

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner  
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
February 7, 2017



## FARM, ROADSIDE STAND TO RE-EMERGE THROUGH FARMLINK PARTNERSHIP

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

**NORTH GRANBY** - A well-known vegetable, fruit and live-stock farm that has been dormant for several years will be revived this season by the owner and a farmer who formed a partnership through the Dept. of Agriculture's FarmLink program.

The red, corn-crib style farmstand at Wilhelm Farm had been a popular stop along North Granby Road for more than two decades, until owners Ann Wilhelm and her husband Bill Bentley decided to put the operation on hold in 2012.

Farmed for more than a century, the property has been in Ann's family since being purchased by her grandparents in 1936, providing three generations of Wilhelms with food and a side-income.

But as she and Bill approached retirement age and their children moved out, they decided it was time for a break while they reconsidered the farm's future.

Ann also posted a profile on Connecticut FarmLink, a web-based program and database that connects farmers seeking land with farmland owners offering to sell or lease acreage.

The site, [www.ctfarmlink.org](http://www.ctfarmlink.org), currently lists nearly 40 farms for sale, 50 farms for lease, and has more than 200 "farm seekers."

Wilhelm wanted a farmer interested in working the land with an approach known as permaculture, which seeks to tailor crops and production techniques to the natural characteristics of a given piece of land.

"I wasn't looking to just turn the land over to someone

else," she said. "I was looking for a collaborator, a partner."

After declining offers from several farm seekers whose plans didn't quite mesh with hers, she was contacted last summer by Sven Pihl, who was living in the New Haven area and whose FarmLink profile described him as an "Ecological Landscape Designer, Permaculture Designer/Teacher, Homesteader, Specialty Grower seeking residence within 45 minutes of Hartford."

"Her profile mentioned permaculture and a lot of other technical, geeky stuff that I love," Pihl said last week as he and Ann showed a visitor around the 46-acre property. "It was good to meet someone who was on the same wavelength."

In recent weeks, Pihl has found housing within short walking distance of the farm, where he and Wilhelm are still in the planning stages of exactly what they will grow and what animals they will raise.

The farm had previously grown a variety of vegetables and berries, and raised beef and dairy cows, along with pigs and laying hens. About 70 percent of the farm is forested, including a stand of White Pine originally planted by Wilhelm's grandfather in 1937, which continues to regenerate and has been harvested several times.

"I'm very interested in reintroducing livestock to the farm and integrating the forest production with the agricultural production," said Wilhelm, who has an undergraduate degree in Animal Science from Cornell University and a

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b> Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	56.00	59.50
boners 80-85% lean	55.00	59.50
lean 88-90% lean	51.00	56.50
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	120.00	128.00
Choice 2-3	115.00	119.50
Select 1-2	110.00	116.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	116.00	120.00
Choice 2-3	84.00	88.00
Sel 1-2	79.00	82.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	116.00	120.00
Choice 2-3	109.00	113.00
Sel 1-2	107.00	109.00
<b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>		
No 1 98-120 lbs	85.00	99.00
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b> Med & Lge 1		
300-400 lbs	144.00	148.00
400-500 lbs	144.00	150.00
500-600 lbs	134.00	141.00
600-700 lbs	121.00	124.00
700-900 lbs	111.00	118.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	217.00	237.00
110-130 lbs	182.00	215.00
130-150 lbs	152.00	180.00
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3</b>		
120-160 lbs	100.00	130.00
160-200 lbs	90.00	110.00
200-300 lbs	80.00	95.00
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
20-40 lbs	130.00	135.00
40-60 lbs	165.00	185.00
60-80 lbs	170.00	195.00
80-100 lbs	200.00	230.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
80-130 lbs	190.00	220.00
130-180 lbs	220.00	255.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
80-100 lbs	245.00	260.00
150-250 lbs	270.00	325.00

**DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS**

New Holland, PA, February 1, 2017. By the head.

**FRESH COWS:**

APPROVED	1175.00	1575.00
MEDIUM	825.00	1150.00

**SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS)**

APPROVED	1175.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	800.00	1175.00

**BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):**

APPROVED	1075.00	1225.00
MEDIUM	800.00	850.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	55.00	59.00
	300-350 lbs	56.00	58.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	46.00	53.00
	300-350 lbs	48.00	57.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	29.00	32.50
Boars	200-300 lbs	15.00	15.00
	300-400 lbs	12.00	12.00
	400-800 lbs	4.00	5.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
APPLE, CRT LND, XF, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	21.00	21.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 88	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 80	40.00	40.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 88	40.00	40.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 140	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2"	22.00	22.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELPK, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELPK, 140	17.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, SM, LOOSE, 25 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, MD, LOOSE, 25LBS	8.00	8.00
BEETS, GOLD, MED, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
EGGPLANT, CHINESE, M, 1/2 BU	24.00	25.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, M, 20 LBS	15.00	16.00
PARSNIPS, FILM BAG, 20 LBS	22.00	22.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB	20.00	20.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	18.00	18.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	11.00	12.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50LB	10.00	11.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, 10LB FILM	2.25	2.25
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 10 OZ, 50LB	11.00	11.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZA, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	16.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, ACORN, MED 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE HEIRLM, 10 LB	23.00	25.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25 LB	15.00	15.00

**USDA-NORTHEAST RETAIL CONVENTIONAL DAIRY**

Price Range. Per unit.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.79	3.99
CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.99	3.50
CHEESE, SHRED, 1 LB	3.49	3.99
CHEESE, SHRED, 8 OZ	1.50	2.99
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16OZ	1.66	2.99
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.49	2.79
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.99	3.99
MILK, ALL, 1/2 GAL	1.99	2.29
MILK, FLVRD, GAL	3.99	3.99
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.49	2.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6 OZ	.83	1.25
YOGURT, GREEK, 32 OZ	3.99	4.99
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	.33	1.00
YOGURT, 32 OZ	2.18	4.99

**USDA-NORTHEAST RETAIL ORGANIC DAIRY**

Price Range. Per unit.

BUTTER, 1 LB	5.49	5.79
CHEESE, 8 OZ SHRED	4.00	4.00
MILK, ALL, 1/2 GAL	3.49	4.49
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	3.99	3.99
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6 OZ	.60	1.49
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	1.25	1.25
YOGURT, 32 OZ	3.50	3.50

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - February 6, 2017

	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	20.00	23.00
61-75 lbs.	25.00	30.00
76-90 lbs.	35.00	39.00
91-105 lbs.	40.00	44.00
106 lbs. & up	45.00	49.00
Farm Calves	50.00	52.50
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	90.00	105.00
Feeder Heifers	70.00	75.00
Beef Heifers	67.00	85.00
Feeder Steers	73.00	105.00
Beef Steers	71.00	78.00
Feeder Bulls	96.00	110.00
Beef Bulls	75.00	90.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	17.50	35.00
Sheep, each	82.50	160.00
Lambs each	85.00	225.00
Goats each	160.00	365.00
Kid Goats each	95.00	140.00
Canners	up to	62.50
Cutters	63.00	66.00
Utility Grade Cows	67.00	71.00
Rabbits each	5.00	10.00
Chickens each	3.00	28.00
Ducks each	5.00	11.00

Auction is open February 13th and 20th as usual.

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.79	.96
LARGE	.73	.87
MEDIUM	.61	.74

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.23	1.35
LARGE	1.17	1.28
MEDIUM	.79	.89
SMALL	.60	.67

**GRADED FEEDER PIG AUCTION NEW HOLLAND, PA**

February 1, 2017

US 1-2		
20-30 lbs	170.00	190.00
US 2		
20-30 lbs	160.00	190.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT**

February 6, 2017. Per small square.

ALFALFA		
Good	175.00	210.00
ALFALFA/GRASS		
Supreme	320.00	360.00
Premium	260.00	305.00
Good	180.00	205.00
GRASS HAYS		
Premium	275.00	330.00
Good	180.00	220.00
STRAW	105.00	135.00

**(Continued from Page 1)**

Master's degree from Michigan State in agricultural-related data analysis. She and Pihl are considering implementing several agroforestry practices at the farm, including a silvopasture plan in which trees are interspersed with forage that livestock feed on.

They also plan to pursue forest farming, where specialty crops like mushrooms or ornamental plants are grown amongst the trees. The forest also provides animals shade and shelter from the elements, as well as improving water and air quality.

Goats will likely be brought in initially to help clear a few acres of former pasture that have become overgrown with brush. Other techniques might include using chickens to scratch around the crop fields and eat insects that might be harmful to plants, which also gives the birds a free source of protein.

Pihl will give a presentation on permaculture and other "sustainable" techniques at the upcoming winter conference of the Connecticut chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

"A lot of the systems on a farm might appear to be disconnected but they're not," said Pihl, whose diverse background includes a previous career in manufacturing engineering, a stint in the U.S. Navy and managing an urban farming incubator program at a non-profit organization in Hartford. "They're all pieces of a puzzle."

Wilhelm, an advocate of using small farms to increase local food production, said emerging terms like permaculture and agroforestry are simply new names for old practices.

"Stacking functions is something that small farms have

been doing for a long time," she said. "It's really just having multiple uses for elements in your agro-ecosystem that fit together, and fit the land."

She believes her farm is a microcosm of that model, and would eventually like to make it a demonstration site.

"You look around the world and a lot of food is produced on farms this scale," she said. "The future of agriculture needs to focus on local production, and small farms will play an important part in that."

For the farm's former customers and potential new ones, the most noticeable impact of the farm's re-emergence will likely be the produce offered at its landmark farmstand just a few feet off the road.

"One of my first priorities is to reopen the stand," Wilhelm said.

While not yet ready to reveal what they plan to grow and sell, it seems likely the stand will feature more than just traditional New England fruits and vegetables.

"We're still developing that," Pihl said with a grin, "but I like the weird stuff."

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said the partnership is an example of how the FarmLink program can help new and beginning farmers find land, and put more acres into production. He encouraged landowners to consider listing land on the FarmLink website.

"The growing demand for local food has also produced a demand for farmland that for many new farmers is not always within reach through traditional means," Reviczky said. "FarmLink is helping to sustain and expand Connecticut's agricultural economy by providing a tool for farmers and farmland owners to connect."

**FOR SALE**

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

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

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

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

5-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.

23-R. Hundreds of steel hoops, 21 and 31 foot long for nursery or high tunnel. 2 STIP3 3,000 gallon oil tanks, 64" diameter by 18' long. Call 860-668-7371.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-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-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

24. Hidden Acres Farm, Inc: According to new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules on Preventive Controls for Human Food, businesses with direct contact with foodstuffs must have a licensed Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) on staff who has successfully completed training on risk-based preventive controls. Please visit [www.ctpcqi.eventbrite.com](http://www.ctpcqi.eventbrite.com) for more information about the new requirements and to register online for PCQI certification.

**WANTED**

10-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

19-R. Small lower Fairfield County farm seeks the services of an experienced farmer seeking fulltime live-in employment. Successful applicant will have extensive NE farming experience either practical or educational, including all facets of vegetable, berry, orchard farming and animal husbandry. Experience with farm equipment, operation, maintenance, pesticides, fertilizers, greenhouse, farmers' markets, and farm stand operation. Salary and benefits, including on-farm housing for up to a family of four included. For information to apply, please email:

[Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com](mailto:Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com)

22-R. Full time reliable Nursery worker needed for an established nursery and Christmas Tree Farm. Kogut's Hemlock Hill Tree Farm, located in Suffield and Enfield, seeks a full time individual experienced with farm equipment, pesticides, fertilizers, and general practices or maintaining and operating a successful nursery. For information and/or to apply, please contact Kathy Kogut at [wkogut@cox.net](mailto:wkogut@cox.net) or 203-641-1632.



#### DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE TO EXHIBIT AT STATE AG FAIRS

Is your fair interested in having the Connecticut Department of Agriculture exhibit at your event? If so, please submit your request by March 1 for consideration.

Please include the name of the event, date, location, set-up times, applicable fees, and contact information and send to Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov).

#### AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL REGISTRATION OPEN

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) invites agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities to register for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day will be held on Wednesday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the North Lobby and Hall of Flags at the Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave., Hartford.

Registration and payment to participate in is due by Wednesday, March 1.

CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer and Ag Journalism awards. For more information, or to register, visit:

<http://ctaginfocouncil.org/index.html>.

**Above:** The farmstand at Wilhelm Farm in North Granby, scheduled to reopen this season.

**Page 1:** Ann Wilhelm and Sven Pihl at the edge of a tree-lined pasture where they plan to grow crops and implement several agroforestry practices.

#### FARM MARKETING IS FOCUS OF HARVEST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Ramping up the marketing of your farm will be the focus of the Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference & Trade Show, to be held March 7-9 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The theme of the 2017 conference is **Turn Up the Volume on Your Farm Marketing!** Attendees will experience nearly 30 workshops on topics including retail and wholesale marketing, agri-tourism, business planning, value added product development, social media and online marketing.

Go to [www.harvestnewengland.org/events](http://www.harvestnewengland.org/events) for more information. Harvest New England is a cooperative marketing program created by New England's state departments of agriculture in 1992. It has sponsored this regional conference since 2007. For more information, contact [Jaime.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov) at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact [Jane.Murdock@ct.gov](mailto:Jane.Murdock@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2588.

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