

Agricultural Report

Agrivolution, Groton

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



Steve Jensen, Editor
 Wednesday, April 23, 2014

CT FARMS FASTEST-GROWING IN NEW ENGLAND, WOMEN HELPING LEAD THE WAY

*By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Cmsr.
 Steven K. Reviczky*

The land she works has been in production for more than two centuries, but Dina Brewster exemplifies the contemporary farmer that has made Connecticut a leader in the growth of new farms.

A recent survey by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture showed that women-run farms in Connecticut grew by 29 percent between 2007 and the 2012, while those headed by men grew by 19 percent.

The overall 22 percent increase represents 1,061 new farms. That was the fastest rate of growth in New England and bucks the national trend of a 4 percent overall decline in farms. Connecticut had a total of 5,977 farms on 436,406 acres when the survey was completed.

Brewster, 37, is entering her ninth growing season at The Hickories, an organic fruit, vegetable and livestock farm in Ridgefield she developed on property that had been in her family for decades.

She believes more women are being drawn to farming, in part, by an innate desire to produce healthier food for their families and communities than is available commercially. Women are also naturally suited to another important part of being a successful farmer, she said – cooperation.

“I think women are really good at the teamwork aspect of farming,” she said.

Not surprisingly, the great majority of the people who keep her farm running are female. Her head grower and farm manager is Mary Jawlik, her livestock manager is Molly Wellers and her 25-year-old full-time farm apprentice is Laura Mulligan.

“Laura was a waitress and now after a one-year internship she’s a full-time farmer,” Brewster said. “That’s pretty powerful determination.”

But her immediate circle on the farm is only the beginning. Brewster’s favorite butcher is a woman at



Dina Brewster is mobbed by baby goats born at her Ridgefield farm, The Hickories, which she took over full-time eight years ago.

Saugatuck Craft Butchery in Westport. A woman who runs Still River Mill in Eastford processes the wool from her sheep.

The cadre of annual volunteers who stay up in her barns all night during spring birthing season to “lambwatch” and then bottle-feed the kids? Virtually all women.

And there is a historical female connection through her grandmother, Blandina Brewster, who in 1958 bought a red Massey-Ferguson tractor at the Danbury Fair that she used to pull a hay wagon around the property – and that runs to this day.

Still, Dina’s background as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and an English teacher in the Bronx wouldn’t seem to point to her running a farm. She said she became gradually but steadily drawn more into nature and then agriculture in recent years before finally deciding to try to make a living at working the land.

“There really is no reason at all that I should be doing this,” she said with a laugh.

(Continued on Page 3)

**WHLESLE GREENHSE PRODUCE
U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL**

	LOW	HIGH
LETTUCE,bstn,12/4oz,CT	15.00	17.00
MACHE,3lb,PA	12.00	12.00
PEPPR,blI,YEL,11lb,DR	15.00	18.00
LEEK,5KG,NETH	15.00	16.00
RHUBARB,10lb,MI	20.00	20.00
TOMATO,25lb,vnrp,ME	21.00	22.00
TOMATO,Heirloom,10lbcan	32.00	34.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

	Low	High
49-54	220-300 lbs	80.00 83.00
	300-400 lbs	82.00 83.50
54-58	220-300 lbs	80.00 84.50
	300-400 lbs	83.50 88.00
Sows,US1-3	300-500 lbs	86.00 92.50
	500-700 lbs	79.00 83.00
Boars	300-700 lbs	17.00 18.00

PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. March 19

Gr US 1-	wt	Low	High
	20-25	310.00	325.00
	25-30	255.00	275.00
	30-40	220.00	270.00
	40-50	210.00	220.00
	100-130	130.00	145.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, April 21, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	40.00	45.00
61-75 lbs.	65.00	70.00
76-90 lbs.	130.00	135.00
91-105 lbs.	150.00	160.00
106 lbs. & up	175.00	180.00
Farm Calves	185.00	195.00
Starter Calves	42.00	48.00
Veal Calves	2 at	140.00
Open Heifers	125.00	140.00
Beef Steers	108.00	109.00
Beef Heifers	92.00	124.00
Feeder Steers	n/a	
Stock Bulls	110.00	140.00
Beef Bulls	115.00	118.00
Boars	1 at	.02
Sows	n/a	
Butcher Hogs	n/a	
Goats each	45.00	195.00
Kid Goats	125.00	140.00
Canners	up to	100.00
Cutters	103.00	106.00
Utility Grade Cows	107.00	110.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	10.00	45.00
Chickens each	4.00	22.50
Ducks each	7.00	13.00
Feeder Pigs	4 at	80.00
Lambs	100.00	150.00
Sheep	60.00	80.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

	Low	High
APPLE,MAC,FCY,120CT	16.00	17.00
Bean Sprouts,10lb	4.50	6.00
APPLE,Mac, FCY,140ct	16.00	17.00
CIDER,9½gal	18.00	18.00



SHIPPED IN

ASPARAGUS,11lb,CA	28.00	28.00
BEAN,grn,bu,FL	17.00	20.00
HONEYDEW,5CT,HON	10.00	14.00
BRUSSEL SPRT,25lb,CA	47.00	54.00
CABBAGE,grn,50lb,NY	15.00	16.00
CIPOLINOS,10LB,NY	21.00	21.00
CORN,4dz,FL	16.00	18.00
DANDELION GREEN,12s,GA	16.00	18.00
AVOCADOS,32CT,MX	42.00	43.00
GARLIC,2LB,BRAID,CA	10.00	10.00
KALE,12ct,GA	14.00	14.00
BLUEBERRIES12/6OZ FL	44.00	48.00
ROMAINE,24CT,CA	20.00	24.00
JICAMA,20IB MEX	16.00	20.00
PEA, SUGAR,10LB,GU	13.00	16.00
NECTARINES,72CT,CA	30.00	35.00
PEACHES,64CT,CA	44.00	44.00
STRAWBERRIES,8/1LB.CA	16.00	17.00

USDA WEEKLY RETAIL PORK PRICES

NORTHEAST USA, PER LB

	Low	High
CC CHOPS,B/IN	2.99	4.99
TENDERLOIN	3.49	5.99
BACKRIB	2.99	4.99
BUTT ROAST BNLS	3.49	3.49
SPARE RIBS	2.29	2.99
HAM B/IN	.97	4.99
HAM,BNLS	1.20	6.99
BACON,	2.99	7.99
GROUND PORK	2.47	3.99
DELI HAM	3.49	13.99
FEET	1.39	1.49

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	93.00	101.00
boners 80-85% lean	89.00	96.00
lean 85-90% lean	84.00	93.50
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 90-112lbs	280.00	297.00
No 2 95-103lbs	286.00	295.00
No 3 75-94lbs	250.00	262.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm3-4	146.00	150.50
Ch2-3	140.00	145.50
Sel1-2	n/a	
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	149.50	154.50
Ch2-3	145.00	152.50
Sel	137.00	148.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm2-3	125.00	138.00
Ch2-3	124.00	129.00
Sel2-3	118.05	123.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3 HAIR		
40-60lbs	245.00	290.00
60-80lb	230.00	260.00
80-110lbs	220.00	237.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
90-130lbs	72.00	97.00
110-120	82.00	85.00
120-160	80.00	95.00
BUCKS	120-160lbs	80.00 87.00
	160-250lbs	60.00 80.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.		
	20-40lb	85.00 106.00
	40-60lb	112.00 185.00
	60-80lb	146.00 220.00
Nannies/Does: 100.-130lbs	152.00	160.00
	130-180lbs	147.00 168.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	150.00	235.00
	150-250lbs	170.00 247.00

EASTERN PA GRAIN

Average price per bushel

BARLEY	3.10
CORN	5.08
OATS	n/a
SOYBEANS	15.15
WHEAT	7.51

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA
Per doz./USDA GradeA/GradeA white in cartons
(volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.65	1.69
LARGE	1.64	1.68
MEDIUM	1.39	1.41

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz., wholesale Grade A brown in cartons
(delivered)

XTRA LARGE	1.81	1.95
LARGE	1.75	1.89
MEDIUM	1.45	1.55

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information.

Advertisements of 35 or fewer words for job openings at Connecticut farms may be placed for up to four weeks for free in the report's new
CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

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.

29-R. KINZE CORN PLANTER, model DF, 4 row, 30" between rows, double frame, no till, excellent condition. \$5,000. Call 860-537-1974.

30-R. DRIED CHICKEN MANURE, best fertilizer for hay lots, by the trailer load. HAY, 1st & 2nd cut square bales. Call 860-537-1974.

48-R. Ford 1996 – Powerstroke 250 - 8 ft. flatbed – Good condition. 176,000 mi. \$8,000.00. 203-237-7998.

52-R. IH 856 Tractor, 3pt, sharp all original, \$7,500. JD 6405 2WD with loader. JD 4520, \$8,500. JD 730 Wide Front, \$7,500. Ford TW5, 2WD, 2,100 hrs, \$17,500. PTO generators 20,000KW. NH 575 baler with thrower, \$10,000. NH 310 baler and thrower, \$2,500. JD 456 Round baler net wrap silage special. CASE IH RBX 442 Round Baler. NH 311 Baler, \$4,000. 203-530-4953.

MISCELLANEOUS

10-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-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

WANTED

42. Farmland Preservation Assistant: We are seeking a Farmland Preservation Assistant to serve as an intermediary for farmland preservation groups operating at the town, land trust, state and national levels. The position will jointly support the CT Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the CT Department of Agriculture, and work up to 40 hours per week on the Agriculture Lands Easement (ALE) Program. Duties include: farmland owner outreach; conducting resource inventories; reviewing conservation plans and agricultural preservation deeds; and conducting farm visits for baseline inventories and stewardship, among other tasks. Qualifications: ability to conduct outdoor field assessments, strong communication skills, MS Office proficiency, and a valid CT driver's license. Familiarity with GIS, farming community, Connecticut and USDA agricultural policy, and conservation easements a plus. Background check required. \$18.50/hour. Submit resumes to: cwbennett@ultimaservices.com and write "CT Farmland Preservation Assistant" in the subject line.

49-R. Orchard help wanted. Looking for field person and laborer or farm couple to help operate small apple and peach orchard in Cheshire. Experience in orchard practices and machinery operation desirable. Hourly wage to be paid. Possible future opportunity for housing and operation of business. Great opportunity for ag-school graduate with farm background or as an opportunity to expand your existing orchard operation. Please email qualifications to chesappleorch@att.net



Barn at The Hickories (L) renovated last year with help of a DoAg grant to house a retail shop and educational center

(Continued from Page 1)

The Hickories was bought by her grandparents in 1936. It once was the family estate of former Connecticut Governor George Edward Lounsbury, who died there in 1904, and has been in some form of agricultural production for more than two centuries. The Lounsbury's were known to give away any produce not needed by the family.

"It is incredible to be part of such a grand tradition," Brewster said. "Then you get your soil tests back and you realize there is another side to this place being farmed for 250 years."

The much-worked old soils need to be continually revitalized, which Brewster says her organic methods have accomplished. They are productive enough to supply 200 members of her Community Supported Agriculture program, the heart of the farm's business.

Last year, Brewster received a DoAg Farm Viability grant to renovate part of a barn into a retail store and educational center where prospective new farmers can train.

"Connecticut has an awful lot of land – we just don't have enough farmers," she said. "We have to make new farmers and one way we are doing that here is by connecting more people to the land."

Nancy Barrett was an early forerunner of the growth in women farmers when she took over her grandfather's Scantic Valley Farm twenty years ago, but she shares many of Brewster's views.

"I think women grow the type of products that we want to buy," she said. "We see a need and we want to fill that need by ourselves."

(Continued on Page 4)

CT FARM EMPLOYMENT SECTION

51-R. Energetic, organized, friendly apprentice for 2014: Environmental Educator/Harvest Manager to manage harvest/distribution for 68-member CSA. Plan/publicize/facilitate farm-based educational workshops. Independent contractor. April-October. 18-24 hours/week, \$15/hour. Interest in full-time 2015 farm manager a plus. www.friendsofboulderderknoll.com/hiring

ANNUAL UCONN HORSE AUCTION APRIL 26

The annual UConn spring horse auction will be held Saturday, April 26 at Horsebarn Hill Arena on the Storrs campus. Preview of the horses begins at 11 a.m. and the auction at 1 p.m. The event is sponsored by the UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. More information is available at www.animalscience.uconn.edu

(Continued from Page 3)

Barrett believes that more young women, and men, are choosing to farm out of desire to “do something meaningful” for a career.

“I’m just thrilled that the number of farms is growing and that more young women are getting into it,” she said. “The more people who are out there farming the better.”

Connecticut’s robust farm growth is not a surprise to DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky.

“These numbers confirm what we are seeing on the ground – that more farms are starting and succeeding here because of the increasing demand for fresh, locally-grown food.

Consumers are voting with their dollars, and that means more opportunities for our farmers. DoAg’s role is to support that growth in any way possible and I think this survey shows that Connecticut’s efforts are paying off.”

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said the survey reinforces his administration’s decision to direct significant levels of funding to several agricultural-support programs, including those that restore and preserve farmland.

“Not long ago, people in this state were worried about farms disappearing in Connecticut,” he said. “I remain committed to the growth of this industry and to the hard working farm families of Connecticut, as does Commissioner Reviczky and his team. We have helped agriculture turn the curve in this state, and I look forward to doing more to keep it growing.”



The still-running 1958 Massey Ferguson tractor that Dina Brewster’s grandmother, Blandina Brewster, used to work her vegetable garden at The Hickories farm in Ridgefield.



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Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. (Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses are counted separately.) Print or type copy. Advertisements accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Ads with payment must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion in that issue. Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted. Remittance with copy required. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report (**ISSN: 1059-8723, USPS 129-340**) is published weekly by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, except for the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas, two other weeks each year, and when the Governor closes state offices. Print subscriptions are \$40.00 for two years. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2015.

**VOL. XCIV
 No. 16
 April 23, 2014**