

# Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, September 19, 2018

## CONNECTICUT FARMER GROWS TO FEED HER COMMUNITY

*Cassie Bable, Public Affairs Specialist, USDA Farm Service Agency*

USDA celebrates farmers, like Baylee Drown, who supply fresh fruits and vegetables to their communities through farmers markets. Farmers markets give consumers access to locally-grown and farm-fresh products, while giving farmers the platform to grow and connect with their customer base.

Baylee grew up on a conventional dairy farm in Michigan and is now owner and operator of Upper Pond Farm in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Like many farm kids, she participated in 4-H and FFA. In college, she followed her passion for agriculture by pursuing an animal science degree. A college class changed her perspective on agriculture and piqued her interest in growing vegetables.

Her first job out of college was working on a diversified organic farm in Vermont. The operation produced livestock and vegetables. This is where Baylee was exposed to small-scale organic and sustainable practices and fell in love with direct marketing and growing vegetables.

Baylee has been in business on her own for five years in southeast Connecticut. She started her own agriculture operation, Upper Pond Farm, growing a variety of vegetables and fruits including ginger, tomatoes, salad mixes, head lettuce, microgreens, dry beans, strawberries, raspberries, melons, herbs and a few edible flowers.

Baylee believes in marketing her crops locally. Customers can purchase her produce from farmers markets, her Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

program and can even find her produce at the supermarket and at local restaurants.

“Farmers markets are a great way to get to know your community, and make life-long customers and friends,” said Baylee. “Also, they are flexible, so they are a great way to get your feet wet when you first start farming. We also get our best price at market.”

Her crops are sold at several farmers markets and she sets up shop in front of a customer’s business one day a week. This winter, she will also participate in the Greenwich Winter Farmers Market. Her most popular year-round item is baby salad mix, and the seasonal favorites are strawberries, cherry tomatoes, peas, ginger, carrots, beets and winter spinach.

“We really believe in feeding our neighbors,” said Baylee. “Everyone should have access to wholesome, healthy food.”

The rest of Baylee’s harvest is sold through her CSA. Baylee supplies 100 families with fresh fruits and vegetables 36 weeks out of the year.

Farmers and ranchers, like Baylee, who work hard each year to bring a crop to market constantly face circumstances out of their control, such as markets and weather.

Baylee uses USDA assistance to support and protect her operation. She uses the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to protect the operation from natural disasters that can destroy crops or lower yields.

*(continued on Page 3)*



*Baylee Drown of Upper Pond Farm in Old Lyme, CT believes in marketing her crops locally through farmers markets and her CSA. Photo courtesy of Upper Pond Farm.*

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Table with 3 columns: Egg size, Price per dozen, and Price per carton. Includes categories like XTRA LARGE, LARGE, and MEDIUM.

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Table with 3 columns: Egg size, Price per dozen, and Price per carton. Includes categories like XTRA LARGE, LARGE, MEDIUM, and SMALL.

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Table with 3 columns: Livestock category, Price per unit, and Price per unit. Includes categories like SLAUGHTER STEERS, COWS, CALVES, LAMBS, EWES, and KIDS.

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Table with 3 columns: Hog category, Price per unit, and Price per unit. Includes categories like SLAUGHTER HOGS, Sows, and Boars.

DAIRY CATTLE

Table with 3 columns: Dairy cattle category, Price per animal, and Price per animal. Includes categories like FRESH COWS, SPRINGING COWS, and BRED COWS.

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

Table with 3 columns: Produce item, Price per unit, and Price per unit. Lists various fruits and vegetables like ALFALFA, APPLE, BEAN, BEET, etc.

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION Middlefield, CT - September 17, 2018

Table with 3 columns: Livestock category, Price per unit, and Price per unit. Includes categories like Bob Calves, Farm Calves, and various types of sheep and goats.

BOSTON MARKET CUT FLOWERS

Table with 3 columns: Flower variety, Price per unit, and Price per unit. Lists various flower types like AMRNTHS, ASCLEPIAS, and CELOSIA.

(continued from Page 1)

Baylee also serves as a voice for local farmers in her community by serving on the New London FSA County Committee. She is serving in an appointed position and brings a unique perspective as the only vegetable farmer on the committee.



Baylee believes in marketing her crops locally.  
Photo courtesy of Upper Pond Farm.

She is a firm believer in conserving the soil and uses the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). EQIP provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements using conservation practices.

Baylee monitors soil compaction, grows cover crops and takes measures to prevent soil erosion.



College changed Baylee's perspective on agriculture and piqued her interest in growing vegetables. Photo courtesy of Upper Pond Farm.

Support your community and local farmers and ranchers. Use the National Farmers Market Directory to find a market near you: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets>. To date, there are more than 8,700 markets in the USDA Farmers Market Directory.

For more information about USDA programs and services, contact your local USDA service center. To find your local service center, visit [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov).

## 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](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.

49-R. Dahlia tubers – exhibiting/cut varieties. \$6 each. For more information about purchasing and varieties email [info@strongfarm.org](mailto:info@strongfarm.org).

70-R. Border collie puppies. Black and white. 2 males, 5 females. Ready early September. 203-263-4725.

72-R. Round hay bales. Wrapped or unwrapped, first cutting. Picked up or delivered. 203-264-2217.

73-R. Pumpkins – Full selection gourds, munchkins, novelty pumpkins and squash, white, prizewinner, face, and sugar. By the bin or trailer loads. Good color, stems, and spray program. Picked fresh. Dzen Farms, 860-648-1355.

75-R. Farm for sale. 9.2 acre about 40,000 sq. ft. greenhouses in Eastford, CT. Used to produce lettuce, cucumbers, herbs, tomatoes. \$329,000.00. Negotiable. 860-336-8000.

76-R. Registered Angus and Hereford cattle for sale. Open heifers, bred heifers, mature cows safe in calf to industry leading A.I. sires. Contact Eric at CJR. 860-567-9423, Extension 217.

77-R. Nursery hoops for sale in Suffield, CT. 100's available in 3 sizes, 14'W x 6'H, 17' x 9', 20' x 9'. Call Paul for more details 860-668-7371.

79. Massey Ferguson 63 HP. Perkins diesel engine, live power, Rops cab, 3 point hitch with forks, Woods brush hog. 203-509-3742.

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

### 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](mailto: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.

68-R. Bulldozing in Eastern CT. Farm ponds up to 3 acres. Need farm water, call Don Kemp. Also, land clearing. 860-546-9500.

## 2018 AQUAPONICS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 2018 Aquaponics Association Conference will be held September 21-23, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel in Hartford, CT.

The conference will feature the top aquaponics experts from around the world, tours of commercial aquaponics operations, a vendor showroom, interactive discussions, and social events for aquaponics growers. For more information visit <https://aquaponicsassociation.org/2018-conference>.

## ENHANCING FARM PROFITABILITY WORKSHOP

UConn Extension is hosting a farm business management workshop on Wednesday, September 26, 2018; 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Tolland County Extension Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT.

The free *Enhancing Profitability for Connecticut Farms: The Farm Business Management Toolbox* workshop is geared to both established and beginning farmers and includes lunch.

Subjects covered will be using financial reports to make strategic decisions, benchmarking for success, risk management, and how to assess the profitability of adding something new to your business. To register contact MacKenzie White at 860-875-3331 or [mackenzie.white@uconn.edu](mailto:mackenzie.white@uconn.edu).

## FARM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

DoAg is collaborating with UConn Extension to support Connecticut produce growers covered by the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. In or-

der to do that DoAg and UConn have developed a survey questionnaire to gather information that will help accurately characterize Connecticut's produce industry.

The questionnaire should take only 5-10 minutes to complete. Every farmer that fills out the survey will be entered into a drawing to win one of two Connecticut Grown pop-up tents. In order to participate in the drawing the survey must be completed/returned by October 1, 2018. To complete the farm survey online [click here](#) or contact Diane Hirsch at 203-407-3163 or [diane.hirsch@uconn.edu](mailto:diane.hirsch@uconn.edu) to request a survey.

## ON FARM READINESS REVIEWS

DoAg and UConn Extension staff continue to perform On Farm Readiness Review (OFRR)'s for fruit and vegetable growers in Connecticut. The program assists in preparing for the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR). An OFRR consists of a non-regulatory review of a farm's produce growing and handling activities. Its goal is to help farmers implement or enhance on-farm produce safety practices, and provide an opportunity for a one-on-one personalized discussion and guidance about farm operations. The OFRR is free and voluntary for Connecticut farms following the completion of the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training course.

Connecticut fruit and vegetable growers interested in participating in an OFRR or with questions can contact Resha Jacquier at 860-713-2529 or [Resha.Jacquier@ct.gov](mailto:Resha.Jacquier@ct.gov).

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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**Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.**

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