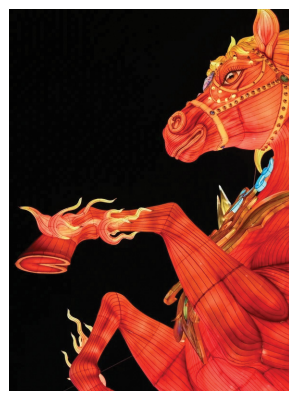
The Daily Campus

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Two more sheep died in barn fire than first reported



The moon rises over Horsebarn Hill on Tuesday Feb 3, 2026 in Storrs, Conn.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NAME NAME, POSITION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Kevin Guinan
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A fire at a livestock barn on the University of Connecticut Storrs campus killed six sheep instead of the four originally announced on Saturday, according to the university spokesperson.

Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said in an email Tuesday that two of the sheep were adults and four were lambs. The investigation of the fire's origin is still being conducted by the UConn Fire Marshal's Unit, according to Reitz.

The fire occurred in Livestock Unit I which typically houses about 90 ewes (female sheep) and 45 beef cows which are used at the Department of Animal Science for teaching, research and community extension programs, according to Reitz.

"The fire has not significantly impacted education, research, or extension activities in the department."

STEPHANIE RIETZ

The barn is not open to the public, but visitors are able to use outdoor paddocks in Livestock Unit I from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to the Department of Animal Science's website. Schools also frequently schedule field trips to visit the barns.

The damaged portion of the barn is not being used while repairs are planned, according to Reitz. She added that staff are working to ensure the wellbeing of the animals and rearrange their housing in other parts of the facility.

"The fire has not significantly impacted education, research, or extension activities in the department," Reitz said, referring to the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources.

Firefighters at UConn were alerted of the fire around 8 p.m. and arrived with assistance from Coventry's and Mansfield's mutual aid crews. The response team was able to extinguish the fire before the barn was heavily damaged, according to Reitz.

It is not currently known if anybody was in the barn when the fire broke out, according to WFSB.

An alarm system that activated in the barn shortly after 8 p.m. helped fire officials quickly respond and extinguish the barn fire before any significant damage occurred, according to Reitz.

Petition released for UConn to stand against ICE

by Jenna Outcalt
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Students ignite lighters at a vigil to honor the victims of ICE at Dove Tower on Feb. 4, 2026. Event organizers, as well as attendees, shared their stories and messages to the crowd.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

A coalition of organizations at the University of Connecticut released a petition calling for the university to take a clearer stand against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Thursday, Feb. 12.

The petition alleges that UConn has not been clear about how or whether it will protect the immigrant community at the school. A representative of the coalition who asked to remain anonymous said the petition's demands offer clearer actionable steps UConn could take.

"While we do appreciate that the university is thinking about these things, we do think that their actions have been insufficient thus far to protect the UConn community, and we think that our demands are very good steps that they could be taking to keep the community safe," the representative said.

On the same day the petition was released, UConn sent an announcement with guidance for potential interactions with immigration agents. It recommended that someone dealing with federal agents inform the agent that they are required to contact a university official to help handle the situation.

The coalition representative said that ICE "[doesn't] sit calmly while people call people."

"A large portion of the university community is deeply disturbed by what we see happening and what ICE has been doing across the nation..."

COALITION REPRESENTATIVE

"The university's statement was insufficient in keeping its community safe because it really did not offer any clear protocols on whether university employees are being trained on how to deal with ICE," the representative said.

The coalition supporting the petition also linked a full list of demands for UConn President Radenka Maric, the board of trustees and UConn administration.

UConn did not provide comment on the petition, but it directed students to resources like the 2025 Q&A about immigration issues on campus and the school's list of resources for the international community.

The coalition representative said the lack of clarity in UConn's protocol "puts the community at risk."

"Really all they've said up until this point is that it's 'virtually impossible' — that's a quote from them — to designate private and public spaces, which is a very important demand that we have, because ICE needs a judicial warrant to go onto any non-public space on campus," the representative said.

The representative also said the end goal was to ensure the immigrant community on campus feels safe.

"Those communities that we've worked very closely with in developing these demands have expressed time and time again that they don't feel safe on campus," the representative said. "They don't feel that the administration has done enough to keep them and the rest of the community at UConn with precarious immigration status safe."

The petition is growing close to its current goal of 1,500 signatures. The coalition representative said they had already increased the signature goal and planned to increase it again as more signatures came in.

The representative said the petition had over 1,000 signatures within the first 24 hours of its release and that the immediate support showed the "strong feeling among the UConn community that the administration should do anything in its power to keep people at the university safe."

"A large portion of the university community is united over the issue of immigration. A large portion of the student population at the university is deeply disturbed by what we see happening and what ICE has been doing across the nation," the representative said. "I think this is really a statement that the UConn community cares about what is happening with ICE."

EDITOR'S NOTE

Tomas Hinckley, the opinion editor at The Daily Campus is a member of one of the organizations that assembled the petition; however, he did not participate in writing the petition.

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