

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
March 7, 2018



A view of an event at Stearns Farm, Mansfield, CT.

AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS LAUD THE PRESERVATION OF STEARNS FARM IN MANSFIELD

Jason Bowsza, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky today announced that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, in partnership with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Town of Mansfield, has permanently protected another 740 acres of Stearns Farm in Mansfield, assuring that it will forever remain in agriculture. The closing took place January 23, 2018, as a federal government shutdown loomed.

"This is a big win for farmland preservation in the State of Connecticut," said Commissioner Reviczky. "We recognize prime farmland for the tremendous value it brings to the quality of life in Connecticut. This partnership between the Stearns family and local, state, and federal partners represents a shared commitment to future generations, their access to high-quality farmland, and their ability to continue providing milk and other essential agricultural products to our citizens."

This represents the fifth of five conservation easement that will permanently protect more than 1,000 acres of Stearns Farm which sells its products under the Mountain Dairy brand. The recording of the easements occurred in phases, beginning in the fall of 2015. Mountain Dairy is the largest expanse of privately-held open space in the Town of Mansfield, at 758 acres.

"We are proud to be a part of protecting the Stearns Farm," said Connecticut NRCS State Conservationist Thomas L. Morgart. "Conservation easements are beneficial on so many levels. They allow the landowners to keep the property they love, provide a guarantee that the land will not be developed, protect wildlife and its habitat, protect open space, contribute to the environmental quality of the surrounding area, and preserve a piece of the state's history. I applaud the com-

mitment the Stearns' have made to the land that has meant so much to so many of them."

According to Mansfield's Mayor Paul Shapiro, "The preservation of Mountain Dairy's agricultural land represents great news for the Town of Mansfield and the region. Mountain Dairy is the oldest farm in town, Mansfield's largest agricultural business, and a key part of the town's identity. The Town looks forward to working with Mountain Dairy to help their business thrive."

Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield's Environmental Planner, reported, "Mountain Dairy is located in the town's largest area of prime agricultural soils and active private farms. In total, there are almost 1,100 acres of contiguous, permanently protected farmland in this section of town."

"The acquisition of the development rights on the final piece of the Stearns Farm is a milestone for farmland preservation in Mansfield and to the State of Connecticut," said Jeremy Jeliffe, spokesman for Mountain Dairy. "This is the final piece of Stearns' land to be preserved after years of efforts by the family and the town, state, and federal governments."

"Mansfield recognizes the importance of agriculture to the community and as part of its charge, the town council greatly aided the process by funding appraisals and land surveys as well as committing personnel to facilitate relationships with state conservationists," he added. "Through the generous supports of town and state personnel, the Stearns are proud to see the land they have worked for over two centuries preserved for future generations."

This is the fourth farm protected by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation program within state fiscal year 2018, and the first of the calendar year.

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.72	1.86
LARGE	1.69	1.83
MEDIUM	1.19	1.32

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.40	2.59
LARGE	2.39	2.55
MEDIUM	1.61	1.70
SMALL	.77	.87

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	60.00	65.50
boners 80-85% lean	60.00	65.50
lean 88-90% lean	49.00	57.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	127.00	130.00
Choice 2-3	119.00	122.00
Select 1-2	115.00	122.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	84.00	88.00
Choice 2-3	81.00	85.00
Select 1-2	74.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	124.00	128.00
Choice 2-3	118.00	123.50
Select 1-2	115.00	121.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 85-130 lbs	80.00	130.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	250.00	250.00
110-130 lbs	235.00	250.00
150-200 lbs	162.00	170.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	110.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	80.00	105.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	90.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	130.00	150.00
60-80 lbs	190.00	225.00
80-100 lbs	215.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	175.00	210.00
130-180 lbs	220.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	235.00	255.00
150-250 lbs	280.00	340.00

USDA RETAIL PORK

March 2-8. \$/lb.

CHOPS, CC, B/IN	1.49	3.19
CHOPS, RIB END, B/IN	1.59	1.59
CHOPS, SIRLOIN,, B/IN	1.69	1.89
HAM, B/IN	1.19	1.28
HAM, BONELESS	2.49	3.99
HAM, BUTT, B/IN	.99	.99
LOIN, WHOLE, B/IN	1.28	2.99
LOIN, CC, B/IN	1.79	1.99
PICNIC, FRESH, B/IN	.89	2.39
PORK, GROUND	1.87	3.99
PORKETTA	2.49	2.99
ROAST, LOIN, BNLS	1.49	3.49
ROAST, RIB END, B/IN	1.29	1.29
ROAST, SIRLOIN END, B/IN	1.59	1.69
ROAST, SIRLOIN, BNLS	1.69	2.99
SPARERIBS	1.88	2.99
SPARERIBS, ST. LOUIS	3.29	3.29
TENDERLOIN, FRESH	2.79	5.32

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

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72	28.00	29.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 80	30.00	30.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 88	30.00	30.00
APPL, CRTLAND, FCY, 12-3LB	22.00	22.00
APPLE, FUJI, US FANCY, 56	24.00	24.00
APPLE, FUJI, US FANCY, 125	20.00	20.00
APPLE, GALA, US FANCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GALA, US FANCY, 100	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GALA, #1, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 64	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 72	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, #1, 12-3LB	20.00	20.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFY, TRAY100	56.00	58.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 72	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 80	29.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 88	28.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 100	24.00	24.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 80	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 88	21.00	21.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 64	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 72	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY 125	20.00	21.00
APPLE, RED DEL, #1, 12-3LB	20.00	20.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEET, CHIOGGA, 25 LB, M-L, LSE	14.00	14.00
BEETS, RED, 25 LB, M, LOOSE	8.00	8.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	22.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	26.00	26.00
PARSNIPS, M, 20 LBS, LOOSE	25.00	25.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	12.00	13.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	14.00	14.00
POTATO, RDWT, #1, NONSZA, 50#	14.00	15.00
PTATO, RDWHT, NONSZA, 10-5LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	15.00	16.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, WAXFANCY, 80	34.00	34.00
APPLE, GALA, WAXFANCY, 100	45.00	45.00
APPLE, BRAEBURN, WAXFY, 80	34.00	34.00
APPLE, RED DEL, WAXFCY, 80	34.00	34.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 45 LBS	28.00	28.00
CARROTS, CA, 24-2 LB, M-L	29.00	30.00
KALE, 12 BUNCHES	27.00	27.00
LETTUCE, GRNLF, CA, 24	30.00	30.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, CA, 24	30.00	30.00
LETT, RMAINE, CA/AZ, 12-18OZ	30.00	30.00
MESCLIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	8.50	9.00
MUSHROOMS, PA, 12- 8 OZ	17.00	17.00
SPINACH, BABY, CA, 4 LBS	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	30.00	30.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, M, 1-1/9	30.00	30.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	30.00	30.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, M, 1-1/9	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, M, 1-1/9	31.00	31.00
STRAWBERRIES, CA, 8-1 LB	26.00	26.00
SWEET POTATO, 40 LBS	32.00	40.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - March 5, 2018

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	26.00	30.00
61-75 lbs.	57.50	62.50
76-90 lbs.	65.00	67.50
91-105 lbs.	72.50	75.00
106 lbs. & up	80.00	110.00
Farm Calves	200.00	240.00
Starter Calves	20.00	24.00
Veal Calves	50.00	130.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	90.00
Beef Heifers	67.00	105.00
Feeder Steers	72.50	75.00
Beef Steers	70.00	82.50
Feeder Bulls	50.00	75.00
Beef Bulls	64.00	79.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	600.00	685.00
Boars	1@	24.00
Sows	41.00	45.00
Butcher Hogs	44.00	52.50
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	115.00	170.00
Lambs each	100.00	215.00
Goats each	140.00	230.00
Kid Goats each	50.00	160.00
Canners	up to	60.00
Cutters	61.00	64.00
Utility Grade Cows	65.00	68.00
Rabbits each	7.00	10.00
Chickens each	8.00	14.00
Ducks each	6.00	11.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	58.00	67.00
	300-350 lbs	72.00	72.00
	350-400 lbs	51.00	56.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	48.00	59.00
	300-350 lbs	46.00	54.00
	350-400 lbs	43.00	45.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	42.00	52.00
	500-700 lbs	53.00	61.00
Boars	500-650 lbs	5.00	5.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

N. Holland, PA, February 28. By the head.

FRESH COWS:		
APPROVED	1050.00	1300.00
MEDIUM	750.00	1000.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	900.00	1225.00
MEDIUM	650.00	900.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS)		
APPROVED	900.00	1050.00

NORTHEAST RETAIL DAIRY

March 2-8. Per unit.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.00	4.69
CHEESE, NAT, 8OZ BLOCK	1.29	3.00
CHEESE, NAT, 1 LB BLOCK	3.29	3.99
CHEESE, NAT, 8 OZ SHRED	1.29	3.00
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16 OZ	1.50	2.99
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.19	2.00
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.88	4.49
MILK, FLAVORED, 1/2 GAL	2.50	3.49
MILK, ALL, GALLON	2.50	2.99
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.00	2.00
YOGURT, 4- 6 OZ	.47	.69
YOGURT, 32 OZ	1.49	3.49
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	.75	1.25
YOGURT, GREEK 32 OZ	3.99	5.49

“OUR FARM BILL” CAMPAIGN

By United States Senator Chris Murphy

Today, running a farm comes with many challenges—long hours, low commodity prices, weather changes, and tight bottom lines. I have traveled across Connecticut visiting farms and talking to farmers. I’ve heard loud and clear that the next Farm Bill needs to better address the needs of Connecticut farmers.

Earlier this year, I launched the “Our Farm Bill” campaign to collect and share the concerns of Connecticut farmers as Congress begins to consider the 2018 Farm Bill. I would love to hear your thoughts on what needs to change, what’s working, and how we can make sure this Farm Bill supports the needs of all Connecticut farmers. Please visit www.murphy.senate.gov/our-farm-bill to send in your ideas.

During my travels across the state, I heard time and time again that there was one area where making changes in advance of the next Farm Bill was particularly critical. Falling milk prices and dysfunctional federal support programs were placing great stress on dairy farmers, and with 2018 projected to be another year of low prices, Congress needed to act.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was proud to work with my colleagues on the committee, as well as the Connecticut congressional delegation, to include changes to the Margin Protection Program (MPP) in a recently passed 2018 budget agreement. These changes, which are immediate and go into effect ahead of the 2018 Farm Bill, should provide dairy farmers more support in a year where price forecasts are again concerning.

Specifically, the bill reduces the MPP premium costs by nearly 70% for small and medium sized farmers and makes more farms eligible for these lower premiums. In addition, the program’s \$100 administrative fee is now waived for underserved producers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture must reopen the signup for MPP to give farmers who want to access the program under these new terms the immediate opportunity to do so. Finally, the program will now operate with a monthly, versus a bimonthly, calculation for potential payments.

The bill also removes the cap on USDA’s underwriting costs for livestock insurance products in the Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) program. This will enable the development of new insurance products to further support dairy farmers.

These improvements, while significant, are certainly not enough, and I intend to continue working with Connecticut’s dairy farmers and my colleagues in Congress to ensure the new Farm Bill adequately addresses their needs.

In addition to the Farm Bill, Congress must also consider a spending bill for Fiscal Year 2019 this year. Unfortunately, President Trump has again proposed cutting the budget for the USDA by 16%.

I will be working hard in Congress to ensure these draconian cuts never become law. At a time when farmers already face so many challenges, these cuts, particularly cuts to crop insurance, do not support the needs of our farm economy and rural communities.

Thank you for all you do to support Connecticut agriculture, and I look forward to working more with all of you this year.

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.

10-R Greenhouse furnaces, 300,000-400,000 BTU’s. Price range from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Call Alex 203-223-4853.

16-R. Farm stand for rent May and June. 30x30 building with attached greenhouse. Established customer base for annuals, bedding plants and perennials. Contact Alex Arisco @ 203-271-0549.

21-R. Round hay bales – 52” X 48” – Triple plastic wrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, dry, haylage, grass, alfalfa. \$40.00 and up. 860-884-2889.

24-R. Hay for sale from fertilized fields. \$4.50 per bale. 203-453-9865.

25. 1959 Farmall 460 diesel with loader. Good condition. \$3,000.00. 500 gallon heavy stainless tank. \$400.00. Wacker 3” trash pump. \$250.00. Ford 400A 3 pt 1 row cultivator. \$300.00. Please call 203-996-6356.

26 –R. Diesel trucks: F350 F450 1989 7.3 4X4 dump, Army trucks. D-8 Cat, Dynahoe 200. 203-598-0807.

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.

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.

AG JOB CONNECTION

23-R. Connecticut’s two largest hop farms seek a full-time, salaried farm manager. If interested in learning about the qualifications, please send an email to info@ct-hops.com.



FMNP FARMER RECERTIFICATION MEETINGS

All fruit, vegetable, and honey producers currently certified with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) must attend a recertification meeting to maintain the certification required to accept FMNP checks. Below is the list of upcoming meeting dates and locations.

- Monday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. CT Ag Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven. Consumer Protection will be offering scale certifications before and during this meeting. Farmers are encouraged to bring their scales for the required annual inspection.
- Tuesday, March 20, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. CT Ag Experiment Station, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor.

Please RSVP no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting to Mark Hood at 860-713-2503 or Mark.Hood@ct.gov.

EXHIBIT AT THE 2018 BIG E

The Connecticut Building at the Big E offers a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture. The 2018 Big E is scheduled to run from September 14 – 30, 2018. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service.

Applications are available at www.ctgrown.gov and are due by Friday, March 30, 2018. Please call 860-713-2538 or email Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov for more participation information.



Photo courtesy of www.mountaindairy.com.

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Agriculture Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 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 snow date March 22, 2018.

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) will present awards for Outstanding Young Farmer, Century Farm, and Journalism. Exhibits from more than 40 agricultural non-profits, producer associations, cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities will be on display.

TOLLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU EQUINE NUTRITION & LIABILITY PROGRAM MARCH 30, 2018

The Tolland Country Farm Bureau will hold a program on equine nutrition and liability issues on Friday, March 30, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at Pleasant View Farm, 452 South Road, Somers, CT. The program will feature Nichole Rambo, Ph.D., an equine nutritionist with Tribute Equine Nutrition. Additional information on equine liability issues will be presented by a liability representative from Nationwide Insurance.

The program, including refreshments, is free for CT Farm Bureau members or \$15 for non-members. For more information please contact tollandcountyfarmbureau@gmail.com or call 860-742-5725.

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.

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