

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner  
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
April 5, 2017



## A GIFT OF A FARM LEADS TO ITS PRESERVATION, FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

**BETHLEHEM** – Ever since he began showing cows as a boy, Jon O’Neill always dreamed of having his own farm.

But what he never imagined was that he would finally get that farm as a gift from a retired dairyman he’d known since childhood, and who left the O’Neill family his 160-acre farm after passing away several years ago.

In honor of that bequest from Joe Welukaitis, O’Neill and his wife Malisa have ensured the farm will forever remain available for agricultural production by conveying its development rights to the state under its Farmland Preservation Program.

“This fulfills Joe’s wish,” O’Neill said this week as he showed a visitor around his Todd Hill Farm. “It will always be a farm and it also preserves his memories and his dreams.”

O’Neill had first met Joe as a child because Joe and O’Neill’s grandfather, Dwight Bennet, were best friends.

The two men were also skilled mechanics who repaired tractors and equipment for many farms in the area.

Joe almost singlehandedly built the farm’s dairy barn in 1951, using timber harvested from the property, which sits on a long, sloping hill that provides views to Long Island.

O’Neill remembers tagging along with his grandfather to Joe’s farm, which sparked his lifelong interest in dairy cows and farming. At the age of 8, he joined 4-H and started showing cows at local fairs.

He attended the vo-ag program at Nonnewaug High School in the late 1980s, and maintained his interest in

agriculture even after taking a job with the public works department in Bethlehem that he still holds today.

The journey that led to Joe giving him the farm began one afternoon in the summer of 1995, when O’Neill was on the job mowing roadsides. Joe flagged him down and the conversation, as usual, turned to O’Neill’s desire to get into farming.

Then in his 70’s, Joe had sold his herd and stopped farming in 1988, and the property and buildings were starting to deteriorate.

“At one point in the conversation Joe asked me if I was still interested in playing farmer,” O’Neill recalled of that afternoon.

He was indeed interested, and that meeting led to O’Neill and his wife Malisa, a hospice nurse, working at the farm on weekends, mostly clearing fields and repairing buildings and fences.

By 2000, the farm was again fit to raise animals, and the O’Neill’s were ready to try their hand at small-scale dairy farming in their spare time. They also began harvesting about 30 acres of hay and an equal amount of corn from the property.

“We started out with one Jersey and just grew the herd from there,” said O’Neill, who within a few years was milking about 35 cows as part of the Agri-Mark/Cabot Creamery Cooperative.

The farm’s resurgence was a joy for Joe.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b> Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	66.00	71.50
boners 80-85% lean	65.00	69.00
lean 88-90% lean	55.00	60.00
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	130.00	134.00
Choice 2-3	123.00	126.00
Select 1-2	119.00	124.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	96.00	100.00
Choice 2-3	89.00	93.00
Sel 1-2	83.50	88.00
<b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>		
No 1 90-130 lbs	130.00	147.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice 1-2		
40-50 lbs	260.00	270.00
50-60 lbs	265.00	280.00
60-70 lbs	260.00	277.00
70-80 lbs	260.00	270.00
80-90 lbs	240.00	265.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice 2-3		
90-110 lbs	222.00	250.00
110-130 lbs	200.00	235.00
130-150 lbs	155.00	167.00
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3</b>		
80-160 lbs	110.00	145.00
160-200 lbs	90.00	117.00
200-300 lbs	80.00	95.00
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
40-60 lbs	150.00	185.00
60-80 lbs	195.00	210.00
100-120 lbs	250.00	250.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
80-130 lbs	200.00	235.00
130-180 lbs	230.00	255.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
100-150 lbs	250.00	270.00
150-250 lbs	270.00	305.00
<b>SLAUGHTER WETHERS Sel 1</b>		
100-150 lbs	280.00	325.00
150-250 lbs	380.00	400.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	55.00	58.00
	300-350 lbs	50.00	54.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	49.00	55.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00	52.00
	350-400 lbs	44.00	48.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	35.00	35.00
	500-800 lbs	37.00	45.00
Boars	400-500 lbs	5.00	7.00

**GREYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION**

March 21, 2017. \$ per lb or as marked.

Muscovy Ducks, Drakes	1.75	2.10
Pullets, 4-6	1.05	1.05
Red Fowl, 4-5 lb	.30	.45
Crossbred Rooster, 7-11 lbs	.90	1.10
Banty hens, each	4.00	4.50
Guinea fowl	3.00	3.20
Geese, 9-14, each	20.00	23.00
Pigeons, each	4.00	4.50
Bunnies, each	7.00	18.00
Doves, each	7.00	11.00
Turkeys, each	21.00	24.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
APPLE, CORTLAND, XF, 12-3LB	21.00	21.00
APPLE, HONEYCRISP, XFCY, 88	68.00	70.00
APPLE, MAC, #1, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, #1, 140	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, XFY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	22.00	22.00
APPLE, MAC, FCY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
PARSNIPS, 20 LBS	23.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, 18- 1 LB SACKS	22.00	24.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	10.00	11.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHF, 50LB	12.00	13.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, 10 LB FILM	2.25	2.50
POTATO, YLLW, #1, SZB, 50 LB	11.00	11.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZA, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES, GHSE, 25 LBS	15.00	15.00
TOMATO, GHS, ONVINE, 11 LBS	20.00	20.00
TOMATOES, GHS, CHERRY, 5LB	10.00	14.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00

**NORTHEAST RETAIL WEEKLY REPORT**

\$ per lb or as noted.

APPLES, BRAEBURN	1.49	1.49
APPLES, FUJI, 3 LB BAG	2.89	2.89
APPLES, FUJI	.89	1.79
APPLES, GALA	.97	1.99
APPLES, HONEYCRISP	1.29	1.29
APPLES, HONEYCRISP, 3 LB	4.99	4.99
APPLES, MCINTOSH, 5 LB BAG	4.99	4.99
APPLES, PINK LADY	1.99	2.29
BEETS, PER BUNCH	.99	1.77
CABBAGE, GREEN RND	.25	.69
CILANTRO, PER BUNCH	.78	.99
COLLARDS, PER BUNCH	2.00	2.00
CHRYSANTHEMUM, 6" POT	7.99	8.99
DAFFODIL, BUNCH OF 10	2.00	2.99
EGGPLANT	.97	2.99
KALE, PER BUNCH	.99	2.00
KALE	.88	1.29
POTATOES, RND RED, 5 LBS	2.47	3.49
POTATOES, RND RED	.79	1.99
POTATOES, RND WHITE, 5 LBS	1.50	2.99
POTATOES, RND WHITE	1.50	1.99
POTATOES, RUSSET, 10 LBS	2.99	3.99
POTATOES, RUSSET, 3 LBS	1.48	1.48
POTATOES, RUSSET, 5 LBS	1.49	2.99
POTATOES, RUSSET	.50	1.29
POTATOES, YELLOW, 5 LBS	2.47	3.99
RADISHES, 1 LB BAG	1.49	1.49
RADISHES, PER BUNCH	.75	.99
SQUASH, ACORN	.79	.79
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT	.79	.79
TOMATO, VINE RIPE HEIRLOOM	4.49	4.49
TOMATO, VINE RIPE	.97	2.99
TOMATO, VINE RIPE, GHSE	.99	2.49
TOMS, VINE RIPE/ON VINE, GHSE	1.29	2.99
TOMATOES, CHERRY, 1 PT	1.50	2.50
TOMATOES, GRAPE, 1 PT	1.50	2.50
TULIPS, BUNCH OF 10	4.99	8.99

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - April 3, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	20.00	25.00
61-75 lbs.	50.00	52.00
76-90 lbs.	55.00	58.00
91-105 lbs.	60.00	65.00
106 lbs. & up	70.00	74.00
Farm Calves	75.00	80.00
Starter Calves	45.00	50.00
Veal Calves	95.00	125.00
Feeder Heifers	72.00	117.00
Beef Heifers	92.50	109.00
Feeder Steers	65.00	74.50
Beef Steers	79.00	115.00
Feeder Bulls	55.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	90.50	102.50
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	92.50	170.00
Lambs each	110.00	255.00
Goats each	80.00	347.50
Kid Goats each	25.00	130.00
Canners	up to	67.00
Cutters	68.00	71.00
Utility Grade Cows	72.00	75.00
Rabbits each	7.00	40.00
Chickens each	3.00	25.00
Ducks each	5.00	21.00

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white  
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.86	1.05
LARGE	.80	.94
MEDIUM	.70	.83

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**Per doz. Grade A brown in  
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.20	1.32
LARGE	1.17	1.29
MEDIUM	.85	.95
SMALL	.54	.64

**RETAIL LAMB & VEAL REPORT**

Advertised prices for 3/24/2017 to 3/30/2017. \$/lb.

<b>LAMB</b>		
SHLDR BLADE CHOPS	4.99	6.99
SHLDR RND BONE CHOP	5.49	7.49
RACK	9.99	9.99
RIB CHOPS	9.99	16.99
LOIN CHOPS	5.99	12.99
BONELESS LEG	5.99	5.99
LEG, SHANK/BUTT	4.49	4.49
GROUND LAMB	3.80	3.80
SHANK	3.99	3.99
STEW MEAT- LAMB	5.49	5.49
STEW MEAT-MUTTON	3.99	3.99
<b>VEAL</b>		
SHLDR BLADE CHOP	4.27	5.99
SHLDR RND BONE CHOP	4.99	4.99
BREAST	2.59	3.99
LOIN CHOPS	6.99	9.99
LEG CUTLETS	11.99	14.99
SCALLOPINI	15.99	15.99
GROUND VEAL	3.99	3.99
STEW MEAT	6.99	7.99

**(Continued from Page 1)**

"He just liked to see the cows out in the fields," O'Neill said. "He said it wasn't a farm without animals. He could look out of every window and see what was happening with the tractors and the hay wagons and the milk truck. It really put a smile on his face."

Sometime around 2005, with Joe's health starting to fail and no family of his own, he asked the O'Neill's to move into the farmhouse with him.

That allowed Jon to spend more time on the farm, while Malisa was able to care for Joe, who was adamant about living out his years on the farm.

"My wife did an awesome job keeping him at home," O'Neill said. "That's all he asked for."

A private man of few words, Joe had hinted about "taking care" of the couple and their two young sons when he passed, but never spoke directly about giving them his farm.

Only after he died in 2009 was the news delivered to the O'Neill's, through Joe's attorney.

"He said: 'Joe left you the farm. He wanted to make sure you're taken care of and the boys will never have to leave this place,'" Jon O'Neill recalled. "I wish he had told us when he was alive because I would have given

him a big hug and a kiss and said thank you. I've always dreamed of having my own farm and for me, this is like winning the lottery."

Joe and the O'Neill's never discussed protecting the farm under the state preservation program.

That impetus came from conversations with their neighbors, the March family, who preserved their well-known 133-acre fruit and vegetable farm in 2012.

"Joe gave the farm to us because he always wanted it to stay as a farm," O'Neill said. "If we turned around and sold it, that would be a dishonor to his memory."

The O'Neill's reduced their herd by about half a few years ago, when a bout of Lyme disease left Jon unable to handle his normal workload. They have since built a new milk room and are in the process of refurbishing the barn, and by fall hope to have increased the herd to about 30 Milking Shorthorns and Ayrshires.

Long-term plans are for their teenage sons, Jon II and William, a freshman in the Nonnewaug agri-science program, to take over the farm.

"We're so grateful for all of this," Malisa said. "Joe's given us so much and he is missed dearly. Not a day goes by that we don't think of him and the kids don't reminisce about him."

**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.

27-R. Quality hay for sale; large bales from fertilized fields no kicker bales. 25 bale minimum \$5.75 per bale. Call 203-453-9865.

32-R. For sale: 2013 custom John Deere 2-row corn planter. MaxEmerge XP Row units. Dry fertilizer hoppers. CM-250 planter monitor. \$7,995.00. Bellavance Farm 860-564-5717.

33-R. For sale: Can-Car cable log skidder. \$11,995.00. Bellavance Farm 860-564-5717.

34-R. For sale: Straw bales for bedding, mulch, construction. \$4.00 per bale. Bellavance Farm 860-564-5717.

38-R. East Hartford. Former vegetable and green house farm on 4.1 acres. 2 family and building need TLC. Cropland maybe certified organic. City water and sewer. \$219,000.00. Call Clint Charter, Wallace and Tetreault Realty 860-558-3908.

37-R. 99 Dart Hill Road, South Windsor. 5.5 acres, Rural Residential. Fully approved building lot with sewer available, well required. Ideal for horses, ambitious gardener, agricultural or home business. 800 foot driveway. Creative owner financing available. \$248,000.00. Annette Griffin, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services N.E. Properties. 860-604-7845.

39-R. East Windsor. 41 acres, mostly open and tillable. Ideal for crops, horses or green houses. \$459,000.00. Call Clint Charter, Wallace and Tetreault Realty 860-558-3908.

40-R. 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting baleage 4' x 5', 14.3% CP, 48% DM. \$50.00 per bale. 860-668-7419.

41-R. JD 4230 100 HP NH TT75A w/bucket, 75 HP NH 185 Spreader, Hay equipment, cow manure. J&S Farm, New Milford, CT. 203-770-4199.

42-R. Greenhouse furnaces 300,000 – 400,000 BTU's. Price range from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00. Call Alex 203-223-4853.

43. Hydroponic equipment: 80' x 24', cropping nft system, nutrient and reservoir tanks, steel piping benching, nutrient monitors. Email [sugarwaterfarm@gmail.com](mailto:sugarwaterfarm@gmail.com).

44. 150 feet 160 PSI 1.25 Flex Coil Irrigation Pipe. \$125.00. 203-508-1462.

45-R. 1965 Massey Ferguson 135 tractor. 38 HP/with scraper blade. Nice condition. \$2,700.00. Dan Donahue 860-267-8323.

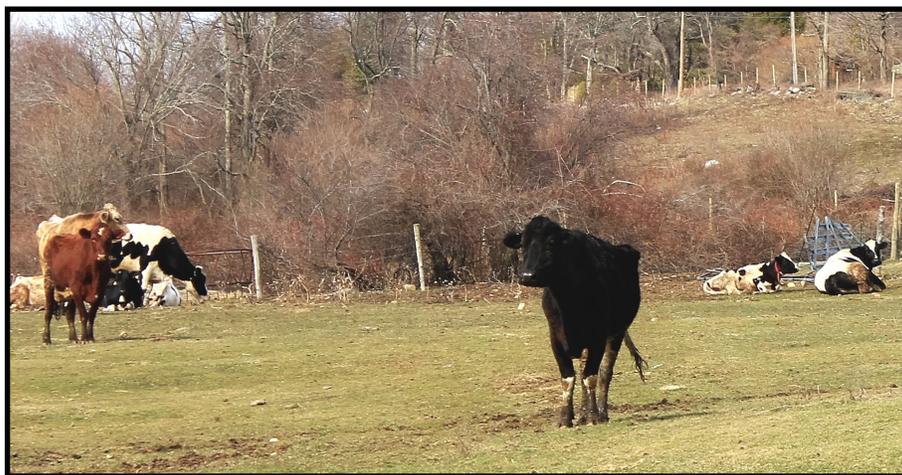
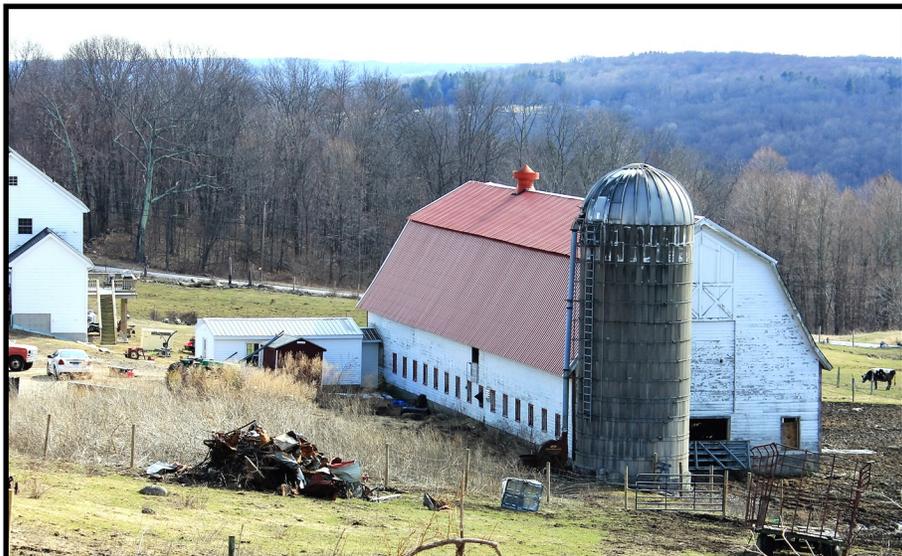
**WANTED**

30-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

35. Wanted: Large Katahdin Ram, one to five years old. Call David 203-453-9865.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-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-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.



**Top:** The dairy barn at Todd Hill Farm, built by Joe Welukaitis in 1951.

**Above:** Some of the herd at the farm.

**Page 1 left:** A farm sign and equipment parked in front of the house on Todd Hill Road.

**Page 1 right:** Photographs on the O'Neill kitchen table showing the family with Welukaitis, who gifted them the farm upon his passing in 2009, as well as an aerial view of the property.

## 2017 BIG E APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The Connecticut Building at the Big E offers a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture.

The 2017 Big E is scheduled to run from September 15 through October 1, 2017. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service.

Applications are available at

[www.ctgown.gov](http://www.ctgown.gov) and are due by April 10.

Please call 860-713-2538 or email

[Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov) to receive the application or more participation information.

## FREE DROUGHT, WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP APRIL 20 IN HADDAM

Learn about drought preparedness, best practices for moisture management and how the state is support agriculture with the proposed State Water Plan.

The workshop will be held Thursday, April 20 from 7-9 p.m. and the Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road (Route 154) in Haddam.

Speakers include Dina Blais from USDA-NRCS; Angie Harris, a research assistant at UConn and Mike O'Neill of UConn Extension.

Sponsored by Connecticut RC&D and the Lower CT River Valley COG with the help of a Farm Viability Grant from the state Dept. of Agriculture.

For more information, call 860-581-8554.

### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE [www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov) 860-713-2500

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Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 13, April 5, 2017