

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
June 21, 2017



Jonathan Waters checks a stack of lobster traps he is converting for use in oyster production under a new state initiative around the Thimble Islands. He will raise and harvest shellfish on five acres of grounds off one of the islands, Rogers Island, seen at rear of photo.

REVIVING, EXPANDING SHELLFISHING INDUSTRY AROUND THIMBLE ISLANDS “Demand is Up for Connecticut Oysters Everywhere”

BRANFORD - Eight small-scale shellfish operations have been granted licenses to work the historically rich oyster and clam beds around the Thimble Islands in Long Island Sound under a Dept. of Agriculture initiative designed to spark a renaissance of the once-thriving industry in the area.

The Department acquired the shellfishing rights to about 900 acres of the beds from a private owner in 2014.

The project is aimed at encouraging new commercial aquaculture enterprises around the Thimbles, a cluster of dozens of small granite islands off the village of Stony Creek, and developing a market for its oyster, clam and kelp producers.

“The potential is huge on so many levels,” said Stony Creek native and shellfisherman Jonathan Waters, who received one of the licenses this week for his Thimble Island Shellfish company. “The market for oysters is very good and demand is up for Connecticut oysters everywhere.”

Waters said Connecticut oysters fetch as much as \$2

each retail, and are now sold as far away as Texas. Overall, the state’s shellfish industry generates an estimated \$30 million in annual sales, and provides more than 300 jobs.

Waters said the new program, called the Connecticut Sustainable Aquaculture Initiative, is generating economic activity in the area now as the newly-licensed operations gear up to begin harvesting next year.

“It’s already working,” Waters said. “People are making investments in boats and equipment and this is progressing quite quickly.”

Waters will plant and harvest shellfish on five acres of grounds off Rogers Island, about a half-mile south of his dock, as well as cultivate them in submerged wire cages.

With the dramatic drop-off in lobstering in the Sound in recent years, Waters is converting dozens of surplus lobster traps into oyster cages.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said more licenses are expected to be issued once the

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	76.00	81.50
boners 80-85% lean	65.00	81.50
lean 88-90% lean	68.00	74.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	132.00	136.00
Choice 2-3	128.00	133.50
Select 1-2	123.00	128.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 2-3	98.00	102.00
Sel 1-2	94.00	97.50
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	131.00	132.00
Choice 2-3	125.00	129.50
Sel 1-2	121.00	122.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 112-130 lbs	170.00	182.00
No 1 90-110 lbs	200.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	255.00	255.00
50-60 lbs	230.00	242.00
60-70 lbs	230.00	245.00
70-80 lbs	235.00	250.00
80-90 lbs	245.00	255.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice 2-3		
90-110 lbs	242.00	255.00
110-130 lbs	250.00	255.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	95.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	82.00	107.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	115.00	135.00
40-60 lbs	149.00	180.00
60-80 lbs	165.00	200.00
100-120 lbs	220.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	190.00	235.00
130-180 lbs	230.00	270.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	250.00	285.00
150-250 lbs	325.00	365.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	56.00	59.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00	47.50
	400-500 lbs	44.00	46.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	51.00	56.00
	300-350 lbs	43.00	46.00
	350-400 lbs	42.00	42.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	43.00	47.00
	500-800 lbs	43.00	48.00
Boars	550-850 lbs	5.00	5.00

NORTHEAST RETAIL DAIRY

For the week of 6/16 to 6/22/2017.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.50	3.99
CHEESE, NAT VAR., 8 OZ	1.77	2.99
CHEESE, NAT VAR., 1 LB	4.69	4.69
CHEESE, 8 OZ SHRED	1.49	2.79
CHEESE, 1 LB SHRED	3.00	3.00
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16 OZ	1.66	2.99
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.99	2.99
MILK, FLVR, ALL TEST, 1/2 GAL	3.00	3.00
ICE CREAM, 48-64OZ	1.50	4.49
MILK, ALL TEST, 1/2 GAL	1.29	2.50
MILK, ALL TEST, GAL	3.49	3.49

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston 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
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
CHIVES, 1 LB FILM BAG	8.00	11.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LBS	24.00	25.00
RHUBARB, OPN FIELD, 20 LB	35.00	36.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00

SHIPPED IN

ARUGULA, NJ, 4 LBS	12.00	13.50
BASIL, NJ, 1 LB FILM BAG	4.00	5.00
BEAN, GREEN, GA, MACHPK, BU	31.00	35.00
BEANS, FAVA, NJ, BU	45.00	46.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, 12 BN	16.00	18.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, 25 LBS	14.00	16.00
BEETS, GLD, NJ, 25 LBS	22.00	24.00
BLACKBRY, ORG., CA, 12-6OZ	34.00	34.00
BLUEBERRIES, NJ, 12-1 PT	22.00	25.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU	22.00	26.00
BOKCHOY, SHANGHAI, NJ, 10 LB	16.00	16.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, NY, 50 LBS	12.00	14.00
CABBAGE, RED, GA, 50 LBS	20.00	23.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, GA, 1-3/4	20.00	23.00
CAULIFLOWER, CA, 12	21.00	24.00
CHERRY, BING, CA, 16 LB, 9-1/2	70.00	75.00
CHERVIL, NJ, 1 LB FILM, 12	7.00	8.00
CHINESE CABBAGE, NJ, 50 LB	28.00	35.00
COLLARDS, GA, 12 BN	13.00	14.00
CORN, GA, 4-1/2 DOZ	13.00	14.00
CUKE, PICKL, NJ, MED, 1-1/9	25.00	30.00
DANDELION GRNS, NJ, 12 BN	16.00	18.00
EDIBLE FLOWRS, MIX, CA, 96	12.00	12.00
EGGPLANT, GA, MED, 1-1/9	14.00	17.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	15.00	18.00
ESCAROLE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	15.00	18.00
FIG, CA, BLK MSSN, 1/2 FLAT, 15	15.00	15.00
KALE, MIXED COLORS, NJ, 12	18.00	20.00
KALE GRNS, LACINITO, NJ, 12 BN	16.00	18.00
KOHLRABI, NJ, 12 BN, 1-3/5	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, NJ, 24	16.00	18.00
LETT, BSTN, GHS, TN, 12-4 OZ	16.00	17.00
LETT, MESCLIN MIX, CA, 3LB	5.50	7.50
LETT, MESC MIX, ORG, CA, 3LB	8.00	9.00
LETTUCE, OAKLF, CA, 2.2 LB	12.00	14.00
LETTUCE, GRN OR RDLF, NJ, 24	14.00	16.00
LETTUCE, ROMAINE, NJ, 24	15.00	16.00
LEEKS, NJ, 12	16.00	18.00
PARSLEY, CURLY, NJ, 60	35.00	38.00
PARSLEY, PLAIN, NJ, 60	36.00	40.00
RADISHES, BNCHES, 24	16.00	18.00
SPINACH, FLAT, CTN, NJ, 24	22.00	22.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, NJ, SM, 1/2 BU	10.00	14.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, NJ, M, 1/2 BU	9.00	10.00
STRAWBERRIES, CA, 8-1 LB	14.00	16.00
STRAWBS, ORG, CA, 8-1 LB	20.00	24.00
SWISS CHARD, NJ, 12	16.00	16.00
TOMATO, 5X6, FL, LT RD, 25 LBS	18.00	22.00
TOMS, CHERRY, ORG, FL, 1 PT	29.00	32.00
TURNIPS, PRPL TOP, NJ, 25LB	10.00	12.00
TURNIP TOP GREENS, GA, 12	14.00	16.00
WATERCRSS, GA, 12,	10.50	12.00
WATERCRSS, GA, 24,	14.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - June 19, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	40.00	45.00
61-75 lbs.	77.50	80.00
76-90 lbs.	130.00	135.00
91-105 lbs.	140.00	150.00
106 lbs. & up	155.00	160.00
Farm Calves	162.50	165.00
Starter Calves	50.00	55.00
Veal Calves	130.00	155.00
Feeder Heifers	90.00	120.00
Beef Heifers	72.00	75.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	115.00
Beef Steers	102.50	112.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00	100.00
Beef Bulls	75.00	95.00
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	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	40.00	150.00
Lambs each	65.00	280.00
Goats each	85.00	345.00
Kid Goats each	85.00	210.00
Canners	up to	69.00
Cutters	70.00	73.00
Utility Grade Cows	74.00	77.50
Rabbits each	5.00	17.00
Chickens each	5.00	30.00
Ducks each	4.00	10.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.63	.79
LARGE	.57	.71
MEDIUM	.49	.62

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.17	1.29
LARGE	1.07	1.19
MEDIUM	.78	.89
SMALL	.48	.58

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

Sold by the head.

FRESH COWS:		
SUPREME	1650.00	1750.00
APPROVED	1300.00	1675.00
MEDIUM	850.00	1275.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1500.00	1525.00
APPROVED	1025.00	1475.00
MEDIUM	925.00	1025.00
CULL COWS	425.00	1300.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1250.00	1600.00
MEDIUM	1025.00	1100.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1500.00	1650.00
APPROVED	1100.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	850.00	1125.00
SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-3 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1025.00	1375.00
MEDIUM	875.00	1000.00

(Continued from Page 1)

initial participants are established. The goal is to increase production of shellfish through smaller-scale hatchery and cage-culture techniques in near-shore, protected waters and on lots no larger than five acres.

Those types of operations now comprise only a small fraction of the industry, which consists mainly of larger companies that cultivate oysters and hard clams on the bottom of expansive leased beds further offshore and in deeper waters.

That business model requires significant investment for deep-water boats, equipment and lease fees for beds owned by the state and administered by the Dept. of Agriculture.

"This program represents a unique opportunity to grow the shellfish industry in Connecticut by fostering small, entrepreneurial operations that will supply fresh, high-quality shellfish to the surrounding shoreline and beyond," Reviczky said. "Acquiring these grounds was a critical step in opening this robust market to a much wider and more diverse audience."

Shellfishing has been a cornerstone of the local culture and economy since the 1700s, but commercial harvesting has been largely dormant in the last decade or so.

The shellfishing rights to the 900 acres around the Thimbles were obtained with the use of farmland-

preservation funding in 2014 from Ed Lang, a retired part-time shellfisherman who had purchased them in the 1980s.

Waters, who harvested for Lang for many years, said the new license will allow him to get back into an industry that can be very competitive and cost-prohibitive for smaller operations looking to start up.

He is now converting the hull of a 30-foot tugboat that he found in a barn in Maryland into his main oystering boat.

Plans are to also use the boat to mentor less experienced shellfisherman in best practices and techniques – another goal of the program.

He recently gave a tour of the nearby waters and his operation to a University of Rhode Island marine-studies student who is interested in taking out a shellfishing license.

"I think this industry is very important to this area and I want to see it continue for many generations," Waters said while working on a rail of the boat.

"This program has created an opportunity for me to get back into it and to help others get started, and it's a very moving thing for me to have this happen here."

Those interested in being considered for the program may contact David Carey, Director of the Bureau of Aquaculture, at David.Carey@ct.gov

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

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

27-R. Quality hay for sale; large bales from fertilized fields no kicker bales. 25 bale minimum \$5.75 per bale. Call 203-453-9865.

50-R. Retiring from farming. Greenhouse and vegetable equipment for sale. www.wagonroadgreenhouse.com for pictures and details.

54-R. Tolland. 21 acre mini farm includes a 2300 sq.ft. Contemporary with 2-1/2 baths, 2 car attached garage and post and beam barn with 3 garage bays. Geothermal and solar heating/cooling, 30x96 greenhouse and spring fed pond. Suitable for horses, vegetables, small livestock or Christmas trees. \$399,900. Call Clint Charter, Wallace & Tetreault Realty, 860-558-3908.

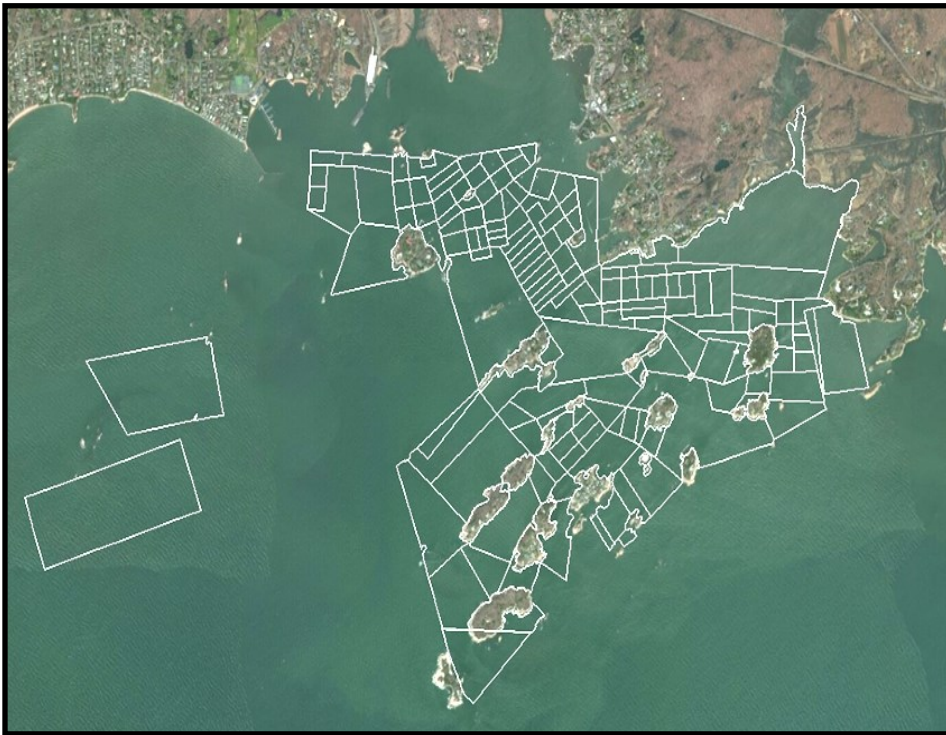
WANTED

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

70. The Orange Community Farmers' Market is looking for more vendors. Market season is Thursdays, 3:30 to 7:00 from June 29th to September 28th. Please call 203-891-1045 for more information and/or to check website at www.FarmMarketOrange.com.

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.



Top Left: Jonathan Waters works on a tugboat hull that he is converting to an oyster boat for his operation and to mentor less experienced shellfishermen.

Above: Oysters growing on rocks under Waters' dock in Stony Creek village, where he had planted seed oysters.

Left: A map showing shellfishing beds around the Thimble Islands in Branford, where a Dept. of Agriculture project is encouraging the development of small-scale operations and a market for their oysters, clams and kelp.

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