

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner  
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
January 10, 2017



## INPUT SOUGHT ON DRAFT REPORT ON “ENERGY SPRAWL” AFFECTING FARMLAND, FORESTS

**HARTFORD** – The state Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is seeking input on a draft report aimed at finding ways to stimulate solar energy facilities in Connecticut in places other than farms and forests.

The draft report, *Energy Sprawl in Connecticut: Why Farmland and Forests are Being Developed for Electricity Production*, documents the surge in proposals to use farmland and forest for the construction of large solar electricity-generating facilities.

This article is adapted from the report, which is available for review and comment at [www.ct.gov/ceq](http://www.ct.gov/ceq).

The trend toward placement of solar photovoltaic facilities on farmland and forest is accelerating, with 1,600 acres selected and/or approved in 2016, up from 200 acres in 2015.

The report notes the irony in the state’s spending millions of dollars to preserve agricultural and forest land and to encourage private forest management and conservation while, with another hand, encouraging conversion of similar lands into electricity-generating facilities.

Until the past decade, housing and commercial development were the biggest sectors converting land out of agriculture. The acreage of land used for agriculture remained fairly steady during and after the recession that began in 2007.

It now appears that development of energy facilities is the largest single factor driving land out of agriculture. While agricultural landowners may benefit financially from selling or leasing land for energy production, other farmers lose leased acreage essential to their business.

Connecticut long ago concluded that support of the

agricultural sector and conservation of productive land was worth state investment. And the simultaneous pursuit of two state goals which appear to be in conflict is often portrayed as a balancing act.

Unfortunately, the “balancing” approach usually results in the diminishment of both pursuits. In the case of renewable energy and the conservation of land – two goals in which the state has invested much – the solution is to integrate or harmonize the two, finding a way to stimulate the development of renewable energy on appropriate sites while continuing policies that conserve productive lands.

Some of the draft report’s conclusions include:

- In an average year, the state preserves about 1,700 acres of farmland and forest land. In 2016, the area of farmland and forest selected by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and/or approved by the Connecticut Siting Council for development of solar facilities nearly equaled that amount.
- Connecticut is unprepared to guide the placement of solar facilities to minimize their environmental damage.
- There are two decision points where state agencies influence the location of utility-scale solar facilities: DEEP’s selection of facilities to supply Eversource and United Illuminating with electricity from renewable sources, and the Connecticut Siting Council’s approval of the facilities.

The draft report calls the Siting Council’s approval “nearly automatic” because of outdated statutes.

“As a state working hard toward a sustainable economy, we should not be pitting solar energy against agriculture and

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
<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	53.00	59.50
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	112.00	115.00
Choice 2-3	110.00	113.00
Select 1-2	105.00	110.50
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	89.00	94.00
Choice 2-3	80.00	86.00
Sel 1-2	77.00	80.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	113.00	114.00
Choice 2-3	110.00	113.00
Sel 1-2	103.00	108.00
<b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>		
No 1 90-120 lbs	73.00	84.00
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS:</b> Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	115.00	137.00
40-60 lbs	140.00	170.00
60-80 lbs	170.00	195.00
80-100 lbs	200.00	225.00
100-120 lbs	210.00	260.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:</b> Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	175.00	195.00
130-180 lbs	202.00	240.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES:</b> Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	270.00	270.00
150-250 lbs	335.00	375.00
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b> Med & Lge 1		
400-500 lbs	138.00	143.00
500-550 lbs	136.00	141.00
550-600 lbs	128.00	135.00
600-650 lbs	121.00	128.00
650-700 lbs	116.00	120.50
700-900 lbs	109.00	116.00

**DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS**

New Holland, PA, January 9, 2017. By the head.

**FRESH COWS:**

SUPREME	1575.00	1600.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1575.00
MEDIUM	850.00	1250.00

**SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):**

APPROVED	1075.00	1375.00
MEDIUM	800.00	850.00

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

APPROVED	1150.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	825.00	1050.00

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

APPROVED	1075.00	1325.00
MEDIUM	800.00	1050.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	50.00	57.00
	300-350 lbs	50.00	57.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	44.00	50.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00	46.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	30.00	33.50
	500-600 lbs	33.00	38.50
Boars	200-300 lbs	18.00	34.00
	300-400 lbs	5.00	5.00
	400-800 lbs	4.00	12.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

**NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
APPLE, CORTLAND, FCY, 72	32.00	32.00
APPLE, GALA, FCY, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	20.00	20.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 64	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 80, 88	35.00	35.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80, 88	70.00	70.00
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
APPLE, MAC, FCY, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELPK, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 140	17.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, MD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	7.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, SM, 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, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LBS	23.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB	22.00	23.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	18.00	19.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	11.00	12.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50LB	10.00	10.50
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZB, 50 LB	11.00	11.00
SQUASH, ACORN, MED 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTRNT, ACORN, /LB	.90	.90
SQUASH, KABOCHA, MED, 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
TOM, GHSE, CHRRYONVINE, 5LB	10.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, CHRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMATO, GHSE HEIRLM, 10 LB	23.00	25.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25 LB	15.00	15.00
TURNIP, PURPLETOP, S-M, 25LB	12.00	12.00

**VT MONTHLY WINTER FARMERS' MARKET REPORT**

\$ per lb or as noted.

APPLES	1.75	2.00
BEETS	1.80	2.50
BROCCOLI-FROZEN ORGANIC	3.00	3.00
CABBAGE	1.00	2.85
CARROTS	1.00	3.00
CELERIAC	1.75	2.00
GARLIC	10.00	11.00
GREEN BEANS - FROZEN, ORG	6.00	6.00
HERBS, PER BUNCH	3.00	3.00
KALE, PER BUNCH	1.50	1.50
LETTUCE, PER HEAD	2.25	2.25
MIXED GREENS, ARUGULA	5.00	5.00
ONIONS	1.25	1.25
PARSNIPS	1.90	3.00
PEPPERS, EACH	.20	.75
POTATOES, FINGERLINGS	2.50	3.00
POTATOES, ALL OTHERS	1.40	2.00
RADISH, DAIKON	1.50	2.00
RUTABAGA	1.40	2.00
SHALLOTS, ORGANIC	4.50	5.00
SPINACH	3.50	5.00
STRAWBERRIES, FROZEN- ORG	7.00	7.00
SWEET POTATOES	2.00	2.00
TURNIP	1.40	2.00
WINTER SQUASH	1.25	4.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - January 9, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	30.00	35.00
61-75 lbs.	40.00	45.00
76-90 lbs.	46.00	49.00
91-105 lbs.	50.00	54.00
106 lbs. & up	55.00	59.00
Farm Calves	64.00	67.50
Starter Calves	35.00	38.00
Veal Calves	65.00	130.00
Open Heifers	85.00	110.00
Beef Heifers	64.00	90.00
Feeder Steers	100.00	125.00
Beef Steers	70.00	109.00
Stock Bulls	n/a	n/a
Beef Bulls	n/a	n/a
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	n/a	n/a
Sheep, bred, each	n/a	n/a
Lambs each	125.00	130.00
Goats each	150.00	310.00
Kid Goats each	140.00	165.00
Canners	up to	58.50
Cutters	59.00	61.00
Utility Grade Cows	62.00	65.00
Rabbits each	7.00	17.00
Chickens each	4.00	17.50
Ducks each	6.00	10.00

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	.69	.88
LARGE	.63	.77
MEDIUM	.44	.57

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.26	1.34
LARGE	1.19	1.25
MEDIUM	.74	.84
SMALL	.59	.66

**NEW HOLLAND, PA FEEDER PIGS**

January 4, 2017. \$ per cwt.

US 1-2		
30-40 LBS	110.00	120.00
US 2		
40-50 LBS	115.00	130.00

**NORTHEAST RETAIL LAMB REPORT**

\$ per lb.

LAMB		
SHOULDER ROAST	5.99	5.99
SHLDR BLD CHOP	4.97	4.97
SHLDR RND BN CHOP	4.79	7.49
BREAST	3.99	3.99
RACK	14.99	14.99
RIB CHOPS	14.99	16.99
LOIN CHOPS	8.99	12.99
B/IN LEG	3.99	6.39
BNLS LEG	7.99	8.99
SEMI-BNLS LEG	3.99	3.99
SHANK	4.99	5.99
STEW MEAT	6.99	6.99
MUTTON STEW MEAT	3.99	3.99

*(Continued from Page 1)*

forests,” said CEQ Chairman Susan Mero. “We can have green power and green farms and forests, but we need to find ways to steer the power facilities toward industrial properties and other previously-developed land.”

The report states that while the solar industry continues to grow in Connecticut, not all solar installations yield equal benefits. Solar panels on commercial rooftops, industrial lands and old landfills can be sustainable “home runs.” And laws that encourage utility-scale solar facilities should remain in place but be corrected.

Achieving Connecticut’s goals for stability, efficiency, land conservation, economic opportunity, health and happiness requires more than a fixation on the lowest price for a commodity. To choose a supplier solely because its product is the cheapest ignores the costs that its production imposes elsewhere in the economy.

In the case of solar photovoltaic generation, widespread use of farmland and forest is likely to result in several costs that should be considered in decision making, including:

- The reduction in available farmland and consequent rent increases;
- The loss of jobs in agriculture and forestry;
- The continued costs of carrying brownfields and under-utilized lands that could be hosting energy facilities if those facilities were not built on green fields;
- The additional costs of making up lost progress toward the state’s goals for Connecticut Grown food and wood;
- Ecological costs such as habitat fragmentation and destruction.

Drawing on hindsight and five years of other agencies’ experiences, the CEQ has identified two critical deficiencies and offers several recommendations.

**Deficiency A: Current selection criteria value short-term price above all else:** DEEP selects renewable energy projects which promise to deliver electricity at the lowest cost while effectively excluding environmental

#### 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.

120-R. Beeswax; 1 oz., 6 oz., 1 lb, and 2 lb blocks. Pure CT Grown cappings wax, Full Bloom Apiaries, 860-235-0624.

122-R. For Sale: Straw mulch for bedding, construction. \$4.00 per bale. 2013 John Deere 2-row corn planter. New condition. \$9,000.00. Franklin Can-Car cable log skidder. \$11,900.00. Bellavance Farm 860-564-5717.

123-R. For Sale: Agricultural equipment and supplies, including feeders, waterers, scales, chutes, gates, and headlocks. SVF Sales 860-749-4795.

siting considerations and long-term indirect costs.

Energy facilities are no exception to the general rule guiding development. It is nearly always cheaper to build on agricultural land and clean forest land than it is to remediate a parcel that might be contaminated or in some way complicated by previous land uses.

As a result, the solar facilities are directed by the market to farmland and forest land and away from previously-developed land.

**Recommendation 1 (Concept): State agencies should not encourage developments that consume agricultural land or forested land.**

The Council is not recommending that agricultural or forest landowners be prohibited from leasing their land to energy producers; the Council intends to offer recommendations affecting agency actions.

**Recommendation 2: Solar developers should realize substantial incentives if they use previously-developed land.** Details to be determined.

**Deficiency B: Regulatory approval of solar utility-scale photovoltaic facilities is nearly automatic.** The Connecticut Siting Council, required to approve solar facilities by declaratory ruling, cannot deny approval for a solar photovoltaic facility no matter how many acres of farmland, forest or wildlife habitat (outside of wetlands) will be eliminated. Municipal regulation is pre-empted.

**Recommendation 3: To be determined.**

The public is encouraged to submit ideas and comments until January 18, and the CEQ expects to discuss the report further at its January 25 meeting, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford.

**The Council on Environmental Quality submits Connecticut’s annual report on the status of the environment to the Governor pursuant to state statutes. It also publishes special reports and makes recommendations for legislation to correct environmental problems, and investigates citizens’ complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.**

124-R. Dried chicken manure delivered by trailer load. J.D. 3430 tractor. Fruehaus aluminum dump trailer. 860-537-1974.

125-R. 40’ box storage trailers. \$1,000.00 each. Goats, Kiko/Saranna. Does and bucks. Call 860-537-1974.

126-R. Modine Effinity 93 propane greenhouse heater model PTC 215 215,000 BTU/Hr. Still in box-never used. Includes hanger kit. \$2,000.00. 203-457-1304.

#### WANTED

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

#### 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.

#### CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

127-R. LT farm manager. Extensive practical/educational experience in: vegetable, berry, orchard, animal husbandry. Experience with: farm equipment, operations, maintenance, pesticide, fertilizer, greenhouse, farmers’ markets, farm stands. Salary, benefits, farm housing for four. Info or apply: [Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com](mailto:Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com)

**FARM MARKETING IS FOCUS OF HARVEST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE MARCH 7-9**

Ramping up the marketing of your farm will be the focus of the Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference & Trade Show, to 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.

An all-day workshop for New England Farmers' Market Managers will be held on Wednesday, March 8.

New for 2017 are two pre-conference tours on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The tours will feature several farm businesses and marketing and production venues in the region. Kicking off the educational workshops on Wednesday, March 8 at 8 a.m. is conference keynote speaker, Craig Ostbo, managing partner and chief marketing and brand strategist from Koopman Ostbo Marketing

Communications in Portland, Oregon.

On Thursday, March 9 at 8 a.m., Craig will lead a keynote panel of industry and media professionals from around New England including producers, media specialists, and communication directors in a discussion entitled, **Media Strategies: When Things Go Right....and Wrong.**

From real-world circumstances, you'll learn tips, tricks and techniques designed to help you develop a plan for preparing to promote the good and address the seemingly bad.

Early Bird registration is now open. Go to [www.harvestnewengland.org/events](http://www.harvestnewengland.org/events) for more information. Program details and lodging options are also available at this site.

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.

**FARM TRANSITION GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 14**

Grant guidelines and applications for the Dept. of Agriculture's Farm Transition Grant program are available online and must be submitted by February 14.

The program provides grants to up to \$49,999. Applicants must provide a 1 to match. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives.

Funding priorities for 2017 include:

- Meeting food safety requirements for advanced positioning in the marketplace.
- Strengthening infrastructure to meet changing climate conditions.
- Processing Connecticut Grown products to increase year-round market availability and farm viability.
- Diversification of existing farm operations into new and emerging crops and/or product lines.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants). Four workshops on how to write a project plan and apply for the grant will be offered. Please send RSVP 24 hours prior to the meeting to [Jaime.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2559.

**January 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

CT Ag Experiment Station  
153 Cook Hill Road  
Windsor, CT 06095

*This workshop will address how the grant can help farms comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act.*

**January 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

CT Farm Bureau Assoc.  
78 Beaver Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

**January 24, 10:00 a.m.-noon**

Session Woods Wildlife Management  
341 Milford St  
Burlington, CT 06013

**January 26, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

UConn Extension Office  
562 New London Turnpike  
Norwich, CT 06360

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE**  
[www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov) 860-713-2500

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Marketing <a href="mailto:linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov">linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov</a>	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market <a href="mailto:linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov">linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov</a>	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation <a href="mailto:cam.weimar@ct.gov">cam.weimar@ct.gov</a>	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D 860-713-2511
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Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

**VOL. XCVII, No. 2, January 10, 2017**