CONNECTICUT WEEKLY



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

M. Jodi Rell, Governor F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director



Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503 Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

NOTES from the **DEPARTMENT**..

FARM TO KITCHEN TO MARKET AN EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

by Jaime Lizee-Smith, Agricultural Marketing Representative With close to 100 farmers and specialty food producers in attendance, speakers had a captive audience to share commercial kitchen start up information, national and local trends, and regulations and food safety facts.

The morning begin with a presentation by Brian Norder from the VT Food Venture Center who kicked off the day on the right foot – if you want to start a commercial kitchen, you must start at the beginning! Mr. Norder reviewed the requirements, things to consider when designing and building a kitchen, and how your end product will affect layout and function within the kitchen.

Mr. Norder was followed by Ron Tanner, Vice President of the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade (NASFT), a highly respected organization representing specialty food producers throughout the United States. NASFT is well known for the Summer Fancy Food Show held each summer in New York City and for the Specialty Outstanding Food Innovation (SOFI) awards. Mr. Tanner's presentation gave attendees insight into new and upcoming trends in the world of specialty foods. He gave attendees ideas and suggestions for how to diversify your product line and make it more versatile for a wider audience at large.

Food health and safety regulations 101 rounded out the morning sessions. A topic most people aren't interested in, Diane Wright-Hirsh, UConn Cooperative Extension Food Safety Educator, Ellen Sloane from the CT Department of Consumer Protection, and Tracey Weeks from the CT Department of Public Health, held the audiences' attention as they reviewed the importance of food safety and the accompanying regulations.

After lunch, Lee Kane, EcoCzar from Whole Foods Market gave audience an overview of trends from a local perspective. He discussed how to get your product into a Whole Foods Market both in the local area and regionally.

One of the most beneficial sessions of the day was the panel 'Seasoned' Just Right! Specialty food producers from Connecticut, with both an agricultural and non-agricultural background, shared their experiences on starting their kitchen and developing their product(s). Panelists, Beth Hilson, Gluten Free Pantry/Glutino, Patrick Horan, Waldingfield Farm, and Phyllis Haynes, Mariah's Chow Chow Relish reassured attendees that establishing a specialty food product, building a commercial kitchen, or connecting with a co-packer are obtainable and should be pursued!

The day was concluded with a session on tips for marketing a specialty food product which was presented by Kurt Houser from Ola! Granola. Ola! has been featured on many national talk shows and printed in a variety of specialty food publications. Mr. Housers' 'top ten' gave attendees easy ways to successfully market their specialty food product.

Many thanks to the CT Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) for organizing this fantastic program. For more information about CT WAgN and other upcoming programs visit www.ctwagn.com.

NEW WIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CHECK PROGRAM TRAINING TO BE HELD

Tuesday, March 30th, promptly at 6:00 p.m. Windsor Valley Laboratory Agricultural Experiment Station 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095.

This is the newest supplemental food program that is open to farmers' market participation. This program is different from the current WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). A list of current market participation is available upon request.

Please RSVP and direct questions to Rick Macsuga (Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov) or Mark Zotti (Mark.Zotti@ct.gov)

Directions: From Interstate 91: •Traveling south: Take Exit 37, at the end of ramp, turn left on Bloomfield Avenue (Route 305, East). Take first right Cook Hill Road. First driveway on the right.

• Traveling north: Take Exit 37, at the end of the ramp, turn right on Bloomfield Avenue (Route 305, East). Take first right Cook Hill Road. First driveway on the right.

THE UCONN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS: AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND PUBLIC POLICY IN CONNECTICUT

Featuring:

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner F. Philip Prelli and

Fresh sandwiches, salads, and desserts from The Kitchen @ Billings Forge.
Monday, March 29, 2010 from 12 to 1:30PM

Room 404 in the Library Building, UConn Greater Hartford Campus
Guest parking is available in the Trout Brook lot.

Discussion may include topics such as public policy, farmland preservation, organic and local food movements, the future of agriculture in Connecticut, and much more.

To ensure lunch is available for all, please RSVP by responding to Matthew Robinson, matthew.robinson@uconn.edu, 860-558-3770For more information about the UConn Department of Public Policy, visit the website at http://dpp.uconn.edu/.

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Prices To Retailers, Sales To Volume Buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, White Eggs In Cartons, Warehouse, Cents Per Dozen

> **EXTRA LARGE** 135-136 LARGE 132-136 **MEDIUM** 106-109

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT. March 22, 2010

Live animals brought the following average prices per cwt.:

per cwt				
Bob Calves:	Low	High		
45-60 lbs.		15.00	20.00	
61-75 lbs.		25.00	30.00	
76-90 lbs.		32.50	35.00	
91-105 lbs.		37.50	40.00	
106 lbs. & up		42.50	45.00	
Farm Calves		50.00	70.00	
Started Calves		26.00	35.00	
Veal Calves		80.00	110.00	
Open Heifers		55.00	73.00	
Beef Heifers		55.00	86.00	
Feeder Steers		57.50	87.50	
Beef Steers		55.00	62.00	
Stock Bulls		60.00	75.00	
Beef Bulls		51.50	69.00	
Sheep each		45.00	95.00	
Lambs each		45.00	145.00	
Goats each		67.50	225.00	
Kid Goats each		15.00	80.00	
Canners		Up to	48.50	
Cutters		49.00	53.00	
Utility Grade Cows	S	55.00		
Rabbits each		7.00	28.00	
Chickens each		5.00	24.00	
Ducks each		5.00		
Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.				

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, March 22, 2010

Bulk/High/Low Dressing SLAUGHTER COWS:

I ean

Premium White 65-75% lean 53.00-55.00 55.00-58.00 Breakers 75-80% lean 50.00-54.00 55.00-56.50 45.00-47.00 80-85% lean 46.00-50.50 **Boners** 51.00-54.50 41.00-46.00

47.50-48.50 37.00-41.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

985-1825 lbs 58.00-63.00 Bullocks: 870-1505 lbs 69.00-74.00 SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn

Choice and Prime 2-3

40-60 lbs 190.00-300.00 164.00-188.00 60-80 lbs 80-90 lbs 162.00-180.00 90-110 lbs 150.00-168.00 145.00-164.00 110-130 lbs

85-90% lean 42.00-47.50

SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3:

Medium Flesh 100-160 lbs 64.00-86.00 160-200 lbs 60.00-78.00 50.00-78.00 200-300 lbs Slaughter Ewes Utility 1-2: Thin Fleshed 100-180 lbs 40.00-68.00 200-230 lbs 56.00-58.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND CROWN		
NEW ENGLAND GROWN		45.00
APPLE CIDER, 9 – ½ gal	15.00	15.00
APPLES, Mcintosh,12/3,us #1	12.00	12.00
POTATOES, Russet 10/5lb	9.00	9.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 11 lbs on vine lg	25.00	25.00
SHIPPED IN		
APPLES, Granny Smith us exfcy, 80ct	36.00	36.00
ARTICHOKES, 24ct CA	40.00	40.00
ASPARAGUS, 28lb lge CAL	44.00	44.00
BROCCOLI RABE, 20lb CAL	32.00	32.00
BEANS, Green bu handpicked FL	40.00	42.00
BEETS, 12's TX	15.00	15.00
CABBAGE, Green 50lb med FL	17.00	18.00
CANTALOUPES, 9ct HON	17.00	20.00
CAULIFLOWER, 12ct AZ	19.00	20.00
CELERIAC, 20lb CAN	18.00	18.00
CUCUMBER, 1-1/9bu med FL	32.00	32.00
DAIKON, 1-1/9 bu FL	18.00	21.00
EGGPLANT, Greenhouse 11lb sm CAN	25.00	25.00
GARLIC, Elephant 10lb CA	33.00	33.00
GRAPES, thompson 18lb xlge CHILE	29.00	29.00
GRAPEFRUIT, Red 40ct FLA	12.00	15.00
HORSERADISH, 5lb MIZZ	12.00	12.00
LEMONS, 115ct AZ	24.00	25.00
LETTUCE, Boston 12/4oz greenhouse CAN	14.00	15.00
LETTUCE, Iceberg, 24ct AZ	18.00	19.00
MUSHROOM, Shiitake 3lb organic PA	21.00	23.00
NECTARINES, 48-50 CHILE	20.00	21.00
OKRA, ½ bu sm-med MX	30.00	30.00
ONION, red 25lb med NY	17.00	18.00
ORANGES, Navel 88's CA	18.00	18.00
PEACHES, 44ct CHILE	18.00	18.00
PEAR, Bosc,100ct, us #1 WA	32.00	32.00
PEAS, Snow 10lb GUAT	20.00	21.00
PEPPER, Habanero 1/2 bu FL	30.00	33.00
PEPPER, Bell Green xl FL	58.00	60.00
RHUBARB, 10lb greenhouse MICH	24.00	24.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1lb lg CA	15.00	17.00
TOMATOES, 10lb, heirloom FL	20.00	20.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1. sold by the head, on estimated weights.

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

Slaughter Kids: 20-40 lbs 60.00-88.00 40-60 lbs 80.00-104.00 60-80 lbs 100.00-132.00 80-100 lbs 98.00-138.00 100-120 lbs 100.00-122.00 Slaughter Nannies/Does: 102.00-112.00. 80-130 lbs Slaughter Bucks/Billies: 80-100 lbs 100.00-136.00 100-150 lbs 106.00-150.00 150-250 lbs 146.00-224.00

NEW HOLLAND.PA HOG AUCTION

Mon March 22, 2010 - Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight. Percent Lean Weight Price 49-54 220-270 lbs 49.10-52.00 270-300 lbs 48.75-49.10 45-49 220-270 lbs 47.00-49.10 300-350 lbs 46.50-48.50 40-45 300-450 lbs 34.00-35.00 40.00-44.50 Sows: US 1-3 300-500 lbs 500-700 lbs 49.00-51.00 300-700 lbs 10.00-11.00 Boars:

METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A. **NEW YORK PRICES** WHITE EGGS TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen, Grade A eggs on: March 22, 2010

EXTRA LARGE 141-145 **LARGE** 139-143 **MEDIUM** 114-118 Above quotations based on

CARTON sales to retailers.



PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY HAY REPORT

Week ending March 22, 2010 Hay and Straw Market for Eastern Pennsylvania. All hay prices paid by dealers at the farm and per ton.

Premium 130.00-150.00 Alfalfa 110.00-140.00 Mixed Hay Good 110.00-120.00 Timothy Straw 85.00-90.00

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE RETAIL REPORT

Retail Prices at Grocery Stores in the Northeast Week of March 19, 2010 Prices are in dollars per pound unless otherwise stated.

VEGETABLES

VEGE!/(BEEG		
Asparagus	1.49 - 2.99	
Broccoli	.98 - 2.00 per buncl	
Carrots, Baby organic	1.50 - 2.00 1lb bag	
Cucumbers	.3475 each	
Lettuce, Iceberg	.98 - 1.50 each	
Mushrooms, White	1.50 - 2.00 8oz pkg	
Onions, Yellow	1.79 - 1.97 3lb bag	
Onions, Sweet, Yellow	.89 - 1.69	
Peppers, Bell red	.98 - 2.99	
Potatoes, Russet	1.29 - 3.49 5lb bag	
Squash, Zucchini	.98 - 1.78	
Tomatoes	1.99 - 1.99	
Tomatoes on the vine	1.88 - 2.99	

Torridioco ori tric viric	1.00 2.00			
FRUITS				
Apples, Red delicious	.79 - 1.49			
Avocados, Haas	.88 - 1.50 each			
Cantaloup	.98 - 2.99 each			
Grapes, Green/Red	1.99 - 2.99			
Grapefruit, Red	.33 - 1.50 each			
Lemons	.2567 each			
Mangoes	1.50 - 1.50 each			
Nectarines	1.49 1.99			
Oranges, Navel	.20 - 1.00 each			
Peaches	1.99 - 1.99			
Strawberries	1.50 - 3.49 16oz pkg			

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

- 1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com.. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.
- 2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www. hobbyfarmusa.com., Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.
- 4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.
- 6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.
- 12-R. Hay excellent 1st cut round, plastic wrapped bales \$40. 2nd cut \$50. 2nd cut squares \$5. Lebanon 860-886-0716.
- 25-R. Honeybees for sale, 3lb packages scheduled March 27 and April 26; 5 frame nucs April 10, Riverside Apiaries, 860-295-8972.
- 31-R. NH 316 baler w/mod. 75 kicker, electric controls \$7,500. JD 1219 Haybine, stub guards, hyd. tongue \$3,900. Haywagon \$1900. Kuhn GF452T tedder \$1900. NH hay rake, old, \$900. 150 gal. Mueller M self-contained bulk tank \$2,500. Small 2" DeLaval pipeline, complete w/pump, wash sink and receiver jar \$2,500. 860-951-8021.
- 38-R. Hay 1st cut \$5.00 per bale. Special quantity discounts. No delivery. Stebner Farm, Lebanon, 860-423-9310.
- 42-R. Pioneer Forecart for use as a training cart or for pleasure driving. Excellent condition. \$ 1,450.00 Contact: Tom 860-885-8299
- 43-R. Draft Horse Harness made by Yonie:Two stainless steel hame style draft horse harnesses. Excellent condition. \$1,800.00/pair Contact: Tom 860-885-8299.
- 46-R. 300 tomato cages, 4ft tall, steel reinforcing wire, \$3.00 each, Killingworth:860-663-3282
- 48-R. J.D. 8' Drop Spreader \$350 OBO. 1st cut square bales \$4.50. 203-265-4588.
- 52-R. 8' Red cedar poles, large quantity. 6" Irrigation pump w/ new discharge hose \$1200. 860-877-3335.
- 53-R. Tractor IH 140, for sale. Starts and runs perfect, hydraulics good \$1,850. 860-889-0598. Ed.
- 54. 5-1/2" Brillion seeder, 3 pt \$1,500. Myer 100 gal. hydraulic sprayer \$400. 203-996-6356.
- 55-R. NH 730 round baler \$11,000. Case IH 8430 round balers \$6,500 \$7,500. Two "02" 575 balers with 72 thrower, low wear choice \$13,000. 311 baler with thrower \$6,500. 311 and 565 baler. JD 328 with kicker \$5,500. Three 4-star tedders, hydraulic fold. 256, 258 New Holland rakes. JD 6200, 5320, 5420, 4020 side console power shift. Two 730's direct start diesels. JD B with new rear tires, sharp \$3,200. Massey 375. New and used gap hill kicker wagons 8, 9 ft x 18. 710, 720 semi-mount reset plow 3,4, & 5 bottom. JD 4520. PTO generators. JD KBA harrows 9 & 10 ft. 5-ton fertilizer spreaders. 8ft 5-tine harrow. JD 8ft drop spreader. 203-530-4953.
- 56. Used TEW, 24 inch wide vegetable washer. In running condition but needs work. \$500 or best offer. 860-989-5436. 9am to 6pm.
- 57. Roberts 4 passenger Wagonette I like new, can be used with a team or single horse. Asking \$4,000. Antique sleigh (pung) all original, very well built, original paint, always undercover, setup for a team \$1,800. No. Stonington 860-599-0792.

WANTED

- 35-R. All standing timber wanted. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call New England Timber, LLC at 860-662-2412.
- 41-R. For Lease: Preston, Rt 164, easily accessible farm property, buildings, etc. For more information 860-889-0598.
- 510-R. Producers Wanted: Connecticut Farm-to-Chef is a free program that helps connect local culinary professionals with producers and distributors of CT Grown products. Informational newsletters, workshops, networking, promotions and other opportunities are provided to members as part of the program. Additional Connecticut producers and distributors

are needed for this popular and expanding program. Please help us get your product into the hands of local chefs! Contact Linda at the CT Department of Agriculture, Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov or 860-713-2558, for more information.

511-R. Wanted: Farmers for the CT Farm-to-School - The Farm-to-School Program is a statewide effort designed to incorporate CT Grown fresh fruits and vegetables into local schools cafeteria meals and snacks. This project is intended to be twofold: to support local farms and to offer more nutritious school meals as a result of buying local, fresh, produce. If you are interested in selling to one, several, or to a whole school district of schools (through a wholesaler or direct), call Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588 or at Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov

MISCELLANEOUS

7-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.

58-R. For Rent: Stafford – 3-1/2 – 4 acres, greenhouse 30 x 32 – 70% completed. Also, good dump truck with all-season body. Sander, 11-1/2ft plow, 3 axel trailer, CT Farm Reg. 580 backhoe, other equipment. Disabled, had to stop. 860-684-2206.

COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURE IN YOUR TOWN—

An AGvocate Workshop Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 6:30 to 9 pm Canterbury Town Hall, Town of Canterbury Community Center

1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury, CT

Are you an agricultural producer, agricultural based business, a municipal decision maker, or do you just have an interest in keeping Connecticut's working lands viable?

Join us on March 31 for a FREE workshop, sponsored by the AGvocate program, to learn about communicating the value of agriculture in your Town.

This workshop will cover:

□ Effectively communicating the economic and environmental benefits of farming and the value of farms.

Direct experiences of farmers and municipal officials on navigating Town Hall to make farms viable.

Share Ideas, Gather Resources FREE Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Workshop will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

Directions: The Canterbury Community Center at the Canterbury Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive off RT 14 (Westminster Road), about 1 1/2 miles west of the RT 169 the intersection. www.canterbury@ct.org

To assure adequate materials, contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate Program Coordinator, 860-450-6007 or AGvocate@yahoo.com to reserve your space.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

6:30 p.m. Registration & Light Refreshments - Meet AGvocate pilot town representatives

7:00 p.m. Working Lands and a Vital Economy, Paula Stahl, LLA, ASLS, AICP, Co-Director Green Valley Institute - The economic value of working lands is multi-faceted and frequently misunderstood. With Paula's dual background in finance and community planning, she will clearly explain the fiscal impacts of agriculture and some tools and techniques for vital working lands.

7:45 p.m. Refreshment Break

8:00 p.m. Navigating Town Hall—Austin Tanner, Creamery Brook Bison, Paul and Diane Miiler, Fairvue Farm, and Steve Revisky, Executive Director, Ct Farm Bureau Association, and John Guskowski, President, Eastern CT Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc and Senior Planner, CME Associates. - Are farms Commercial? Residential? Industrial? What

MORE COMMUNICATING ON PAGE 4

COMMUNICATING FROM PAGE 3

about farmstands, agritourism, or farm diversification? There are many different ways that Towns understand, define, and regulate agriculture.

This panel will discuss some of the successes and failures of connecting farm activities with municipal regulations.

.8:40 p.m. AGvocate Program Update - Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Franklin, Sterling, and Thompson

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

ABOUT THE AGVOCATE PROGRAM

Since June 2009, the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Franklin, Sterling, and Thompson have been working with circuit rider "AGvocate", Jennifer Kaufman, to implement tools to strengthen farm friendliness, including forming agriculture commissions, reviewing tax reduction programs, planning for farmland protection, and establishing right-to-farm ordinances. A second grant has extended the program for another year and increased the number of participating towns to 10 of the 26 Connecticut towns within The Last Green Valley Heritage Corridor. For more contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate, at 860-450-6007 or AGvocate@yahoo.com.

TRYPTOPHAN-ENRICHED DIET **REDUCES PIG AGGRESSION**

Feeding the amino acid tryptophan to young female pigs as part of their regular diet makes them less aggressive and easier to manage, according to a study by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and cooperators

The tryptophan-enhanced diet reduced aggression and overall behavioral activity among young female pigs during the 8-month study. Tryptophan, which is only acquired through diet, is the precursor for the calming cerebral neurotransmitter serotonin. Keeping swine calm is important, because aggressive behavior can harm them and increase feed and medical costs for producers.

The study was done by ARS doctoral student Rosangela Poletto and animal scientist Jeremy Marchant-Forde at the ARS Livestock Behavior Research Unit in West Lafayette, Ind. Collaborators included biologist Heng-Wei Cheng at the ARS lab in West Lafayette, and Purdue University scientists Robert L. Meisel and Brian T. Richert.

The supplemented diet raised blood concentrations of tryptophan in 3-month-old females by 180 percent, and by 85 percent in 6-month-old females, resulting in calmer animals, mainly at the younger age. Persistent aggression in pigs can cause chronic stress, leading to poorer welfare, increased disease susceptibility and reduced growth and efficiency.

In the study, a diet with 2.5 times the normal amount of tryptophan was fed for one week to grower pigs (3 months old) and finisher pigs (6 months old). Another group of pigs received a normal diet. Behavioral activity and aggressiveness were measured before and after the seven days of diet supplementation.

To test aggression, researchers put an "intruder" pig in the pen until an aggressive interaction was triggered or for a maximum of five minutes. Pigs receiving the high-tryptophan diet showed less aggression--fewer attacked the intruder, and those that did attack were slower to do so--compared with the animals that didn't get the supplement.

Pigs form social groups that, over time, form stable hierarchies or "pecking orders." However, when new individuals are introduced, aggression is used to re-establish a new hierarchical order. If repeated changes in group composition occur, persistent aggression may arise, sometimes leading to physical injury and acute stress. A tryptophan-enriched diet may help producers avoid these problems, especially when groups of pigs are mixed toaether.

The research was published in the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's principal intramural scientific research agency. The research supports the USDA priority of promoting international food security.

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