



U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help The Land

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Connecticut

June/July/August 2013

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NRCS Easement Program to Help State Recover from Hurricane Sandy, Prevent Damage

NRCS is providing up to \$124.8 million in Emergency Watershed Protection Program-Floodplain Easement (EWP-FPE) funding to help prevent damages from future storm events in Connecticut and other states affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Floodplains store water, helping to protect lands downstream from future flood damage. When the health and integrity of the lands deteriorate, so do the environmental, economic, and social benefits they provide. "Restoring these ecosystems ensures our lands are resilient to future threats and impacts," said NRCS State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale.

NRCS purchases the permanent easements on eligible lands and restores the area to natural conditions. A healthy floodplain enhances fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, and ground water recharge. The program complements traditional disaster recovery funding and allows NRCS to purchase a permanent easement on lands within floodplains that sustained damage from Sandy.

NRCS will accept applications for EWP-FPE from July 8-September 2, 2013.

Funds are only available in counties affected by Hurricane Sandy and where a major disaster was declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Private lands and those owned by local and state governments are eligible if they are located in a floodplain, not subject to tidal influence or action from storm waves, (i.e., FEMA Zones V, VE, or V1-30). Eligible land must have evidence of having been flooded by Hurricane Sandy, and meet one of the following requirements:

- Damaged by flooding at least once within the previous calendar year or damaged by flooding at least twice in the past 10 years, or

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NRCS Easement Program to Help State Recover from Hurricane Sandy, Prevent Damage *(continued)*

- Would contribute to the restoration of flood storage and flow, provide for control of erosion, or improve the practical management of the floodplain easement, or
- Could be inundated or adversely impacted as a result of a dam breach.

Easement compensation rates and ranking priorities vary by location and depend on where the land is located within the floodplain and whether it is agricultural or vacant land or land with homes or other structures.

The program easements are permanent in term. Lands with structures, such as homes, are eligible for enrollment as well as open or agricultural lands. If a structure is present, NRCS will cost-share the removal or demolition of that structure and enroll the remaining lot in a permanent easement.

To learn more about the EWP-FPE Program and how to apply, visit

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/home/?cid=stelprdb1143958.

Interested landowners should contact one of the following:

- Arthur Ramthun, EWP Program Manager, (860) 871-4030, arthur.ramthun@ct.usda.gov
- Carol Donzella, EWP Coordinator, (203) 287-8038 ext. 100, carol.donzella@ct.usda.gov
- Local USDA Service Center:
 - Danielson (860) 779-0557 ext. 102
 - Hamden (203) 287-8038 ext. 101
 - Norwich (860) 887-3604 ext. 307
 - Torrington (860) 626-8258 ext. 200
 - Windsor (860) 688-7725 ext. 118

Engineers Attend Association of Floodplain Managers Meeting



Nollar Herbert Speaking about DamWatch at 2013 ASFPM in Hartford.

NRCS State Conservation Engineer Arthur Ramthun, and engineers Lesley Sweeney and Ben Smith attended the Association of State Floodplain Managers 37th Annual Meeting in June. The conference, held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, was appropriate not only for floodplain management topics, but as a forum to discuss problems and solutions related to Hurricane Sandy.

Throughout the week, more than 250 of the industry's experts conducted plenary and concurrent sessions and shared state-of-the-art techniques, programs, and resources to accomplish flood mitigation, watershed management, etc.

Some of the speakers and their topics included: Bill Nechamen, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, *The Sandy Storm: New York State*; Mark Mauriello, former Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, *Sandy: Impacts and Implications for New Jersey*; Holly Bamford, Ph.D., Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, *NOAA Preparing for the Next Sandy*; and Doug Plasencia, Gilbert White Flood Policy Forum Chair *Human Adjustments in Coasts – Adaptive Management of Changing Hazards, Risks, and Ecosystems*.

Staff and Volunteers Receive GPR Training

Contact Debbie Surabian 860.871.4042

Soil Scientist James Doolittle of the National Soil Survey Center, was in Connecticut recently to provide Ground Penetrating Radar training and technical assistance to the staff.

Ground-penetrating radar has been used in eight cultural resources projects being carried out in cooperation with the Connecticut State Archaeologist, Connecticut Archaeology Center, University of Connecticut, and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology.

NRCS soil scientists have provided technical assistance to a variety of archaeology-related projects. Their assistance has included soil profile descriptions, soil testing, and determining likely places to search for unmarked historical graves and structures. The work provided on these projects has greatly increased public awareness to NRCS's commitment to identifying and protecting our nation's cultural resources. The stewardship of cultural resources is an integral component of the conservation ethic that underlies NRCS's mission.



State Soil Scientist Debbie Surabian discusses the results of a GRP survey and NRCS's cultural resources commitment to participants.

NRCS recently partnered with the Connecticut State Archaeologist, Connecticut Archaeology Center, University of Connecticut, and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology to assist with ground penetrating radar in eight cultural resources projects. They were:

1. Indian Head Cemetery is located in Middletown. The purpose of this GPR study was to ensure there are no unmarked graves in several areas of open space within the cemetery. Random GPR traverses were conducted across portions of the area selected by the cemetery's caretakers. The results of the study did not provide unequivocal evidence of a burial other than by association with a headstone.
 2. Adath Israel Cemetery is located in Middletown. Three relatively small, open areas were scanned with the GPR to ascertain whether there were any unmarked graves occupying these sites. No indications of burials were observed. Based on radar interpretations, these areas are open and suitable for future burials.
 3. Another GPR project was a cold case site in Manchester involving two women missing since the 1970s. It was later reported a man had been seen burying something in his backyard in North Stonington. The purpose of this project was to help police reduce their search zone to a few points. While no recorded reflection pattern could be conclusively identified as a burial, several locations having anomalous reflection patterns were identified and marked for the Manchester Police.
 4. The Adam Stanton House is located in Clinton. The Stanton House was built in 1789 on the former site of Rector Abraham Pierson's house (which from 1704-1707 was used to instruct students of the Collegiate School). The purpose of the investigation was to detect remnants of the former Pierson house.
 5. Old South Burying Ground is located in Hartford. The city's second oldest burying ground, it was used between 1801-1872. The patterns resulting from the study suggest the possibility of burial sites and unmarked graves in this portion of the site.
- Four detailed GPR grid surveys were conducted in relatively open areas of the Old Burying Ground in Deerfield, Massachusetts. This site was used primarily in the early 1700s and 1800s, and contains some of the oldest graves in the Connecticut River Valley. It is believed to contain unmarked graves of Native Americans, African slaves, and transients. The purpose of the survey was to search for unmarked and mass graves. Bands of elongated (in an east to west orientation), linear, subsurface reflections were apparent within two grids. As these reflectors appear orderly arranged and occur at a common depth, they suggest possible burial and unmarked graves. A GPR survey conducted over the mound containing the monument commemorating the victims of the 1704 French and Indian raid on Deerfield, revealed no evidence of a mass grave.
 - Another location is that of a 19th Century Mine tunnel near Litchfield. The study detected a known tunnel, but could not map its extent, or detect other similar features under the existing terrain conditions. Although the soils are suitable for deep penetration with GPR, the steeply sloping, rocky, and forested terrain of this site was too hostile for its effective use.
 - Deer Run is located in Warren. The site is currently under excavation and suspected to contain the encampments of early Native Americans. It also contains the earliest burying ground in Warren (circa 1700). Three tombstones are visible above ground, with others not apparent. GPR confirmed the presence of two marked and indicated the possibility of four to six unmarked grave sites.

NRCS Uses GPR to Locate Historic Site

Contact Debbie Surabian 860.871.4042

At the request of Connecticut State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni, NRCS staff participated in a ground-penetrating radar survey at a site located in Sherwood Island State Park, in Westport. NRCS was asked to assist in defining historical areas of the park. The “Archaeology Day” was sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Friends of Sherwood Island.

In 1787, the Sherwood descendants settled on Fox Island. There they grew crops such as onions and potatoes, and harvested oysters from Mill Pond – all of which was sent by ship to New York. Not too many years later, the area became known as Sherwood’s Island. In 1914, the State of Connecticut authorized the formation of the very first state park ... Sherwood Island State Park. (Today it is 234 acres in size.)

Random radar traverses were conducted across the field in an attempt to locate the remnants of the buried foundation of the Old Daniel Sherwood Homestead, as well as pipes and the well.



Old Daniel Sherwood Homestead circa 1937. This photo shows the abandoned house and barn prior to being torn down in the 1940s.



Area where archaeologists believe the homestead was located.

Overall, the survey revealed patterns that could be associated with a foundation of a house. The area of random patterns and intensities of reflections indicates an area of fill material. The mixed fill material may have been used to fill and level the site. This area seems to indicate the best location for an archaeological dig.

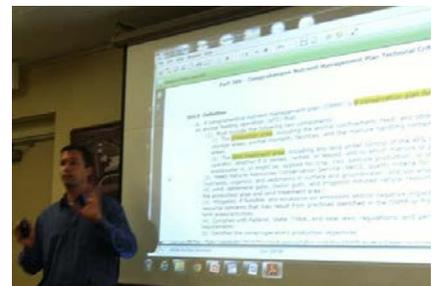
CNMP Training Provided to Staff and District Employees

Contact Jim Hyde 860.871.4022

NRCS State Agronomist Jim Hyde and Cooperative Extension System Educator Rich Meinert recently utilized newly-acquired Manure Management Planner software to provide Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan training to NRCS and District staffs.

Conservation planners are preparing farm plans to identify all resource concerns on the farm, as well as recommendations on how to address those concerns. In addition, farms will need Nutrient Management Plans to develop a means to spread manure to maximize crop production while minimizing environmental concerns.

The training received excellent reviews, “I am really excited about working with the new tools to develop CNMPs,” said Michael Moran of the Northwest Conservation District. Part II is scheduled for mid-august, and will dig deeper into the planning methods specific to Nutrient Management Planning.



Jim Hyde addresses the group.

People Page

Connecticut Bids Adieu to Student Volunteer

Contact Carol Donzella 203.287.8038, Ext. 100

Earth Team Volunteer Jackie Goodwin, a recent high school graduate, joined NRCS in early May to fulfill her senior year work study requirement. While working alongside NRCS and District staff in the Hamden field office she gained valuable, hands-on experience, met several members of our agricultural community, and made a lot of new friends. Jackie is heading off to college to study environmental science. *Thanks, Jackie, for all your hard work!*



Earth Teamer Jackie Goodwin (l) poses with Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman (c), and NRCS State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale at the Celebrating Women in Agriculture event.

Isleib Receives Award

Former NRCS Soil Survey Team members Richard Shaw, **Jacob Isleib**, and Lindsay Reinhardt (*pictured*), were honored with the **2013 Soil Science Industry and Professional Leadership Award** from the Soil Science Society of America and the Agronomic Science Foundation for their accomplishments from 2007 to 2010.

Accomplishments included a high intensity (Bronx River Watershed) and initial Soil Survey of New York City; special projects on infiltration and land use, trace metals, hydric soils, SOC stocks; site inspections for restoration and storm water projects; urban soils training sessions, lectures and field trips; volunteer and internship opportunities; and an international urban soils conference. Among the many cooperators were six municipal agencies, 10 local colleges, and eight environmental non-profits.



Isleib has been a member of the Soil Survey Office 12-TOL staff for several years. *Congratulations, Jacob!*



Rock Cats Give Thumbs Up to USDA!

The New Britain Rock Cats recently held their annual Ag Day at the Ball Park and NRCS and the Farm Service Agency were on hand for the festivities. Fernando Rincon, who helped staff the display, captured a surprise moment on film when the team mascots paid a visit to the booth. The two gave thumbs up to the Team USDA baseball theme!

Soil Survey Staff Completes Dune Sampling Project

Contact: Marissa Theve 860.871.4018 Donald Parizek 860.871.4044

Soil Survey Office 12-TOL members Donald Parizek, Jacob Isleib, Nels Barrett, and Marissa Theve recently traveled to Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, in Massachusetts, to sample sandy Hooksan soils (https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/H/HOOKSAN.html). Joining them was Massachusetts Soil Scientist Glenn Stanisewski.

Hooksan soils were formed in Holocene aged (0 to 10,000 years old) eolian (wind-blown) sands accumulated in the back areas of dunes. Currently there is uncertainty over whether the grains are truly *quartz* (>90% resistant minerals/quartz) or *mixed* mineralogy for this soil series. Hooksan is currently classified as a mesic uncoated Typic Quartzipsamments, but if the mineralogy is found to be mixed, the classification will be changed to mesic Typic Udipsamments.

The crew described and sampled three soil pedons, including two complete pedons at Cape Cod National Sea Shore to better understand the soils and vegetation correlations for future land management objectives.

Typical vegetation included plant inventories of extensive Dunelands, Pitch Pine Woodlands, and Beech Forest. The soils revealed that some areas of pine woodlands (which accumulate more organic matter than their shrubbier counterparts) and the Beech forest contained a thin silt layer.

In keeping with tight restrictions on travel, the crew stayed at a local campground and commuted to the National Sea Shore, stopping to meet the National Park Service staff and discuss future ecological site plans for the region.



Pine woodland Hooksan profile



Nels Barrett, Glenn Stanisewski Donald Parizek and Jacob Isleib at the last sampling pit of the trip



Soil scientists Marissa Theve, Donald Parizek and Jacob Isleib dig sample pit

The team sampled for 2 ½ days, resulting in three fully lab sampled pedons and two transects with ecological site data. The samples will be sent to the Kellogg Soil Survey Lab in Lincoln, Nebraska, for a full analysis.



Typical Hooksan landscape

Staff Represents NRCS at Plant Science Day

Contact Lisa Krall 860.871.4051

It was a beautiful summer day and both exhibitors and the public turned out in droves.

USDA was again among the exhibitors, but this year NRCS and FSA were in more of team mode. The two agencies paired up to host a double exhibit that highlighted Team USDA, FSA loan programs, and their main theme – the water cycle.

The event, sponsored by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, is held annually at Lockwood Farm, a 75-acre research farm in Hamden. It features a day of plant science open to the public. Among the highlights were the Century Farm Award and the Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture. This year's technical demonstrations included Beekeeping Basics and Soil Testing to Improve Plant Growth.

Team USDA expanded on the Water Cycle theme with a kid's activity of making water cycle bracelets. Colored beads, representing each cycle, were placed on a string to form a colorful bracelet that would help kids remember the steps in the progression of water.



State Resource Conservationist Nancy Ferlow helps some youngsters with their beads.



Colorful water cycle bracelets were the order of the day at the Team USDA booth.



Soil Scientist Lisa Krall, who coordinated the event for USDA, helps out at the booth.

Soil Survey Staff Completes Brimfield/Brookfield Project

Contact: Marissa Theve 860.871.4018 Donald Parizek 860.871.4044



Earth Team Volunteers Michelle Ducharme (left) and Devon Spector (right) assist soil scientists Marissa Theve and Donald Parizek

Soil Survey Office 12-TOL members Donald Parizek, Jacob Isleib, and Marissa Theve recently conducted a final review for the ongoing Post-Active Acid Sulfate Soils Project in Major Land Resource Area 144A- New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part.

These soils were formed in Wisconsin aged (10,000-20,000 years old) glacial till derived from a sulfur-bearing schist bedrock formation called the Brimfield formation. This highly weatherable reddish-orange color bedrock was ground up and smeared into nearby areas during glaciation. When the bedrock and new parent material were subsequently exposed, they oxidized from sulfuric and other acids due to sulfur-iron compounds present (parasesquic mineralogy). Over time, the

acids leached down and left iron compounds behind in the soil. Water quality issues (high iron content) in local wells are often associated with the bedrock formation and the soils.

The three series established to describe these soils are:

- Brimfield (shallow to bedrock; https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/B/BRIMFIELD.html),
- Nipmuck (moderately deep to bedrock; https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/N/NIPMUCK.html)
- Brookfield (deep to bedrock; https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/B/BROOKFIELD.html).

The results of the review determined the crew needed to describe a few more of the moderately deep Nipmuck series to meet minimum documentation requirements. The 12-TOL soil scientists – along with Earth Team Volunteers Greg Anderson, Michelle

Ducharme, and Devin Spector – went to work. The team described six Nipmuck locations in 1 ½ days. All have been entered into the National Soils Information System and are ready for review by the MLRA Office. 12-TOL staff looks forward to wrapping up this project – which began in the 1990s.



Nipmuck soil, note the reddish hue in the subsoil

News You Can Use Bulletin Board

It's Fair Time!!

Aug. 9-10	Lebanon Country Fair
Aug. 9-11	Tolland County 4H Fair
Aug. 10	Ekonk Community Grange Fair
Aug. 10	Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market
Aug. 16-18	Hartford County 4H Fair
Aug. 16-18	Bridgewater Country Fair
Aug. 16-18	Wolcott Country Fair
Aug. 16-18	Hamburg Fair, Lyme
Aug. 17	Riverton Grange Fair
Aug. 17	Southington Grange Community Fair
Aug. 18	Cannon Grange Agricultural Fair & Exposition, Wilton
Aug. 22-25	Brooklyn Fair
Aug. 23-25	Chester Fair
Aug. 23-25	Terryville Lions County Fair
Aug. 24-25	Cheshire Grange Community Fair
Aug. 30-Sept. 2	Haddam Neck Fair
Aug. 30-Sept. 2	Woodstock Fair
Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Goshen Fair
Sept. 5-8	Hebron Harvest Fair
Sept. 5-8	North Haven Fair
Sept. 5-8	Wapping Fair
Sept. 6-8	Bethlehem Fair
Sept. 6-8	Ledyard Fair
Sept. 6-7	Granby Grange Agricultural Fair
Sept. 7	Meriden Grange Fair
Sept. 8	Northfield Grange Agricultural Fair
Sept. 12-15	Four Town Fair
Sept. 14	Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair
Sept. 14	Wallingford Grange Fair
Sept. 14	Hillstown Grange Agricultural Fair, East Hartford
Sept. 20-22	Guilford Agricultural Fair
Sept. 21-22	Orange County Fair
Sept. 26-29	Durham Fair
Oct. 4-6	Berlin Fair
Oct. 5-6	Harwinton Fair
Oct. 11-13	Riverton Fair

Welcome to your stretch of the month

Shoulder Stretch

Sitting with your shoulders hunched forward while you type can cause tightness throughout the back of your shoulder area. Tight shoulders can increase your chances of developing problems with your rotator cuff (the group of muscles and tendons that connect your arm to your shoulder). To perform a simple shoulder stretch, sit or stand with your raised arms straight out in front of you at shoulder height. Bend your right elbow and rest your right hand on your left shoulder blade. Using your left hand, gently nudge your right elbow back until you feel a stretch in your right shoulder. Hold the stretch for 30 seconds, then release and repeat on the opposite side.



Students/Teacher Learn About EWP

As part of our professions, we take for granted interest in water control issues. But sometimes we find out that these types of projects are interesting to others outside of our circle ... people you don't normally think about caring, or knowing, about this type of work. Case in point ...

Last spring, State Conservation Engineer Arthur Ramthun received a call from Yale student Amara Frumin, who teaches a select group of students who are interested in water control projects.

After sorting out some details (which included securing the help of Bristol Town Engineer Raymond Rogozinski), Ramthun helped put together a tour and presentation that highlighted the benefits of the recovery portion of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Despite the weather still being chilly, the group visited several EWP sites to see conservation in action. Ramthun explained the program, conservation, and NRCS in general.

After the event, Ramthun received a thank you note from Ms. Frumkin letting him know how much she, her students, and her boss enjoyed the tour. She said they learned a great deal, and noted that it was "really inspiring and impressive to see what you have done."



Bristol Town Engineer Raymond Rogozinski talks to the students about the Jacob Street Project.

NRCS Represented at Summer Career Program

Contact Debbie Surabian 860.871.4042



State Soil Scientist Debbie Surabian (right) talks to some of the students about careers in NRCS.

Students in New Britain are being given an opportunity to expand their horizons for their future careers at Community Central's **Dream Big** summer program. Every Saturday from June 24-August 2, representatives from all different walks of life are on hand to give students the opportunity to find something that interests them and develop their skills toward that goal. The assistant director of community engagement at Community Central explains the goal is for them to create a path to success.

NRCS was on-hand recently as State Soil Scientist Debbie Surabian and Earth Team Volunteer Greg Anderson participated. Surabian talked to the group about Connecticut soils, and what a soil scientist does.

NRCS and FSA Staff Install People's Garden in Connecticut

Contact Charlotte Pyle 860.871.4066

For the second year in a row, USDA employees in Tolland have accepted the challenge declared by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to create gardens at USDA facilities.

NRCS and FSA employees and volunteers at the Tolland State Office donated supplies and built the 20' x 10' plot in an effort to provide food for the less fortunate in the area, demonstrate sustainable practices, and provide wildlife habitat (including habitat for pollinators and insects beneficial to crop production).



Several NRCS and FSA staff members pose by the newly constructed People's Garden.

This *Three Sisters Garden* is a nod to the traditional Native American practice of planting corn, beans, and squash together. The corn stalks serve as beanpoles, the bean roots provide the extra nitrogen corn needs, and the squash keeps down weeds and helps protect the corn. Inter-planting these crops is widespread among Native American farming societies.

Secretary Vilsack began the People's Garden Initiative – named in honor of President Lincoln's description of USDA as the People's Department — in 2009 in an effort to challenge employees to create gardens at USDA

facilities. It has since grown into a collaborative effort of over 700 local and national organizations all working together to establish community and school gardens across the country. The simple act of planting a garden can help unite neighborhoods in a common effort and inspire locally-led solutions to challenges facing our country – from hunger to the environment.



A recent photo of the NRCS-FSA People's Garden in Tolland.

FDA Extends Deadline to Comment on Food Safety Modernization Act

Each year, about 48 million Americans (1 in 6) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne diseases, according to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is a significant public health burden that is largely preventable.

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), signed into law by President Obama on January 4, 2013, enables FDA to better protect public health by strengthening the food safety system. It enables FDA to focus more on preventing food safety problems rather than relying primarily on reacting to problems after they occur. The law also provides FDA with new enforcement authorities designed to achieve higher rates of compliance with prevention- and risk-based food safety standards and to better respond to and contain problems when they do occur. The law also gives FDA important new tools to hold imported foods to the same standards as domestic foods and directs FDA to build an integrated national food safety system in partnership with state and local authorities.

Building a new food safety system based on prevention will take time, and FDA is creating a process for getting this work done. Congress has established specific implementation dates in the legislation. Some authorities will go into effect quickly, such as FDA's new authority to order companies to recall food; and others require FDA to prepare and issue regulations and guidance documents. The funding the agency gets each year, which affects staffing and vital operations, will also affect how quickly

FDA can put this legislation into effect. FDA is committed to implementing the requirements through an open process with opportunity for input from all stakeholders.

FDA is taking this action to allow interested persons the opportunity to consider the interrelationships between these two proposals, which were published on January 16, 2013, and the two new proposed rules that published on July 29, 2013, Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals and the Accreditation of Third-Party Auditors/Certification Bodies to Conduct Food Safety Audits and to Issue Certifications.

FDA recently issued Federal Register notices to extend the comment periods on the proposed rules for Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food and Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption 60 days until **November 15, 2013**. This is the second and final extension of the comment period for these two rules. The extension of the comment period also applies to the information collection provisions associated with the proposed rules.

For more information about FSMA, visit the FDA's website at

www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm

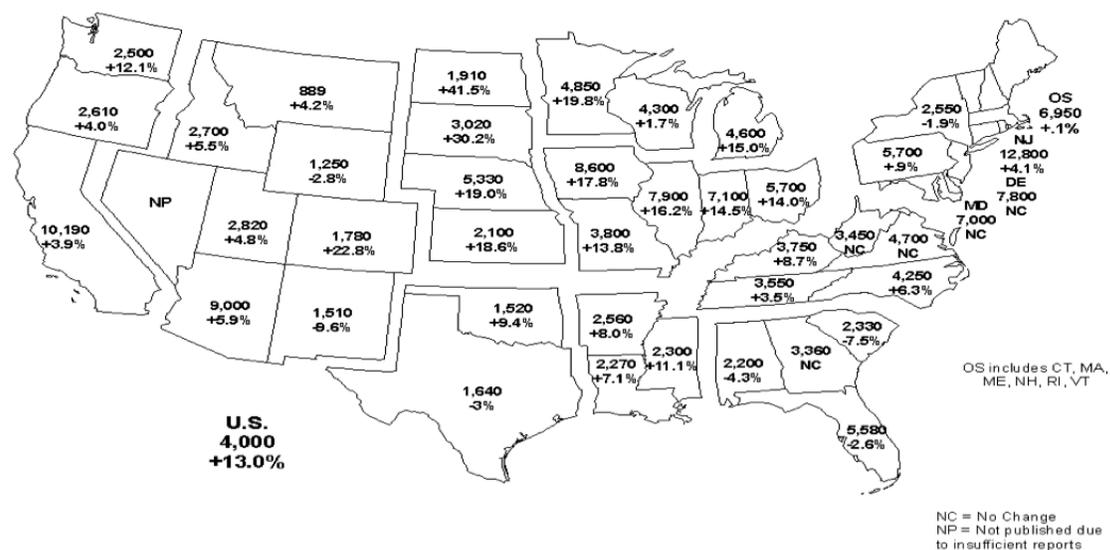
2013 Agricultural Land Values Highlights

The United States farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$2,900 per acre for 2013, up 9.4 percent from revised 2012 values. Regional changes in the average value of farm real estate ranged from a 23.1 percent increase in the Northern Plains region to no change in the Southeast region. The highest farm real estate values were in the Cornbelt region at \$6,400 per acre. The Mountain region had the lowest farm real estate value at \$1,020 per acre. The United States cropland value increased by \$460 per acre (13.0 percent) to \$4,000 per acre. In the Northern Plains and Corn Belt regions, the average cropland value increased 25.0 and 16.1 percent, respectively, from the previous year. However, in the Southeast region, cropland values decreased by 2.8 percent.

The United States pasture value increased to \$1,200 per acre, or 4.3 percent above 2012. The Southeast region had the largest percentage decrease in pasture value, 1.5 percent below 2012. The Northern Plains had the highest increase at 18.4 percent.

2013 Cropland Value by State

Dollars per Acre and Percent Change from 2012



News From Partners ...



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

DEEP Asking for Help to Learn About State's Food Recovery Efforts

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is interested in learning more about food recovery efforts in Connecticut. This includes food rescue programs and gleaning projects.

If you are a farmer or grower in Connecticut and want to help, take the *Gleaning in Connecticut Survey*. It's a short, online questionnaire that will take less than 5 minutes. Access the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GleaningCT>

The information gathered will help DEEP understand the potential of gleaning as a means of reducing food waste and recovering edible food for Connecticut residents in need.

Questions should be directed to:

Emma Akrawi, Intern
Sustainable Materials Management, Planning and Implementation
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
860-424-3126

Housatonic Valley Makes Envirothon Top 10!!

Connecticut's delegation to the National Envirothon (aka Housatonic Valley Regional High School) did their state proud recently when they came in 8th in the competition.

Teams from 47 states, nine Canadian Provinces, and One Canadian Territory met at Montana State University for the competition sponsored by Canon USA, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the U.S. Forest Service. Students use teamwork to showcase their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and this year's current environmental issue – sustainable rangeland management.

The northeast made a great showing with four teams finishing in the Top 10 ...

- 1st place – The Mount Academy, Esopus, New York
- 2nd place – Newton North High School, Newton, Massachusetts
- 4th place – Keene High School, Keene, New Hampshire
- 8th place – Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, CT

Congratulations to all!

THE NATURALIST'S NICHE

Hiding in Plain Sight

Contact Charlotte Pyle 860.871.4066

The mottled brown, tan, and black Woodcock, sitting on her ground nest blends perfectly into the colors of dead leaves and earth. At first, I couldn't see her, even when someone else quietly pointed to her. Elsewhere, in a grassy field, the Short-winged Green Grasshopper, brown with a grass green colored stripe on its back also is very easy to overlook. (Check this out on the internet sometime!)

In a simple-minded world, there are two kinds of animals: predators that eat other species and prey whose goal it is to stay hidden. Some animals like deer or rabbits freeze, hoping they are hidden, and wait for danger to pass. This strategy often works, but it doesn't allow movement.

Caddisfly larvae have solved the problem of how to stay hidden from predators without losing freedom of movement. You might have seen them in streams or vernal pools. Or, maybe they successfully remained hidden as they scooted along.

Caddisfly larvae cover themselves with sand grains and small rocks, or bits of green leaves, or fragments of twigs. In their cloaks of invisibility, they are able to move around without looking like the juicy prey item they really are.

I always thought this strategy of constructing camouflage clothing was unique to caddisflies. But recently, my husband showed me an odd greyish-brown gall on a milkweed leaf. At least, I thought it was a gall, until it moved. The gall had insect toes sticking out where it contacted the leaf's surface. It was the larval form of the Case-bearing Beetle.

Insects have gone down some very strange pathways of evolution to reach their place in creation. The typical pathway of change is a divergence from what came before. For example, one ancestral species may have lines of descendants that are different in response to changing environmental conditions or pressure from competing species. In contrast, when two unrelated forms of plant or animal life have evolved to reach the same solution to a problem (such as the solution Caddisflies and the Case-bearing Beetle reached for problem of moving while staying hidden), ecologists call it convergent evolution. And, as wondrous as it is, the way creation typically unfolds into diversity, isn't it also nice to recognize that sometimes there can be solutions in common for diverse species.

NRCS 2013 Program Update

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) –AMA provides payments to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices into their farming operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures, and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - CRP reduces soil erosion and sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. *CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, conservation planning, and practice implementation.*

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) –A voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) –EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet federal, state, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) –A voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program provides matching funds to state, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farm and ranch land protection programs to purchase conservation easements.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) - A voluntary program for landowners and operators to protect, restore, and enhance grassland. The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) –A voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. Includes 30-year and permanent easement options and funding for restoration.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) –WHIP is a voluntary program for private landowners to develop and improve high quality habitat that supports wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance.

Office Locations

Danielson Field Office

71 Westcott Road
Danielson, CT 06238
860.779.0557
Raymond Covino
District Conservationist

Norwich Field Office

Yantic River Plaza
238 West Town St.
Norwich, CT 06360
860.887.3604
Javier Cruz
District Conservationist

Torrington Field Office

1185 New Litchfield St.
Torrington, CT 06790
860.626.8258
Kathleen Johnson
District Conservationist

Hamden Field Office

51 Mill Pond Road
Hamden, CT 06514-1703
(203) 287-8038
Diane Blais
District Conservationist

Windsor Field Office

100 Northfield Dr. 4th Floor
Windsor, CT 06095
860.688.7725
Vivian Felten
District Conservationist

Tolland State Office

344 Merrow Road, Suite A
Tolland, CT 06084
860.871.4011
Lisa Coverdale
State Conservationist

Calendar of Events

August

- 7/27-8/25** **LYMAN ORCHARDS SUNFLOWER MAZE** – Middlefield – 9 AM – 5 PM daily. 350,000 sunflowers in the most exciting maze ever, with twists and turns of a roller coaster. Fun trivia challenges help you guide your way. \$10/13+, \$5/4-12, under 3 free. Contact 860.349.6015
- 4** 2013 Understanding Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Webinars – **CROP ROTATION ON DIVERSIFIED FARMS** – 3-4 PM – Instructor Charles Mohler, Cornell University. Audio/video info to join a webinar released app.3 weeks prior to scheduled event. Visit <http://conservationwebinars.net>. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc to join webinar announcement email list and have event information sent directly to your Inbox.
- 10** **Norwalk River Watershed Association's BUTTERFLIES!** 10 Simpaug Turnpike, Redding – 10 AM – 12 PM – Lepidopterist Victor DeMasi will introduce area butterflies and moths, discuss their food and habitats, and show his remarkable collection. Contact DeMasi 203.448.0106 or email victormonarch@yahoo.com
- 10-31** **KIDS CRUISES** – Eagle Landing State Park, Haddam – 10-11 AM. Children will learn to use binoculars, discover the different species of birds along the way, nautical terms, and the ecology of the river. A great way to introduce children to the Connecticut River. \$5/\$15. Contact 860.662.0577 or ctriverquest.com
- 11** **GURLEYVILLE GRISTMILL AND MIPMUCK HIKE** – Mansfield – Travel to Gurleyville, an historic section of Mansfield, for a tour of the gristmill on the Fenton River. The mill and property is owned by Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc., Following the tour, participants are invited to join TLGV Chief Ranger Bill Reid for a hike on the Nipmuck Trail, or to enjoy a self-guided walking tour of historic Gurleyville. No fee, but donation is welcome. Contact 860.774.3300 or bill@tlgv.org
- 11** **2nd GET OUTSIDE AND WALK EVENT** – East Killingly – 1-3:30 PM. Take a 5-mile walk on woodland trail through town conservation land and Chase Reservoir property. Contact 860.779.5310 www.walkkillingly.webs.com
- 11** **WILD EDIBLES** – Goodwin Forest Conservation and Education Center, Hampton – 1-3 PM. Learn about tasty treats the New England Forest provides for us. Learn about plants and trees that will help you survive in the wilderness, and those that just taste good! Tour through the Haley Native Plants Wildlife Gardens to see what can be eaten in our cultivated gardens, then see what has grown wild for the munching on the property. Contact 860.455.9534 or emma.lorusso@ct.gov
- 12** **GREEN INDUSTRY TWILIGHT MEETING** – Lebanon Firehouse Safety Complex, Lebanon – 3-8 PM. Hosted by UConn. Featured speaker Dr. Charlie Hall, Professor & Ellison Chair of International Floriculture, Texas A&M. Optional tour of Pride's Corner Nursery and Arboretum. \$20. Contact Victoria.wallace@uconn.edu
- 13** **WHY AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOOD SAFETY** – Webinar – 12-1:30 PM. A free webinar on Food Safety and Modernization Act for New England producers, buyers, and those working toward a resilient New England food system. The new law will significantly impact how food in New England and around the country is grown, handled, and processed. To register, visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/308684314>
- 13** **REMEDICATION ROUNDTABLE** – DEEP Headquarters, Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford – 1:30-3:30 PM – An open forum to exchange ideas and information on site cleanup in Connecticut and to solicit opinions, advice, and information from outside sources on a routine and established basis. Contact Camille Fontanella 860.424.3705 or camille.fontanella@ct.gov
- 13** **SHOREBIRD WORKSHOP FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS** – Margaret Eagan Center, Milford - 11 AM – 3 PM. Free ½ day workshop for municipal officials and board and commission members facing the challenge of managing coastal resources for birds and people. Designed to increase understanding and expertise regarding beach nesting birds and other coastal species; explain local responsibilities for protecting birds; share strategies and best management practices; and a guided tour of Milford Point. (Rain postpones til 8/16). Contact Sandy Breslin 203.264.5098, Ext. 306 sbreslin@audubon.org
- 14** **INVASIVE PLANT ID WORKSHOP** – Aton Forest Headquarters, Norfolk – 8:30 AM – 5 PM. Workshop is aimed at people attempting to control invasives in natural areas. Learn to identify invasive plants in the field. Introductory classroom session followed by site visits. Fee \$75. Contact <http://afworkshops.blogspot.com/>
- 15** **CEDAR HILL SUNSET TOUR** – Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford – 6:30-8 PM. Tour the cemetery's historic memorial grounds highlighting some of Cedar Hill's most notable residents and monuments. Watch the sun set over Cedar Mountain during the walk. \$5. Contact 860.956.3311 www.cedarhillfoundation.org
- 16** **EASTERN CT CONSERVATION DISTRICT STREAMWALK TRAINING** – Ashford Town Hall – 9 AM – 12 PM. ECCD and the Last Green Valley will conduct the streamwalk training. Meet at town hall and head out to Mt. Hope River. Dress accordingly – waders, watershoes, insect spray. RSVP 860.887.4163 or judy.rondeau@comcast.net
- 16** **GOODWIN FOREST CONSERVATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE** – Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, Hampton – 4:30-7:30 PM.. Come celebrate our 100th Birthday with volunteers and staff who make the Goodwin Forest shine. Appetizers, finger food, or dessert to share are most welcome! Contact Steve Broderick 860.455.9534
- 16-18** **ROYAL LIPIZZAN STALLIONS** - Roseland Cottage, Woodstock – Friday-6-7:30 PM; Saturday/Sunday-2-3:30 PM. The Herrmann family, breeders and trainers of the famed Lipizzan horses, demonstrate the highest level of horsemanship in three shows. These stallions are among the last horses capable of executing the Airs Above the Ground maneuvers – dramatic leaps and plunges developed as battle maneuvers in the 16th century. Tickets \$10-\$15. Bring chairs. Contact 860.928.4047 www.historicnewengland.org

August (continued)

- 17-18** **DINOSAUR STATE PARK DAY** – Rocky Hill - 10:00 AM – 3:00pm - Annual celebration of the discovery of the dinosaur tracks .Contact Meg Enkler 860.529.5816 or margaret.enkler@ct.gov
- 18** **FOREST ECOLOGY INTERPRETIVE HIKE** – Goodwin Forest Education Center, Hampton – 1-3 PM. This interpretive hike will have different layers of succession. Learn about what species grows in each succession area, and why each area is important to the occupants who live there. Contact 860.455.9534 or emma.lorusso@ct.gov
- 19** **COSTA RICAN PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY** – Connecticut Audubon Center, Pomfret Center – 7-8:30 PM. Self-taught nature photographer Sandee Harraden will present a 45-minute photographic Costa Rican journey, including monkeys, sloths, poisonous frogs, basilisks, Macaws, scenic jungle, and spectacular waterfalls. \$3/members, \$7/non-members. Contact 860.928.4948
- 21** **CONNECTICUT SOIL DAY** – Lockwood Farm, Hamden – 9 AM – 3 PM. A great opportunity to learn more about soils in Connecticut and use of digital soils information. Hosted by the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England and NRCS. Bring bag lunch. Contact Lisa Krall 860.871.4051 or lisa.krall@ct.usda.gov
- 21** **FORUM WITH CONGRESSMAN JOE COURTNEY: IMMIGRATION AND THE FARM BILL** – Farm Bureau Office, Windsor – 6 PM. Hosted by the Connecticut Farm Bureau. Congressman Joe Courtney will hold a conversation with farmers to discuss the Farm Bill and Immigration Reform issues. Contact 860.768.1101 cathb@cfba.org
- 21** **AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONS OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT QUARTERLY MEETING** - Canterbury Community Center – 7 PM – Information, networking, idea sharing. Discussion: Farm to Fork Genetically Engineered Crops: Conservations in Connecticut,” presented by Dr. Carol Auer, UConn. A look at the concerns of GMO touching on the issues of human health, ecological, ethical, religious, and social justice. Contact Dawn Pindell dawn.pindell@ct.usda.gov
- 21** **NATURE WALK AND DRAWING WORKSHOP** – Sessions Woods, Burlington – 10 AM – 12 PM. Artist Judy Bird will provide a lesson on observing and drawing in the outdoors during this 2-mile hike. Contact Laura Rogers-Castro 860.675.8130
- 24** **RIDE THE SHETUCKET BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND SPRAGUE**– Sprague River Park – 10 AM – 12 PM. Ride the river as many times as water level allows. Ride is 4 miles long and takes approximately 1-2 hours, depending on water volume. Paddlers must have PFDs and distress whistle .Check town website (www.ctsprague.org) prior to event for cancellation postings. Free shuttle between River Park and Scotland Dam. Contact Lou Dzialo 860.822.6043
- 24-25** **SCHEMITZUN 2013** – Mashantucket Reservation, Ledyard – Saturday 10 AM – 10 PM; Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. Join Native American tribes in the social dances or watch the exhibition dancers and contestants move with skill and power to the ancient rhythms of the grandfather drum. Experience 17th century life in a living Eastern Woodland Village environment. Contact 860.396.6321 www.schemitzun.com
- 25** **STUART FAMILY FARM PICNIC/TOUR** – Bridgewater – 12:30-2:30 PM. The whole family will enjoy an afternoon on one of Connecticut’s largest cattle farms, specializing in the production of grass-fed beef. This is a unique opportunity to see the farm, view the livestock, and meet the farmer. Sponsored by Connecticut Farmland Trust. Lunch provided. \$30/nonmembers, \$20/members, children under 10 free. Contact 860.247.0202, Ext. 221
- 29** **HEALTHY SOILS IN ACTION WORKSHOP** – Woodstock Orchards – 8 AM – 3:30 PM. Entire workshop will be held outdoors. Dress appropriately. Lunch, snacks, and beverages provided. Contact Ray Covino 860.779.0557 raymond.covino@ct.usda.gov, Ext. 102 or Sal DeCarli 860.373.7408 easternctrtd@gmail.com
- 29** **COVER CROPPING AND CROP ROTATION** - Community Farm of Simsbury – 5-7 PM. The workshop will show how cover crops can fit into a New England vegetable crop operation. Photos will demonstrate windows of opportunity for utilizing cover crop rotations to build healthy soils while suppressing weeds, insects, & disease. Contact CT NOFA 203.888.5146 ctnofa@ctnofa.org
- 29** **LECTURE SERIES: CAPTURING THE WILD AND SCENIC** – Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton – 7:30-8:30 PM. A constant stream of photos will be used to see the river through different seasons, locations, and time of day. Most were obtained on the river via kayak, canoe, and wading and allow a view of the river that few have a chance to see. Contact 860.658.4442
- 31** **27th ANNUAL PRUDENCE CRANDALL DAY** – Prudence Crandall House, Canterbury - 10 AM – 4 PM. Celebrate Prudence’s 210th birthday ... crafts, games, birthday cake, food, and music. Free admission. Exhibits include “Friends and Neighbors: Canterbury’s 18th and 19th Century African-American Residents” (which received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. Contact 860.546.7800 crandall.museum@ct.gov www.cultureandtourism.org

September

- 8 HARVEST DINNER AT HOLCOMB FARM** – West Granby – 5-9:30 PM. Al fresco dinner in support of the Fresh Access produce donation program. Dine with us to help feed hungry families. Live music and silent auction. \$85 (thru 8/20); \$95 (after 8/20). Visit <http://holcombfarm.org/harvest-dinner> 860.844.8616
- 9 PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP** – The Hidden Garden & Connsoil, Bethlehem – 5-8 PM. Contact CT NOFA 203.888.5146 ctnofa@ctnofa.org
- 11 QUINEBAUG RESERVOIR PADDLE** – Danielson – 5:30-7:30 PM. Paddle Killingly is offering a series of paddles on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings during the summer for anyone interested in learning a bit about the area. The majority are on lakes, ponds, or very slow moving waters. Please note summer paddles are informal and unsponsored events and are at-your-own risk. PFDs are required. Visit www.meetup.com/paddlekillingly/
- 12 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT** – Community Farm of Simsbury – 4-7 PM. If you have a CSA or considering starting one, bring a light dish and come with questions, stories, experience and advice. After the workshop, stick around for a CSA Roundtable/light potluck. Contact CT NOFA 203.888.5146 ctnofa@ctnofa.org
- 12 UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ACT 490 SESSIONS** – Lebanon Fire Safety Complex - 6-8 PM. Do you own farmland, forestland, or open space? Come learn about Public Act 490, Connecticut's Land Use Value Assessment Law for Farmland, Forestland, and Open Space Land, and see how you can benefit. Visit www.cfba.org/pa490guide.htm
- 17 UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ACT 490 SESSIONS** – Memorial Hall, Bethlehem - 6-8 PM. Do you own farmland, forestland, or open space? Come learn about Public Act 490, Connecticut's Land Use Value Assessment Law for Farmland, Forestland, and Open Space Land, and see how you can benefit. Visit www.cfba.org/pa490guide.htm
- 19 LECTURE SERIES: WATER 101 – HIDDEN CONNECTIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW** – Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton – 7:30-8:30 PM. Explore the connections between the water cycle and pollution sources. Contact 860.658.4442
- 21 SATURDAY MORNING BIRDWALK** – Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby – 8-10 AM - Experience the joy of observing birds in the wild, sharpen your bird identification skills or just enjoy a Saturday morning hike through the grounds of the Kellogg Estate and Osbornedale State Park. Contact Donna Kingston 203.734.2513
- 22 FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – Ski Sundown, New Hartford – 3-8 PM. A party that will bring together new friends and old to reminisce about our 60-year history. Light program outlining our accomplishments, displays, both static and digital, of our history can be browsed while listening to music from several bands, and a bbq dinner. Contact 860.658.4442
- 24 UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ACT 490 SESSIONS** – Connecticut Farm Bureau Office, Windsor - 6-8 PM. Do you own farmland, forestland, or open space? Come learn about Public Act 490, Connecticut's Land Use Value Assessment Law for Farmland, Forestland, and Open Space Land, and see how you can benefit. Visit www.cfba.org/pa490guide.htm
- 28-29 CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND** – Roseland Cottage, Woodstock – 10 AM – 5 PM. Civilian and military re-enactors create a sense of life during the middle 19th century at a time the country was in the deadly grip of the Civil War. Activities include artillery and engineering demonstrations, military uniform and weaponry displays, camp life presentations, and period children's games and activities. Contact 860.928.4047. http://www.historicnewengland.org/events-programs/events-calendar/events-calendar?calStartDate=&searchEvents=Roseland%20Cottage&b_start:int=10
- 28 TAFTVILLE MILL TOUR** – Norwich – 10 AM – 12 PM. Meet at Windham Textile Museum, Willimantic. Tour with Historian Dale Plummer includes study of small buildings and magnificent structures, water and steam powered factories, textiles and other products, mill reuse and preservation issues and much more; and, of course, there will be fascinating stories of both famous and ordinary people who lived and worked through the decades of our great industrial past. Please register by calling Bev York 860.456.2178.
- 28 RIDE THE SHETUCKET BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND SPRAGUE**– Sprague River Park – 10 AM – 12 PM. Ride the river as many times as water level allows. Ride is 4 miles long and takes approximately 1-2 hours, depending on water volume. Check town website (www.ctsprague.org) prior to event for cancellation postings. Paddlers must have PFDs and distress whistle. Sprague will provide free shuttle between River Park and Scotland Dam. Contact Lou Dzialo 860.822.6043
- 28 CONNECTICUT HUNTING AND FISHING APPRECIATION DAY** – Session Woods, Burlington – 10 AM – 4 PM. An open house with many wildlife and fish-focused activities and presentations for sportsmen, children, families, and the general public. Contact Laura Rogers-Castro 860.675.8130
- 29 TRAILBLAZER: RUN THE GAUNTLET** – Hammonasset State Park, Madison – 8 AM – 12 NOON – 5k run with obstacles such as hay bales, hurdles, etc. Race followed by cookout. Event benefits Shoreline Greenway Trail. Contact John Bysiewicz 203.481.5933
- 29 CULINARY FUNDRAISER** – Winvian, Morris – 12-3 PM. Featuring a wide array of appetizers and desserts; fresh tastings from Winvian's own farm and other local farms; tour the sustainable, non-GMO gardens; live music; organic leadership recognition award/presentation; and auction. \$125 per person, includes CT NOFA membership. Net proceeds benefit CT NOFA. Contact CT NOFA 203.888.5146 ctnofa@ctnofa.org

October

- 1 **2013 Understanding Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Webinars – PASTURED POULTRY AND CONSERVATION PLANNING** – 3-4 PM – Instructor Terrell Spencer, Poultry Spec., National Center for Appropriate Technology. Audio/video info to join a webinar released app.3 weeks prior to scheduled event. Visit <http://conservationwebinars.net>. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc/ to join webinar announcement email list and have event information sent directly to your Inbox.
- 16 **NORTHERN COPPERHEAD DISCUSSION** – Sessions Woods, Burlington – 6:30-7:30 PM. Herpetologist Dennis Quinn will present an informative program on the interesting and elusive Northern copperhead. Contact Laura Rogers-Castro 860.675.8130
- 17 **LECTURE SERIES: TESTING THE RIVER – TOES TO TECHNOLOGY** – Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton – 7:30-8:30 PM. Learn about the Farmington River Watershed Association’s extensive water quality program. What are they monitoring, what are they finding, and what are they doing to improve water quality in the Farmington River Watershed? Contact 860.658.4442
- 19 **SATURDAY MORNING BIRDWALK** – Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby – 8-10 AM - Experience the joy of observing birds in the wild, sharpen your bird identification skills or just enjoy a Saturday morning hike through the grounds of the Kellogg Estate and Osbornedale State Park. Contact Donna Kingston 203.734.2513
- 24 **LECTURE SERIES: SPOONVILLE UN-DAMMED – A SHAD STORY** Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton – 7:30-8:30 PM. This presentation is a classic example of the historic back-and-forth conflict between fish and water power. It will highlight the removal of Spoonville Dam from the Farmington River in the summer of 2012, describing how and why it was done. It will also cover some of the dam’s eventful history, and discuss the effects of the dam removal on the river’s many uses and functions. Contact 860.658.4442.

November

- 3 **REVOLUTIONARY WAR REENACTMENT** – Putnam Memorial Park, Redding – 10 AM – 4 PM. Join Revolutionary War r-enactors celebrate the 235th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War camps in Redding. Visit www.putnampark.org/friends-and-neighbors-of-putnam-park.htm
- 12 **REMEDICATION ROUNDTABLE** – DEEP Headquarters, Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford – 1:30-3:30 PM – An open forum to exchange ideas and information on site cleanup in Connecticut and to solicit opinions, advice, and information from outside sources on a routine and established basis. Contact Camille Fontanella 860.424.3705 or camille.fontanella@ct.gov
- 15 **CONNECTICUT FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING** – Glastonbury Hills Country Club, South Glastonbury – 8 AM – 9 PM. Annual Luncheon 12 Noon, social hour and banquet 5 PM. Contact Cathyb@cfba.org
- 16 **SATURDAY MORNING BIRDWALK** – Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby – 8-10 AM - Experience the joy of observing birds in the wild, sharpen your bird identification skills or just enjoy a Saturday morning hike through the grounds of the Kellogg Estate and Osbornedale State Park. Contact Donna Kingston 203.734.2513

December

- 3 **2013 Understanding Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Webinars – SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION USING YEAR-ROUND HIGH TUNNELS** – 3-4 PM – Instructor Michael Kilpatrick, Kilpatrick Family Farm. Audio/video info to join a webinar released app.3 weeks prior to scheduled event. Visit <http://conservationwebinars.net>. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc/ to join webinar announcement email list and have event information sent directly to your Inbox.
- 14 **SATURDAY MORNING BIRDWALK** – Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby – 8-10 AM - Experience the joy of observing birds in the wild, sharpen your bird identification skills or just enjoy a Saturday morning hike through the grounds of the Kellogg Estate and Osbornedale State Park. Contact Donna Kingston 203.734.2513