What a difference a year makes.

Last year at this time, the Governor’s Council for Agricultural Development (GCAD) had just gotten its legs under it, surveying the landscape and charting a course for its work.

Today, the agricultural community can celebrate legislative victories and look forward to the council’s working groups building off the work accomplished to date.

The 2013 regular session of the Connecticut General Assembly—which wrapped up June 5—brought numerous legislative changes tied to the council’s work and the input it collected over the past year from hundreds of agricultural stakeholders throughout the state on a wide range of issues.

The council included seven recommendations in the December 2012 report on its Grow Connecticut Farms strategic plan:

1. Study infrastructure gaps and opportunities for the aggregation, light processing, and distribution of Connecticut Grown products.
2. Develop and invest in a comprehensive marketing strategy for Connecticut agriculture.
3. Create an agriculture-friendly energy policy that includes agricultural net metering for power production and transmission, and qualification of agricultural anaerobic digestion projects for zero-emissions renewable energy credits (ZRECs).
4. Strengthen the state Department of Agriculture and improve coordination among all agencies regulating agricultural businesses.
5. Perform a comprehensive review of agricultural labor issues and develop initiatives that provide an adequate workforce for Connecticut farm businesses.
6. Increase weight limits on truck loads to be consistent with surrounding states.
7. Establish a bridge between the state departments of Agriculture and Education through a dedicated agricultural education coordinator, and develop ways to integrate agriculture into Connecticut’s K-12 curriculum.

Legislation passed this session makes changes that act specifically upon Recommendations No. 3 and No. 6.

Bills that include anaerobic digesters in the definition of Class I renewable energy sources (An Act Concerning Connecticut’s Clean Energy Goals) and allow for net metering (An Act Concerning the Implementation of Connecticut’s Energy Policy) address Recommendation No. 3.

Anaerobic digesters, an attractive option for some farms in the state, produce methane gas from renewable plant and animal waste, which may then be burned to generate electricity. As a clean and renewable energy source, it is eligible for renewable energy credits (RECs).

For each megawatt of energy produced using a renewable energy source, one REC is issued, which may be sold or traded on an open market. Under existing law, utility companies must purchase an increasing number of RECs every year through 2020.

Another bill passed this session, An Act Concerning Energy and Jobs, requires wholesale and retail food sellers within 20 miles of a composting facility to ship organic waste to that facility. This will increase the energy production capacity of the anaerobic digesters receiving that waste.

Virtual net metering will allow farms generating clean energy to receive a billing credit for their surplus electricity. These credits can be rolled over from month to month, and applied to reduce future electric bills. At year’s end, the farm will receive a cash payment for any remaining bill credits based on the wholesale electric rate (approximately half of a credit’s on-bill value).

As an alternative to cash payments, these farms may receive a higher rate for their surplus bill credits by applying them across as many as 10 total electric meters, which may be located at any combination of farm operations, municipal buildings, or non-commercial critical facilities (fire stations, school emergency shelters, etc.) in the same utility service area. Such farm operations and their partners may form an agreement amongst themselves on how to share the surplus credits.
### Wholesale Onions U.S. and International

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td>LEEKS, 12s, NJ</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>WHITE, jmbo, 25lb, ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>YELLOW, jmbo, 50lb, CA</td>
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### New Holland, PA, Hog Auction
**June 17, 2013**

**Wholesale Onions**

- **Green**, 12s, MX: 14.00 - 16.00
- **Leeks**, 12s, NJ: 22.00 - 22.00
- **Pearls**, 12/10oz, ID: 15.00 - 20.00
- **Red**, jmbo, 25lb, GA: 13.00 - 16.00
- **White**, jmbo, 25lb, ID: 17.00 - 18.00
- **Yellow**, jmbo, 50lb, CA: 15.00 - 17.00

**New Holland Livestock Auction**

**Middlefield, June 17, 2013**

**New England Grown Fresh Produce Prices**

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<tr>
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<th>Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEAN SPRT</strong>, 12/12oz</td>
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<td><strong>COLLARD</strong>, 12-16</td>
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<td><strong>KALE</strong>, 12-16</td>
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<td><strong>LETTUCE, gm if 24ct</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PEA, English</strong>, bu</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PEA, snap, 10lb</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PEA, snow, 10lb</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RADISH, 24s</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RHUBARB, 20lb</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SQUASH, gm, 1/2bu</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SQUASH, yllw, 1/2bu</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STRAWBERRY 8/1qt</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SWISS CHARD, 1ds</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOMATO, cherry, 5lb</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOMATO, hrml, 10lb, gh</strong></td>
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<td>ARUGULA</td>
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<td>BLUEBERRY, 12/1pt, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>CABBAGE, 50lb, NJ</td>
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<td>CORN, 5dz, FL</td>
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<td>CUCUMBER, 1-1/9bu, md, NJ</td>
<td>27.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEACH, 25lb, 2-1/2min, SC</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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**New England Shell Eggs**

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

- **XTRA LARGE**: 1.35-1.45
- **LARGE**: 1.26-1.35
- **MEDIUM**: 0.99-1.08
- **SMALL**: 0.91-1.01
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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.
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76-R. Traditional White Cedar Raised Garden Beds, 4X8 from 2" by 8" White Cedar. Prime White Cedar "Cants" 8X8X10 12.5, 7/16" board ft. 5' PTO tiller used twice. Posthole Digger, 2 bits used twice, logging winch, never used. 18" Boom Sprayer, 110 gal for vegetables or corn and hay. 6" York rake. Kawasaki Mule 4X4 diesel Loaded-145 miles-Ultimate Farm ATV, Tree Planter Auger with 2 cyle motor-new. 860-423-1347 house, 617-308-3015 cell.
77-R. Dark brown landscape mulch and screened compost. Large quantities available. Call for discount pricing, 860-767-8501.
78. 1953 Ford Jubilee, rebuilt engine, needs some reassembly, $1,500. Ask for Walter, 860-342-0364.
79. 15.5 x 38" Safemark Rear Tractor Tires. 25% tread. $200/pair.
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WANTED

UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
(continued from Page 1)

An Act Concerning Revisions to the Transportation Statutes and the Designation of Roads and Bridges in Honor or Memory of Persons and Organizations, which also passed this session, addresses the GCAD's Recommendation No. 6.

In February 2013, I attended the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) winter meeting in Washington, D.C, where I sought and received unanimous consent from members of the Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) and NASDA to approve an action item calling for an increase in weight limits for trailer trucks hauling agricultural products.

Connecticut was not alone in having a lower truck weight limit than other states. Varying state weight limits resulted from the Federal Aid Highway Act (FAHA) of 1956, which established the funding for the federal interstate system we enjoy and rely upon today.

The FAHA established a national standard, but also allowed for “grandfathering” of state standards that allowed heavier limits. Some states took advantage of this, while others, such as Connecticut, New Jersey, Kansas, and Pennsylvania, did not.

Following the NASDA meeting, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, with Governor Malloy’s support, pursued state legislation to help increase Connecticut’s truck weight limits from 80,000 to 100,000 pounds.

When signed into state law by Governor Malloy, the federal process can begin to change the limit, which will remove the state’s disadvantage and ease a burden on Connecticut farm families.

Additional legislation passed this year deals with infrastructure and farm-to-institution pathways, which were a major priority discussed in the GCAD’s crafting of Recommendation No. 1. An Act Concerning a Preference for Connecticut Grown Protein in Certain State Contracts and the Inclusion of Farmers’ Markets in Certain Promotional Materials of the Department of Agriculture allows for primary consideration to be given to beef, pork, lamb, and farm-raised fish raised in Connecticut if they are comparable in cost to those grown out of state. This builds on existing law that gives the same consideration to Connecticut Grown products such as dairy, poultry, eggs, fruits, and vegetables.

An Act Concerning the University of Connecticut and Competitive Bidding for Agricultural Purchases by the Constituent Units of Higher Education eases the requirements of a competitive bid process and gives preference to purchases under $50,000 of Connecticut Grown dairy products, poultry, eggs, fruits or vegetables grown or produced in Connecticut as long as the costs are comparable with importing similar goods from out of state.

Governor Malloy’s own initiative, An Act Concerning Locally Grown Poultry in Connecticut Food Markets, allows for more Connecticut Grown poultry in grocery stores and retail food establishments. This change resulted from Governor Malloy’s taking time to tour farms in the state, recognizing a disparity, and working quickly and effectively to expand availability of Connecticut Grown poultry.

The above legislation represents extraordinary progress on council’s initial recommendations over a very short period of time.

The council’s 12 working groups are now starting to meet. These groups have been filled with individuals from the agricultural community who have expertise in specific areas and who were tapped for their knowledge, experience, energy, and ability to expand and enhance the stakeholder input gathered thus far.

Each group has taken on a specific assignment for 2013, which builds upon the council’s work, priorities, and recommendations to date.

Farm-to-Institution Subgroup A (public K-12 schools, state procurement) and Subgroup B (private K-12 schools, colleges and universities, healthcare facilities, corporate foodservice), chaired by council member Shelly Oechsler, will examine procurement procedures and contracts and develop strategies for inclusion of more Connecticut Grown farm products in those contracts.

Farm-to-Institution Subgroup C (restaurants), also chaired by Shelly Oechsler, will examine the state statute (CGS Sec. 22-386 (d)) regarding “Certified Farm Fresh Restaurants” and make recommendations for implementation of a workable program.

Consumer Training and Education, chaired by council member Jason Hoagland, will develop an implementation strategy for the GCAD’s Recommendation No. 7 regarding establishment of a dedicated agricultural education coordinator and integration of agriculture into Connecticut’s K-12 curriculum.

Research, chaired by council member Kevin Sullivan, will assess Connecticut’s existing agricultural research infrastructure and develop suggestions for improvement.

(continued on Page 4)
UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
(continued from Page 3)

Food Security, chaired by Mark Zotti, will develop a workable strategy to increase the supply of Connecticut Grown farm products in supermarkets and other retail stores.

Marketing, chaired by council member Peter Orr, will review state statutes (CGS Sec. 22-38 and 22-38a) regarding advertising and promotion of Connecticut Grown farm products and suggest workable components for the comprehensive marketing strategy in the GCAD’s Recommendation No. 2.

Agricultural Business Environment, chaired by council member Allyn Brown, will examine the recent energy legislation to identify opportunities for agricultural producers and make suggestions for enhancements based on the GCAD’s Recommendation No. 3.

Planning and Coordination, chaired by council member Henry Talmage, will develop an implementation strategy for the GCAD’s Recommendation No. 4 regarding strengthening of the state Department of Agriculture and improved coordination among all agencies regulating agribusinesses.

Agricultural Resources and Investments, chaired by council member George Hindinger, will examine opportunities and develop recommendations for agricultural use of state-owned lands.

Agriculture/Food Infrastructure, chaired by council member Herb Holden, will determine specific steps for the GCAD’s Recommendation No. 1 regarding the study of infrastructure and opportunities for the aggregation, light processing, and distribution of Connecticut Grown farm products.

Producer Education and Training, chaired by council member Jamie Jones, will develop recommendations for specific statewide initiatives to provide an adequate agricultural workforce based on the GCAD’s Recommendation No. 5.

As chairman of the GCAD, looking back on the past 12 months, I am filled with respect and pride regarding the enormous progress this group of 15 extremely committed, hard-working individuals has spearheaded.

Most council members are farmers who are juggling the day-to-day responsibilities and pressures of running not only a small business, but one that deals with the added challenges—and rewards—of agricultural production. They consistently demonstrate the leadership, passion, and energy needed to serve on the council and its working groups, and meet the demanding schedule the council has set for itself.

As commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, I am filled with excitement and enthusiasm for the future of agriculture in this state, based on the council’s vision and strategic planning. I have no doubt that the industry not only is in a better place now than it was when the council first convened in 2012, but is on a road to a brighter, more vibrant, and more vital future.

The GCAD has brought together stakeholders from all sectors of the industry, facilitated their crafting of shared goals, and provided a vehicle to elicit change to reach those goals.

So much has been accomplished in just 12 short months. Imagine how much more the Governor’s Council for Agricultural Development can do in the next 12 months, and the 12 after that.

What a difference a year makes.

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