




UConn Extension Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference

January 9, 2024

UConn Student Union | Storrs, Connecticut



Welcome to the 2024 Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers' Conference! We are thrilled to gather once again, bringing together our growers, educators, researchers, and industry professionals. This conference covers over a dozen topics related to vegetable and small fruit production, and features 32 tradeshow exhibitors. We hope you can get the most out of this conference. Thank you for being a part of this collaborative work.

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CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nancy Barrett
Joe Bonelli
Frances Champagne
Mary Concklin
Donny Dzen

Shuresh Ghimire
Bruce Gresczyk Jr
Ana Legrand
Evan Lentz

Lauren Manuck
Maggie Ng
Eric Peterson
Leigh Whittinghill
Michaele Williams

NEW CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED!

If you are interested in joining the committee for the 2025 conference, please email tolland@uconn.edu



AGENDA

Trade show: 8:00-8:55, 10:00-10:45, 12:00-1:00

- 8:00 AM **Registration, breakfast, socialize, visit trade show**
Morning Moderator - Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension
- 8:55 AM **Welcome:** Amy Harder, Associate Dean of UConn Extension
- 9:00 AM **Bramble: summer vs fall** Mary Concklin, UConn Extension
- 9:30 AM **Agricultural Labor Update**
Heather Callahan, US Department of Labor
- 10:00 AM **Announcements**
- 10:15 AM **Break**
- 10:45 AM **High tunnel tomato nutrient management: findings from on-farm research**
Rebecca Brown, University of Rhode Island
Josef Gorres, University of Vermont
- 11:15 AM **Niche crop Aronia** Evan Lentz, UConn Extension
- 11:45 AM **Research update: Alternaria on brassicas in CT**
Roy Davis, UConn
- 11:55 AM **Research update: Understanding nematode parasitism to design better management strategies.** Raquel Rocha, CAES
- 12:05 PM **Lunch break/trade show**
Afternoon Moderator - Evan Lentz, UConn Extension
- 1:00 PM **Innovation in fertigation for small fruit crops**
Trevor Hardy, Brookdale Fruit Farm, NH
- 1:30 PM **Biodegradable Plastic mulch for specialty crop production**
Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension
Charlie (Yingxue) Yu, CAES
- 2:00 PM **Mesotunnels for cucurbit production**
Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell University
- 2:30 PM **Research update: Vegetable K/P fertility trials and use of biochar**
Nora Doonan, UConn
- 2:40 PM **Research update: Trap crops and insectary plants**
Ana Legrand, UConn
- 2:50 PM **Research update: Plant virus diagnostics and control- grapevine virus and potato virus.** Washington DaSilva, CAES
- 3:00 PM **Research updates: Spotted lantern fly**
Claire Rutledge, CAES
- 3:10 PM **Crop insurance options for CT farmers and FAQ**
Colleen Kisselburgh, Arthur Carroll Insurance Agency
- 3:40 PM **Pesticide recertification credits and socialize. 4 CEU.**

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

MARY CONCKLIN

Bramble: summer vs fall.

Mary is the retired UConn fruit specialist. She is the owner and operator of Raspberry Knoll Farm in N. Windham CT, growing brambles, blueberries, strawberries, flowers, herbs and vegetables. Her talk will cover growing raspberries and will include information about managing key pests and diseases.

SARAH PETHYBRIDGE

Mesotunnels for cucurbit production.

Dr. Sarah Pethybridge is an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, New York. Her talk will summarize a study that evaluated strategies to optimize pollination and performance (plant health and fruit yield) of muskmelon and acorn squash in an organic mesotunnel. Mesotunnels are a medium-size tunnel (36-42 in. high) in which a nylon-mesh, breathable fabric (e.g., ProtekNet or ExcludeNet), is placed over hoop structures above the plant canopy and the fabric is secured to the ground. Pesticides can be applied through the fabric without the need for lifting and breaking the exclusion barrier. Mesotunnels therefore have the potential to offer full-season crop protection but naturally occurring pollinators are excluded.

High tunnel tomato nutrient management: findings from on-farm research in CT and RI.

REBECCA BROWN

Dr. Rebecca Brown is a Professor and the faculty leader for the peri-urban vegetable production research and extension program at the University of Rhode Island. She will co-present with Dr. Josef Görres, sharing the key findings from high tunnel on-farm trials from CT and RI monitoring nitrogen and phosphorus in high tunnel soils. Dr. Brown was the Project Director on this high tunnel project.

JOSEF GORRES

Dr. Josef Görres, Assistant Professor and soil scientist at the University of Vermont was the soil scientist on this high tunnel project. He will demonstrate an interactive web app to estimate the distribution of nutrients in the high tunnel soils.

EVAN LENTZ

Aroniaberry: a not-so-new opportunity to diversify for fruit and vegetable growers.

Evan Lentz is an Assistant Extension Educator specializing in commercial fruit production and IPM at the University of Connecticut. His presentation will evaluate Aroniaberry as a possible novel fruit crop for farm diversification and provide recent research updates that have set forth new production standards to make adoption easier.

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

Roy Davis

Research update: Alternaria on brassicas in CT

Roy Davis joined the UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture in 2022 as postdoctoral researcher working with Dr. Sydney Everhart. His current research is focused on examining the population genetics of *Alternaria brassicicola*. Roy is also an instructor for Principles and Concepts of Agroecology and Environmental Sustainability of Food Production in Developed Countries. In this talk, Roy will provide an update on species ID and fungicide sensitivity of causal fungi, which could inform farmers' IPM decisions.

RAQUEL ROCHA

Research update: Understanding nematode parasitism to design better management strategies.

Dr. Raquel Rocha is an Assistant Agricultural Scientist II at the CAES, where she studies how plant pathogenic nematodes respond dynamically to their environment and cause disease. Root-knot nematodes (RKN) are grouped into over 100 species and races occurring worldwide, capable of attacking over 5,000 species of plant hosts. Thus, the diversity of RKN species, their broad distribution, and their wide range of plant hosts raise the challenge of tailoring RKN management strategies to meet the grower's needs. The research conducted by the Rocha Lab at CAES aims to identify molecular components required for plant root-knot development and nematode nutrient acquisition. This is a critical step towards uncovering a promising source of future control targets for developing RKN resistance in crops of interest.

TREVOR HARDY

Innovation in fertigation for small fruit crops.

Trevor is a 7th generation fruit and vegetable farmer with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He built and operates Brookdale Farm Supplies, the largest irrigation and row crop supplies company in New England. Trevor will talk about innovations in tools for soil moisture, soil and tissue analysis, and other tools for fertigation for small fruit systems.

SHURESH GHIMIRE

Biodegradable plastic mulch for specialty crop production.

Dr. Shuresh Ghimire is a UConn Extension Vegetable Specialist. His talk will cover introduction to biodegradable plastic mulch (BDM), rationale for BDM use, application, impacts on crops, limitations on use in certified organic production in the US, and BDM degradation in soil and its impacts on soil.

CHARLIE (YINGXUE) YU

Dr. Charlie (Yingxue) Yu is an assistant scientist at CAES. She will cover in-field degradation of BDM and the potential accumulation of residues after continuous yearly application.

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

NORA DOONAN

What's New in Soil Fertility and Soil Health Research?

Nora Doonan is a Master's student studying soil science in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and research assistant in the soil fertility and soil health program, led under Dr. Haiying Tao. She will highlight the laboratories current research efforts on soil testing, nutrient recommendations, soil amendment, and cover cropping.

ANA LEGRAND

Insect pest management research update.

Dr. Ana Legrand is an entomologist with the Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture at UConn. She will present an update on current projects dealing with cole crop caterpillars and potato leafhopper.

HEATHER CALLAHAN

An update on agricultural labor.

Heather Callahan is the Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist (CORPS) with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (WHD), in Hartford. Heather has been the community outreach representative for the past 7 years providing compliance assistance, education, and training to employers, workers, advocates, and other stakeholders. Heather will review labor standards in agriculture, including:

- Federal minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping, and child labor requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Learn about when overtime pay is due to agricultural workers.
- Employment standards related to wages, housing, transportation, disclosures, and the use of farm labor contractors under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA). (cont.)
- Field sanitation provisions regarding toilets, cool potable drinking water, and hand-washing facilities under the OSHA Act.
- Recruitment, wages, housing, transportation, and recordkeeping requirements under the H-2A temporary, non-immigrant agricultural worker visa program.

WASHINGTON DASILVA

The fight continues: Developing vaccine-like therapeutics to control plant pathogens.

Dr. Washington da Silva is a virologist with expertise in virus diagnoses, bioinformatics, nanotechnology, and molecular biology. Dr. da Silva is an associate scientist at the CAES and an adjunct associate professor at the University of Connecticut. He received his Ph.D. in virology from Cornell University. In this talk, he will discuss some of his research on using nanoparticles as carriers of RNA molecules to develop "therapeutic vaccines" to control plant pathogens.

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

CLAIRE RUTLEDGE

Research updates: Spotted lantern fly.

Dr. Rutledge will present a summary of the current research projects on spotted lanternfly biology and management being done at CAES. One project is examining egg-laying behavior, what makes a site attractive to oviposit, and can we provide those sites to allow for easier removal and containment? Another project is focused on the chemosensory world of SLF, which ultimately may lead to effective lures for management. Finally, third project seeks to understand how SLF moves through the landscape.

COLLEEN KISSELBURGH

Crop insurance options for CT farmers and FAQ.

Colleen Kisselburgh is a Crop Insurance Agent with over 30 years' experience serving farmers in CT and co-owner of the Arthur Carroll Insurance Agency. In her talk, Colleen will discuss crop insurance policy options available to CT farmers and answer frequently asked questions regarding crop insurance.

EXHIBITORS

American Farmland Trust

www.farmland.org
jfine@farmland.org

AFT is working to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland promoting sound farming practices and keeping farmers on the land.

Arthur Carroll Insurance Agency

www.arthurcarrollcrop.com
ckisselburgh01@snet.net
Crop Insurance

Buxton Hollow Farm Natural Products

www.buxtonhollowfarm.com
BuxtonHollowFarm@gmail.com

A small family owned business that manages soil testing and creates custom mineral mixes for farms and gardeners throughout New England.

Brookdale Farm Supplies

www.brookdalefruitfarm.com
tractortrv@aol.com

As a 7-generation family farm located in South-Central New Hampshire, we leverage our growing experience to supply specialty equipment, harvest containers, irrigation/filtration, growing supplies and row covers....we've got you covered!

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www.carovail.com
jmatthews@carolina-eastern.com
CaroVail provides a full range of service offerings including field maintenance, crop protection products, state – of – the art field mapping and soil analysis services, and more.

EXHIBITORS

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

<https://portal.ct.gov/caes>
caes@ct.gov

CT Greenhouse

ctgreenhouse.com
aaron@ctgreenhouse.com
CT Greenhouse is a Connecticut based farmer-owned greenhouse and high tunnel manufacturer offering custom designed solutions to growers of all sizes

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG>
The Department of Agriculture will benefit the citizens of the state through proactive programs that address the issues of the changing face of agriculture.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

www.cfba.org
info@cfba.org
CFBA is a non-profit membership and advocacy organization representing all of CT agriculture.

CT Paid Leave Authority

ctpaidleave.org
nancy.barrow@ct.gov
CT Paid Leave - Income replacement for FMLA reasons.

Fish Brew

www.fishbrew.com
Hello@fishbrew.com
A brand of organic natural and sustainable living soil supplements and fertilizers for the home garden lawn farm and orchard.

Farm Credit East

www.farmcrediteast.com
Samantha.stjean@farmcrediteast.com
Farm Credit East is a financial cooperative providing credit and financial services to farmers, commercial fishermen, forest products producers and agribusinesses in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Vermont.

Griffin Farm Equipment

griffinfarm@aol.com
Sales & Service for vegetable planting cultivating and fertilizing equipment (carrousel finger and vacuum seeders) MaterMacc Wizard Checchi Magli

Johnny's Selected Seeds

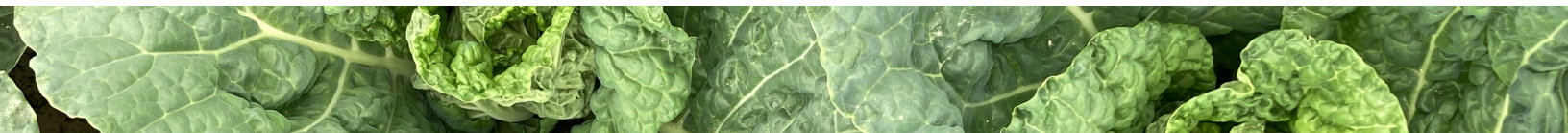
www.johnnyseeds.com
egolonka@johnnyseeds.com
Our mission is helping families friends and communities to feed one another by providing superior seeds tools information and service.

Lyman Insurance Agency

lymaninsure.com
jlyman@american-national.com
The Lyman Agency, LLC., is a multi-line agency that prides itself in understanding our clients and providing fast, and friendly client service. We pride ourselves in handling challenging cases and making the complex simple.

New England Seed Co

www.neseed.com
mmaturo@neseed.com
Seeds in packets pounds commercial varieties heirlooms and organics.



EXHIBITORS

Nine Pin Cider

www.ninepincider.com

danielle@ninepincider.com

Nine Pin Cider based out of Albany NY private labels shelf-stable non-alcoholic sparkling cider for farms orchards businesses and more.

Nutrien Ag Solutions

www.nutrienagsolutions.com

Bill.syme@nutrien.com

Nutrien Ag Solutions® is the retail division of Nutrien® Ltd., the world's largest crop inputs company. We provide full-acre solutions through a network of trusted crop consultants at more than 1,700 global locations.

OESCO Inc.

www.oescoinc.com

info@oescoinc.com

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Progressive Grower Agricultural Supply

www.progressivegrower.com

info@progressivegrower.com

New England's Premier Agricultural Supply Company

Rimol Greenhouse Systems

rimol.com

rrimol@rimol.com

Greenhouse Structures

Shawnee Cannery & More

www.wheredyafindthat.com

wytrep@gmail.com

Private Label Gourmet Foods. All products are proven sellers in Farm Stands and Country Stores.

The Carrot Project

www.thecarrotproject.org

info@thecarrotproject.org

The Carrot Project helps New England farm and food entrepreneurs develop financial management skills access capital and build resilient businesses.

The New Connecticut Farmer Alliance

www.newctfarmers.com

nctfaclimate@gmail.com

The New CT Farmer Alliance brings together growers from all over the state to build a more successful and diverse agricultural community.

UConn Extension RMA

joseph.bonelli@uconn.edu

Risk Management Project designed to provide information to develop Risk Management Strategies to Manage and Mitigate Farm Risk.

UConn Extension IPM

ipm.cahn.uconn.edu

shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu

The UConn IPM program educates growers and the general public about the judicious and safe use of organic and synthetic pesticides and alternative pest control methods.

UConn Extension Solid Ground Program

www.newfarms.uconn.edu/solidground

jiff.martin@uconn.edu

The UConn Extension Solid Ground Program focuses on setting up new and beginning farmers to succeed as they start their journeys. They provide in-person trainings/workshops, informational videos, online resources and other e-learning tools on a variety of topics to help farmers create a solid foundation for their farm businesses to thrive.



EXHIBITORS

UConn Extension Food Safety

foodsafety.uconn.edu

indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu

UConn Extension Produce safety Program.

USDA Farm Service Agency

www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Connecticut/index

Claire.Staby@usda.gov

The Connecticut division of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers farmers a variety of assistance through farm programs, farm loans and ad hoc disaster programs. Our employees work with farmers daily to identify assistance we can provide for their specific operations.

USDA NRCS

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

vivian.felten@usda.gov

NRCS soil conservationists, soil scientists, agronomists, engineers, planners, and other specialists promote land stewardship by providing technical assistance on all of Connecticut's landscapes: agricultural, wetlands and riparian areas, suburban, rural, urban, and forested.

USDA-Risk Management Agency

rma.usda.gov

rsonc@usda.gov

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA), created in 1996, serves America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities.

US Department of Labor

www.dol.gov/agencies/whd

callahan.heather@dol.gov

Vestaron Corporation

www.vestaron.com

kfarnsworth@vestaron.com

Peptides for pest management.

W. Atlee Burpee Co. Farmer's Market

www.burpee.com/farmers-market

jbonin@burpee.com

The W. Atlee Burpee Co. now offers a handpicked selection of seeds in larger quantities for market growers and community-supported agriculture (CSA).

Wellscoft Fence Systems LLC

www.wellscoft.com

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Specializing in deer and wildlife exclusion for the protection of small fruit orchards and crops and the protection and containment of livestock.



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RESOURCES FOR GROWERS

UConn Vegetable IPM Program

<https://ipm.cahnر.uconn.edu/vegetable-ipm-program/>

UConn Fruit IPM Program

<https://ipm.cahnر.uconn.edu/fruit/>

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Plant Disease Information Office

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/PDIO/PDIO-Home/PDIO-Home>

★ **New England Vegetable Management Guide**

<https://nevegetable.org/>

★ **Northeast Vegetable and Strawberry Pest Identification Guide**

https://nevegetable.org/sites/nevegetable.org/files/Pest_ID_2018_no%20cover%20date.pdf

★ **New England Small Fruit Management Guide**

<https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/ne-small-fruit-management-guide>

New England Tree Fruit Management Guide

<https://netreefruit.org/>

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference 2024

<https://newenglandvfc.org/>

UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab

<https://plant.lab.uconn.edu/>

UConn Hot Water Seed Treatment Service

<https://plant.lab.uconn.edu/hwst/>

UConn Extension Services

<https://cahnر.uconn.edu/extension/services/>

**Guides are
available for sale
at the UConn
Extension IPM
Table**



NOTES

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