

Soil Pursuits

A Monthly Update From CT FarmLink

Partner Highlight: New CT Farmers Alliance



Have you heard of the New CT Farmer Alliance? It is Connecticut's chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition and creates a statewide network of farmers and provides workshops and resources. NCTFA formed in 2010 when a group of farmers realized there wasn't an organization in Connecticut to help the next generation of farmers. The group began as a social network but has grown to become much more. NCTFA now has more than 475 members and an active steering committee.

A key benefit of becoming a NCTFA member is being a part of a very active list serv of CT farmers where members can reach out to the group with questions. Beyond that NCTFA hosts events throughout the year to keep members engaged with one another including the Spring Hootenanny, Fall Shindig, and Winter Networking Event. NCTFA also hosts winter workshops, seed swaps, farmer circles, and a potluck series, coming this summer.

A GLIMPSE OF
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social media!**

If you are interested in speaking up for agricultural policy change in CT, NCTFA has a working group you can join to make sure your voice as a farmer is heard.

Membership is free! Sign up to be a member of New CT Farmer Alliance and look out for information this summer on the potluck series and other upcoming events.



Click here and give your input for a chance to win a \$100 visa gift card!

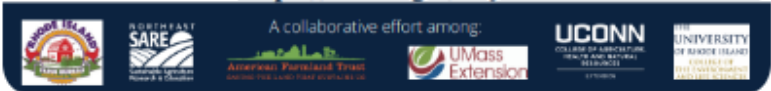
Click the link below to RSVP for the Southern New England Soil Health Trailer Tour



- Monday, June 20th ~ 1:00 pm**
 Miller Farm - 1732 Fort Bridgman Rd, Vernon, VT 05354
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing dairy cattle
 Sponsored by: American Farmland Trust
 Contact: Kristen Irvin at kirvin@farmland.org for more information
- Tuesday, June 21st ~ 1:00 pm**
 UMass Crop & Animal Research & Education Farm - 89 River Rd, South Deerfield, MA 01373
This event will focus on soils for vegetable and corn production as well as pasture and grazing
 Sponsored by: Northeast SARE
 Contact: Sam Corcoran at sgc@corcoran@umass.edu for more information
This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program
- Wednesday, June 22nd ~ 1:00 pm**
 Walnut Lane Farm - 33 Koebke Rd, Dudley, MA 01571
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing livestock and poultry
 Sponsored by: American Farmland Trust
 Contact: Kristen Irvin at kirvin@farmland.org for more information
- Thursday, June 23rd ~ 2:00 pm**
 Windmist Farm - 71 Weeden Lane, Jamestown, RI 02835
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing livestock
 Sponsored by: Rhode Island Farm Bureau
 Contact: Heidi Quinn at haquinn@rifb.org for more information
- Friday, June 24th ~ 9:30 am**
 Scantic Valley Farm - 327 9th District Rd, Somers, CT 06071
This event will focus on soils for pasture and grazing beef cattle
 Sponsored by: Tri-State SARE Project
 Contact: Rachel Bispuda at rachel.bispuda@uconn.edu for more information
This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under award number 2012-051-CT-3406.



There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required for all events. Once registered, you'll receive more information as the event approaches
REGISTER HERE - <https://forms.gle/YCJVwnnMhcsmWPwY8>



SEE BELOW FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTICUT SPECIALTY CROPS



The application deadline is Tuesday, June 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. to AGR.grants@ct.gov.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds for projects that enhance competitiveness of specialty crops in Connecticut. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has allocated these funds to the states through H.R. 133 Stimulus Funding and CT DoAg will be passing through funds as competitive grants. Priority will be given to projects that respond to COVID-19 impacts.

There are no minimum or maximum limits on the amount of funds that can be requested for one project, but the average grant amount in the past has been between \$50,000-\$100,000.

The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. Specialty crops are defined as any fruit or vegetable, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Also included is honey, maple syrup, Christmas trees and processed foods/food products which are made of at least 50% specialty crops (excluding added water). An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop.

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FACEBOOK? YOU MAY BE MISSING IMPORTANT RESOURCES
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