C O N N E C T I C U T W E E K L Y



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 17, 2010

NOTES from the **DEPARTMENT**...

AGRI-TOURISM A SUCCESS!

by Jane Slupecki and Jaime Lizee-Smith, Agricultural Marketing Representatives

On behalf of our partners and sponsors, Farm Credit East, VisitNewEngland.com, and New England FarmWays, the Marketing Division wants to thank the over 100 farmers that attended and participated in lively discussion on the ins and outs of taking on agritourism at their farms at last week's Southern New England Agritourism Business Conference, held at Gouveia's Vineyards in Wallingford, CT.

Folks from New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts joined a whole lot of Connecticut growers to expand our knowledge of topics like agricultural law, insurance needs, tour buses, and social networking to develop this marketing technique for our farms. From our view, you helped us take an important next step in not only growing more farm destinations, but also growing a community of champions for agritourism both on the farm and in the business community. The future will include more meetings like these and greater collaborations with you to ensure that we maintain momentum.

Panelists from the Department of Agriculture, insurance companies, tour bus companies, and farmers helped us learn about the pitfalls, opportunities and tricks to succeed. We really appreciate our Connecticut farmers--Sandi Rose, Rose's Berry Farm, Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm and Winery, and Winter Caplanson, Coventry Farmers' Market, for their hands-on, dayto-day experience and wisdom on how they run their agribusiness and how they market and insure their farms. Also, a big thank you to Ron Olsen and George Krivda from our agency, the CT Dept. of Agriculture, Michelle Bourgeois, the Last Green Valley, Nancy Parker Wilson, Greenvale Vineyards, RI, Milena Erwin, CT Small Business Development Center, Doug Jobling RI Small Business Development Center, Michael Richard, Nationwide Insurance, Betty Cordellos, ConneCTions Tours, Darien, CT, Ginny Koslowski, Greater New Haven CT Visitors Bureau, Carol Lake, Carol Lake Public Relations, NH, and Sarah Spencer, Mystic Aquarium. Last but not least, we need to thank Stu Nunnery, New England FarmWays and Rhode Island Center for Agriculture Promotion and Education (RICAPE), for his superlative job as the masterful moderator of the day's proceedings and insight and expertise on this subject. Stu's colorful and thoughtful comments throughout the day pulled it all together for our farmers.

Farmers asked a variety of questions that gave us great ideas to create more one-day work shops. There is obviously a need for more information on how to use social networking tools, creating newsletters on-line, keeping up with technological overload that offers opportunities to connect with the hip consumer with Twitter, FaceBook, and other applications that offer free connection to thousands of potential customers. Other inexpensive sites

and tools offer ways to help farmers to build postcards, business cards and the likes. The crowd asked questions on the value of and the logistics of how to cost out the bus tours, and events for their farms.

Insurance concerns really came up a lot. Farmers and other panelists alike recommended that you call your insurance agent at least once a year to assure that your farm business is fully insured to protect your investment. However, the questions continued the entire afternoon, so there may be a need for another program about insuring your farm.

On to farm law—there was a lively discussion on what the Right-to-Farm means, and how towns' ordinances affect your business. This went into a discussion on how to be a good neighbor when you are a farm. Perhaps a primer session on what farmers can do to be involved in their towns and how to be a good neighbor would help other farmers in our state.

The lunchtime chatter and positive evaluations told us that we are on the right path to helping you. This response is exactly that we need to see and encourages us to continue these types of meetings. We hope you agree.

Southern New England has many untapped resources for agritourism opportunities. The Marketing Division thanks the farmers of Connecticut for taking the time to come out and attend this and future meetings to grow new markets for the farms. We hope you'll remember to reach out to the sponsors and speakers at this event for other support for agritourism information, training and marketing support. We look forward to seeing you at other Marketing events we plan for you real soon.

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.

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A. March 15, 2010

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** 107-109

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, Ct, March 15, 2010 Live animals brought the following average prices per cwt.:

prices per cwt		
Bob Calves:	Low	High
45-60 lbs.	15.00	20.00
61-75 lbs.	25.00	26.00
76-90 lbs.	28.00	30.00
91-105 lbs.	32.50	35.00
106 lbs. & up	37.50	45.00
Farm Calves	47.50	55.00
Started Calves	30.00	35.00
Veal Calves	50.00	95.00
Open Heifers	72.50	92.50
Beef Heifers	54.00	56.00
Feeder Steers	57.50	77.50
Beef Steers	55.00	72.50
Stock Bulls	62.50	67.50
Beef Bulls	55.00	57.00
Boars	1 @	4.00
Sows	30.00	33.00
Sheep each	50.00	80.00
Lambs each	47.50	160.00
Goats each	75.00	
Kid Goats each	15.00	25.00
Canners	Up to	44.00
Cutters	45.00	48.00
Utility Grade Cows	53.00	55.00
Rabbits each	13.00	
Chickens each	4.50	16.00
Ducks each	3.50	
Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.		

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, March 15, 2010

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:

Premium White 65-75% lean

52.00-54.50 57.00-57.50 46.00-50.50

75-80% lean Breakers

50.50-53.50 54.00-56.50 45.50-47.50

80-85% lean Boners

46.50-50.00 51.50-54.00 42.00-45.00

85-90% lean

41.50-46.50 47.50-52.00 36.50-41.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

1280-1865 lbs 58.50-62.00

1925-2380 lbs 55.50-57.00

Yield Grade 2 1240-1930 lbs 55.00-58.00 Bullocks: 960-1210 lbs 68.00-72.50

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn

Choice and Prime 2-3

40-60 lbs	175.00-202.00
60-80 lbs	160.00-178.00
80-90 lbs	156.00-172.00
90-110 lbs	152.00-170.00
110-130 lbs	150.00-168.00
130-150 lbs	144.00-158.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3:

Medium Flesh 120-160 lbs 62.00-78.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN	v .	
APPLE CIDER, 9 – 1/2 gal	15.00	15.00
APPLES, Mcintosh,12/3,us#1	12.00	12.00
APPLES, Red Delicious 120ct fcy	14.00	14.00
POTATOES, White Round 50lb	9.00	9.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 11 lbs on vine lg	25.00	25.00
SHIPPED IN		
APPLES, Granny Smith us exfcy,80ct	38.00	38.00
ASPARAGUS, 28lb lge CAL	40.00	40.00
BROCCOLI RABE, 20lb CAL	32.00	32.00
PEAR, Bosc,100ct, us #1 WA	33.00	33.00
CANTALOUPES, 9ct HON	20.00	22.00
ARTICHOKES, 30ct CA	30.00	30.00
BEANS, Green bu handpicked FL	53.00	55.00
BEETS, 12's TX	15.00	15.00
CABBAGE, Green 50lb lge NY	12.00	13.00
CAULIFLOWER, 12ct AZ	28.00	28.00
CELERIAC, 20lb CAN	18.00	18.00
CUCUMBER, 1 1/9bu med MX	34.00	36.00
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, Flame 18lb xlge CHILE	40.00	42.00
GRAPEFRUIT, Red 40ct FLA	13.00	15.00
HORSERADISH, 5lb MIZZ	12.00	12.00
LEMONS, 115ct AZ	24.00	25.00
LETTUCE, Boston 12/4oz greenhouse TENN	14.00	14.00
LETTUCE, Iceberg, 24ct AZ	22.00 20.00	23.00 21.00
NECTARINES, 48-50 CHILE OKRA, ½ bu sm-med MX	30.00	30.00
ONION, Yellow 50lb med NY	22.00	24.00
ORANGES, Navel 88's CA	18.00	18.00
PEACHES, 44ct CHILE	20.00	21.00
PEAS, Snow 10lb GUAT	20.00	21.00
PEPPER, Habanero 1/2 bu FL	30.00	33.00
PEPPER. Bell Green xl FL	52.00	52.00
RHUBARB, 10lb greenhouse MICH	24.00	24.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1lb lg CA	20.00	21.00
TOMATOES, 5x6 FL	40.00	40.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

1,

160-200 lbs	58.00-72.00	
200-300 lbs	44.00-62.00	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection		
sold by the head, estimated weights.		

Slaughter Kids: 40-60 lbs 84.00-104.00

60-80 lbs 100.00-126.00 80-100 lbs 122.00-144.00 100-120 lbs 130.00-150.00 Slaughter Nannies/Does:

80-130 lbs 92.00-110.00 130-180 lbs 110.00-124.00 Slaughter Bucks/Billies:

100-150 lbs 144.00-156.00 150-250 lbs 182.00-208.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

March 15, 2010 - Hogs sold by actual weights. prices anoted by hundred weight

prices quoted by ridridred weight.		
Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	51.00-53.50
	270-300 lbs	53.00-54.50
	300-350 lbs	50.00-55.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	50.00-52.00
	300-350 lbs	45.50-48.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	41.00-46.00
	500-700 lbs	51.00-52.50

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

For 1 dozen, Grade A eggs on: March 15, 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 15, 2010 Hay and Straw Market for Eastern Pennsylvania. All hay prices paid by dealers at the farm and per ton.

	Premium
Alfalfa	140.00-155.00
Mixed Hay	140.00-155.00
	Good
Timothy	100.00-120.00
Straw	100.00-120.00

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE RETAIL REPORT

Retail Prices at Grocery Stores in the Northeast Week of March 12, 2010 Prices are in dollars per pound unless otherwise stated.

VEGETABLES

Asparagus	1.47 - 3.99
Broccoli	2.00 - 2.00 per bunch
Carrots, Baby organic	1.48 - 2.00 1lb bag
Cucumbers	.6667 each
Lettuce, Iceberg	.9799 each
Mushrooms, White	1.27 - 2.00 8oz pkg
Onions, Sweet, Yellow	.99 - 1.69
Peppers, Bell green	1.69 - 1.69
Peppers, Bell red	.98 - 2.99
Potatoes, Russet	.99 - 2.00 5lb bag
Squash, Zucchini	.99 - 1.69
Tomatoes	1.49 - 2.99
Tomatoes on the vine	1.89 - 2.99

FRUITS

Apples, Red delicious	.7999
Avocados, Haas	.33 - 2.00 each
Cantaloup	.99 - 2.00 each
Grapes, Green/Red	.99 - 2.49
Grapefruit, Red	.2050 each
Lemons	.2050 each
Mangoes	.5099 each
Nectarines	1.49 1.99
Oranges, Navel	.1033 each
Peaches	1.49 - 1.99
Strawberries	1.38 - 3.79 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.
- 14-R. Hay 4x5 round bales, stored in barn, \$50. p.u. Hereford heifer spring calf \$450. Standard donkey 6 mo. old jack \$450. Pygmy goats, young, 3 males, 1 female. International 1850 bucket loader attachment \$400. Call 860-537-1974.
- 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.
- 37-R. Somers 3.3 acre business zoned with 960 SF bldg and 9000 SF of greenhouse space. Zoned for many business uses. \$239,900 Clint Charter, Wallace-Tustin Realty, 860-558-3908.
- 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.
- 45-R. Corn silage in silo with unloader good for smaller quantities in Bristol, CT. Call evenings 860-635-1379.
- 46-R. 300 tomato cages, 4ft tall, steel reinforcing wire, \$3.00 each, Killingworth:860-663-3282
- 47-R. Wade irigation pipes 4 inch, 20 and 40 foot lengths, connectors, uprights, sprinklers, 1500 to 2000 feet, \$1200.00 or best offer. Estate sale available now Bristol CT. Terry LeBeau 860-583-4946
- 48-R. J.D. 8' Drop Spreader \$350 OBO. 1st cut square bales \$4.50. 203-265-4588.
- 51-R. Hay First Cutting. Square Bales. \$4.00/bale. Call 860.829.1465.
- 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.

WANTED

- 35-R. All standing timber wanted. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call New England Timber, LLC at 1-800-806-1664.
- 50-R. Wanted: Persons for general greenhouse work, mail order Alpine geranium propagation and shipping, and retail garden center sales. Starting now through August. Flexible hours. Pay commensurate with ability. Some plant knowledge and retail experience helpful. Non-smokers only. We have a reputation for top quality plants and good service. Wheeler Farm Gardens, Portland, CT 860-342-2374.
- 41-R. For Lease: Preston, Rt 164, easily accessible farm property, buildings, etc. For more information 860-889-0598.

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.

THE CFA SCHOOL STARTS BASIC DESIGN CLASSES IN MIDDLETOWN

The 13-session course begins on March 23 and concludes May 11, occurring Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Agriscience facilities of the brand new Middletown High School. Previous students consistently give highest ratings to the course content and CFA Instructor Lousie Pastormerlo. Students can apply online at www.CFAFloralSchool.org.

WORKING LANDS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT FARMLAND PROTECTION & ACCESS TO AGRICULTURE

Farmers, activists discuss how to support a viable future for farms Windsor, Connecticut—More than 200 farmers, conservationists, antihunger advocates, students, locavores, and others interested in farmland preservation from across Connecticut will gather for a conference hosted by the Working Lands Alliance (WLA) coalition to consider ways to improve farmland access, grow community farms and link farmland protection with economic development, smart growth and public health goals. USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan will give the conference keynote address, with an introduction by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.

"'Plowing Ahead' is an opportunity to take stock of our progress in farmland preservation and to harvest ideas for the next 10 years to keep Connecticut farmland producing fresh, healthy food for our citizens. Don't miss this 'once-in-a-decade' event," said WLA Chairman Terry Jones, of Jones Family Farms in Shelton.

The conference will focus on strategies to accelerate the protection of Connecticut's remaining farms over the next 10 years while nurturing new opportunities for local farms and food. Plowing Ahead: Farmland & Preservation in 2010 & Beyond will be held on March 27 at Kroon Hall on the campus of Yale University in New Haven from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

There will be workshop offerings on policy, programs and innovative approaches to building support for protecting farms in Connecticut communities. Presenters from national conservation organizations such as American Farmland Trust and Trust for Public Land will review farmland preservation policy tools from other states. Practitioners from local community farms in Wilton and Woodbridge will share their models of education and food production. Leaders from Vermont Land Trust, Peconic Land Trust, and the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project in Boston will discuss their innovative programs to increase farmland access for new farmers.

The conference is made possible by generous financial support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Connecticut Farmland Trust, Connecticut Farm Link, Connecticut Food Policy Council, Farm Credit East, The Farmer's Cow, Jones Family Farms, edible Nutmeg, Wholesome Wave, and the members of American Farmland Trust. Additional sponsors include Connecticut Farm Bureau, Connecticut State Grange, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Common Ground Center for Environmental Education and Leadership, Eastern CT Resources Conservation & Development Area, Inc., Halloran & Sage Governmental Affairs, KofKoff Egg Farm, and Trust for Public Land.

CONNECTICUT BED BUG FORUM III

The third Connecticut Bed Bug Forum hosted by the Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will be held on Monday March 22nd between 8:30am and 12:30pm in the Michael J. Adanti Student Center, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut.

The program includes current bed bug management practices, legal aspects of bed bug enforcement, research and development, history, biology, state and federal issues, and bed bug detection dogs. Full details may be found at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website. www.ct.gov/caes.

USDA TO TAKE A LOOK AT FARM LABOR IN NEW ENGLAND

How many workers are employed on agricultural operations in New England? Have farm labor wages been affected by the current economy? These are the key questions the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking farm operators statewide as part of the April Agricultural Labor Survey.

"Now more than ever, labor issues are a concern in the agricultural community, making the Agricultural Labor Survey the most timely survey conducted by NASS," explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. "This survey provides the vital information affecting farmers and their bottom lines."

Data from the Agricultural Labor Survey are used by the USDA and the Department of Labor to establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

During the last two weeks of April, NASS will contact selected New England farm operators and ask them to provide information on their total number of hired workers, hours worked and wage rates paid during that week. For their convenience, survey participants have the option of responding online.

NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the quarterly Farm Labor report, to be released on May 20, 2010.

"We strongly encourage participation in this survey. Only farmers themselves can provide us with the accurate information needed to build the foundation for reliable agricultural labor estimates," said Keough.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Keough. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda. gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.

GERANIUMS COULD HELP CONTROL DEVASTATING JAPANESE BEETLE

Geraniums may hold the key to controlling the devastating Japanese beetle, which feeds on nearly 300 plant species and costs the ornamental plant industry \$450 million in damage each year, according to scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

The beetle, Popillia japonica Newman, can feast on a wide variety of plants, including ornamentals, soybean, maize, fruits and vegetables. But within 30 minutes of consuming geranium petals, the beetle rolls over on its back, its legs and antennae slowly twitch, and it remains paralyzed for several hours. The beetles typically recover within 24 hours when paralyzed under laboratory conditions, but they often succumb to death under field conditions after predators spot and devour the beetles while they are helpless.

ARS entomologist Chris Ranger at the agency's Application Technology Research Unit in Wooster, Ohio, is working on developing a way to use geraniums to control the beetles.

Ohio and neighboring Michigan are some of the largest producers of horticultural plants, most of them grown in greenhouses. Other research to benefit the horticultural industry includes that of Susan Stieve, curator of Ohio State University's Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Stieve is working with OSU collaborators and horticulturist Jonathan Frantz of the ARS Greenhouse Production Research Group in Toledo, Ohio, to see whether a specialized breed of begonias can tolerate colder temperatures.

The scientists are screening the begonias at two production temperatures: 5 degrees Fahrenheit colder than normal, and 10 degrees F colder than normal. Begonias are found naturally in a wide variety of climates and altitudes—ecological clues that can be used to identify promising germplasm. Being able to grow begonias at cooler temperatures could reduce greenhouse heating bills for ornamental growers in northern climates.

Read more about this in the March 2010 issue of Agricultural Research magazine. http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/mar10/garden0310.htm

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Connecticut Weekly
Agricultural Report

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