

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
 Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
 Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner



Linda Piotrowicz, Editor
 Wednesday, September 26, 2012

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT

ELM FARM NAMED 2012 CONNECTICUT DAIRY FARM OF THE YEAR

By Joyce Meader, Dairy/Livestock Educator, UCONN Cooperative Extension System

Elm Farm in Woodstock has been chosen by the Connecticut Green Pastures judging team to be the 2012 Dairy Farm of the Year. The farm was recognized at the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts, on Friday, September 14, 2012.

The annual Green Pastures Award recognizes outstanding management practices at family dairy farms in each of the six New England states.

Matthew and Christine Peckham have worked very hard since taking over the farm in 2005, one year after Matt's grandfather passed away. Their goal is to allow their children the opportunity to be the seventh generation to run the farm.

Today Matt talks about the huge challenges faced by small dairies. Small farms have to work hard to overcome rising feed and fuel costs. It is no secret that the economy of scale and modern high-efficiency field equipment are the driving factors behind farms getting larger.

Setting out to improve milk production, the farm enrolled in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and monthly herd checks with their veterinarian. Production of quality forages, sexed semen, and timed artificial insemination helped to get the herd back on its feet. With 100% internal herd growth, the original 86-cow herd is up to 140 cows and 200 heifers, with a rolling herd average of 23,100 pounds per cow per year in 2011.

A new free-stall barn for the cows, new calf barn, and 1.4-million-gallon manure storage facility to hold almost a year's worth of valuable manure are accomplishments shown off during farm tours and to legislators.

Currently, conservation and controlling runoff is a high priority for the farm.

"As farms grow we have an incredible responsibility to protect the land that sustains us," Matt said.

The Little River watershed supplies drinking water to all the homes in the town of Putnam. The farm has multiple streams flowing into Little River. Matt has partnered with the local conservation district and the USDA's EQIP program to resurface existing trench

silos and collect the silage leachate. The leachate is pumped into the new manure pit, reducing the chance of any farm runoff entering the watershed.

Matt plants three types of soil: easy, gravelly, and hardpan.

"Each soil type has its challenges for manure incorporation and soil conservation," Matt said. "We are getting closer to 100% no-till planting, but it takes a lot of education and planning. We have learned that no-till is far more than just dragging a planter across bare ground. At the end of the day, having enough corn to feed your animals is always the most important goal."

Matt and Christine open their farm to school and daycare groups, and host a plow day for the antique tractor club each year. Matt believes in keeping the farm open to the community, and tries to be a positive voice for agriculture. Besides the herd and crops, the Peckhams are raising four beautiful children (and a rambunctious dog).

We are very proud to announce this award to a very deserving young couple, Matt and Chrissy Peckham.



Matthew, Christine, Caleb, and Grace Peckham of Elm Farm with Joseph Dippel of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture



**WHOLESALE PEPPERS
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
PEPPER,Bll,grn,md	7.00	7.00
PEPPER,Bll,grn,xl	11.00	13.00
PEPPER,Bll,grn,lg,1-1/9bu	9.00	10.00
PEPPER,Bll,trn rd,md	5.00	5.00
PEPPER,Chrry ht,1/2bu	10.00	10.00
PEPPER,Cbnll,1-1/9bu,trn	7.00	8.00
PEPPER,Cbnll,grn,xl	8.00	10.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

September 24, 2012

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

49-54	220-300 lbs	57.00-60.50
	300-400 lbs	58.00-60.00
45-49	220-300 lbs	53.00-56.00
	300-400 lbs	53.00-53.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	32.00-35.00
	500-700 lbs	33.50-36.50
Boars:	300-700 lbs	12.50-14.50

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, September 24, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	20.00	25.00
61-75 lbs.	28.00	30.00
76-90 lbs.	32.00	35.00
91-105 lbs.	37.50	42.00
106 lbs. & up	45.00	50.00
Farm Calves	55.00	90.00
Starter Calves	30.00	34.00
Veal Calves	50.00	165.00
Open Heifers	85.00	90.00
Beef Heifers	71.50	75.00
Beef Steers	98.00	101.00
Feeder Steers	87.50	92.00
Stock Bulls	n/a	n/a
Beef Bulls	85.00	93.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	75.00	260.00
Kid Goats	40.00	200.00
Canners	Up to	67.50
Cutters	68.00	71.00
Utility Grade Cows	72.00	77.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	16.00
Chickens each	4.00	17.00
Ducks each	5.00	22.00
Feeder Pigs	40.00	45.00
Lambs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	n/a	n/a



**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
APPLE,Cort bu,2-3/4,xfcy	34.00	34.00
APPLE,Gala,tote,8/5lb	34.00	34.00
APPLE,Hnycrsp,100ct,xfcy	60.00	70.00
APPLE,Mac,80ct,xfcy	38.00	38.00
BEAN,Grn,bu	18.00	18.00
BEAN,Wax,bu	25.00	29.00
BROCCOLI,Cut,20lb	13.00	14.00
BROCCOLI,14ct	11.00	12.00
CABBAGE,Grn,bx	12.00	12.00
CABBAGE,Grn,bg 50lb	8.00	9.00
CABBAGE,Svy,bx	15.00	15.00
CAULIFLWR,12ct	18.00	18.00
CIDER,4/1gal.	22.00	23.00
CORN,5dz	8.00	14.00
CORN,Indian,20/3s	25.00	25.00
CUCMBR,spr slct,1-1/9bu	18.00	20.00
CUCMBR,PckIng,1/2 bu	15.00	15.00
EGGPLNT,1-1/9bu	10.00	12.00
GRAPE,Cncrd,8-1qt	24.00	25.00
LEEKs,12s	13.00	14.00
PEAR,Bosc,4/5bu	31.00	34.00
PEAR,Rd Anj,4/5bu	32.00	32.00
PEAR,Sckl,1/2bu	26.00	26.00
POTATOES,Rsst,80ct	13.00	13.00
POTATOES,10lb,sz A	2.00	2.00
PUMPKIN,Hwdn,xl,bin36"	170.00	180.00
PUMPKIN,Pie,bin 36"	275.00	280.00
PUMPKIN,Pie,per lb	.22	.25
SQUASH,Acrn,bu	14.00	14.00
SQUASH,bttcrp,1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH,bttrnt,1-1/9	14.00	14.00
SQUASH,Grn,1/2bu,fncy	12.00	14.00
SQUASH,Yllw,1/2bu,fncy	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES,Grp,12/1pt	10.00	12.00
TOMATOES,25lb,xl	15.00	20.00
TOMATOES,10lb,hrm,xl	20.00	32.00

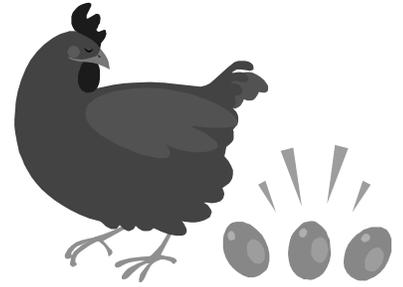
(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

September 24, 2012

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:		
Breakers 75-80% lean		
72.00-77.00	78.00-83.00	68.00-71.00
Boners 80-85% lean		
70.50-75.00	76.00-76.50	63.00-68.00
Lean 88-90% lean		
63.00-69.00	70.00-753.50	58.00-62.00
CALVES: All prices per cwt.		
Graded Bull Calves		
No.1 95-120lbs	115.00-130.00	
No.2 95-120lbs	100.00-115.00	
No.3 100-135lbs	70.00-80.00	
Slaughter bulls	985--2175lb	92.00-97.00
Holstein Heifers No.1	85-120lb	90.00-130.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3		
50-60lbs	144.00-165.00	
60-80lbs	137.00-158.00	
70-80lbs	128.00-144700	
80-90lbs	110.00-134.00	
90-110lbs	116.00-130.00	
110-130lbs	n/a	



**WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND
SHELL EGGS**

Prices paid per dozen. Grade A brown eggs in cartons, delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.71-1.84
LARGE	1.63-1.76
MEDIUM	1.25-1.37

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

September 24, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, per dozen. (Range)

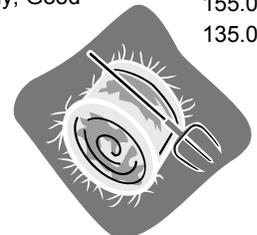
EXTRA LARGE	1.48-1.52
LARGE	1.46-1.50
MEDIUM	1.23-1.27

PENNSYLVANIA HAY REPORT

September 24, 2012

Prices per ton.

Alfalfa, Premium	245.00-265.00
Alfalfa, Good	150.00-200.00
Mixed Hay, Premium	240.00-375.00
Mixed Hay, Good	165.00-230.00
Timothy, Premium	240.00-340.00
Timothy, Good	155.00-220.00
Straw	135.00-220.00



Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3

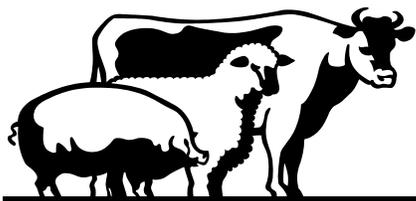
50-60lbs	120.00-136.00
60-70lbs	126.00-138.00
70-80lbs	110.00-128.00
90-130lbs	n/a

SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh

115-135lbs	66.00-78.00
190-225lb	66.00-76.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	110-155lbs -54.00-64.00
160--200lb	-58.00-60.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.

40- 45lbs	88.00-108.00
50-55lbs	111.00-126.00
60-70lbs	114.00-130.00
Nannies/Does:90-125lb-110.00-140.00	
130lbs	136.00-136.00
130-160lb	n/a
Bucks/Billies: 100-130lbs -132.00-155.00	
150-240lbs	188.00-287.00



ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheepbreeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

4-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

10-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

122-R. High Quality Christmas Trees: Fraser-Canaan-Balsam-Nordman-Concolor-Blue Spruce-Meyer Spruce-Discounted Commercial Grades available also! Hartikka Tree Farms (800)508-5099
www.treeman2.com

130 Plainfield Two large pieces of land total 141 acres, 1700' road frontage. 3000' on Quinebaug River, boarded by Quinebaug State Wildlife Management area. 27 acres hay, 39 acres crop, possible subdivision, horse farm, golf course or recreation use. \$1,095,000. Call Clint Charter, Wallace Tustin Tetreault Realty 860-558-3908.

132-R NH 717 Super Chopped one row. AC Forage Blower. Ford 8000 Truck with Dion 18 ft Unloading Wagon. Richardton 1200 Dump Wagon with 6 inch risers and oversize tires, Dumps, 10ft 3". Case 18B skid loader with new Robins Engine. Hough Payloader, 1954 with rebuilt Hercules motor. 20-4x4 Bales of Second Cutting. Evening 860-635-1379.

135-R Oliver 70 Row Crop, Styled. Recent Work. Good Condition. \$2,500. Details, call 860-485-1398.

137-R JD 450 B Bulldozer, \$5,000. Dresser 520 B Payloader, \$14,000. Case W-11 one yard payloader, new motor, \$12,000. JD 6310 4X4 with 640 loader, \$23,000. NH 575 Baler with thrower, \$12,000. NH 311 Baler with chute and hitch, \$4,500. JD 660 Hay Rake all new teeth, \$1,600. NH 258 Hydraulic Drive Rake, \$3,000. 203-530-4953.

138-R Round Bales, first cut net wrapped for horses or cows. Picked up \$50 each. 203-530-4953.

139-R Piglets-Yorkshire-Landrace cross, White clean, 7 weeks old. \$80/each 860-668-2181.

141-R Wooden apple boxes 1 1/9 bu, 2000,\$4. Eastern apple box 400, new, \$3, 1/2 bushel basket, \$4. Call Doug 860-657-4172.

MISCELLANEOUS

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

11-R. Lily's LLC Appraisal Services specializes in Estates, Commercial & Industrial, Residential, Agricultural, Conservation Easements and Reevaluation Appraisals. Call Lori Longhi at 860-463-9997.

WANTED

125-R 1-2 cords of White Birch Logs, 3 inch to 5 inch Diameter in lengths of 6 to 12 feet. 203-866-5757. Ask for Vince.

The Connecticut Week Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information.



Farmer Joe Geremia presents at the 8/30/12 special meeting of the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development. Watch CT-N's coverage of the entire meeting at <http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=8123>

BIODIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS WEBINAR SEPT 27

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) presents a webinar, "Links between Biodiversity Requirements of Organic Systems and NRCS Practice Standards," at 1:00 p.m. EDT on September 27, 2012. NRCS Conservation Practice Standards that help operators meet the National Organic Program's (NOP) requirements will be discussed.

Register at <https://attra.ncat.org/biodiversity>.

CSA FAIR TO BE HELD OCT 7

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers are invited to a Connecticut CSA fair on October 7, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Downtown Country Fair at the Willimantic Food Coop. Bring information about your CSA and farm to engage directly with consumers about becoming a shareholder. As a vendor, farmers are also welcome to bring farm products to sell at the fair.

There is a \$25 fee for participation. For more information, please visit http://www.ctnofa.org/events/2012_CSA_Fair.html or e-mail kristiane@ctnofa.org.

UConn EXTENSION SEEKS INPUT ON GAP TRAINING

Those working on education programs and information about Good Agricultural Practices and produce safety have developed a short survey to get input from Connecticut farmers and growers about the programs and information. To complete the survey, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DPT9BQS>.

PT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST WANTED

UConn Cooperative Extension seeks a sustainable agriculture specialist to serve beginner farmers scaling up their enterprises. Successful candidate will participate in a whole-farm educator team and coordinate new trainings regarding farm management.

Qualifications: minimum 10 years farming; experience with sustainable agricultural production, including organic methods; minimum six years farm management; experience with internet media. Average 16 hours/week, with ability to work evenings/weekends with seasonal variation. Compensation approximately \$55/hr without benefits. This three-year, part-time position starts in Oct/Nov 2012 and will be based out of Tolland County Extension office.

This project is supported by Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program of NIFA/USDA, Grant # 2012-00718. Send resume, letter, and three references by noon on September 27, 2012, to jiff.martin@uconn.edu.

NRCS GRANTS FOR DROUGHT ADAPTATION

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced up to \$5 million in grants to evaluate and demonstrate agricultural practices that help farmers and ranchers adapt to drought. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) help producers build flexibility into their production systems so they can adapt to climatic extremes.

NRCS is offering the grants to partnering entities to evaluate innovative, field-based conservation technologies and approaches. These technologies and/or approaches should lead to improvements such as enhancing the water-holding capacity in soils and installing drought-tolerant grazing systems, which will help farms and ranches become more resilient to drought.

Applications are due October 15, 2012. Private individuals, tribes, local and state governments, and non-governmental organizations may apply. Funds will be awarded through a competitive grants process for projects lasting one to three years. Apply at www.grants.gov/ or contact the NRCS National CIG office at 703-235-8065.

The complete announcement is available at www.grants.gov or <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/cig/>.

CT AG FAIR SEASON UNDERWAY

Connecticut's agricultural fair season is underway, with a wide assortment of local, 4-H, district, and major fairs around the state through mid-October. Fairs coming up this week include:

- [Durham Fair](#), September 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2012

More information about Connecticut's agricultural fairs is available at www.ctfairs.org.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL LISTENING SESSIONS

The Governor's Council for Agricultural Development is developing the first-ever strategic plan for Connecticut agriculture. As part of the information-gathering phase of that effort, the council is conducting four listening sessions in late September and early October to obtain input from agricultural stakeholders in Connecticut.

The first two listening sessions occurred September 19 in Norwich and September 20 in Windsor. CT-N coverage of the Norwich session can be viewed at <http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=8186>.

The remaining sessions will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. as follows:

- Thursday, September 27, 2012
[Common Ground High School](#) in New Haven
- Thursday, October 4, 2012
[Litchfield County Extension Office](#) in Torrington

All are welcome at listening sessions and no RSVP is required.

Those who would like to provide input but cannot attend a listening session can still submit feedback via an online survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GCAD_Stakeholder_Input_Aug_Sept_2012. The deadline to respond to the survey is September 30, 2012.

A draft of the strategic plan, *Grow Connecticut Farms*, will be presented at a statewide summit, tentatively scheduled for December 17, 2012, at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

For more information about the council and the strategic plan, please visit www.CTGrown.gov/GovernorsCouncil.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. (Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses are counted separately.) Print or type copy. Advertisements accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Ads with payment must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion in that issue. Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted. Remittance with copy required. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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