

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
October 25, 2017



PRESERVING A FARM AND A FAMILY'S HERITAGE AS NEIGHBORHOODS CLOSE IN

"This is a direct tribute to everyone who ever worked on this farm."

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Revczky

SUFFIELD - As well-manicured housing subdivisions continue to sprout up at the very edges of their crop fields, the Bieolonko family has ensured that nearly 125 acres of their home farm will forever remain in agriculture after conveying its development rights to the state under its Farmland Preservation Program.

"We did this so this land will always be available to farm, be it for future generations of our family or for somebody else," said Benny Bieolonko, who runs the dairy, tobacco and vegetable farm with his brother John and now his son, Ben III. "That's what we stand for - and this is a direct tribute to everyone who ever worked on this farm."

The state Dept. of Agriculture partnered in the preservation with the USDA -Natural Resources Conservation Service, which made significant contributions through its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) process. The Town of Suffield also contributed to the project.

The farmland along busy Route 159 has been part of the Bieolonko family farm since the early 1900s, when Benny's grandfather

Benjamin emigrated from Poland and started buying small parcels of farmland, mainly to feed his dairy herd. He eventually began raising tobacco, providing income to supplement the sale of bottled milk.

In the early 1960s, Benny's father John and mother Irene started growing sweet corn and some other vegetables.



"It was pretty small - they were basically selling from a card table," in front of the farmhouse, recalled Benny, who grew up working on the farm.

Today, the family runs a popular farm stand where they offer their own vegetables including corn, tomatoes and pumpkins. They sell milk from their herd of about 170 cows, and farm a total of about 265 acres of corn, 200 acres of hay and 100 acres of broadleaf tobacco.

Driving through expansive fields where the last of the season's feed corn was being harvested early this week, Benny pointed out an array of large and relatively new houses standing within feet of the farm's borders.

(Continued on Page 3)

USDA WHOLESALE CUTFLOWERS

October 24, 2017. \$/pack as noted.

	LOW	HIGH
AMRNTHS,HNG,XL,NENG,/BN	17.50	18.50
LAVENDER, PA, PER BN, LNG	10.00	10.00
LISISANTHUS,NENG,10/BN,XL	18.00	18.50
SUNFLOWER,PA/NENG, 5/BN, L	6.50	6.50

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.92	1.11
LARGE	.86	1.00
MEDIUM	.73	.86

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.72	1.82
LARGE	1.68	1.78
MEDIUM	1.10	1.20
SMALL	.67	.77

RETAIL WEEKLY ORGANIC

Monthly report for October 9-23, 2017. \$ per unit.

BUTTER,		
8 OZ	5.00	9.00
1 LB	6.85	12.45
CHEESE		
MILD-MED CHEDDAR, 8 OZ	3.75	6.50
SHARP CHEDDAR, 8 OZ	3.75	6.50
COLBY, 8 OZ	3.75	5.75
MOZARELLA, 8 OZ	3.75	6.50
PEPPER JACK, 8 OZ	3.75	6.15
BROWN SHELL EGGS		
XTRA LARGE, DOZEN	2.61	3.60
XTRA LARGE, 1/2 DOZ	1.80	1.95
LARGE, DOZEN	2.30	3.50
LARGE, 1/2 DOZEN	1.71	1.90
YOUNG CHICKEN		
WHOLE FRYER, PER LB	1.70	3.32
BONELESS BREAST, /LB	5.69	10.58
B/IN BREAST, PER LB	3.60	6.15
WHOLE LEGS, PER LB	1.88	4.76
THIGHS, PER LB	1.95	3.92

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	42.00	53.00
	300-400 lbs	48.00	56.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	41.00	46.00
	350-400 lbs	39.00	39.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	500-800 lbs	34.00	38.50
Boars			
	675-1000 lbs	5.00	5.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA FEEDER PIGS

October 16, 2017

US 1-2	20-40 LBS	70.00	90.00
	40-60 LBS	70.00	105.00
US 2	10-30 LBS	35.00	55.00
	30-50 LBS	60.00	110.00

WHOLESALE N.E. POTATOES

Price range is per unit as labeled.

RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50#	15.00	15.00
RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50#	16.00	17.00
RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50#	14.00	14.00
RUSST, #1, 50LBS, 40-80	17.00	17.00
RUSST, #1, 50 LBS, 100-120	14.00	17.00
YELLOW, #1, 50#, SZA	15.00	15.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72	28.00	28.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2	18.00	18.00
APPLE, EMPIRE, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, GALA, LOOSE, NG	24.00	25.00
APPLE, GOLD DELICIOUS, NG	18.00	18.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 72	36.00	36.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 80	36.00	36.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 88	36.00	36.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	45.00	45.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, NG, LOOSE	18.00	22.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK, 88	27.00	28.00
APPLE, MAC, US FCY, TRYPK, 80	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, FCY, TRYPK, 88	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK, 100	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MUTSU/CRISPIN, NG	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DELICIOUS, NG	18.00	18.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	40.00	40.00
BROCCOLI, CROWN CUT, 20 LB	17.00	21.00
BROCCOLI, CRWNCT, TRIM, 20 LB	19.00	21.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, 25 LBS	50.00	50.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, M-L, 50 LBS	8.00	10.00
CABBAGE, RED, M, 50 LBS	8.00	10.00
CARROTS, S-M, 10-5 LB FILM	14.00	14.00
CARROT, L, 25LB SACK, LOOSE	10.00	11.00
CAULIFLOWER, WHITE, JTPK, 9	14.00	16.00
CAULIFLOWER, WHITE, JTPK, 12	15.00	17.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
CORNSTALKS, 5 BUNDLES	7.00	8.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	10.00	12.00
CRANBRY, HOWE, M, 25 LBS	32.00	33.00
CRNBRY, HOWE, M, 24-12 OZ	26.00	30.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	13.00	13.00
ORNMENTAL CORN, 3/BN, 20	40.00	50.00
ORNMENTAL GOURD, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
ORNMENTAL GOURD, SHEL, 1/2BU	22.00	24.00
ORNMENTAL GOURD, SHEL, BU	32.00	35.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, LOOSE	22.00	23.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, 18-1LB	23.00	24.00
PMPKIN, BIGMACK, JBO, 36"	200.00	225.00
PMPKIN, BIG MACK, S-XL, 36" BIN	175.00	200.00
PMPKIN, HOWDEN, JBO, 36"	200.00	225.00
PMPKIN, HOWDEN, L-XL, 36" BIN	175.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, XL, 24" BIN	175.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, XL, 36" BIN	270.00	300.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, BUSHEL	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, ACORN, L, 1-1/9	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, S, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, M, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, M, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, M, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
STRAW BALE, STD, PER BALE	8.00	10.00
STRAW BALE, MINI, PER BALE	6.00	6.00
TOMS, REG/ROMA, XL, 25 LBS	14.00	16.00
TOMATOES, L, 20 LBS	20.00	20.00
TOMS, HEIRLM, GHS, 10 LBS	23.00	24.00
TOMS, CHERRY, GHS, 5 LBS	11.00	12.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - October 23, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	25.00	30.00
61-75 lbs.	43.00	45.00
76-90 lbs.	55.00	58.00
91-105 lbs.	60.00	65.00
106 lbs. & up	67.50	70.00
Farm Calves	75.00	80.00
Starter Calves	32.00	35.00
Veal Calves	110.00	130.00
Feeder Heifers	105.00	120.00
Beef Heifers	63.00	117.00
Feeder Steers	105.00	120.00
Beef Steers	74.00	91.00
Feeder Bulls	140.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	80.00	88.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	2@	2.00
Sows	29.00	30.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	20.00	25.00
Sheep each	80.00	210.00
Lambs each	85.00	220.00
Goats each	95.00	310.00
Kid Goats each	40.00	145.00
Canners	up to	55.00
Cutters	56.00	59.00
Utility Grade Cows	60.00	63.00
Rabbits each	4.00	14.00
Chickens each	4.00	25.00
Ducks each	5.00	10.00

LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	56.00	61.50
boners 80-85% lean	55.00	61.50
lean 88-90% lean	48.00	56.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	108.50	112.00
Choice 2-3	105.50	108.00
Select 1-2	100.00	104.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 2-3	79.00	85.00
Sel 1-2	74.00	79.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	106.50	109.50
Choice 2-3	102.00	106.00
Sel 1-2	95.00	102.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-130 lbs	132.00	152.00
No 1 80-88 lbs	120.00	120.00
FEEDER HEIFERS: Medium & Large 1		
300-400 lbs	110.00	130.00
400-500 lbs	117.00	132.00
500-600 lbs	115.00	130.00
600-700 lbs	105.00	117.00
700-800 lbs	105.00	120.00
800-900 lbs	87.00	90.00
FEEDER STEERS: Medium & Large 1		
300-400 lbs	126.00	132.00
400-500 lbs	132.00	155.00
500-600 lbs	138.00	157.00
600-700 lbs	140.00	160.00
700-800 lbs	117.00	125.00
800-900 lbs	117.00	125.00

(Continued from Page 1)

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said the likelihood that the property would be sold for non-farm use was a key factor in the state's decision to purchase its development rights.

"This area of Suffield continues to be very desirable for housing construction," Reviczky said. "I commend the Bielonkos for their commitment to honoring their agricultural heritage and their perseverance in working with us to protect this very productive farmland."

"Protecting the state's valuable working lands is critical," said Thomas L. Morgart, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-NRCS, noting that 94 percent of the Bielonko farm's soils are designated prime or statewide important farmland. "Through our ACEP-ALE Program, NRCS is able to help landowners protect their land and keep it in agricultural use."

In the four years since the ACEP-ALE Program began, Connecticut has been a part of 20 parcel closings, for a total of over 1,800 acres protected.

"This property has been a priority for the town due to its excellent agricultural soils and location," said Suffield First Selectman Melissa Mack. "The farm is ripe for development given that utilities are readily available and Interstate 91 is just minutes away. We thank the Bielonkos, the Department of Agriculture, and USDA/NRCS for working together to make the the preservation of this farm a reality."

The Farmland Preservation Program allows farmers to convey their property's development rights to the state, but still own and work the land and contribute to the local tax base. Owners also may convey their

land to others, but a permanent deed restriction assures the property will always remain available for agriculture.

More than 340 farms and 43,000 acres of farmland have been preserved under the program, including 12 farms this year.

Benny Bielonko said his family will use some of the proceeds from the preservation to purchase adjacent farmland that they have been leasing.

With his son Ben III playing a growing role in running the farm, Bielonko said the family's plans for now are to continue their operation at about its current scale.

"We're hoping to keep going as long as we can," he said. "That would make me very happy."

For more information on participating in the Farmland Preservation Program, please contact Cameron Weimar, Director, at 860-713-2511 or DoAg.Farmland@ct.gov

HYDROPONIC COURSES OFFERED AT UCONN

The Greenhouse Research & Extension Program at UCONN is offering two workshops on greenhouse vegetables to be held in the Floriculture Greenhouse on the Storrs campus:

- Nov. 11: Hydroponic Production Short Course for Beginners: How to Start a Commercial Hydroponic Production Greenhouse.
- Dec. 9: Greenhouse Vegetable Production in Hydroponics and Soilless Systems: A program for experienced growers.

The fee for each class is \$55 and registration and more information is available at:

<http://greenhouse.uconn.edu/workshops/>

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.

88-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, by the box or bin. East Windsor, Conn. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

89-R. 1/2 bushel apple baskets. Truck load sale: 1,000 or more = \$2 each. 500 or more = \$3 each. Less than 500 = \$4 each. Call Doug 860-657-4172.

92-R. Round hay bales – 52" x 48" – Tight, triple plastic wrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, dry, haylage, grass, alfalfa. 200 available. 860-884-2889.

93-R. Christmas greens: wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

94-R. For sale: Byron 103 sweet corn harvester. Call 860-670-1275.

95-R. First cut hay bales \$5.00 each. Mulch hay \$3.00 each. Pick up only. Suffield. 860-668-2181.

101. Chicken chick supplies, feeders, waterers, heat lamps, freeze heaters, fencing. Foley Automatic Retoother Model 332. Foley automatic Filer/Joiner. Sears table saw model 103-23831 8". BVI Coping Saw Model J98. Belt Saw Sander. Belsaw Sharpener/Grinder 3600 RPM. Brass water pump. \$ drawer Cabinet 3' Wide 42" high. Wet Stone grinding wheel 1/4 HP. Craftsman 36" LawnSweeper/Bagger. Bench Router/3 HP. Bench Planers: 6"+3". Bench Sander 6". Brintley Lawn Aerator, Scarifiers, Fertilizer Spreaders. Metal work bench 25" wide 60" long 32" high. Woodstoves: 10 to choose from. Large farm equipment, land plows, harrows, rakes. Handyman specials tandem axle trailers 18' need some work. Aluminum ladders. IBC Tanks: 275 gallon mounted in steel frames. Miscellaneous lumber, 2X4s, boards, planks. Call 860-918-8515 or 860-228-9685 for prices.

102-R. 96 X 27 Greenhouse, including furnace, 2 exhaust fans, watering system. \$2,500.00. Negotiable. 860-623-4366 or 860-849-3674.

WANTED

97-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.

2017 Market Master Muster

Come to Learn. Come to Network. Come to Share.

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER
FIRST**

8 A.M. - 3 P.M.
THE LYCEUM CONFERENCE CENTER
227 Lawrence Ave, Hartford
\$25
Register by October 27

To register contact Jaime Smith
at the CT Department of Ag:
Jaime.Smith@ct.gov



Above: The Bielanko Farms farmstand on Route 159 in Suffield.

Left: Benny Bielanko with his son, Ben III, as they finish harvesting their 265 acres of feed corn earlier this week.

Below: A view of the farm from Route 159.

Page 1 top: Benny Bielanko with part of his herd of about 170 dairy cows.

Page 1 bottom: Broadleaf tobacco harvested this summer curing in a barn on the Bielanko home farm.



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 or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103.
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 41 October 25, 2017

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**
www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Regulatory Services bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2604
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2605
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2855
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2619