Pest Management Briefs and Updates

By: Jude Boucher, UConn Extension, Commercial Vegetable Crops

LifeGard is a newly labeled disease fighting bacterium (*Bacillus mycoides*) from Certis that is supposed to "trigger an induced systemic resistance (ISR) response in plants.” “The discoverer, Professor Barry Jacobsen, of Montana State University, explains that plants respond to initial detection of potentially pathogenic microorganisms by switching on resistance genes, causing a cascade of metabolic responses to limit infection and disease development.” LifeGard is OMRI approved for organic growers and is recommended in combination with low rates of fungicides or in alternating programs. It is labeled for downy mildew on Brassica crops; Powdery and Downy Mildews and black rot in cucurbit crops; bacterial leaf spot, bacterial spec, early blight, grey mold and late blight on fruits; TMV and CMV on tomatoes; downy and powdery mildew on lettuce; white mold on beans; early blight, late blight, white mold and PVY on potatoes; and downy mildew and leaf spots on spinach. It can be used inside greenhouses or in fields and is recommended as early-season preventative applications to switch on the plants defense system.

‘Remedy’ is one of the new Attribute II Liberty Link and Round-up ready, bi-color sweet corns from Syngenta. It has a mix of B.t. strains which provide some degree of resistance to corn pests above and beyond the original Attribute varieties that contained a single strain of B.t. for caterpillar protection. Several CT growers had late-season fall armyworm infestations that exceeded threshold last year for the first time on the older BC0805 B.t. corn, which resulted in high infestation rates at harvest. One of these growers had un sprayed Remedy and BC0805 planted, and only the latter had “worms” at harvest. Remedy is supposed to look and taste like the Providence/BC0805/Serendipity series of sweet corns.

Hot Water Seed Treatment Services from UMass. Hot water seed treatment is a great preventative control for many different common diseases on all of the following crops: Brassica, beets and Swiss chard, carrots, celery and celeriac, eggplant, lettuce, onions, peppers, parsley and cilantro, spinach and tomatoes. Large farms may want to buy the equipment to treat their seeds on their own. You need a stirring hot plate, a laboratory-grade thermometer, and cheese cloth or something similar to contain the seeds while soaking. The hot-plate and laboratory thermometer can be purchased at Fisher Scientific or other laboratory supply companies. If you don’t want to make that investment of money and time, you can just have UMass treat your seeds for you. I suggest you read up about hot water seed treatment and its potential upside and risks before sending your seeds. You can read about it and download a Seed Submission Form and Liability Waiver Form from their web site at [http://ag.umass.edu/services/hot-water-seed-treatment](http://ag.umass.edu/services/hot-water-seed-treatment).
Late winter is the time to start thinking about pruning your blueberries. Large growers usually start in early winter in order to have the pruning completed by spring. If you can hold off a bit longer you will be able to easily see any winter damaged wood. The following is an easy-to-read guide to help you understand why you need to prune, as well as when and what to prune.

**Reasons to Prune**
1. Encourages an appropriate balance between vegetative (wood) and reproductive (fruiting) growth
2. Helps to maintain plant vigor
3. Helps to maintain healthy plants
4. Promotes high quality large berries
5. Encourages sunlight penetration throughout the plant for better fruit bud development

**Timing**
1. Optimum is late winter when all the carbohydrates are in the roots
2. Can easily see the fruit buds
3. Can easily see winter injured canes

**Fruit buds**
1. Develop on the ends of 1 year old wood
2. Plump buds are flower buds
3. Produce a cluster of 5-8 berries

**Vegetative buds**
1. Smaller pointed buds are vegetative shoots
2. Form below the flower buds

**Pruning Years 1 & 2 (and year 3 if there was poor growth in the previous years)**
1. Remove broken or winter-injured canes
2. Remove flowers to allow all energy to go into vegetative growth
3. Remove weak spindly canes

**Pruning Years 3-4 to Year 6**
1. Remove broken or winter-injured canes
2. Remove short branched and low hanging canes
3. Remove canes growing out into the drive row
4. Remove insect infested (i.e. scale) or diseased canes
5. Remove crossing, rubbing canes to prevent canker infections from occurring
6. Remove canes with only short, spindly, weak growing twigs
7. Select 2-3 new strong canes to retain, eliminate other new canes, each year

**Pruning Years 6 and thereafter**
1. Repeat above
2. Remove the oldest 2-3 canes each year. Canes older than 6 years produce weak wood.
3. Select 2-3 new strong canes to retain
4. Mature bushes should have 2-3 canes per year of growth = 12-18 canes total

**Reasons for Weak Blueberry Bushes**
1. Improper pruning
2. Over cropping
3. Drought stress
4. Over watering — soil remains too wet
5. Lack of fertilizer/healthy soils
6. Planted too close together
7. Heavy Scale infestation
8. Grub damage to roots

**Rejuvenating old bushes**
1. If no younger (less than 6 years old) canes, remove 1/3 – ½ of the oldest canes each year for the next 2-3 years.
2. Thin out new canes to 3-4 of the strongest canes.
3. Subsequent years remove 2-3 of the oldest and retain 2-3

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Photos: Before (left) and after (right) pruning of mature blueberry.
Stopping Squash Vine Borer Infestations with a Single Furrow-Drench at Planting

By: Jude Boucher, UConn Extension, Commercial Vegetable Crops

In 2015, we attempted to control squash vine borer (SVB) infestations in summer squash at the UConn research farm with a single foliar application of Coragen instead of 3-4 weekly applications with more commonly used products. Coragen reduced the infestation of SVB larvae from 0.5 on unsprayed plants to 0.1 larvae per plant, but we didn’t have a high enough population to show a significant difference in infestation. However, last year Coragen received a supplemental label to be used as a soil application for cucurbit, brassica, leafy and fruiting vegetables, so we decided to re-test it this past summer (2016) as a furrow-drench.

Previous experience with Coragen had shown us that a single foliar application on brassica crops could provide control of caterpillars for up to three weeks, and a test on cabbage last year at UConn showed that when applied as a drench at transplanting (i.e. for cabbage maggot) and absorbed by the roots, caterpillar control was extended through most or all of the season for the majority of the plants (see Dec. 2015 Crop Talk).

The normal foliar SVB threshold for susceptible cucurbit crops calls for spraying the lower foot of the stems starting a week after capturing 5 or more SVB moths per week in a Scentry pheromone trap, and to spray weekly until fewer than 5 moths are captured. In 2016 at UConn, the SVB moth population in the trap first exceeded thresholds on June 30, peaked with a capture of 35 moths for the week ending July 7, and went below threshold on Aug 10. This would have called for 6 weekly foliar applications.

On May 27 and June 1, 2016, we hand seeded two separate experiments for pumpkins and summer squash, respectively. There were just two treatments in each experiment: a Coragen furrow-drench at seeding, and a set of untreated control plots. Coragen was applied at the 5 oz. per acre rate in 40 gallons of water per acre, with a CO2 backpack sprayer. There were 4 rows in each plot with 11 plants in each row, spaced at two feet within rows and 4 feet between rows. The two treatment plots were replicated 4 times and laid out in a randomized complete block design in each experiment.

On August 11, 5 plants from each plot were selected at random and dissected, and the number of SVB larvae were counted. For the pumpkins, only the bottom 3 feet of stem was dissected. In the summer squash experiment there were 1.9 SVB larvae per plant in the unsprayed control plots and 0 in the furrow-drenched plots. The furrow-drench of Coragen at planting provided perfect control of SVB throughout the season on summer squash. But surprisingly, the Coragen failed to reduce the infestation in the pumpkins. There was an average of 1.2 SVB larvae per pumpkin plant in the unsprayed control plots and 1.3 in the furrow-drenched plots. It appears as if the 5 oz rate of Coragen provides great control on the smaller squash plant, but none at all on a larger pumpkin plant.

The contradictory results on squash and pumpkins in this study seems problematic until you realize that SVB are usually not a problem for pumpkins because the roots produced at the nodes as the vines run seem to compensate for larval damage in the main stem. In a previous experiment years ago, regression analysis failed to show any relationship between the number of larvae in pumpkin stems and the size, number or yield of the fruit. In other words, even when a stem had over 20 SVB larvae and/or was completely severed from the ground by the feeding, that plant may still produce the largest fruit in the block (or not). On the other hand, summer squash plants that do not run or produce new roots along the vines, have shown 35% yield loss with just 5 larvae...
We concluded that a single furrow application of the 5 oz rate of Coragen seems to work well to protect summer squash, which was much more important than being able to protect pumpkins at low or moderate pest population levels. However, if SVB populations are too high at a farm they have been known to damage pumpkin crops by boring directly into the fruit. It is still possible that a furrow-drench at the top label rate of 7.5 oz per acre may control SVB on pumpkins. If not, remember that spring moldboard plowing, which buries SVB pupae so deep that adult moths have trouble emerging from the soil, can help keep populations from getting too high.

**Photo: Squash vine borer adults: orange day-flying moths that mimic wasps**

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**New Crop-Specific Pest ID Photo FilesPosted**

By: Jude Boucher, UConn Extension, Commercial Vegetable Crops

Wondering what’s killing your vegetables? Try our Pest ID files that are posted on the Vegetable Page of the UConn IPM Website (www.ipm.uconn.edu/). The Pest ID files can help you narrow down the culprit so you know what you’re fighting. These are all PDF files so you can download them onto your phone and use them right in the field. Then, for more information and management options, you can consult your New England Vegetable Management Guide or consult the guide on-line (www.nevegetable.org).

Last year I posted the following seven files which have all been updated with pest photos from this past summer: Sweet corn, Brassica crops, Cucurbit crops, Beans, Tomatoes, Peppers, and Eggplant. I just added an additional six Pest ID files: Asparagus, Basil, Carrots, Leafy greens, Onions/garlic/leeks, and Potatoes. A file on Natural Enemies will be posted soon to help you tell the good bugs from the bad. We are hoping these will be made into an app one day soon, but they still work fine on your computer or phone as PDF files.

The most common insect and disease pests that you are likely to come across in your fields are marked with a large blue star. There are many other pests included just in case you get a “special visitor” to your fields. Each photo has a brief, easy to understand, description of the pest and/or damage.

Let me know if you find these Pest ID files helpful and which new crops should be added to the site next year. I’ll try to get photos of pests on that crop this summer.

As always, if you can’t narrow the problem down using these files, you should bring the plant sample or pest to one of the Plant Diagnostic Labs in the state for a positive identification. Otherwise you could spend years and a lot of money trying to control the wrong pest without curing the problem. Here is the contact information for the labs:

Joan Allen, UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab, 1380 Storrs Road, Unit 4115, Storrs, CT 06269-4115, 860-486-6740, joan.allen@uconn.edu

Plant Disease Information Office, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, 877-855-2237 (toll free). Yonghao.Li@ct.gov

Rose Hiskes, CAES, Valley Laboratory, 153 Cook Hill Road, P.O. Box 248, Windsor, CT 06095, (860) 683-4977, Rose.Hiskes@ct.gov
Reminder: 2017 Crop Insurance Sign - Up Deadlines

Upcoming Crop Insurance Sale Closing Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole Farm Revenue Protection</td>
<td>March 15, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>March 15, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresh Market Sweet Corn</td>
<td>March 15, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>March 15, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>March 15, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) Dairy &amp; Swine</td>
<td>Last business Friday of each month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>May 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Is your 2016 risk management plan adequate for 2017? Protection for crops not listed above may be available from a crop insurance agent by written agreement. NAP, Noninsured Crop Disaster Program, provides financial assistance for noninsurable crops. For NAP, contact your local county FSA USDA office. Additional information is also available at: www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu and to find a RMA Insurance Agent go to http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html

This information is part of the Connecticut Crop Insurance Education and Information Project, a cooperative effort of the USDA Risk Management Agency, UConn Extension, and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

These organizations are affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employers and program providers.

Send us your email address; we'll add you to our vegetable list serve to receive...

Weekly Vegetable IPM Pest Messages (summer)
Quarterly 'Crop Talk' Newsletter & Conference Programs
Notices for webinars or YouTube educational videos
Notices of available farm grant money or surveys

Send email address to:
MacKenzie.White@UConn.edu
Signing Up For An Advising Session...When signing up for session(s) please keep the following in mind:

• The agenda for discussion with the professional is yours.
• You may sign up for multiple sessions at multiple locations.
• You will need to identify your preferred location, topic, and session time. Sessions will be filled on a first call, first registered basis. • Your telephone call will confirm your registration status immediately.
• To sign up call MacKenzie White at (860) 875-3331, Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm

All session times are as follows: Session 1 / 9:00-10:00 am ◊ Session 2 / 10:15-11:15 am ◊ Session 3 / 11:30 am-12:30 pm ◊ Session 4 / 1:15-2:15 pm ◊ Session 5 / 2:30-3:30 pm (except Vernon)

If you would like to speak with the professional again at a later date, please discuss this issue with the professional directly. Any arrangement you make with the professional is made at your discretion. Any future fees that may result from your interaction with the professional are your responsibility and will not be paid by the University of Connecticut or its partners.

If after making a reservation you find that you must cancel your appointment(s), please call MacKenzie White at (860) 875-3331 as soon as possible so that someone else can use your allotted time.

Protecting Financial Investments with Crop Insurance
Peter Frazzelli, Crop Growers Insurance, Colleen Kisselburgh; Arthur Carroll Insurance
How valuable are your crops? Find out how to use crop insurance as a financial risk management tool to protect your investment!

Estate Planning & Farm Transfer
Stephen Sutton & Bill Dakin; Kahan, Kerensky & Capossella LLP
Linda Francois; Cooper, Whitney & Francois
If you have been procrastinating, here’s your chance for FREE legal advice with no strings attached on a wide variety of legal issues including wills, trusts, estate tax planning and farm transfer options!

NEW – Farm Business & Marketing (2 options – Choose your focus)
“Strategic Planning for a Prosperous Future”
Richard Hermonot; Farm Credit East, Erin Pirro; Farm Credit East
Develop a farm business plan, a succession plan or marketing plan to help your farm business move towards a more rewarding future!

Or: “Unleashing the Management Power of Your Records”
Discuss how you can simplify your numbers and get the most out of financial records for making strategic business decisions that will maximize your potential for success!

Navigating Local Land Use Regulations & Maximizing Farm Tax Benefits
Joan Nichols; Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
Get the scoop on the tax programs available to CT farmers; including PA 490, and discover tips for navigating local zoning and wetlands regulations related to your farming operation.

The Hows and Why’s of Organic Farming
Bill Duesing; CT NOFA, Old Solar Farm, Michael Keilty; UConn Extension
Organic farming principles and practices improve your farm’s sustainability and resilience. Bring your questions about organic methods and how to certify your farm.

NEW – Farm Marketing via Communication & Social Media
Keith Padin and Alyson Angelini; Full Heart Farm
Every farm has a story; explore engaging ways to share your story and utilize high-speed modern communications and social media to help you stay relevant to your customers.

NEW – Introduction for Veterans in Agriculture
Peter Frazzelli; Crop Growers Insurance
Get the ball rolling; an informational session for military veterans interested in agriculture and a starting point for agricultural opportunities.

NEW – Agritourism (2 options – Choose your focus)
Agritourism Opportunities for You and Your Customers
Explore opportunities ranging from ideas for farm-related attractions to using your numbers to select the best project first to pricing strategies (including pricing).

Or: Are You Covered? Managing Your Agritourism Risks
Matt Wright; Lyons & Wright Insurance
Have you or are you considering opening up your farm for agritourism? Learn about how to manage the liability and risks associated with inviting the public onto your farm.

NRCS Grant Programs for Farmers
Vivian Felten, Jesse Raymond, and Amy Fischer; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Learn more about the financial and technical assistance available to farmers for conservation improvements to their land.

Highlights of FSA Programs, Loans & Eligibility
Teresa Fevay, Sarah Woodward, Martha Dorsey; USDA-Farm Service Agency
Gain a better understanding about Farm Service Agency loans and program eligibility and how they can help your farm operation.

CT Farm Energy Program
Amanda Fargo-Johnson; CT Farm Energy Program
Going Green for Agricultural! Get insight into this clearinghouse of information on energy programs as well as technical assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for on-farm use.

Wednesday February 22, 2017
Tolland County Extension Center
TAC 24 Hyde Avenue,
Vernon, CT
4pm-8:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• The How’s and Why’s of Organic Farming
• Marketing via Communication & Social Media
• Agritourism: Managing the Risk
• CT Farm Energy

Saturday March 4, 2017
CT Farm Bureau Office
78 Beaver Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
9am-3:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• Marketing via Communication & Social Media
• Highlights of FSA Programs, Loans & Eligibility
• CT Farm Energy

Monday March 13, 2017
Middlesex County Extension Center
1066 Old Saybrook Road,
Haddam CT
9am-3:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• Introduction to Veterans in Agriculture
• Agritourism; Managing the Risks
• Marketing via Communication & Social Media
• Highlights of FSA Programs, Loans & Eligibility

Saturday March 25, 2017
Common Ground High School
358 Springside Ave.
New Haven, CT
9am-3:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• Introduction to Veterans in Agriculture
• Highlights of FSA Programs, Loans & Eligibility

Thursday March 30, 2017
New London County Extension Center
562 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT
9am-3:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• Introduction to Farming for Veterans
• Highlights of FSA Programs, Loans & Eligibility
• CT Farm Energy

Monday April 10, 2017
Wamogo High School,
Agri-Science Center
98 Wamogo Rd.
Litchfield, CT
9am-3:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• The How’s and Why’s of Organic Farming
• Introduction to Veterans in Agriculture
• Agritourism; Managing the Risks
• NRCS-Conservation Programs

Tuesday April 18, 2017
Fairfield County Extension Center
67 Stony Hill Road
Bethel, CT
9am-3:30pm
• Protecting Investments with Crop Insurance
• Estate Planning/Farm Transfer
• Farm Business & Marketing
• Ag Land Use Regulations & Taxation
• The How’s and Why’s of Organic Farming

These One-on-One sessions provide you with the opportunity to sit down in a confidential setting with an agri-business professional for up to one hour to discuss farm related questions, concerns, and techniques to help your agribusiness succeed into the future.

TOLL FREE: 1-860-875-3331
www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu/one-on-one.php

These institutions are an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer and program provider.

SNOW DATE; Wednesday April 26th Tolland County Extension Center, TAC 24 Hyde Ave. Vernon, CT TBD
Updated Resources on Growing Vegetable and Herb Transplants

By: Leanne Pundt, UConn Extension and Tina Smith, UMass Extension

With the increased interest in local food production, more growers are producing vegetable and herb bedding plants and transplants. The following online resources have been updated to provide you with the latest, most up to date information with easy to read tables to help you find information quickly.

Growing Vegetable Bedding Plants and Transplants

https://nevegetable.org/vegetable-transplant-production

The vegetable bedding plant section of the New England Vegetable Guide that is online has recently been updated. This section includes up-to-date information on:

- Growing Media and Nutrition (including organic fertility)
- Seeding and Transplanting
- Plant Culture and Height Management
- Disease Management
- Insect and Mite Management
- Weed Management
- Table on Scouting Guidelines and Biological Control Options for Vegetable Bedding Plants;
- Table on Fungicides and Bactericides Labeled for Vegetable Transplants and Bedding Plants;
- Table on Insecticides Labeled for Insect and Mites on Vegetable Transplants and Bedding Plants

Growing Herb Bedding Plants:

UConn Greenhouse IPM Website:

http://ipm.uconn.edu/pa_greenhouse/

Scouting Guidelines and Biological Control Options:


Insecticide Table: http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/view.php?id=1099

Fungicide Table: http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/view.php?id=1098

Downy Mildew on Basil in the Greenhouse:


Photo Scouting Resources

- Tips on Scouting Vegetable Bedding Plants: Pest and Disease ID

- Scouting Herb Bedding Plants: Pest and Disease ID

- Identifying Some Pest and Beneficials on Sticky Cards
  http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/view.php?id=888
Solid Ground Farmer Trainings: Strengthening Our Farms Across Connecticut

These trainings are based on input from Beginning Farmers (BFs) as well as UConn Extension’s recent experience with BFs.

BF 105: Fruit Production for Small Scale Farming
⇒ Thursday Mar. 16th, 2017 (9:30am-12:30pm) at Community Farm of Simsbury – 73 Wolcott Rd, Simsbury, CT

BF 106: Vegetable Production for Small Scale Farming
⇒ Wednesday Mar. 8th, 2017 (4-7pm) at Common Ground High School – 358 Springside Ave, New Haven, CT
⇒ Wednesday Mar. 15th, 2017 (5-8pm) at Knox Inc. – 75 Laurel St, Hartford, CT
⇒ Saturday March 25th, 2017 (10:30am-1:30pm) Hosted by Green Village Initiative at Bridgeport Public Library – 925 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT

BF 120: Irrigation and Water Management Systems
⇒ Sat. April 29th, 2017 (9:30am-12:30pm) at Common Ground H.S. – 358 Springside Ave, New Haven, CT

Want to know more details on upcoming Solid Ground Farmer Trainings? Need to register?
Contact: Charlotte.ross@uconn.edu or 860-875-3331

Learn more by visiting http://newfarms.extension.uconn.edu/solidground/

This project is sponsored by the USDA-NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Award #2016-70017-25416.

Calendar of Events (continued)

Center, Haddam, CT Contact: Candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu (see pg. 11)

Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 - FSMA Produce Safety Rule/Produce Safety Alliance Approved Grower Training Course, 9:00am-3:30pm, Tolland County Extension Center, Vernon, CT Contact: Diane.hirsch@uconn.edu (see pg. 10)

Mar. 8-9 - FSMA Produce Safety Rule/Produce Safety Alliance Approved Grower Training Course, 9:00am-3:30pm, Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT Contact: Diane.hirsch@uconn.edu (see pg. 10)

Mar. 9 - Creating and Improving Pollinator Habitat on Your Farm, 8:30 - 4:00pm, Cost $40 (includes lunch and break), Jones Auditorium, Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT Contact: tracey.zarrillo@ct.gov or 203-974-8473

Mar.12 - Ag Re$ource Fair @ the CT NOFA's Winter Conference at Western CT State University, Danbury, CT Contact: charlotte.ross@uconn.edu

Mar. 16 - Worker Protection Standard Workshop. 9:30am—12:00pm Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT Contact: Candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu (see pg. 11)
Your Farm Can Feed Connecticut’s Schools

Does your farm grow summer squash and zucchini, string beans or leafy greens? Did you know that those products plus apples, berries and winter squash are in high demand by schools for their breakfast and lunch programs? And these cafeterias don’t close for summer! The federal Summer Meals Program provides kids with free, nutritious meals throughout the summer to help keep them healthy and nourished during the summer so they can return to school in the fall ready to learn.

The desire and dollars to get Connecticut grown products in school meals is growing. This growing demand represents new wholesale markets for your farm. To help kids learn more about where their food comes from, UConn Extension’s Put Local on your Tray program offers materials and support services to help school districts serve and celebrate locally grown products. The program currently encourages the use of 10 products: Zucchini/Summer Squash, Winter Squash, Leafy Greens, Small fruits and Berries, Orchard Crops, String Beans, Meat, Dairy, Root Crops and Sweet Corn. Across the state there are 30 school districts participating in the Tray program, all of which have pledged to feature locally grown products on their menu on themed ‘Local Tray Days’.

According to the USDA’s 2015 farm to school census, 70% of Connecticut schools participated in farm-to-school activities; the majority in fruits and vegetables. That represented over $7 million invested in local food. Another 19% of districts surveyed planned to start farm to school activities in the future. In addition, 18% of school districts reported using local food in their summer lunch programs.

Summer lunch programs represent a large untapped market for CT growers. There are over 60 sites serving close to 2 million summer meals at the height of our growing season. For the first time, the Tray program is rolling out a promotional program to highlight Zucchini and Summer Squash. We are hoping for high demand for these products and your farm can be a contracted supplier.

Schools are eager to begin contacting farms in preparation for spring opportunities. In order to build a database of farmers that might be a good match for schools in the Tray program, UConn Extension is circulating a very brief questionnaire. This 5-minute questionnaire will simply identify your business as being interested in selling your products to schools in your area.

Farmer questionnaire: CLICK HERE

For more information please contact:
Shannon Raider-Ginsburg
Sales.putlocalonyourtray@uconn.edu
Put Local On Your Tray, UConn Extension

CHECK OUT THE NEW VEGETABLE PEST ID PHOTO FILES ON THE UCONN IPM WEBSITE!

WWW.IP.M.UCONN.EDU
FSMA Produce Safety Rule/Produce Safety Alliance Approved
Grower Training Course

February 28 and March 1, 2017
9:00 am through 3:30 pm
March 2, Snow Date
Registration Deadline February 20
Tolland County Extension Center
24 Hyde Avenue
Vernon, CT 06066-4599
(860) 875-3331

March 8 and 9, 2017
9:00 am through 3:30 pm
March 10, Snow Date
Registration Deadline March 1
Middlesex County Extension Center
1066 Saybrook Road
Haddam, Connecticut 06438
(860) 345-4511

Directions to the venues will be provided to all who register.

COST: No charge to CT Farmers; $100 for others and an additional $35 for the AFDO certificate (price includes cost of curriculum, breaks, lunch and materials).

REGISTRATION: Please email Diane Hirsch at diane.hirsch@uconn.edu or call 203.407.3163 to register or if you have questions about the course. Note registration deadlines above. Please provide the following information when you register:

- Name of attendee(s)
- Farm/operation name
- Mailing address
- Phone number (be sure this is a number that can be used if needed to inform about a weather cancellation)
- Email address

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge that includes emphasis on co-management of food safety and environmental management goals, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires ‘At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.’

In order to obtain a certificate that provides evidence of compliance with the training requirements of the rule, you must be present for the entire two-day course.
How to Comply with the 2015 Revised EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) For Agricultural Pesticides
What Owners and Employers Need to Know?

How to Comply Workshop Schedule

Who is this training for?
For agricultural employers of farm workers and or pesticide handlers on farms, forests, greenhouses, nurseries. Also for commercial pesticide application employers.

Why?
The revised worker protection standard went into effect on January 2, 2017. There will be further requirements beginning January 2, 2018. Learn what farm owners and commercial pesticide applicators must do to comply with the new WPS Rule.

When will Training Be Offered?
Two workshops remaining:
⇒ February 27th at the Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
⇒ March 16th at the Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

We will also Have a Risk Management and Crop Insurance program update by UConn Extension.

Registration
The Worker Protection Standard Workshop is free but Pre-registration is required:
⇒ To register, send an email to: candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu
⇒ In the subject line, write “WPS Update”.
⇒ In your email include: names of all attendees, their farm or organization names, phone numbers (in case of weather issues), email addresses
⇒ If you prefer to register by phone, or if you have any questions, contact Diane Labonia or Marilyn Diaz at: 860-570-9010

This program is a cooperative effort of UConn Extension, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the Risk Management Agency/USDA. “ These institutions are an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer and program provider.

Coming out in March 2017!

Recommendations specific to New England conditions

Includes strawberries, highbush blueberries, brambles, currants and gooseberries, grapes

Prepared by experts from six states in the region

Discusses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and protecting honeybees and other pollinators

For a hardcopy, order online at www.store.uconn.edu or call 860-486-3336.

Address: UConn CAHNR Communications Resource Center
3624 Horsebarn Road Extension U-4035,
Storrs, CT 06269-4035.

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