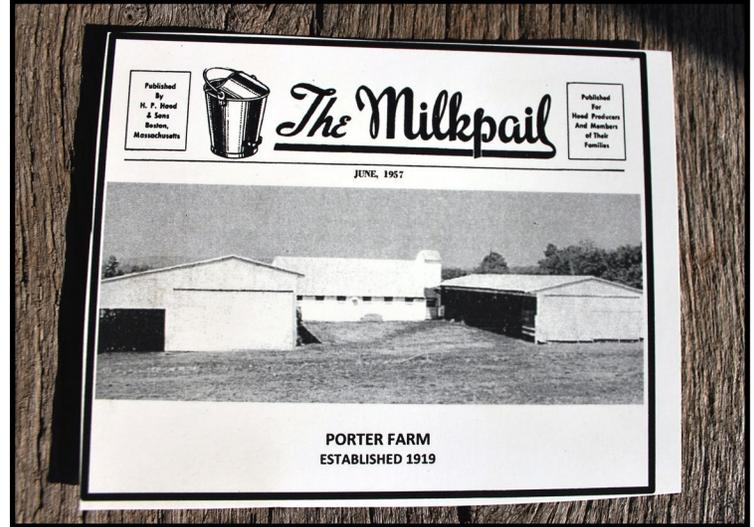


# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
December 6, 2017



## **HISTORIC PORTER FARM PROTECTED FOREVER UNDER STATE'S FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

*By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky*

**HEBRON** - Mike Porter was a teenager when he began milking cows and harvesting crops on his family's farm more than four decades ago.

"I've been working here full-time since the day I graduated high school in 1972," Porter recalled this week, "and I can't think of anything I would have rather done."

And by conveying development rights to the state for nearly 200 acres of the former dairy farm that now grows corn and hay for others, Porter and his wife Donna Lee have assured that the land will be forever farmed.

"I didn't want to sell to a developer," Mike Porter said this week at the Porter Road farm that has been in his family for nearly a century and is now under the state's Farmland Preservation Program. "I'm proud to be able to protect this land so that the legacy of my grandfather Winthrop S. Porter, and my father Douglas H. Porter will always remain."

Porter Farm is the tenth to be preserved under the program in Hebron, encompassing more than 1,000 acres of farmland.

Those who participate in the program may continue to own and work the land, or may convey their land to others, but a permanent deed restriction assures

the property will always remain in agriculture.

More than 350 farms and 43,000 acres of farmland statewide have been preserved under the program, including 16 farms this year.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said Porter Farm faced significant pressure of being developed for houses or a solar-energy array.

Nearly 90 of the 200 acres preserved are classified as prime and statewide important farmland soils.

"This property contains highly-productive cropland that is vital to support dairy farms that have been a staple of Hebron's history and are still an important part of the community's economy and character," Reviczky said. "I commend the Porter family for their commitment to honoring their agricultural heritage, and future, by ensuring that this land will always be available to farm."

That heritage began when Mike's grandparents, Hebron natives Winthrop and Ethel (Hills) Porter, bought the farm in 1919.

Winthrop, who once served as Hebron's first selectman, raised a small dairy herd and cut

**(Continued on Page 3)**

### CONNECTICUT CHOOSE & CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

\$/Per unit, tax included, or as listed.

	LOW	HIGH
ANDOVER, +TAX	51.00	51.00
BURLINGTON	35.00	35.00
COVENTRY	20.00	100.00
GRISWOLD	55.00	55.00
KENSINGTON	55.00	55.00
NEWTOWN	55.00	55.00
NORTH STONINGTON	45.00	45.00
PRESTON	55.00	55.00
SOUTH WINDSOR	50.00	50.00
TERRYVILLE	35.00	35.00
VOLUNTOWN	45.00	45.00

### LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	52.00	56.50
boners 80-85% lean	51.00	56.50
lean 88-90% lean	46.00	52.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	112.00	115.50
Choice 2-3	108.00	111.50
Select 1-2	106.00	108.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 2-3	87.00	89.00
Sel 1-2	76.50	83.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-125 lbs	130.00	160.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	200.00	220.00
110-130 lbs	192.00	210.00
130-150 lbs	175.00	193.00
150-200 lbs	152.00	172.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	77.00	105.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	95.00
200-300 lbs	72.00	102.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	145.00	175.00
60-80 lbs	165.00	195.00
80-100 lbs	190.00	220.00
100-120 lbs	220.00	235.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	190.00	230.00
130-170 lbs	220.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	205.00	240.00
100-150 lbs	290.00	345.00
150-250 lbs	365.00	485.00

### NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	59.00	65.00
	300-350 lbs	58.00	60.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	52.00	60.00
	300-350 lbs	48.00	55.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	40.50	48.00
	500-700 lbs	41.50	47.50
Boars	300-400 lbs	5.00	10.00
	400-800 lbs	5.00	7.00

### NORTHEAST RETAIL CAGE-FREE EGGS

\$/Per unit.

BROWN, L, DOZEN	3.00	3.00
WHITE, L, DOZEN	1.66	2.99
WHITE, L, DOZEN	1.50	3.50

### WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices  
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72	28.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 88	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2	23.00	23.00
APPLE, GALA, US FANCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GALA, US FANCY, 125	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 64	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 72	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, #1, 12-3LB	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, NG	18.00	18.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY 100	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 72	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	40.00	40.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NG	20.00	20.00
APPLE, LADY, XFCY, 2-1/8" MIN	28.00	30.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 72	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 88	30.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MACOUN, NG, LOOSE	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 72	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 88	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 80	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 88	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 100	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MUTSU, NG, LOOSE	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 72	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 80	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, #1, 12-3LB	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, NG	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, CHIOGGA, 25 LB, LSE	15.00	15.00
BEETS, GOLD, 25 LBS, LOOSE	14.00	14.00
BEETS, RED, 25 LBS, LOOSE	14.00	14.00
CARROTS, S-M, 10-5 LB FILM	14.00	14.00
CARROT, L, 25LB SACK, LOOSE	10.00	11.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
CORNSTALKS, 5 BUNDLES	7.00	8.00
CRNBRY, LATEHOWE, M, 24-120Z	30.00	30.00
ORNMNTL CORN, 3/BN, 20	40.00	50.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, SHEL, 1/2BU	22.00	24.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, SHEL, BU	32.00	35.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, LOOSE	22.00	23.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, 18-1LB	23.00	24.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, XL, 24" BIN	175.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, 36" BIN	270.00	300.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, BUSHEL	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, ACORN, L, 1-1/9	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, M, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, M, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, M, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00

### MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - December 4, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	30.00	35.00
61-75 lbs.	58.00	65.00
76-90 lbs.	80.00	85.00
91-105 lbs.	100.00	102.50
106 lbs. & up	107.50	115.00
Farm Calves	120.00	280.00
Starter Calves	25.00	29.00
Veal Calves	55.00	160.00
Feeder Heifers	95.00	150.00
Beef Heifers	68.50	102.00
Feeder Steers	115.00	160.00
Beef Steers	82.50	102.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00	122.50
Beef Bulls	60.00	80.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	32.00	36.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	22.00	40.00
Sheep each	90.00	150.00
Lambs each	80.00	225.00
Goats each	80.00	282.50
Kid Goats each	50.00	110.00
Canners	up to	52.50
Cutters	53.00	56.00
Utility Grade Cows	57.00	60.00
Rabbits each	5.00	15.00
Chickens each	3.00	25.00
Ducks each	2.00	10.00

No Auction on Christmas Day.

Auction will held Wednesday,

December 27, 2017.

### WHOLESALE NEW ENGLAND POTATOES

Price range is per unit as labeled.

RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50#	13.00	13.00
RNDWT, KENNEBEC#1,		
CHEF, 50#	12.00	13.00
RUSST, #1, 50LBS, 10 OZ	15.00	16.00
YELLOW, #1, 50#, CHEF	15.00	16.00

### NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white  
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.74	1.88
LARGE	1.72	1.86
MEDIUM	1.14	1.27

### NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.10	2.24
LARGE	2.05	2.15
MEDIUM	1.29	1.47
SMALL	.76	.86

### USDA NORTHEAST RETAIL PORK

\$/Per lb. or as labeled.

LOIN ROAST	1.49	2.99
RIB END ROAST, B/IN	1.89	2.69
BACK RIBS	2.99	5.99
BUTT ROAST, BNLS	2.49	3.49
GROUND PORK	2.99	2.99
TENDERLOIN, FRESH	2.49	5.99
CHORIZO	4.59	4.59
HAM, BNLS	1.39	3.99
BACON, 1 LB PKG	2.99	7.99

*(Continued from Page 1)*

and sold timber harvested from the property that was mainly used for making railroad ties.

“As the timber business declined he added to the dairy herd,” said Mike, noting that the farm’s milking parlor is believed to be one of the first in Connecticut.

Mike’s father Douglas eventually took over the farm, where his mother Mary still lives in a historic blacksmith shop that she and Douglas converted into a farmhouse.

Mary also was a former president of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, and was involved in the formation of the state farmland preservation program in 1978.

Mike began running the farm in 1983, and increased the dairy herd to about 300, where it remained for many years until he sold the herd in 2001.

He now grows about 120 acres each of corn and hay – including some on leased land.

The entire corn crop is bought by his cousin and neighbor, dairy farmer Greg Hills, whose family’s 149-acre farm was founded in 1895 and preserved under the state program in 1989.

Nearly all of Porter’s hay is sold to individual customers as feed for horses.

Mike still does the bulk of the work himself, with the help of a small crew of mostly retired local men he hires during planting and harvesting. His wife Donna Lee said that Mike continues to draw inspiration from his father and grandfather, and the farm’s continued operation and preservation would not have happened without his determination.

#### 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.

92-R. Round hay bales – 52” x 48” – Tight, triple plastic wrapped, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, dry, haylage, grass, alfalfa. 200 available. 860-884-2889.

107-R. Jotul, Ivory #8 wood stove made in Norway. With chimney insert and granite pad. Good condition. \$500.00. Call 860-460-9290 Noank, CT.

“He really has been the sole strength of this farm for many years now,” Donna Lee said. “And he is so proud to leave this land and this legacy for future generations.”

Their adult daughter, Amy, is next in line to inherit the farm.

“She’s going to be the next steward, in whatever form that takes,” Donna Lee said.

For now, Mike plans to keep the farm operating at about its current level.

“This is what I love to do,” he said, “and I’m going to keep going until I can’t do it anymore.”

**For more information on participating in the Farmland Preservation Program, please contact Cameron Weimar, Director, at 860-713-2511 or [DoAg.Farmland@ct.gov](mailto:DoAg.Farmland@ct.gov)**

#### HYDROPONIC COURSE AT UCONN THIS SATURDAY

The Greenhouse Research & Extension Program at UCONN is offering a workshop this Saturday Dec. 9 for experienced growers who would like to improve their greenhouse vegetable production practices in hydroponic or soilless systems.

The workshop will be held in the Floriculture Greenhouse on the Storrs campus. Five pesticide recertification credits will be offered for private applicators. The fee is \$55 and registration and more information is available at:

<http://greenhouse.uconn.edu/workshops/>

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture through a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant.

93-R. Christmas greens: wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

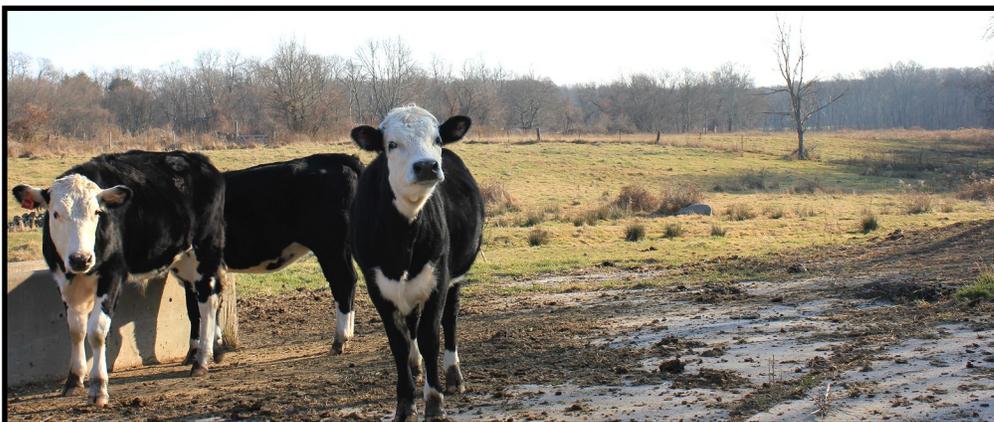
#### MISCELLANEOUS

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.

106-R. Advance your management skills and business knowledge by attending the GenerationNext seminar series hosted by Farm Credit East. GenerationNext is optimal for the next generation operators of an agricultural business. The program can help you identify areas for personal growth and development, acquire tools to help manage an agricultural business, and provides networking opportunities. Farm Credit East will be hosting sessions this winter at their Enfield, CT location, on Thursday, January 25; Thursday, February 22; and Thursday, March 15, 2018. Learn more at [FarmCreditEast.com/GenerationNext](http://FarmCreditEast.com/GenerationNext) or call 800.562.2235 to reserve your spot.

#### CT AG EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

103-R. Family horticultural business seeing part time customer service employees for January-March. Very detailed oriented, with a cheerful, positive personality; a self-starter with demonstrated customer service experience. Interest in horticulture a must! Email resume to [info@selectseeds.com](mailto:info@selectseeds.com)



**Above left:** Mike Porter loading hay. **Above:** Porter next to the farm's landmark roadside barn, where he hung a giant Stars and Stripes because, he said: "I stand up for the flag." **Left:** A pair of beef cattle being raised at the farm on some of the 200 acres of preserved land. **Page 1 left:** A view of the farm near the junction of Porter and Martin Roads. **Page 1 right:** A photo of the original farm that was published in a 1957 promotion for area dairy farms.

### 2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE UNDERWAY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) starts mailing the 2017 Census of Agriculture to the nation's producers this week.

Begun in 1840 and conducted once every five years, the census aims to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture. The resulting data are used in decision-making by farmers, ranchers, trade associations, researchers, policymakers, and many

others. The census will be mailed in several phases through December. Farm operations of all sizes which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2017 are included in the census. The census is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation.

The census response deadline is February 5, 2018. For more information visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (800) 727-9540.

**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact [Jane.Murdock@ct.gov](mailto:Jane.Murdock@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2588.

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