



## CNLA Update / March 21, 2014

- [CNLA LATEST NEWS](#)
  
- [Ag Day at the State Capitol!](#)  
[Governor Malloy Announces Funding to Assist Farmers and Towns to Promote Agriculture](#)
  
- [GMO Seed Amendment/Proposal Offered to Senate Bill 443....](#)
  
- [Landscape Contractor License Bill Receives a Public Hearing](#)
  
- [CNLA fights Unionization of Agriculture Employees –Ag Unionization Bill Dies In Committee...](#)
  
- [Minimum Wage Bill Advances –](#)

### Agriculture Day at the State Capitol

#### Governor Malloy Announces Funding to Assist Farmers and Towns to Promote Agriculture

It was “Ag Day” at the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 19, with legislators and the public touring dozens of exhibits from members of the agriculture and green industry. This annual event is always looked forward to and brings people throughout the state to Hartford for the occasion. CNLA participated and was present with a display highlighting our industry.

Governor Malloy was present and also marked the day by issuing an announcement of \$880,327 in funds to assist the needs of farmers and towns in promoting agriculture. Governor Dannel P. Malloy and state Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky announced that more than 40 farms, agricultural non-profits and municipalities will receive the state funding totaling \$880,327 as part of an ongoing effort to expand Connecticut’s growing agricultural economy. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis and a match must be supplied by the applicant. The Department of Agriculture’s share of the budget is capped at \$49,999 in matching funds. Grantees have up to one year to complete their project, according to the terms of their contract.

Funding is not limited to producers. Non-profit organizations and municipalities also are eligible, and may use the grants for town or regional planning purposes provided that agricultural components are involved. The Department of Agriculture plans to open up the grant-application period again in November.

For more information on these grants, please visit the Department’s website at [www.ct.gov/doag/](http://www.ct.gov/doag/). Click on: “Programs and Services” and then: “Agriculture Viability Grants.”

[Labor  
Committee  
Sends the Bill to  
the Senate ....](#)

[Bills Still in  
Play As  
Committees  
Wrap Up  
Work: Runnin  
g Bamboo, Tree  
Trimming,  
Solar Panels  
Bill Update](#)

[Legislators  
Announce  
Retirements](#)

[Going Green-  
Let Us Know!](#)

[CNLA New  
Website Under  
Construction  
Please Return](#)

[Member  
Directory  
Form-](#)

[Visiting  
Assistant  
Extension  
Educator  
Position-  
Nursery  
Integrated Pest  
Management at  
UConn](#)

[Job Fair at  
Naugatuck  
Valley  
Community  
College,  
Waterbury](#)

[The Natural  
Resources](#)

*Insert Photo here with Caption:*

*(L. to R. CNLA President Kevin Sullivan talks with Ag Experiment Station Director Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Senator Dante Bartolomeo and UConn Dean and Director, College of Ag and Natural Resources, Greg Weidemann about the importance of the nursery landscape industry, farms and jobs to Connecticut's economy.)*

## **GMO Seed Amendment/Proposal Offered to Senate Bill 443....**

Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Temp Don Williams announced this week that he will offer a proposal to ban GMO Grass Seed, Perennial Plants and Landscaping Plants in Connecticut. We believe these decisions should be based solely on science. In fact, the seed technology is not currently available for sale and is unlikely to be until further market and field testing occurs. CNLA offered testimony on the proposal to the committee. The bill, *Senate Bill 443, An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds, Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens*, is expected to be acted on today by the Environment Committee.

## **Landscape Contractor License Bill Receives a Public Hearing**

CNLA is once again proposed legislation that would create a Landscaper Contractor License. The proposal differs in some respects from last year's bill in that it places the new license within the Department of Energy and the Environment, rather than the Department of Consumer Protection. Regardless, we believe the time has come for the state to recognize the landscape profession as a stand alone industry with its own license. Landscapers currently register under the Home Improvement Contractor statute—something that does not recognize the high standards and unique qualifications of our profession. We were pleased with the case made for this new license at a public hearing before the legislature's Environment Committee on Friday, February 28. CNLA president Kevin Sullivan., immediate past president Dave Taddei and Bob St. Jacques all spent hours at the State Capitol that day and evening to discuss the proposal with legislators and other interested groups. Many thanks to them all!

[Click on the link to read CNLA's statement.](http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/ENVdata/Tmy/2014SB-00238-R000228-)

Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing availability of Conservation Innovation Grants

Get Official CANP Embroidered Gear at CNLA's Company Store!



Wear your CANP pride with embroidered shirts, blouses, jackets, hats and more at our LandsEnd company store. And get a discount off these fine items!

[CLICK HERE](#)

[Kevin%20Sullivan,%20Connecticut%20Nursery%20and%20Landscape%20Association-TMY.PDF](#)

The next step of the process is to work with a number parties to bring a consensus to the proposal and have it reported out of the Environment Committee. The committee meets today. The legislation is *Senate Bill 238, An Act Establishing a Landscape Contractor License*.

*Click on the link below to read SB 238:*

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/TOB/s/pdf/2014SB-00238-R00-SB.pdf>

## → CNLA fights Unionization of Agriculture Employees -Ag Unionization Bill Dies In Committee...

House Bill 5066 was introduced and would eliminate the current exemption for agriculture employees from being unionized. CNLA had a very good meeting with Sen. Cathy Osten, Senate co-chair of the Labor Committee, on the issue and expressed our concerns about it. Many thanks to Mark and Lisa Sellew of Pride's Corner and Kevin Sullivan for attending the meeting.

We are pleased to report that the proposal to allow unionization of agriculture workers was not advanced by the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee. Initially, the bill had some steam. However, CNLA lobbied the issue aggressively and convinced the committee that this simply is not good public policy.

Senator Osten initially discussed changing the legislation to create a task force to look at the economic conditions of agricultural workers. She will instead hold an informational forum. CNLA also testified on the bill at the Labor Committee's public hearing. The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers' Association actively worked to oppose the proposal along with the Farm Bureau Federation. *Link to HB 5066 -* <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/TOB/h/pdf/2014HB-05066-R00-HB.pdf>

*Click here to read CNLA's statement/testimony.* <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/LABdata/Tmy/2014HB-05066-R000218-Connecticut%20Nursery%20and%20Landscape%20Association-TMY.PDF>

## Minimum Wage Bill Advances-Labor Committee Sends The bill to the Senate

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search box to find  
us.

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The Connecticut bill (Senate Bill 32) would phase-in several increases to take the minimum wage to \$10.10/hour. Click on the link to SB 32:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/TOB/s/pdf/2014SB-00032-R00-SB.pdf>

CNLA attended the public hearing on this bill. CNLA expressed concerns about the bill that would increase the minimum wage as it would make our in-state farms less competitive with companies in lower cost states.

President Obama visited Connecticut on Wednesday, March 5, to participate in a "raise the wage" event. He was joined by several New England Governors, including Deval Patrick (Massachusetts), Lincoln Chafee (Rhode Island), Peter Shumlin (Vermont) and Connecticut's Governor Dannel P. Malloy. The event took place at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. As you may know, the President has proposed raising the minimum wage nationally.

## **Bills Still in Play As Committees Wrap Up Work: Running Bamboo, Tree Trimming, Solar Panels Bill Update**

Legislative committees are finishing their work and sending their bills to the House or Senate floor. This means the 2014 Legislative Session of the General Assembly has reached the half-way point. The session ends on May 7, 2014.

Still in play are a number of bills in the Environment Committee as their deadline approaches. The committee will take up the running bamboo legislation is contained in Senate Bill 72 which increases the liability of individuals who plant it at their JF meeting.

Click on the link for SB 72:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/TOB/s/pdf/2014SB-00072-R00-SB.pdf>

Meanwhile,  
CNLA testified  
against House Bill  
5139 that would limit  
state aid to  
agricultural operations  
who wish to use solar  
panels on-site. This



bill is pending in the Planning and Development Committee. Click on the bill link to read more:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/TOB/h/pdf/2014HB-05139-R00-HB.pdf>

## Legislators Announce Retirements

Senate President Don Williams announced he will retire from the Senate at the end of his current term. CNLA wishes him well. Watch for an interesting race in the Northeast



Connecticut district. Meanwhile, the Senate has a new member: Gary Holder-Winfield was elected to the New Haven-dominated 10<sup>th</sup> district in a Special Election. Gary previously served as a State Representative from New Haven. Several veteran legislators have announced they will retire. These include Rep. DebraLee Hovey, Rep. Marilyn Giuliano, Rep. Livvy Floren and Rep. Geoff Luxenberg. We expect more announcements in the near future.

Just this week State Senator Andrea Stillman announced that she will retire from the State Senate at the conclusion of her term.

## Going Green-Let Us Know!

CNLA President Kevin Sullivan would like to initiate a goal of going green!

To save on paper and expenses, he would like to have more communication sent to the membership electronically through email and Constant Contact. However, if you would like to continue to receive communications such as the *CNLA Update* and email blasts or Alerts via facsimile, fax, let us know by indicating so on the attached form. He would also like to send only one copy of printed documents to each member; however, additional copies may be sent by request. Let us know, however, if you need or wish to receive a certain number of printed communications at your business. Here is a link to the [Member Update Form](#)

**CNLA New Website Under Construction  
Please Return Member Directory Form-Creating**

## An Online “Members Only” Password Protected Area

At the same time, we are updating our membership records and working to create an up-to-date member directory for our new CNLA website that is under development with CNLA board members Brian Kogut and Darryl Newman overseeing the project. Please take a moment and complete a very brief form updating your contact information and specifying a preferred method of communication. Please return the form to the CNLA office by responding to this email or by faxing the form to the CNLA office by Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>!

You will need to access this “Members Only” Area of the new Website with your email address and a password that you create to get into this portion of the website. We will post CNLA Updates and other information on this portion of the new website. Here is a link to the [Member Update Form](#)

Thank you for your time, assistance and interest in the CNLA and the profession!

## Visiting Assistant Extension Educator Position- Nursery Integrated Pest Management at UConn

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture seeks applications for the position of Visiting Assistant Extension Educator – Nursery Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

This is a full-time, 11-month, end-date position available immediately. The salary is negotiable and commensurate with training and experience. The successful candidate will be expected to develop, conduct, and evaluate a statewide Extension IPM educational program for nursery growers and garden center owners. The position is funded for one year with the possibility of renewal on performance evaluation, available funding sources, and the candidate’s ability to secure additional funding.

Please submit a Curriculum Vitae and a letter of application, which includes the names and contact information of three professional references.

Applications are submitted electronically through the Husky Hire webpage at <http://www.jobs.uconn.edu>. Search #2014365. Follow the “Search Apply” registration instructions and then search this job posting using the search number listed above. Please direct questions via email to Ms. Donna Ellis

at [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu).

Screening of applications is underway and will continue until the position is filled.

## **Job Fair at Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury**

Naugatuck Valley Community College will be holding a Job and Career Fair on Tuesday, March 25th, from 9:00 A.M. to noon in Café West. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with employers who are hiring and to learn about career opportunities.

Employers can register online using the link provided below or just call NVCC

. <http://www.collegecentral.com/CCNEngine/LiveEvents/LiveEvents.cfm?EventID=635>

Job Placement Center 203-575-8158 • [jpc@nv.edu](mailto:jpc@nv.edu)

## **The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing availability of Conservation Innovation Grants**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is announcing availability of Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications will be accepted from all Northeast States for projects implemented in Connecticut. NRCS anticipates that the amount available for support of this program in FY 2014 will be up to \$143,700. Applications are requested from eligible governmental or non-governmental organizations or individuals for competitive consideration of grant awards for projects between one and three years in duration.

This notice identifies the objectives, eligibility criteria, and application instructions for CIG projects. Applications will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice. Incomplete applications will be eliminated from competition, and notification of elimination will be mailed to the applicant. *A link follows for more information:*

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/financial/cig/?cid=stelprdb1249417>

**DATES:** Applications must be received by NRCS before 4 p.m. on **April 25, 2014.**

\* \* \*

If you have items of interest to CNLA members, please email them to us at: [LKowalski@thekowalskigroup.com](mailto:LKowalski@thekowalskigroup.com) or [KWeeks@thekowalskigroup.com](mailto:KWeeks@thekowalskigroup.com) or to the CNLA office at [ConnNrsry@aol.com](mailto:ConnNrsry@aol.com)



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