April 3 Weekly Farm Zoom chat notes

From Rebecca Long: https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/farm-product-and-pickup-directory/submission-form/

From Rebecca Long: Good annotated list of online sales platforms:

https://www.youngfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Farm-direct-sales-software-1.pdf

From Donna Coffin:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NOlvEE7DQvgiMZG9c1j Ml3a8ZLoqPYXf0JvtYuf9l8/edit From Jonathan Malacarne: The link Rebecca just sent is especially helpful as it has the cost associated with each platform on it.

From Nicolas Lindholm: I'm working on updating and annotating my list of online platforms for farmers—should be out by Monday

From Bonnie: bsammons829@gmail.com sammons.cara@gmail.com

From Helen Costello: This week I set up square on my Facebook page and it is free online store From Donna Coffin: donna.coffin@maine.edu

From Richard Brzozowski UMaine Extension: For those who do not have good internet connection, you can purchase a cell booster. Then use a hot spot on your cell phone for better internet.

From Nicolas Lindholm: There's a bond issue coming up on broadband expansion. Let your voice be heard and get more info here. https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/yes-to-bond

From Jonathan Malacarne: There's a bunch of USDA money for rural broadband infrastructure projects, they typically require partnerships with rural communities or private partners.

From Rebecca Long: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/covid19/docs/farmersmarket-guidance.pdf

From Rebecca Long : https://www.farmdrop.us/

From Brad: I'm a brand new farmer actually

From Brad: no microphone sorry

From Brad: Growing mainly salad and greens

From Brad: in Old Town ME

From Brad: we are just getting ready to plant

From Brad: slow start

From Brad : lunafarms207@gmail.com

From Brad: thanks

From Sarah Hewitt: victoryhempco@gmail.com

From Jonathan Malacarne : Jonathan Malacarne, jonathan.malacarne@maine.edu, Agricultural

From Brad: Sounds great Jonathan, I'll be sending you an email tomorrow with some

From Jonathan Malacarne: Great! I'll look forward to it.

From Rebecca Long: Maine seedling sales needs assessment:

https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzl1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkljoxMDAsInVyaSl6lmJwMjpjbGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkljoiMjAyMDA0MDMuMTk3MzlyMzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2FjY291bnRzL01FREFDRi9idWxsZXRpbnMvMjg0Y2EwMiJ9.BlZnvRU0odDoR9Qn6zik2 vPYOPaUlAv5YKRFtjwuT4/br/77025701335-l

From Rebecca Long: Whoops, try this link:

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/bulletins/284ca02

From Rebecca Long: UMaine COVID and Agriculture question submission form:

https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/covid-19-faq/form/

From Rebecca Long : Answers posted here: https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/covid-19-fag/

From Brad: I have to go, great to hear from everyone. I will try to join next week!

From David Fuller: https://harvesttomarket.com/farmers-market/Western-Maine-Market

From Sarah Hewitt: Wednesday works. mornings or noon lunch meeting From Helen Costello to Donna Coffin (Privately): hcostello42@gmail.com From Sarah Hewitt: there's a farm labor workshop the 10th at the same time

Discussion included how farms are selling to customers. Pre-order, prepay, touchless transactions, farmer places order on table and customer comes up to table to pick up order. Disinfect table between customers. Farmer wears mask and gloves. How FarmDrop in the Blue Hill area functions and Forager is starting a FarmDrop site in Portland soon. There is a consumer purchase behavior survey during Covid19 that results will be released next week on Forager Zoom call on Thursday. Use of Milpa garden technique for storage vegetable production. Idea of multiple farmers offer CSAs with veg, meat, egg, fiber products. Discussion on market challenges with fiber products. Discussion on Internet and phone high speed connections and how to some phone companies have flicked a switch to offer all high speed Internet and other phone companies have not. Multiple people contacting public officials to try to influence companies to flick the switch for small farms.

Dr. Malacarne is willing to work with individual farmers to evaluate what alternative or e-commerce market method might work for their farm based on customer base, products sold, volume that needs to be sold, current computer/Internet usage, etc.

Next meeting: After some discussion Donna suggested we do next Friday night and take a poll for a second session during the day. Looking for what day of the week and time folks would like to join. Some interest in Wednesday afternoon. Will solicit ideas from previous Zoom participants.