Back in 1924, when Russian immigrants Alexander and Stephanida Wolchesky purchased their 120-acre farm in Pomfret, Connecticut, it probably never occurred to them there would be a reason to protect it from development.

According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture Historical Archive, back then approximately 61% of the state’s land surface was devoted to farming. However, construction, manufacturing, and industrial uses over the next few decades changed things, and by 1964 the number had dropped to about 23%. Today that number is even smaller at just under 14%.

Because of the constant decline in the state’s agricultural land, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture created the Farmland Preservation Program in 1978.

Through the program, the state acquires development rights to agricultural properties, ensuring the land remains available only for agricultural use in perpetuity.

The main objective is to establish a food-and-fiber producing land resource base, consisting mainly of prime and important farmland soils, that will ensure local availability of fresh farm products, and help agriculture remain an important part of the state’s economy.

This program works hand-in-hand with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, which provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Agricultural land easements protect the long-term viability of the nation’s food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses.

Land protected by these easements provides additional public benefits including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat, and protection of open space.

The Wolchesky’s maintained ownership of their beloved farm for the rest of their lives and following their deaths, the land was divided up among their children. Over time, several shares were passed down to grandchildren, until it was owned by 14 separate family members.

One of the Wolchesky’s grandsons, John Jr., had been brought up on his dad’s stories about how he and his siblings helped their father clear the land with little more than bow saws and horses.

The younger Wolchesky loved the farm and the stories that went with it. He hated the thought of it being fragmented – it was not what his grandparents would have wanted.

So, from 1977 to 2003, John Jr. talked about, planned, and discussed with his dad the idea of getting the entire farm back under one parcel. He reached out to kinfolk, who all agreed that something needed to be done. The land, once a thriving farm under the watchful eyes of Alexander and Stephanida, was now overgrown and neglected.

John Sr. didn’t think it could but done – but he was wrong. His son was able to negotiate with family members and in 2003, John Wolchesky, Jr. became the sole owner of every bit of the 120 acres his grandparents had worked so hard to acquire.

Even before he owned it, the younger Wolchesky knew if he was able to procure the property, he wasn’t going to risk it becoming anything other than open agricultural land. And he

(continued on Page 3)
## WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grocer Prices

**CONNECUTT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - March 4, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

### CONNECUTT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered door. (Range)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

### BUYER'S GUIDE

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered door. (Range)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

### DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

**FRESH COWS**

- **APPROVED**
- **MEDIUM**

**SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS)**

- **APPROVED**
- **MEDIUM**

**SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS)**

- **SUPREME**
- **APPROVED**
- **MEDIUM**

**BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS)**

- **SUPREME**
- **APPROVED**
- **MEDIUM**

**OPEN HEIFERS**

- **APPROVED**
- **MEDIUM**

**NEW ENGLAND, PA. HAY REPORT**

Price per ton, small squares. March 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY MARKET**

Price per ton, small squares. March 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**

### NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>52-56 lbs</th>
<th>300-500 lbs</th>
<th>48-52 lbs</th>
<th>300-350 lbs</th>
<th>550-700 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVELS**

- **LOW**
- **HIGH**
knew the solution to that was through an easement. He contacted the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAg) and talked about the what/if’s and the if/when’s.

Over the next several years, his life changed. He retired from his full-time job and began working to fix the things that had fallen into disrepair. And, he got the wheels moving for a conservation easement for the property.

Wolchesky worked with NRCS and DOAg to secure protection of his family legacy. The land where his grandparents raised their family, where his father grew up — where he feels such a close connection. In December 2018, the easement became official.

Today, John Wolchesky grows vegetables and hay on the land he knows can never be developed. He dreams of someday growing hops and maybe starting a small brewery.

And he likes to think that his grandparents would be proud of all he has done to restore the farm that means as much to him as it did to them.
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) invites agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities to register for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the North Lobby and Hall of Flags at the Capitol in Hartford, CT. The snow date is March 21, 2019.

For more information about Ag Day at the Capitol go to: http://ctaginfocouncil.org/index.html.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is seeking applications for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Projects cannot begin until after January 1, 2020, and must be completed by March 1, 2022. The maximum award is $100,000.

Eligible applicants include universities and colleges, municipalities, registered nonprofits, state agencies, and Council of Governments.

A training workshop on how to write and submit an application for the program will be held on March 22, 2019 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT. RSVP’s are required no later than March 19 to Jaime Smith, Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

More info and complete application guidelines and forms are available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants, or by contacting Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 or jaime.smith@ct.gov.

Applications are due to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture by 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 2019.

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.

TRUCK SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

The Hartford County Farm Bureau will hold a truck safety and compliance educational program for the agricultural industry on Saturday, March 16, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Nutrien Ag Solutions, 15 Chamberlain Road, Broad Brook, CT. The program is free but registration is required by March 8, 2019. To register call 860 768-1100 or email joann@cfba.org.