

# Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
 Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
 Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner



Agriculture, Greater

Steve Jensen, Editor  
 Wednesday, April 16, 2014

## DOAG TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$8 MILLION FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

Efforts to protect more Connecticut farmland will get a significant boost through an agreement allowing DoAg to access more than \$8 million in federal funds for its Farmland Preservation Program.

"We have been extraordinarily successful in keeping prime and important farmland in production, and this agreement gives us the power to protect more Connecticut farms with the help of our federal partners," DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said.

Nearly 40,000 acres on about 300 working farms have been preserved under the state program since 1978.

About 100 of those projects were achieved with funding assistance from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Services' Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Several dozen more farms totaling more than 5,000 acres are currently in various stages of consideration for protection.

The agreement announced April 9 is expected to increase the number of joint state-federal projects by more closely aligning regulations and deadlines between the two programs.

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Aerial view of Graywall Farms in Lebanon, protected 25 years ago under the state's Farmland Preservation Program.

## PROGRAM HELPED RAISE COWS, CROPS INSTEAD OF HOUSES IN LEBANON

By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

The spectacular hilltop views at Robin Chesmer's 900-acre Graywall Farms likely would be very different today if the state had not protected it from potential development 25 years ago.

"There could have been an awful lot of houses here," Chesmer said. "They were putting in subdivisions left and right and this place was ripe to become one of them."

It was 1989, and the booming real estate market made relatively flat, expansive tracts like Graywall extremely enticing to developers. Chesmer had been working for the farm's owner at the time, Oliver Manning, and was ready to go out on his own if he could find the right place at an affordable price.

When Manning's age made him consider selling the 185-acre farm, DoAg stepped in and bought the development rights to keep it in agricultural production through the state's Farmland Preservation Program. That enabled Manning to sell the farm to Chesmer at a price considerably below market value at the time.

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Governor Dannel P. Malloy, DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky and Lisa Coverdale of USDA-NRCS announce that Connecticut will access more than \$8 million in federal funding for farmland preservation. On far right is Lebanon dairy farmer Robin Chesmer.

**WHOLESALE GRENHSE PRODUCE**

	LOW	HIGH
LETTUCE,bstn,12/4oz	15.00	17.00
MACHE,3lb,PA	12.00	12.00
PEPPR,bl,YEL,11lb,DR	15.00	16.00
LEEK,5KG,NETH	16.00	16.00
RHUBARB,10lb,MI	33.00	33.00
TOMATO,25lb,vnrp,ME	21.00	22.00
TOMATO,Hrloom,10lb,can	32.00	34.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

	Low	High
49-54 220-300 lbs	96.00	97.50
300-400 lbs	88.00	95.00
45-49 220-300 lbs	86.00	91.00
300-400 lbs	86.00	89.50
Sows,US1-3 300-500 lbs	83.00	86.50
500-700 lbs	88.00	92.00

**PA GRADER FEEDER PIGS**

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. April 4

	Low	High
GR US 1 - wt 20-30	345.00	420.00
wt 30-50	310.00	350.00
GR US 2 - wt 15-25	360.00	420.00
wt 25-35	330.00	380.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT March 31, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	42.00
61-75 lbs.	55.00	60.00
76-90 lbs.	65.00	70.00
91-105 lbs.	85.00	115.00
106 lbs. & up	120.00	130.00
Farm Calves	175.00	200.00
Starter Calves	48.00	54.00
Veal Calves	85.00	150.00
Open Heifers	110.00	130.00
Beef Steers	85.00	119.00
Beef Heifers	95.00	146.00
Feeder Steers	130.00	150.00
Stock Bulls	100.00	145.00
Beef Bulls	90.00	114.00
Sows	50.00	70.00
Goats each	50.00	230.00
Kid Goats	43.00	140.00
Canners	up to	93.50
Cutters	94.50	97.00
Utility Grade Cows	98.00	100.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	28.00
Chickens each	6.00	40.00
Ducks each	5.00	28.00
Feeder Pigs	n/a	
Lambs	55.00	220.00
Sheep	50.00	95.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

	Low	High
APPLE,EMPIRE,EXFCY,80CT	23.00	24.00
Bean Sprouts,10lb	4.50	6.00
APPLE,Red del.XFCY,100ct	24.00	29.00
CIDER,9%gal	18.00	18.00

**SHIPPED IN**

ASPARAGUS,28lb,CA	62.00	65.00
BEAN,grn,bu,FL	17.00	24.00
HONEYDEW,5CT,HON	11.00	14.00
BRUSSEL SPRT,25lb,CA	48.00	54.00
CABBAGE,grn,50lb,GA	14.00	16.00
CIPOLINOS,10LB,NY	21.00	21.00
CORN,4dz,FL	16.00	18.00
DANDELION GREEN,12s,GA	16.00	18.00
AVOCADOS,32CT,MX	42.00	43.00
GARLIC,2LB,BRAID,CA	10.00	10.00
KALE,12ct,GA	14.00	14.00
BLURBERRIES12/6OZ,CA	42.00	42.00
ROMAINE,24CT,CA	24.00	26.00
CURRY LEAVES,1LB,HI	16.00	16.00
PEA SUGAR,10LB,GU	13.00	15.00
NECTARINES,64CT,CA	42.00	42.00
PEACHES,64CT,CA	42.00	43.00
STRAWBERRIES,8/1LB,CA	18.00	20.00

**USDA WEEKLY RETAIL PORK PRICES  
NORTHEAST USA, PER LB.**

	Low	High
CC CHOPS,B/IN	2.49	3.99
TENDERLOIN	3.98	5.99
BACKRIB	2.99	5.49
BUTT ROAST BNLS	2.99	3.99
SPARE RIBS	1.68	2.99
HAM B/IN	.98	4.48
HAM,BNLS	1.58	6.99
BACON,	2.99	6.65
GROUND PORK	2.47	3.99
DELI HAM	3.33	9.99
FEET	1.39	1.99

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Average Dressing

<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>			
breakers 75-80% lean	92.00	96.75	
boners 80-85% lean	89.00	91.50	
lean 85-90% lean	83.00	87.00	
<b>CALVES graded bull</b>			
No 1 95-120lbs	248.00	285.00	
No 2 95-120lbs	208.00	247.00	
No 3 80-120lbs	168.00	207.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER BULLS yield gr</b>			
High dressing	94.00	125.00	
Avg.dressing	110.50	115.25	
Low dressing	98.00	104.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>			
HiCh/Prm2-3	148.75	151.50	
Ch1-3	141.00	145.00	
Sel1-2	135.25	140.25	
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS.</b>			
HiCh/prm2-3	148.00	151.50	
Ch1-3	143.50	148.25	
Sel1-2	132.25	136.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>			
HiCh/prm2-3	127.00	130.50	
Ch2-3	121.50	125.50	
Ch1-2	115.25	119.75	
VEALERS-60-120lbs	46.50	84.50	
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3 HAIR</b>			
40-60lbs	247.00	295.00	
60-80lb	227.00	275.00	
80-110lbs	222.00	242.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3</b>			
100-120lbs	97.00	97.00	
120-155	75.00	92.00	
160-185	72.00	95.00	
Bucks	100-160lbs	75.00	95.00
	160-250lbs	55.00	94.00

<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.</b>			
40-60lb	124.00	160.00	
60-80lb	156.00	182.00	
80-110lb	164.00	192.00	
Nannies/Does: 80.-130lbs	122.00	137.00	
130-160lbs	140.00	148.00	
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	140.00	160.00	
	150-250lbs	180.00	235.00

**EASTERN PA GRAIN**

Average price per bushel

BARLEY	3.10
CORN	5.01
OATS	n/a
SOYBEANS	14.56
WHEAT	7.16

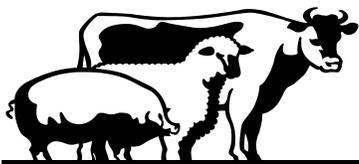
**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**  
Per doz./USDA GradeA/GradeA white in cartons  
(volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.66	1.70
LARGE	1.67	1.68
MEDIUM	1.36	1.40

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.85	1.95
Large	1.79	1.89
MEDIUM	1.43	1.52



The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report offers affordable, farm-related classified advertisements. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information. Free advertisements of 35 or fewer words for job openings at Connecticut farms may be placed for up to four weeks in the report's new **CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION SECTION**.

### FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com).

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://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.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

29-R KINZE CORN PLANTER, model DF, 4 row, 30" between rows, double frame, no till, excellent condition. \$5,000. Call 860-537-1974.

30-R. DRIED CHICKEN MANURE, best fertilizer for hay lots, by the trailer load. HAY, 1st & 2nd cut square bales. Call 860-537-1974.

41-R. First cutting hay for sale. \$3.50/bale. 860-881-4219.

45. Hill cooler, 5 glass doors; needs compressor; \$200.00 OBO. Call Phyllis 203-627-2350.

46. John Deere grooming mower #261, 3-point hitch. You pick up. \$100.00. Call Phyllis 203-627-2350.

47. Kuhn GF 4-Star Tedder, NH 256 Rake, NH 315 Baler, Mayrath 32' Elevator. Call 860-651-8928.

48-R. Ford 1996 – Powerstroke 250 - 8 ft. flatbed – Good condition. 176,000 mi. \$8,000.00. 203-237-7998.

50. JD 6300 tractor with 620 loader. \$15,000.00. Loader only \$2,500.00. Slide-in cold plate freezer box on 2000 Dodge 2500. \$3,500.00. 203-577-3184.

### WANTED

42. Farmland Preservation Assistant: We are seeking a Farmland Preservation Assistant to serve as an intermediary for farmland preservation groups operating at the town, land trust, state and national levels. Position will jointly support the CT Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the CT Department of Agriculture, and work up to 40 hours/ week on the Agriculture Lands Easement (ALE) Program. Duties include: farmland owner outreach; conducting resource inventories; reviewing conservation plans and agricultural preservation deeds; and conducting farm visits for baseline inventories and stewardship, among other tasks. Qualifications: ability to conduct outdoor field assessments, strong communication skills, MS Office proficiency, valid CT driver's license. Familiarity with GIS, farming community, CT and USDA agricultural policy, and conservation easements a plus. Background check required. \$18.50/hour. Submit resumes to: [cwben-nett@ultimaservices.com](mailto:cwben-nett@ultimaservices.com) and write "CT Farmland Preservation Assistant" in the subject line.

49-R. Orchard help wanted. Looking for field person and laborer or farm couple to help operate small apple and peach orchard in Cheshire. Experience in orchard practices and machinery operation desirable. Hourly wage to be paid. Possible future opportunity for housing and operation of business. Great opportunity for ag-school graduate with farm background or as an opportunity to expand your existing orchard operation. Please email qualifications to [chesappleorch@att.net](mailto:chesappleorch@att.net)

### CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

51-R. Energetic, organized, friendly apprentice for 2014: Environmental Educator/Harvest Manager to manage 68-member CSA. Plan/publicize/facilitate farm-based educational workshops. Independent contractor. April-October. 18-24 hours/week, \$15/hour. Interest in full-time 2015 farm manager a plus. [www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring](http://www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring)

## DOAG TO RECEIVE \$8 MILLION FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

(Continued from Page 1)

Details of the agreement were worked out in recent weeks in negotiations between Cmsr. Reviczky and USDA/NRCS State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale, as well as in face-to-face meetings between Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Malloy has dedicated between \$10 million and \$15 million of state funding per year for farmland preservation and restoration since taking office in 2011. The \$8 million in federal funding will be paid as reimbursement when state funds are spent.

At the State Capitol press conference announcing the agreement, Malloy noted that Connecticut's agricultural economy represents about 28,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity.

"I am committed to the growth of this industry and to the hardworking farm families of Connecticut," Malloy said.

Coverdale, of USDA/NRCS, said her agency is eager to work with Connecticut under the new guidelines that will, for example, allow the state more time to negotiate and close transactions with farmers who are considering participating in the program.

"Connecticut holds an unprecedented record of preserving the best and most productive agricultural land since 1978," she said. "NRCS is proud to be a part of that, and I am firmly committed to a positive and bold path forward."

Cmsr. Reviczky was recently named Chair of a National Association of State Departments of Agriculture committee that is developing recommendations for implementing the 2014 federal Farm Bill – including rules regarding farmland preservation. He said his emphasis will be on ensuring that each state's unique needs are addressed.

"These are not cookie-cutter situations," Reviczky said at a meeting last week of the state's Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. "Every farm is different, every town is different, every family is different. The bottom line is that this agreement is going to put us in a better place when it comes to protecting working lands."

### MISCELLANEOUS

10-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.

37-R. Announcing new Biozyme Dealership for New England. Now available locally VitaFerm, VitaCharge, SureChamp and Conceptaide. Please call 860-896-0888 or 860-748-9336 for details and pricing. Burke Ridge Farms, Ellington/South Windsor.

38-R. Farmland Restoration Program Contractor for hire. Large brush/small tree mowing. Excavator, dozer work such as stumping, grading, etc. Visit [www.burkeridgeconstructionllc.com](http://www.burkeridgeconstructionllc.com) or call 860-559-3009.

### NEW FARMERS' MARKETS SEEKING PRODUCERS

- University Of Hartford Farmers' Market: Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2p.m., Aug 12-Nov 4. Contact Marissa Cloutier at [cloutier@hartford.edu](mailto:cloutier@hartford.edu)
- New Britain Farmers' Market: Anvil Place, Main St. Day, time TBD. Contact Greg Secord at [gsecord@mutualhousing.org](mailto:gsecord@mutualhousing.org)
- New London Farmers Market: Williams Park, Saturdays 1-5p.m., July 5-Oct 11. Contact Art Costa at [artebova@sbcglobal.net](mailto:artebova@sbcglobal.net)
- Woodbury Farmers Market: 44 Sherman Hill Rd (Rt. 6/Rt.64), Sundays, 11 a.m.-3p.m. Contact Gus Kalodis at [gus-kalodis@earthlink.net](mailto:gus-kalodis@earthlink.net)

For more information on any new market, please call DoAg's Rick Macsuga at 860-713-2544 or [richard.macsuga@ct.gov](mailto:richard.macsuga@ct.gov)

Send news from your farm or any other items of interest to the agricultural community to CT Weekly Agricultural Report Editor Steve Jensen at [steve.jensen@ct.gov](mailto:steve.jensen@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2519 .

**RAISING COWS, CROPS INSTEAD OF HOUSES IN LEBANON**

(Continued from Page 1)

Like many beginning farmers, Chesmer said the price of land was an enormous obstacle to owning his first farm.

"I couldn't have done it without this program," Chesmer said. "We are truly a product of the Connecticut's Farmland Preservation Program and I am very proud to be a Connecticut farmer."

Over the years, Chesmer has bought adjacent parcels that have expanded Graywall to about 1,000 acres on which he grows corn and grass to feed his herd of 550 dairy cows. About 700 of those acres are under protected status.

Graywall is one of six area farms that formed The Farmer's Cow business partnership eight years ago to, as he puts it, "put a face on our milk." Chesmer runs the business end of things and his son, Lincoln, manages the farm.

Under the state preservation program, Graywall must be farmed with methods designed to protect soil from erosion. All manure is separated and recycled on site.

The liquid is stored in a million-gallon above ground tank and incorporated on fields as fertilizer, and the peat moss-like dried solids are used as bedding for the cows.

The sweet-smelling forage mix of corn silage, timothy and orchard grass is also homegrown – providing feed for the cows and creating a classic New England agricultural landscape.

"Farming is a lot of work and if you think you're going to get rich like that you're not," Chesmer said with a snap of his fingers. "But we're doing okay. And when you enjoy what you are doing then farming is a very rewarding occupation."



**Robin Chesmer inspects a handful of feed raised at his Graywall Farms in Lebanon.**



**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. (Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses are counted separately.) Print or type copy. Advertisements accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Ads with payment must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion in that issue. Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted. Remittance with copy required. Make check or money order payable to

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