UConn Extension

Extension is on a collaborative journey. We work together with families, students, communities, businesses, farmers and statewide partners. We educate. We convene diverse groups to help solve problems. Join us.

Agriculture and Food

Sustainable Landscapes

Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Health and Well-being
Why Extension

Committed to a Sustainable Future

Extension is a part of UConn's College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (CAHNR). We have over 100 years of experience strengthening communities in Connecticut and beyond.

Extension programs cover the full spectrum of topics aligned with CAHNR’s strategic initiatives:

• Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable agricultural industry and food supply
• Enhancing health and well-being locally, nationally, and globally
• Advancing adaptation and resilience in a changing climate
• Designing sustainable landscapes across urban-rural interfaces

Rising to the Challenge

Our educators faced the unprecedented challenges of 2020 and pivoted programs to offer life transformative education despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programming moved to virtual environments through online certificate programs, virtual field days, podcasts, WebEx meetings, and YouTube videos. Our educators created and released 318 new videos on YouTube in 2020. These videos reached 305,200 people and had 39,501 viewers that watched 1,200 hours of Extension instruction.

Programs delivered by Extension reach individuals, communities, and businesses in each of the 169 municipalities across the state (see map on last page). The By the Numbers 2020 highlights some of our key impacts from these initiatives.

We are here to serve you. We are UConn Extension.
by the Numbers 2020

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

2,279 clients at the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

7 participants completed the People Empowering People facilitator training online.

16,375 low-income families served through community nutrition programs.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

244 students and 53 community projects served through the Environment Corps.

130 municipal and state land-use officials attended a virtual workshop on managed retreat for coastal communities.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD

2,205 participants in IPM (Integrated Pest Management) programs.

56,475 participants reached through SNAP-Ed nutrition programming.

180 virtual learners in our series on improving pasture management for livestock.

76 participants in online certificate programs.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

1,367 participants in 22 webinars. 560 views of recorded webinars.

1,476 individuals received 26,676 hours of gardening instruction.

13,046 hours of instruction on invasive plants.

“Whenever you get different people from different factors of a community working together for one common goal - that’s when you create that foundation of growth and systemic change in a community.” – Rich Mutts, UConn PEP facilitator

“After the 1938 hurricane destroyed a beach-front community in New London, the city acquired the property, razed what remained of the homes and turned it into a large public beach. Today Ocean Beach Park is one of the city’s jewels. This is an example of using managed retreat 60 years ago and it has been very successful.” - Bruce Hyde, UConn Extension

“Participates learned answers to the basic questions about farm business planning, planning and preparing a vegetable farm, warm and cool-season vegetable production techniques, season extension, identification of biotic and abiotic issues, and marketing.” - Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension

“Operation Community Impact

1 of every 9 residents in Connecticut struggled with food insecurity before COVID-19. UConn Extension programs quickly pivoted to address the food insecurity challenges that our community members are facing due to COVID-19. Educators coordinated dairy foods donations to help address food insecurity challenges.

10,710 families served statewide (conservative estimate).

150,192 pounds of dairy products were distributed.

96 food pantries served in 57 towns statewide.

$21.4 million in active grants.

$3.8 million the value of 141,097 volunteer hours across all programs, according to the Independent Sector.

15,066 youth participating in 4-H.

4,585 4-H active volunteers.

(1 clover = 1,000 people)
by the Numbers 2020

**ACTIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS IN CONNECTICUT**

There were a total of **2,849** programs provided in Connecticut towns and cities. That’s no fewer than **7** programs in each of the 169 municipalities, and some had **31**.

**TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR VIRTUAL TRAINING CLASSES**

“Keep the virtual workshops! Makes it so much easier to be able to take part when we don’t have time to be driving to workshops!” — Sustainable Livestock Production participant

“The opportunity to access the recording of the [Master Gardener] class after the fact is a very useful feature, as is the opportunity to ask questions during the discussion and access the instructor afterwards via email if necessary.” — Master Gardener participant

“That was a fantastic seminar and a great idea. Glad [the webinars] will all be available online since I know I’ll want to watch them again and review the power point slides as reference.” — CLEAR mini-webinar series participant

“Thanks to your advice this past June we saved our garlic crop (most of it) from white rot.” — Vegetable IPM participant

“Thank you! It was very good and more interesting than in-person field days, as they do not allow you to get an overhead look at the research project.” — Turfgrass Field Day participant

“I loved this year’s fair and even though I missed the weekend and seeing everybody, I learned a lot from the breakout sessions and the other 4-Hers’ videos.” — 4-H member

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*Extension is a part of the UConn College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources.*  
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