABBAGE, 45 LB, CRT, M-L	33.00	33.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	37.00	37.00
MESCLUN MIX, 3 LB, CRT	9.50	9.50
ONION, YELLOW, 50 LB, M/L	28.00	28.00
PEPPERS, RED, 11 LB, CRT	33.00	33.00
PEPPERS, YELLOW, 11 LB, CRT	32.00	34.00
PEPPERS, ORANGE, 11 LB, CRT	35.00	35.00
POTATOES, RUSSETT, 50 LB, 70'S	30.00	30.00
POTATOES, RED, 50 LB, #1, SZ A	26.00	26.00
SPINACH, BABY, 4 LB, CRT	13.50	13.50
SQUASH, ACORN, BU, CRT, M	24.00	24.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, BU, CRT, M	28.00	28.00
SWEET POTATOES, 40 LB, CRT	36.00	36.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - March 25, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	15.00	25.00
61-75 lbs.	44.00	47.50
76-90 lbs.	50.00	55.00
91-105 lbs.	60.00	65.00
106 lbs. & up	75.00	77.50
Farm Calves	87.50	140.00
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	85.00	130.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	102.50
Beef Heifers	74.00	76.00
Feeder Steers	87.50	140.00
Beef Steers	83.00	92.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00	125.00
Beef Bulls	66.50	78.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	10.00	29.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	2@	20.00
Sheep each	80.00	130.00
Lambs each	85.00	220.00
Goats each	120.00	270.00
Kid Goats each	90.00	155.00
Canners	up to	56.00
Cutters	57.00	60.00
Utility Grade Cows	61.00	64.50
Rabbits each	12.00	25.00
Chickens each	13.00	28.00
Ducks each	8.00	13.00
Turkeys	27.50	32.50

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH COWS		
APPROVED	750.00	1175.00
MEDIUM	500.00	700.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	800.00	1150.00
MEDIUM	650.00	750.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	700.00	950.00
OPEN HEIFERS:		
100-300 lbs		
APPROVED	175.00	235.00
MEDIUM	125.00	175.00
300-600 lbs		
APPROVED	300.00	385.00
MEDIUM	235.00	285.00
600-900 lbs		
APPROVED	400.00	550.00
MEDIUM	350.00	410.00
900-1200 lbs		
APPROVED	600.00	685.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. March 22, 2019

ALFALFA/GRASS		
PREMIUM	330.00	390.00
GOOD	250.00	335.00
FAIR	185.00	230.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	320.00	335.00
GOOD	240.00	305.00
FAIR	160.00	230.00
STRAW	290.00	340.00

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an on-farm pollinator habitat workshop attended by more than 120 people to address the need for increased pollinator habitat.



Pollinator images courtesy of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. Jim Lamondia of CAES received SCBGP funding to initiate a hops research program to develop varieties for Connecticut growers in response to the high demand by Connecticut breweries for Connecticut Grown hops.

Dr. LaMondia established new hop yards in Hamden and Windsor, with several hop varieties in replicated plots at each location. Through his research, he published *Guidelines for Integrated Pest Management for Hops in Connecticut* available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Publications/Publications/Bulletins>.



Dr. Jim LaMondia leading a tour of the CAES hopyard.

Dr. Jatinder S. Aulakh, also from CAES, was awarded SCBGP funding for a project to prevent freeze injury in peaches and nectarines through the application of phytohormones at early and late bud swell stages.

The unusual spring weather pattern in recent years has adversely affected the production of peaches, nectarines, and many deciduous ornamental plants.

Peaches are very susceptible to freeze injury during late winter and early spring months as the buds begin to swell and mature into blossoms.

In 2016, more than 95% of Connecticut's peach and nectarine crops were lost due to early spring freeze injury.

Dr. Aulakh will also determine whether salicylic acid and methyl jasmonate can improve fruit quality and yield in peaches and nectarines at the conclusion of his project, estimated to be in September 2020.

More information about the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, application material, guidelines, and forms are available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants or by contacting Jaime Smith at jaime.smith@ct.gov.

Funding is provided through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and USDA will make the final award decisions.

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.

19-R. Planting, cultivating and harvest equipment for vegetables, tobacco and hemp (Italian Checchi & Magli and Mater Macc). Call Griffin Farm Equipment 860-508-2426 or visit www.griffinfarmtools.com.

21. First and second cutting hay for sale. \$3 per bale. Call 860-917-4318.

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.

NRCS EQIP/AMA APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 19, 2019

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from agricultural producers for financial assistance to improve farm conservation operations.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for those engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production – including organics. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. It also provides payments for implementing practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long-term production and sustainability. Eligible crop production includes, but is not limited to, field-grown ornamentals, fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards.

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.

Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, to be eligible for current year funding you must ensure your application is submitted to your local NRCS office by April 19, 2019.

Visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/programs/financial/> for more information. NRCS staff will need to complete an assessment of resource conditions and practice feasibility prior to making a determination of program eligibility.

To find out more, fill out eligibility forms, or obtain an application, contact your local USDA Service Center: Danielson 860-779-0557; Hamden 203-287-8038; Norwich 860-887-3604; Torrington 860-626-8852; Windsor 860-688-7725.

CT GROWN BUYER/GROWER NETWORKING EVENT

Are you looking to expand your wholesale markets? The Department of Agriculture will be hosting a Connecticut Grown buyer/grower networking event on Thursday, April 25, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Middlesex County Extension Center in Haddam, CT. This is your opportunity to discuss your business and products one-on-one with buyers looking for Connecticut Grown products or connect with new suppliers for your business.

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration must be completed by April 15, 2019.

To register go to <https://www.cognitofrms.com/CTDepartmentOfAgriculture1/buyergrowermeetingregistrationform>. Please call 860-713-2543 or email Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov for more information.

EXHIBIT AT THE 2019 BIG E

The Connecticut Building at the Big E offers a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture. The 2019 Big E is scheduled to run from September 13–29, 2019. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building 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. Applications are available at www.ctgrown.gov and are due by Friday, March 29, 2019.

Please call 860-713-2538 or email Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov to receive the application or more participation information.

DOAG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS' MARKET AT THE REGIONAL MARKET

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the Farmers' Market at the Regional Market. The 2019 farmers' market season runs from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Stall use agreements are available for periods of three months up to one year.

Applications and information can be found on DoAg's website at https://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/regional_market/2018/Farmers_Market_Application_2019.pdf. For more information or questions, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

LOOKING FOR A CT FARMERS' MARKET?

If you're a farmer in search of a Connecticut Farmers' Market, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yykqqo88>. Tell us what Connecticut Grown farm products you grow and what market days you're interested in and we'll share that information with Connecticut farmers' market managers. Please complete the online form by April 19, 2019.



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.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.

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VOL. XCIX
No. 13
March 27, 2019