



## CNLA Update - April 18, 2014

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### **Pesticide Controversy Continues at Capitol**

The fight over a proposal to ban the use of genetically-engineered lawn and turf seeds continues at the State Capitol. By a vote of 25-11, the Senate passed a bill to enact such a ban. The next day the House, however, overwhelmingly turned it down by a vote of 37-103. At this writing there are rumors that advocates will try once again for the ban by attaching it to related legislation. CNLA has argued that such decisions should be based on science and have the benefit of a full and detailed public hearing, something that has not happened this session on the issue. Time is running short as the 2014 session will adjourn at midnight on Wednesday, May 7.

### **Federal Grant Announced for Keeping Farmland in Production**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale

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recently announced an agreement that will allow Connecticut to utilize more than \$8 million in federal funds to keep farmland in agricultural production.

The agreement also will increase flexibility in the use of federal funds through the state's Farmland Preservation Program. More than 300 state farms have been protected under the program, including nearly 100 achieved with \$20 million in assistance from the federal USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). The announcement was made on Wednesday, April 9.

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## Jobs Data Shows Positive Trend

A new report by the state's Labor Department shows Connecticut added 4,900 jobs in March. According to the department, "March showed some solid signs of a return to previous job growth trends." The numbers mean the state has gained back 55 percent of the 119,000 jobs lost in the recession. Analysts say the state will need a good four or five months of job growth before the can see a real expansion is taking place.

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## Producer Education and Innovation

A working group of the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development is discussing a wide range of proposals to improve innovation by Connecticut's agriculture producers. Some of the ideas under consideration include increasing staff at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station and UCONN Cooperative



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Extension to work more directly with producers and post-secondary educational institutions. The latter could permit more credit and non-credit courses relating to agriculture to be offered. The group is also discussing the state's program of tax incentives to

foster economically viable production. The recommendations will be considered by the full Council.

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### **A Horse is a Horse, Of Course, Of Course...**

So said State Rep. Linda Gentile, in bringing out a bill in the House this week that reduces the liability of horse owners in civil lawsuits. The bill, H.B. 5044, passed the House. According to *The Hartford Courant*, the bill was prompted by a high-profile lawsuit where the state's Supreme Court ruled against the owners of a horse that had bitten a two-year-old child in 2006 at a garden center. The decision seemed to say horses are inherently dangerous animals. Gov. Malloy stepped in to offer the liability change since the ruling could have ramifications in other areas of agriculture. In a statement after the bill passed the Governor said: *"Connecticut has a large population of horse owners and handlers, and the associated agriculture sector of our economy continues to grow, contributing \$3.5 billion annually in our state's economy and accounting for 28,000 jobs."*





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## New State Representative Takes Office - House Chamber Honors Former

### Rep. Elaine O'Brien

Tami Zawistowski was sworn-in this week as the new State Representative from the 61st district, which is comprised of East Granby, Suffield and part of Windsor. Tami won a comfortable victory in a Special Election which was held to fill a vacancy due to the passing of Rep. Elaine O'Brien. Rep. Zawistowski's victory adds one more member to the Republican Caucus, taking them to 54 members. There are 96 Democratic members and one remaining vacancy. On Thursday, April 17, during a legislative session with her family and close friends present, the House Chamber honored the work and legacy of State Rep. Elaine O'Brien who died of brain cancer while serving in office.

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### Save the Date:

## **CNLA SUMMER FIELD DAY IS JULY 16th**

Jason Scire is the Chair of this year's event to be held at VanWilgen's Garden Center in North Branford. More information to follow.

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### Get your Ad in for the May Issue of CNLA Magazine!

Calling all businesses-the next issue of the *CNLA Magazine* will be published and printed in May.

These ads can boost your visibility and customer base!

*Click on the link to the Ad Form that follows to order your ad and advertise your business in the May edition of the CNLA Magazine.*  
[Magazine advertising form](#)

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### **The Louis A. Magnarelli Memorial Fund**

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has established The Louis A. Magnarelli Memorial Fund to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli. For those who would like to contribute and make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund visit The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Research Foundation, Inc. website:

<http://www.ct.gov/caes/foundation>

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### **Welcome to New CNLA Member**

Please welcome the following companies to the CNLA membership ranks!

Alumacart, Inc.  
Landscapes

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### **Nursery IPM Position Search at UConn Closed**

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture has now closed the request for applications for the position of Visiting Assistant Extension Educator - Nursery Integrated Pest Management (IPM). UConn IPM Program Coordinator Donna Ellis thanks all applicants for their interest.

Candidates for the position will be interviewed at the UConn Storrs Campus and an announcement will be

made when the position is filled.

## Summer Courses in Horticulture: NVCC

Summer courses are being offered at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Classes start on June 2, 2014. To register online go to : [www.nv.edu/admissions](http://www.nv.edu/admissions)

Contact: Christopher Tuccio for more information:  
(203) 596-8634



 Naugatuck Valley Community College

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***SUMMER COURSES IN HORTICULTURE***

**HRT 206: LANDSCAPING SMALL PROPERTIES**  
Wednesday: 2:20 - 5:05pm, 5:30-8:15pm

**HRT 203: LANDSCAPE DESIGN II**  
Monday: 2:20 - 5:05pm, 5:30-8:15pm  
*Prerequisite of Landscape Design I*

Classes start June 2, 2014

Register in person or online  
[www.nv.edu/Admissions](http://www.nv.edu/Admissions)

Contact: Christopher Tuccio (203-596-8634)



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