



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

BIG CHANGES AHEAD FOR FEDERAL ESTATE AND GIFT TAXES ... MAYBE

Submitted by: Lance P. Shannon, Farmland Preservation

Estate and gift taxes are important to keep in mind as you prepare your estate plan. Proper planning means more assets you can pass to your heirs and/or beneficiaries. Be aware, the tax codes are in a state of flux. Estate planning will be critical if you are to save on these taxes.

Federal Estate and Gift Tax.

So far, for the calendar year 2010, there is no federal estate tax, though Congress could still impose one and possibly even make it retroactive. On January 1, 2011, the federal estate tax is scheduled to return with only a \$1,000,000.00 exclusion per individual (\$2,000,000.00 for married couples). However, Congress may very well decide to revise the 2011 exclusion, though it has yet to do so.

Currently, gifts up to a total of \$1,000,000.00 can be made during one's life (not including gifts complying with the annual tax-free exclusion amount and gifts to your spouse) with no gift tax; anything over \$1,000,000.00 triggers a gift tax.

Ways to Reduce Your Gross Taxable Estate.

The amounts one can transfer during life and at the time of your death may appear substantial; however, many people may be surprised that their estate will be taxable. Real estate, for instance, has the potential to appreciate in value over time. That increase can mean the difference between a non-taxable estate and a taxable estate.

If your estate will be taxable upon your death, there are options available to reduce the potential tax burdens. Gifting assets over time allows you to transfer property (real and/or personal) to individuals during your life. This not only gets the assets out of your estate, thereby reducing your gross taxable estate, but also your beneficiary or beneficiaries get the benefits of immediate use of the assets.

In addition, real estate used for farming may qualify for special federal estate tax treatment under IRC Section 2032A and/or special State tax treatment under Section 12-349 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Unless modified by Congress or our legislature, these provisions can help reduce the size of one's gross taxable estate. Be advised however, these tax laws are complicated.

Granting agricultural easements or restrictions can also result in a reduction of your gross taxable estate. By selling or gifting development rights to real estate to the State of Connecticut, the federal government, a municipality and/or local land trust you can decrease the value of that real property in your estate. In addition, you may then have cash or liquid assets that can be used to maintain the farm, pay off existing debt, distribute to heirs, etc.

Conclusion

Both the Federal and State estate and gift tax codes have changed dramatically. 2011 may bring even greater changes. Proper planning is essential if you want to pass the maximum amount of assets to your heirs and beneficiaries. I urge you to speak with your attorney, accountant and/or financial advisor today to start an estate plan or to review your existing estate plan; aim to reduce the amount of estate and/or gift taxes that you or your estate will have to pay.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call the Farmland Preservation Unit at (860)713-2511.

THE FARMER'S COW IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD RECIPES

The Farmer's Cow, local dairy farmers providing Connecticut-produced fresh milk, cream and other products, is looking for a few good holiday recipes that use dairy products to feature on its website.

"Perhaps you have a wonderful family recipe that has been handed down for generations and is a cornerstone of your holiday celebrations. If that recipe uses one of the many Farmer's Cow products - our milk, eggs, heavy cream, ice cream, or cider - we would like you to share it with us so we can post it on our website," says Robin Chesmer, Managing Partner for The Farmer's Cow. "These need to be real family recipes and not recipes from cookbooks. We want others to enhance their holidays with wonderful recipes and also support local agriculture by using The Farmer's Cow and other locally produced items."

Time is short so please send your recipe to recipes@thefarmerscow.com by November 12th, 2010 for

MORE ABOUT RECIPES ON PAGE 3



NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.
November 1, 2010

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

EXTRA LARGE	116-120
LARGE	115-119
MEDIUM	85-87

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, Conn.
November 1, 2010

Live animals brought the following average
prices per cwt.:

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	25.00	34.00
61-75 lbs.	40.00	43.00
76-90 lbs.	45.00	47.50
91-105 lbs.	50.00	52.50
106 lbs. & up	55.00	60.00
Farm Calves	65.00	70.00
Started Calves	30.00	35.00
Veal Calves	55.00	125.00
Open Heifers	60.00	80.00
Beef Heifers	55.00	69.00
Feeder Steers	65.00	87.50
tock Bulls	60.00	83.00
Beef Bulls	60.25	79.00
Sows each	1 @	27.50
Hogs,Barrows and Gilts	57.50	77.50
Feeder Pigs each	65.00	85.00
Sheep each	45.00	155.00
Lambs each	50.00	170.00
Goats each	95.00	185.00
Kid Goats each	45.00	115.00
Canners	Up to	47.50
Cutters	48.00	50.00
Utility Grade Cows	51.00	54.00
Rabbits each	5.00	17.00
Chickens each	3.00	17.00
Ducks each	7.00	30.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, November 1, 2010

Bulk/High/Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:

Premium White	65-75% lean		
56.00-58.00	-----	54.50-55.50	
Breakers	75-80% lean		
53.00-55.50	-----	47.00-52.50	
Boners	80-85% lean		
51.00-54.00	54.50-55.50	48.50-50.50	
Lean	85-90% lean		
47.00-51.00	51.50-52.00	44.00-47.00	

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

1145-1855 lbs	65.50-70.00
high dress 1175-1720 lbs	71.00-75.00
Bullocks: 840-1240 lbs	69.00-73.00
high dress 945-1245 lbs	75.00-77.00
low dress 735-1050 lbs	62.00-66.00

Holstein Bull Calves: Number 1

95-120 lbs	115.00-127.00
85-90 lbs	75.00-90.00
Number 2 95-125 lbs	90.00-110.00
85-90 lbs	60.00-70.00

Holstein Heifer Calves: Number 1 few

90-100 lbs	120.00-140.00
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FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

APPLE CIDER, 4- one gallon	13.00	13.00
APPLE CIDER, 9 half-gallons	15.00	15.00
APPLES, Cortland 100ct xfcy	22.00	24.00
APPLES, Delicious Golden 80ct xfcy	22.00	22.00
APPLES, Delicious Red 12-3lb 2-1/2" xfcy	18.00	18.00
APPLES, Empire , 80ct xfcy	22.00	25.00
APPLES, Gala 100ct fcy	14.00	15.00
APPLES, Macintosh 80ct xfcy	24.00	25.00
APPLES, Macintosh 120ct US#1	13.00	15.00
APPLES, Macintosh 96ct xfcy	21.00	22.00
APPLES, Macintosh 12-3lb 2-1/2" U.S.1	16.00	17.00
APPLES, Macoun 80ct xfcy	32.00	34.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10lb film bags	4.50	5.00
BROCCOLI, 14ct	11.00	11.00
CABBAGE, Green, box med	9.00	10.00
CAULIFLOWER, 12 ct	12.00	12.00
CHIVES, 1lb 12's	8.00	8.00
COLLARD GREENS, Crate	11.00	11.00
CRANBERRIES, 24/12oz	33.00	34.00
KALE, crates	10.00	11.00
MINT, 1/2bu 12's	10.00	10.00
PARSNIPS, 25lb bag	23.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1lb	18.00	21.00
PEAR, Bosc 4/5 bu US 1, 2-3/4"	25.00	25.00
PEPPER, Bell Green, Mixed size 1 1/9 bu	8.00	9.00
POTATOES, 10lb bag	2.00	2.25
POTATOES, White Chef 50lb	12.00	13.00
PUMPKINS, 1 1/9 bu pie type	7.00	8.00
SQUASH, Acorn bin per pound	.25	.30
SQUASH, Acorn 1-1/9 bu med	10.00	11.00
SQUASH, Blue Hubbard 50lb	13.00	14.00
SQUASH, Buttercup 1-1/9 bu	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, Butternut 1-1/9 bu	9.00	11.00
SQUASH, Spaghetti 1-1/9 bu	12.00	14.00
TOMATOES, Cherry 5lb flat	10.00	10.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 25lb loose	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 15lb flat	26.00	26.00
TURNIP, White Cape 1-1/9bu	23.00	23.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A.

NEW YORK PRICES WHITE EGGS TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen,
Grade A eggs on:
November 1, 2010

EXTRA LARGE	127-131
LARGE	125-129
MEDIUM	95-99

Above quotations based on
CARTON sales to retailers.



PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY HAY REPORT

Monday November 1, 2010

Hay and Straw Market for Eastern
Pennsylvania. All hay prices paid
by dealers at the farm and per ton.

	Premium
Alfalfa	140.00-170.00
Mixed Hay	140.00-150.00
Timothy	120.00-140.00
	Good
Alfalfa	110.00-140.00
Mixed Hay	100.00-140.00
Timothy	120.00-130.00
Straw	110.00-120.00
	Fair
Alfalfa	100.00-110.00
Mixed Hay	90.00-110.00
Timothy	65.00-100.00

SEASONAL ITEMS

CORN STALKS, Bundle	4.00	4.50
CRANBERRIES, 24-12oz bag		
early black	33.00	36.00
GOURDS, Shellacked 1/2 bu	8.00	10.00
INDIAN CORN, 1/2 bu	15.00	15.00
INDIAN CORN, 1-1/9 bu	28.00	30.00
PUMPKINS, Howden lge 36" bin	100.00	100.00
PUMPKINS, Pie type med 1-1/9 bu	11.00	11.00
PUMPKINS, Pie type med 36" bin	100.00	150.00
PUMPKINS, Mini 1/2 bu	8.00	10.00
PUMPKINS, Mini 1/2bu CT	11.00	11.00
STRAW BALES	6.00	6.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Mon November 1, 2010

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by
hundred weight.

49-54	220-270 lbs	55.00-56.00
45-49	220-270 lbs	51.00-53.00
	270-300 lbs	53.50-54.50
	300-400 lbs	51.00-53.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	40.00-43.00
	500-700 lbs	46.00-49.00
Boars:	250-700 lbs	28.50-29.50

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:

Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3	
40-60 lbs	170.00-182.00
60-80 lbs	164.00-188.00
80-90 lbs	165.00-180.00
90-110 lbs	158.00-172.00
110-130 lbs	150.00-162.00

Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3

40-60 lbs	160.00-172.00
60-80 lbs	156.00-169.00
80-90 lbs	150.00-164.00
90-110 lbs	146.00-158.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Medium Flesh

120-160 lbs	74.00-90.00
160-200 lbs	70.00-86.00

Slaughter Ewes Utility 1-2: Thin Fleshed

120-160 lbs	58.00-67.00
160-200 lbs	54.00-62.00

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

Kids: 50-60 lbs	96.00-108.00
60-80 lbs	106.00-130.00
80-100 lbs	124.00-140.00
100-110 lbs	132.00-142.00

Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs 96.00-110.00

Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs 170.00-180.00

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, 1-888-526-8815, 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.

92-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

105-R. Battery powered price computing scales CAS 60lb \$328. (CT state compliant). Battery powered cash registers, \$280. 800-403-5919.

160-R. 1st cutting hay – mixed grass \$3.75 bale – picked up. 203-264-1588, 203-264-4799.

164-R. J.D. Model H; J.D. Model L.A. – both completely restored. Side mount mower for L.A. Call 860-871-0171; Cell 860-559-5031.

170. Christmas greens, balsam and mixed wreaths, roping, kissing balls, samples gladly shown. 203-457-1344.

174-R. Round 4x4 hay bales. Premium, silage alfalfa or grass. Tightly plastic wrapped. Starting \$40. 860-884-2889.

181-R. First cutting hay for sale, \$4.00 per bale. Telephone for more information at 203-206-1344.

182-R. 1941 Farmall H tractor, new rubber, restored, good condition. \$2,000. Call 203-206-1344.

188. Rye straw, seedless strawberry grade - \$6.00 per bale, \$5.50 per bale for 100 or more. Call 860-289-5188.

190-R. Purebred Angus bull, 5 years old, good disposition, great pedigree - \$1,500. 203-788-0978

192-R. Greenhouse liquidation sale, structures, B&L flat filler, equipment, etc. Call for complete listing (860) 267-7480.

195-R. Christmas trees – CT Grown Fraser fir, Balsam, Blue Spruce, White Spruce, Douglas Fir. Superior quality, various grades and prices. Dzen Brothers Farm (860) 648-1355.

196-R. Massey Ferguson 4-wheel drive, 23hp with loader \$8,750. John Deere 990 4-wheel drive with loader, 41hp \$17,500. Massey Ferguson 1540, 40hp with loader \$17,900. All in excellent condition, low hours. Also Ford 2810 2-wheel drive, 36hp very good condition \$8,900. Also full line of new tractors and haying equipment on the web at www.bigboystoysllc.net or come see us at Big Boys Toys, LLC, Scenic Route 169, Pomfret, CT. Call 860-928-9778.

199-R. Hay – excellent 1st cut, plastic wrapped round bales \$40. Call 860-886-0716.

200-R. Feeder calves – weaned 6 m/o 600lb, performance bred Herefords, Galloways, blacks. Join our annual mailing list. 860-886-0716.

203. Christmas Trees -- CT Grown--Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Canaan Fir, Blue Spruce--High Quality--Wholesale Prices. Hartikka Tree Farms (800)508-5099

204-R. 25 bales of hay \$3.00 each. 32 Old Hatchery Road, Kensington, CT, 203-235-6550.

WANTED

35-R. All standing timber wanted. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call New England Timber, LLC at 860-662-2412.

201-R. 6" Aluminum irrigation pipe. Phone 203-421-3055, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm for information.

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.

611-R. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has established the Farm Link Program. It is a matchmaking service to help new farmers find farm land owners (for rent or for sale) and to aid in the process of land rental and/or farm transfer to the next generation of farmers. A website will be developed to aid linking farm seekers and farm owners. Persons interested in the process can receive applications now available at www.farmlink.uconn.edu or calling the CT Dept. of Agriculture at (860) 713-2503. The Department is encouraging all next generation farmers and transitioning family farms in Connecticut to participate. For further information, please contact Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588.

GREAT RATES FOR YOUR ADS!

AG REPORT ADS ARE ONLY \$3.75 FOR UP TO 15 WORDS! A GREAT VALUE FOR YOUR \$\$\$\$. SEND IN YOUR AD TODAY!

MORE ABOUT RECIPES FROM PAGE 1

consideration. The farmers will sift through all of the recipes submitted and choose their favorites for publication on The Farmer's Cow website and to be featured during their holiday promotion.

About The Farmer's Cow

The Farmer's Cow is a group of six Connecticut dairy farms that produces fresh, hormone-free milk, and other dairy products for Southern New England. They also offer, heavy cream, half-and-half, eggs, apple cider, seasonal beverages and now, all-natural, super premium ice cream. The Farmer's Cow mission is to promote Connecticut agriculture and show that "Local is Fresh!" For more information visit www.TheFarmersCow.com or call (866) 355-2697.

NOVEMBER IS DEADLINE FOR INSURANCE ON APPLES AND PEACHES IN CONNECTICUT



The final date for Connecticut apple and peach growers to obtain crop insurance on next year's crop is November 20, 2010. Current policyholders likewise have until November 20 to make any changes to their existing contracts. Price elections for 2011 will be \$13.75 per bushel for fresh apples and \$37.25 per bushel for fresh peaches.

Crop insurance provides coverage against production losses due to damage caused by natural perils and adverse weather conditions such as hail, wind, frost, and drought. Your actual amount of coverage will be determined from your actual yields and the protection level you select. Fruit producers should consider making crop insurance an essential part of their overall risk management plan to help protect their operations from financial loss.

Growers are encouraged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for more detailed information and premium quotes. For a list of crop insurance agents in your area, contact the local USDA Farm Service Agency office or log on to the following Risk Management Agency web site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>



USDA TO COLLECT FINAL 2010 CROP PRODUCTION NUMBERS

It's that time of year again, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) prepares to contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end production numbers. With soybean and corn production forecasted at record and near-record level highs, respectively, it's vital for farmers to respond to the December Agricultural Survey to determine if these expectations were realized.

"The December Agricultural Survey is the largest and most critical year-end survey conducted by NASS," explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. "This survey is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States.

"With a potential record-setting crop year, data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing season," added Keough.

During the first two weeks of December, NASS will contact selected New England producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2010 production of field corn, potatoes, and hay as well as on farm stocks of oats, barley, and hay. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual Crop Production summary and quarterly Grain Stocks report, both to be released on January 12, 2011.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only State and national-level data, 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.

RESEARCHERS STUDY BENEFITS OF MUSHROOMS

By Rosalie Marion Bliss

Mushrooms are among the many foods thought to play an important role in keeping the immune system healthy. Now, Agricultural Research Service (ARS)-funded scientists have conducted an animal-model and cell-culture study showing that white button mushrooms enhanced the activity of critical cells in the body's immune system. In the United States, white button mushrooms represent 90 percent of the total mushrooms consumed.

The study was conducted at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA) at Tufts University by center director Simin Meydani, colleague Dayong Wu, and others. The results suggest that white button mushrooms may promote immune function by increasing production of antiviral and other proteins that are released by cells while seeking to protect and repair tissue.

Wu and co-investigators are with the HNRCA Nutritional Immunology Laboratory in Boston, Mass. The study's cell-culture phase showed that white button mushrooms enhanced the maturity of immune system cells called "dendritic cells," from bone marrow. Dendritic cells can make T cells-important white blood cells that can recognize and eventually deactivate or destroy antigens on invading microbes.

When immune system cells are exposed to disease-causing pathogens, such as bacteria, the body begins to increase the number and function of immune system cells, according to Meydani. People need an adequate supply of nutrients to produce an adequate defense against the pathogen. The key is to prevent deficiencies that can compromise the immune system.

The study appears in a 2008 issue of The Journal of Nutrition.

ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



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