

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Ned Lamont, Governor
Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner-Designee



Wednesday, May 1, 2019

NATIONAL PET WEEK PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE PET CARE: MAY 6 - 11, 2019

By Karen A. Jones – State Animal Control Supervisor

As the month of May signifies a midpoint between the spring and summer season, it also has been nationally designated as a month to remind pet owners of responsible care for their animals.

One of most recognized animal awareness events is National Pet Week (NPW), which will be observed from May 6 through May 11, 2019. Annually, it takes place during the first full week of May that starts with a Sunday.

NPW is sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and was originated in 1981 to promote daily responsible pet care to the estimated 200 million pets that are owned throughout the United States.

According to the AVMA, the purpose of NPW is to celebrate the bond between pets and their families by encouraging proper animal-care practices.

To help circulate the messages of NPW, the AVMA encourages participation from veterinarians, schools, and community organizations by offering “member tool-kits” that include promotional items for marketing purposes. Student contests for writing and artwork are held by the AVMA to be used for annual themes.¹

During NPW, the AVMA has a focused website and social media campaign to reach out to the public about various topics concerning pet ownership.

Pet owners can find detailed information about vaccinations, finding a veterinarian, low-cost spay/neuter options, pets in vehicles, foods to avoid, pet insurance, coping with the loss of a pet, and many other pet-related tips.

For each day of National NPW, a specific theme of pet ownership is highlighted for pet owners to follow. The AVMA titles this as

LINDA WENNER RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS AS ACO

The Department of Agriculture (DoAg) would like to acknowledge the retirement of State Animal Control Officer Linda Wenner after 32 years of service.

Linda began her career in Animal Control at the municipal level after majoring in Animal Science at UConn.

Although her initial aspirations were to become a veterinarian, as an Animal Control Officer (ACO) Linda realized that she could have just as much impact on the welfare of animals.

Linda has been a state animal control officer with DoAg since 1987, as and has worked on many animal abuse cases during that time. Achieving justice for them was satisfying, but to Linda, the best part of the job was to experience the recovery of abused animals followed by their adoption into new homes.

Linda is known for her remarkable sense of compassion, which has resulted in her personal adoption of many sick, injured, and unwanted animals over the years.

In 1986, Linda helped establish the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association (CMACOA), and has served various board positions since then.

She has been active in the Region 4 Connecticut State Animal Response Team (CT SART) for disaster planning, Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) and served on the board of the New England Animal Control and Humane Academy (NEAHCA).

Linda was awarded the Connecticut Animal Control Officer of the Year in 1995.

We want to thank Linda for her years of dedicated service as an Animal Control Officer and valued colleague. We wish her the best in her retirement.



State Animal Control Officer Linda Wenner and Commissioner-Designee Bryan P. Hurlburt.

(continued on Page 3)

(continued from Page 1)

“Lifetime of Love – The Basics: Seven Days to a Happier and Healthy Pet”.

Monday, May 6, 2019, is themed as “choose well, commit for life” and tells of the significance of taking the time to choose a pet that is suitable for your family and lifestyle to ensure the lifetime commitment to that chosen animal.

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, is themed “Socialize now. New doesn’t have to be scary,” which emphasizes the importance of introducing and preparing your pet to be accustomed to children, adults, different environments, and other animals.

Wednesday, May 8 is themed “Nutrition and exercise matter”. The AVMA details that, along with human issues of obesity within the United States, there is an estimated 52.7% of dogs and 57.9% of cats that are considered overweight or obese.

Creating proper exercise and nutrition plans can be beneficial to the health of both the pet and their owners. The AVMA provides pet owners online information about healthy pet weight and how to walk, run, or start an exercise plan with your pet.

Thursday, May 9 has a theme of “Love your pet? See your vet!”. The AVMA stresses preventative veterinary care and that it may be too late if pet owners delay a visit to a veterinarian until their pet displays visible health issues.

Friday, May 10 is themed “Maximize the human-animal bond” which explains the positive mental and physical impacts that develop from the relationship between animals and people.

Saturday May 11 is themed “Emergencies happen. Be prepared” and offers information on developing a family emergency plan that includes caring for pets and other owned animals during a crisis. Saturday’s theme of emergency planning also coincides with National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day that falls on the same day of May 11, 2019.

The National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day was established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is annually held on the second Saturday in May. More information about disaster planning for pets can be found at www.ready.gov/animals.

The last day of National Pet Week 2019 is Sunday, May 12 which is themed “Plan for their care. Give them a lifetime of love”. The AVMA points out that since pets are typically living longer lives, due to improved overall care, special preparation should be made for senior pets.

Veterinary visits should be more frequent for older pets and educating pet owners about aging animals will ultimately better the chance for their pet to lead a healthier prolonged life.²

In preparation for National Pet Week, the AVMA also revealed a survey that is conducted every five years regarding pet ownership statistics by state.

According to AVMA findings, the top 10 states for the highest percentage of households with pets are Wyoming (72%); West Virginia (71%); Nebraska, Vermont, and Idaho (70%); Indiana and Arkansas (69%); Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Colorado (65%).

In contrast, Connecticut was one of the states with the lowest percentage of households with pets. These states are listed as Rhode Island (45%); South Dakota (46%); New Jersey (47%); Maryland, Illinois, and Massachusetts (49%); New York and Connecticut (50%); Georgia (51%), and New Hampshire (52%).³

Further information about NPW can be found at <https://www.petweek.org>.

¹ JAVMANews (2019, March 1) AVMA, Auxiliary celebrate National Pet Week 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.avma.org/News?JAVMANews/Pages/190301j.aspx>

² AVMA (2019) Lifetime of Love-The Basics: Seven days to a happier, healthier pet. Retrieved from <https://www.petweek.org/lifetime-of-love.html>

³ AVMA (2019) National Pet Week Survey Says! Retrieved from <https://www.petweek.org/top-10-dog-cat-owning-states.html>

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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

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27-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039

29-R. JD 7000 4-row no till corn planter, monitor, foam markets, light kit, mint condition, \$7,500. JD 1600 3 bottom reset plow. Excellent. \$2,500. Killbros Gravity Wagons with augers. Model 350. \$2,000. Bush Hog 7’ #287 very good. \$1,600. Call 860-355-1264. Pictures available

WANTED

6-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

AG JOB CONNECTION

31-R. Hop yard in Morris looks for part-time help, people who enjoy back-breaking labor, repetition and sweat. Work includes training, pruning, weeding, maintenance. Hourly pay. Available for two-plus weekdays per week? Contact allyrh@ct-hops.com

NRCS CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Are you an agricultural producer wanting to continue to farm but use less resources and have less of an effect on the land? Why not consider applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)?

Through CSP, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps private landowners build their business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of their entire operation.

While applications for CSP are accepted year-round, to be considered for FY2019 funds they must be received by May 10.

Through the program, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities such as cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land.

Interested? Find out if you’re qualified for CSP by contacting your local USDA service center or visiting the Get Started portion of the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/home/?cid=stelprdb1252233>.

DOAG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS' MARKET AT THE REGIONAL MARKET

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the Farmers' Market at the Regional Market. The 2019 farmers' market season runs from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Stall use agreements are available for periods of three months up to one year.

Applications and information can be found on DoAg's website at https://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/regional_market/2018/Farmers_Market_Application_2019.pdf. For more information or questions, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

NRCS EQIP/AMA APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 17, 2019

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from agricultural producers for financial assistance to improve farm conservation operations.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for those engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production – including organics. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

It also provides payments for implementing practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long-term production and sustainability. Eligible crop production includes, but is not limited to, field-grown ornamentals, fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards.

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.

Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, they are holding a second batching date for current year funding. To be eligible, you must ensure your application is submitted to your local NRCS office by May 17, 2019.

Visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/programs/financial/> for more information. NRCS staff will need to complete an assessment of resource conditions and practice feasibility prior to making a determination of program eligibility.

To find out more, fill out eligibility forms, or obtain an application, contact your local USDA Service Center: Danielson 860-779-0557; Hamden 203-287-8038; Norwich 860-887-3604; Torrington 860-626-8852; Windsor 860-688-7725.

CONNECTICUT GROWN PRICE CARDS

It's that time of year—farmers' markets and producers are gearing up for the season ahead and they need Connecticut Grown price cards.

To order go to www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com. Connecticut Grown price cards are available at no cost.

There is also a limited supply of Connecticut Grown tents available for purchase through the website. For more information call 860-713-2538, or email Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov.



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 Crystal.Morris@ct.gov or call 860-713-2533.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103.

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