

Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, December 19, 2018

2018 FARM BILL

Jason Bowsza, Chief of Staff, Commissioner's Office

Congress recently passed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill. This legislation is the basis for allowing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to deliver funding and services that agriculture producers around the country—and right here in Connecticut—depend on. The bill now waits for the president's signature.

The bill, at more than 850 pages, includes provisions that will be meaningful for Connecticut farmers. Language pertaining to hemp, farmland preservation efforts, dairy support programs, specialty crop block grants, and crop insurance all were included in the final bill.

Of note to many farmers in Connecticut is language that removes hemp—and its derivatives—from the Controlled Substances Act and establishes it as an agricultural commodity¹.

Connecticut's congressional delegation, particularly Congressmen Joe Courtney and John Larson, as well as Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, have long been supporters of expanded opportunities to cultivate hemp in Connecticut.

Under the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp plants must still contain less than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). States and tribal nations will be able to submit plans to USDA that establish state-level, permanent hemp-growing plans. These plans will require the establishment of information gathering mechanisms, testing, inspection, and disposal procedures.

The state-level plans will need to be approved by the U.S. secretary of agriculture, after consultation with the U.S. attorney general. Enforcement will be done at the state/tribal level. Any individual who has committed a drug felony won't be able to participate in the growing of hemp until 10 years after their conviction date.

The Conservation Title in the Farm Bill² plays a critical role in providing federal funding for the

preservation of farmland, but because this title has a litany of diverse programs with total funding of more than \$6 billion, it is one of the more challenging pieces of the overall Farm Bill to negotiate.

Connecticut directly benefits from programs such as the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which allows the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to partner with states to permanently protect prime and important farmland.

The bill increases federal funding to \$450 million for ACEP over each of the next five years, providing opportunity for continued successes in our farmland preservation program. ACEP will now prioritize projects that maintain farm viability.

Several of the changes to ACEP incorporated into the Farm Bill are welcome news. Commissioner Reviczky has been encouraging NRCS for years to simplify the process for states to become certified entities under the program, which would expedite the preservation of more farms.

The language in the bill allows for states with established PDR programs who hold at least 10 federal easements to become certified entities, a bar that Connecticut easily meets.

The bill also allows for the use of conservation plans for highly erodible cropland, rather than the more burdensome agricultural land easement plans.

It also includes language allowing for buy-protect-sell projects to be eligible for federal funds, building on a concept that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture got passed into law during the 2018 legislative session. This new language will allow local land trusts and municipalities to become more significant partners in farmland preservation work.

The dairy sector in the United States has experienced particularly trying circumstances over the last



Image courtesy of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

(continued on Page 3)

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

| | | |
|------------|------|------|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.23 | 1.39 |
| LARGE | 1.17 | 1.31 |
| MEDIUM | .86 | .99 |

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

| | | |
|------------|------|------|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.83 | 1.95 |
| LARGE | 1.75 | 1.89 |
| MEDIUM | 1.27 | 1.39 |
| SMALL | .86 | .96 |

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| SLAUGHTER STEERS | | |
| Hi Choice/Prime 2-3 | 110.00 | 115.00 |
| Choice 2-3 | 106.00 | 116.00 |
| Select 1-2 | 101.00 | 110.00 |
| SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS | | |
| HiCh/Prime 3-4 | 86.00 | 91.00 |
| Choice 2-3 | 81.00 | 86.00 |
| Select 1-2 | 76.00 | 81.00 |
| SLAUGHTER HEIFERS | | |
| Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 | 107.00 | 113.50 |
| Choice 2-3 | 103.00 | 109.00 |
| Select 2-3 | 103.00 | 106.00 |
| SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing | | |
| breakers 75-80% lean | 42.00 | 50.50 |
| boners 80-85% lean | 40.00 | 48.50 |
| lean 88-90% lean | 33.00 | 43.00 |
| CALVES - Graded bull | | |
| No 1 96-112 lbs | 60.00 | 72.00 |
| SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn | | |
| Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3 | | |
| 90-110 lbs | 179.00 | 205.00 |
| 110-130 lbs | 165.00 | 186.00 |
| 130-150 lbs | 150.00 | 162.00 |
| SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3 | | |
| 90-110 lbs | 85.00 | 85.00 |
| 120-160 lbs | 72.00 | 100.00 |
| 160-200 lbs | 70.00 | 80.00 |
| 200-300 lbs | 57.00 | 57.00 |
| SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1 | | |
| 40-60 lbs | 135.00 | 155.00 |
| 60-80 lbs | 160.00 | 175.00 |
| 80-100 lbs | 172.00 | 200.00 |
| SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1 | | |
| 80-130 lbs | 140.00 | 170.00 |
| 130-180 lbs | 170.00 | 190.00 |
| SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1 | | |
| 100-150 lbs | 225.00 | 285.00 |
| 150-250 lbs | 310.00 | 375.00 |
| SLAUGHTER WETHERS: Sel 1 | | |
| 150-250 lbs | 250.00 | 310.00 |

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| SLAUGHTER HOGS | | |
| 52-56 | 200-300 lbs | 47.00 55.00 |
| | 300-350 lbs | 46.00 53.00 |
| 48-52 | 200-300 lbs | 38.00 45.00 |
| | 300-350 lbs | 43.00 47.00 |
| Sows, US 1-3 | | |
| | 300-500 lbs | 29.00 32.00 |
| | 500-700 lbs | 31.00 36.00 |
| Boars | | |
| | 200-300 lbs | 22.00 24.00 |
| | 400-500 lbs | 5.00 5.00 |

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

| | LOW | HIGH |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| ALFALFA SPROUTS, GHS, 5 LBS | 14.00 | 15.00 |
| APPLE, CRTLND, XFCY, 80 | 30.00 | 31.00 |
| APPLE, CRTLND, XFCY, 88 | 29.00 | 31.00 |
| APPLE, CRTLND, NG, LOOSE | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80 | 65.00 | 65.00 |
| APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 88 | 65.00 | 65.00 |
| APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 64 | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 72 | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 72 | 28.00 | 28.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 80 | 31.00 | 32.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88 | 31.00 | 32.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 100 | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, 125, #1 | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, 138, #1 | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 80 | 38.00 | 38.00 |
| APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 100 | 22.00 | 22.00 |
| APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125 | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 138 | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS | 6.00 | 7.00 |
| BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ | 12.00 | 15.00 |
| CIDER, 4-1 GALLON | 19.00 | 19.00 |
| CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON | 21.00 | 21.00 |
| POTATO, YEL, 50 LB, CHEF | 13.00 | 14.00 |
| SQUASH, BTNT, 1-1/9, SM | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| SQUASH, BTNT, 1-1/9, M-L | 17.00 | 17.00 |
| TOMS, ONVINE, GHS, 11 LBS | 22.00 | 22.00 |
| TOMS, CHERRY, GHS, 10 LB | 24.00 | 25.00 |

SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 88 | 32.00 | 32.00 |
| APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 100 | 28.00 | 28.00 |
| APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 125 | 24.00 | 26.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 80 | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 88 | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, NY, FCY, 64 | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, NY, FCY, 100 | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, NY, FCY, 125 | 19.00 | 19.00 |
| APPLE, GALA, PA, XFCY, 80 | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| APPLE, GALA, NY/PA, XFCY, 88 | 28.00 | 36.00 |
| APPL, GALA, NY, XF, 12-3LB, 2.5" | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| CABBAGE, GA, 50 LB, M-L | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| CABBAGE, NY, 50 LB, L | 13.00 | 14.00 |
| CABBAGE, RED, NY, 50 LB, M-L | 20.00 | 21.00 |
| CABBAGE, RED, ORG, 45 LB | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24 | 22.00 | 23.00 |
| CUKE, LNG SDLS, CD, GHS, CTN | 12.00 | 14.00 |
| KALE, TX, 24 | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| KALE, MULTI, CA, 24 | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| LETTUCE, BOSTON, GHS, CD, 12-4OZ | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| LETTUCE, BOSTON, AZ/CA, 24 | 54.00 | 58.00 |
| LETTUCE, GRNLF, CA/AZ, 24 | 50.00 | 60.00 |
| LETTUCE, RDLF, AZ/CA, 24 | 50.00 | 60.00 |
| LETTUCE, ROMAINE, CA/AZ, 24 | 20.00 | 30.00 |
| MESCLUN MIX, AZ/CA, 3 LBS | 10.00 | 14.00 |
| MESCLUN MIX, ORG, AZ/CA, 3LB | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| PARSNIPS, MI, 20 LBS, M | 22.00 | 22.00 |
| POTATO, YEL, CRMER, WA, 50LB | 50.00 | 60.00 |
| POTATO, PRPL, CRMER, WA, 50LB | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| POTATO, LWHT, CRMER, WA, 50LB | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| RUTABAGAS, PEI/CD, 50 LB | 18.00 | 20.00 |
| SPINACH, FLT BABY, CA, 4 LBS | 19.00 | 22.00 |
| SPINACH, FLAT, TX, 24/BN/CTN | 32.00 | 32.00 |

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - December 17, 2018

| | LOW | HIGH |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Bob Calves: | | |
| 45-60 lbs. | n/a | n/a |
| 61-75 lbs. | 5.00 | 10.00 |
| 76-90 lbs. | 12.00 | 15.00 |
| 91-105 lbs. | 20.00 | 22.00 |
| 106 lbs. & up | 25.00 | 30.00 |
| Farm Calves | up to | 110.00 |
| Starter Calves | n/a | n/a |
| Veal Calves | 110.00 | 155.00 |
| Feeder Heifers | 62.50 | 130.00 |
| Beef Heifers | 58.00 | 69.00 |
| Feeder Steers | 70.00 | 132.50 |
| Beef Steers | 62.00 | 65.00 |
| Feeder Bulls | 140.00 | 150.00 |
| Beef Bulls | 55.00 | 65.00 |
| 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 | 2@ | 40.00 |
| Sheep each | 60.00 | 140.00 |
| Lambs each | 75.00 | 210.00 |
| Goats each | 85.00 | 347.50 |
| Kid Goats each | 45.00 | 150.00 |
| Canners | up to | 50.50 |
| Cutters | 51.00 | 54.00 |
| Utility Grade Cows | 55.00 | 57.00 |
| Rabbits each | 1@ | 5.00 |
| Chickens each | 4.00 | 17.00 |
| Ducks each | 7.00 | 25.00 |

The holiday weeks' auctions will be held on Wednesday, December 26 and January 2, 2018, respectively.

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. December 14.

| | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| ALFALFA | | |
| PREMIUM | 400.00 | 470.00 |
| ALFALFA/GRASS | | |
| SUPREME | 440.00 | 460.00 |
| PREMIUM | 420.00 | 425.00 |
| GOOD | 280.00 | 325.00 |
| GRASS HAYS | | |
| PREMIUM | 360.00 | 430.00 |
| GOOD | 250.00 | 355.00 |
| STRAW | 190.00 | 230.00 |

RETAIL VEAL AND LAMB

NE supermarket prices for 12/14 to 12/20. \$/lb.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| LAMB | | |
| BREAST | 3.99 | 3.99 |
| CHOPS, SHLDR BLDE | 4.99 | 6.99 |
| CHOPS, SHLD RND BONE | 5.39 | 7.49 |
| CHOPS, LOIN | 6.99 | 10.99 |
| LEG, BONE-IN | 3.97 | 5.99 |
| LEG, BONELESS | 5.99 | 7.99 |
| LEG, SEMI-BNLS | 4.99 | 4.99 |
| LEG, BUTTERFLY, BNLS | 6.99 | 6.99 |
| LEG, SHANK/BUTT | 3.99 | 3.99 |
| RACK | 9.99 | 19.99 |
| SHANK | 5.99 | 5.99 |
| STEW MEAT-LAMB | 5.49 | 5.49 |
| STEW MEAT-MUTTON | 3.99 | 3.99 |
| VEAL | | |
| CHOPS, SHLDR BLD | 3.99 | 4.99 |
| CHOPS, RIB | 21.99 | 21.99 |
| CHOPS, LOIN | 10.99 | 10.99 |
| LEG CUTLETS | 7.99 | 7.99 |
| ROAST, BNLS | 21.99 | 21.99 |
| SCALLOPINI | 9.99 | 9.99 |

(continued from Page 1)

several years, and it is clear that federal programs have been ineffective for dairy farmers in the Northeast, particularly here in Connecticut. The new Farm Bill makes some changes that will hopefully provide a workable safety net.

The bill, which reconstitutes the Margin Protection Program as the Dairy Margin Coverage Payments (DMP) program, will reduce the cost of \$5 margin coverage by 88 percent³. It provides greater access to producers of all sizes to access Tier 1 premium rates, and seeks to permit all dairy producers access to affordable premiums on margins about \$8 on the first 5,000,000 pounds that they produce.

Farms would be charged \$.005/cwt for \$5 coverage in both Tier 1 (less than five million pounds of production) and Tier 2 (more than 5,000,000 pounds of production). To secure an \$8 coverage level, Tier 1 producers would be charged \$.10/cwt and Tier 2 producers would be charged \$1.813/cwt⁴.

The bill also includes incentives to encourage dairy producers to pay farmers who donate surplus milk to charitable organizations. Connecticut has considered more expansive legislation that would allow for a tax credit on food donated by farmers to food pantries over the last several years, but that concept has not received final approval yet.

The final version of the Farm Bill keeps in places funding that supports specialty crop growers by continuing to make funding available for projects associated with research, consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and best pest management practices.

The bill allows shellfish farmers access to crop insurance programs, a service not previously available to them, offering a boost to our world-class shellfish industry should disaster strike.

The bill also allows the recognition of farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years or more by including Senator Murphy's Century Farm Act in the final language.

Connecticut has been recognizing the commitment of Connecticut farm families through a similar designation for many years, and Senator Murphy has been working for several years to get the federal government to extend that recognition as well.

The bill makes programming and funding available to new and beginning farmers to encourage the future of agriculture and help the next generation to get started in this challenging field.

The bill triples the current investment in new and beginning farmer programs, providing more than \$435 million to educate new farmers and engage minority farmers through urban outreach, offering opportunities for small farm business establishment, expansion, and risk management⁵.

The Farm Bill is a significant piece of legislation that codifies federal agriculture policy for a five-year period. Like any public policy, the Farm Bill will undoubtedly include some winners and losers, and not all of the programs included will work as intended.

However, based on many of the initiatives that were covered under this bill, Connecticut agricultural producers stand to see considerable opportunity for ensured viability and expansion in the next few years.

¹ Information pertaining to the hemp provisions is sourced from the U.S. Hemp Roundtable, a business trade association in the hemp industry.

² Information pertaining to the Conservation Title is sourced from American Farmland Trust and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

³ <http://www.nmpf.org>

⁴ States Ratification Committee

⁵ 2018 Farm Bill Overview, emailed by U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, December 17, 2018.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

95-R. First cut hay and mulch available. Suffield. 860-668-2181.

97-R. Round bales for sale. 1st cutting bales and 2nd cutting wrapped silage. Woodbury. Delivery available. 203-266-4067.

WANTED

7-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

87-R. Livestock trailer, any size or condition. Call Bruce 860-465-7543.

88-R. Seeking rear differential for an International truck, or entire International truck for parts. Call Bruce 860-465-7543.

HARVEST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW EARLY REGISTRATION DUE JANUARY 30

Harvest New England and the New England State Departments of Agriculture are excited to once again host the Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference and Trade Show.

The conference will be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in historic Sturbridge, Massachusetts, on February 27-28, 2019. Twenty-six breakout sessions, two general sessions, a New England Farmers' Market Managers Seminar, and a full trade show with nearly 100 vendors are planned over two days.

The New England Farmers' Market Managers Seminar will be held February 27, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The "Staying Relevant: From Year One to Year 40" seminar will offer marketing ideas and a market manager networking opportunity.

For additional information and online registration go to www.harvestnewengland.org. Early Registration is due January 30, 2019.

VEGETABLE & SMALL FRUIT GROWERS' CONFERENCE

UConn Extension's 2019 Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference will be held Monday, January 7, 2019 at Maneeley's Conference Center, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT.

The day will include nine educational sessions, an extensive trade show with over 30 exhibitors, and networking.

Pre-registration is \$40 by January 2, 2019. Registration after the deadline and at the door is \$60. For registration and additional information go to <http://ipm.uconn.edu>.

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER?

Awarded annually at Ag Day at the Capitol, the Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer Award recognizes the winner's progress in their agricultural career, their soil and water conservation practices, and their contributions to the well-being of the community, the state, and the nation.

Connecticut is nationally-recognized in the Outstanding Farmers of America Program, with a leading number of national finalists. Help us keep growing an excellent tradition by nominating a worthy candidate today.

Applications must be submitted electronically via email by February 15, 2019. Download the nomination form here: <http://ctaginfocouncil.org/outstanding-young-farmer-application.html>

Ag Day will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the North Lobby and Hall of Flags at the Capitol in Hartford, CT.

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.

Registration and payment to participate in Ag Day is due by March 1, 2019.

CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Ag Journalism awards. For more information, contact Rebecca Eddy at 860-713-2538 or Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov or register online at: <http://ctaginfocouncil.org/index.html>.

DOAG TO HOST FARM-TO-SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is hosting the Connecticut Farm-to-School Conference, "Wholesale Readiness and Culinary Trainings: Making Connections Across the Sectors."

Producers, food service professionals, and others interested in farm-to-school initiatives are invited for a full day of trainings, panel discussion, educational sessions, and networking.

The conference will be held Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Hartford Sheraton South, 100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill, CT.

To register as an attendee, or apply for an exhibit space visit www.cognitofrms.com/CTDepartmentOfAgriculture/_2019ConnecticutFarmtoSchoolConference.

The registration fee is \$40 per person which includes breakfast, lunch and all materials. For additional information regarding exhibiting, registration, and scholarships call 860-713-2503.

Funding for this conference is provided by a Farm-to-School Grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service to train producers and food service professionals on farm-to-school practices.

This annual grant program provides funding to support the use of locally produced food in schools. This project has been funded in part with federal funds from USDA. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of USDA, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



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