

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
September 6, 2017



FARM'S REVIVAL A CHALLENGE AIDED BY NATURAL PRODUCTION, LAND-MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

NORTH GRANBY - The challenges of reviving crop production and a retail farm stand at Wilhelm Farm were explored on a recent tour that included a look at silvopasture and agroforestry practices being implemented on the property.

The tour by owners Ann Wilhelm, her husband Bill Bentley and grower Sven Pihl drew nearly 20 visitors, including representatives of the state Dept. of Agriculture, the state Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the Connecticut Farm Bureau and the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS has awarded the farm a Conservation Innovation Grant to develop the 46-acre farm into a demonstration site where landowners and professionals can learn about cultivation practices such as agroforestry, silvopasture and related perennial plant production.

Silvopasture integrates forest with fields where crops are grown or livestock forage, while agroforestry involves growing specialty crops like mushrooms or ornamental plants amongst the trees.

The goal of using the farm as a demonstration site is to encourage small farms to employ the techniques as part of their food-production and land-management strategy, fostering a more resilient landscape and a stronger regional food system.

The more than century-old farm has been in Wilhelm's family since 1936, and for decades fed the family and

provided a side-income through the roadside farm stand.

Ann and Bill stopped production and closed the stand about five years ago after their children moved away, while they reconsidered the farm's future.

Their partnership with Pihl began through Connecticut FarmLink, www.ctfarmlink.org, a web-based program and database administered by the state Dept. of Agriculture that connects farmers seeking land with farmland owners offering to sell or lease acreage.

Pihl's first task was to plant a quarter-acre market garden in a field along North Granby Road that had not been tilled in perhaps 20 years.

"It was a lot of work initially," said Pihl, who also runs a "regenerative landscape design" business. "There was quite a bit of compaction so the soil was basically like concrete. Now when you pull up a handful it's full of life."

Because the garden site is at the bottom of an open, grassy slope, he dug rows on graduated contours to maximize natural irrigation and help control runoff in the sandy, quickly-draining soil.

Using organic methods, he planted traditional New England vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, as well as some more exotic varieties.

"My goal was to grow historical crops that the

(Continued on Page 3)

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

XTRA LARGE	.93	1.17
LARGE	.87	1.01
MEDIUM	.68	.81

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

XTRA LARGE	1.57	1.68
LARGE	1.50	1.60
MEDIUM	.94	1.05
SMALL	.57	.69

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	45.00	59.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	45.00	60.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	51.50	59.00
	500-800 lbs	49.00	55.50
Boars	400-900 lbs	5.00	7.00

USDA WHOLESALE CUTFLOWERS

September 4, 2017. \$/pack as noted.

AGERATUM, NENG, /BN, L	7.50	7.50
ALLIUM, DRMSTC, NJ, BUNCH	9.00	9.00
AMRNTHS,HNG, XL,NENG,/BN	17.50	17.50
ASCLEPIAS, PA, 10/BN, LNG	8.50	10.00
CELOSIA, PA,PLUMOSA,BN, L	8.50	8.50
CORNFLOWER, CA, 25/BN, XL	15.00	15.00
DAHLIA, 5/BN, PA, LONG	10.00	10.00
DELPHNM,HYB,NENG,10/BN	14.00	14.00
GLAD,STD,CA,10/BN, LNG	13.50	15.00
GOMPHRENA, PA, /BN, LONG	8.50	8.50
LAVENDER, PA, PER BN, LNG	10.00	10.00
LILY, ASIATIC,ME, 10 /BN, XL	13.50	13.50
LISISANTHUS,NENG,10/BN,L	17.50	18.50
QUN ANNE LACE, CA, /BN,L	8.50	8.50
RUDBECKIA, PA, PER BN, L	8.50	8.50
SCABIOSA, PA, 10/BN, L	13.50	15.00
SEDUM, NENG, /BN, L	12.00	12.50
STOCK, CA, DBL, 5/BN, LNG	12.00	12.00
SUNFLOWER, NENG, 5/BN, XL	6.50	6.50
SUNFLOWER, NENG, 5/BN, L	5.00	5.00
SUNFLOWER, MA, 10/BN, L	10.00	12.50
YARROW, YLW, CD, /BN, L	8.50	8.50
ZINNIA, NENG, /BN, LONG	7.00	7.50
ZINNIA, PA, /BN, LONG	7.50	7.50

**CONNECTICUT FARM-TO-SCHOOL
LOCAL PURCHASE**Product procured from growers and producers to
State of Connecticut school districts during the
months of August 2016 to June 2017. \$/per case.

APPLES, WHOLE, 44 LB	26.75	29.25
APPLES, WEDGES, 6 LB	38.25	38.25
CAULIFLOWER, 14 LB	28.00	28.00
CARROTS, BABY, 32 LBS	30.50	30.50
CARROTS, STICKS, 22 LBS	30.50	30.50
CELERY, 22 LBS	41.75	41.75
CUKES, 45 LBS	35.00	35.00
KALE, 7 LBS	19.25	25.50
ROMAINE, 12 LBS	19.75	19.75
SPINACH, 12 LB	20.50	20.50
PEPPERS, BELL, 25 LBS	16.00	16.00
PEPPERS, OTHER 15 LBS	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, 22 LBS	13.25	19.75
TOMATOES, RED, 11 LBS	22.95	27.95

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12- 40Z	16.50	16.50
APPLE,MAC,US FCY,TRYPK 80	21.00	21.00
APPLE,MAC,US FCY,TRYPK 88	21.00	21.00
APPLE,MAC,USFCY,TRYPK 100	21.00	21.00
APPLE,MAC, NG, LOOSE	21.00	21.00
APPLE,CORTLAND, NG, LOOSE	21.00	21.00
APPLE,GINGRGOLD,BU,LOOSE	20.00	21.00
APPLE,HNYCRSP,FCY,TRAY,72	38.00	38.00
APPLE,HNYCRSP,FCY,TRAY,80	38.00	38.00
APPLE,HNYCRSP,FCY,TRAY,88	38.00	38.00
APPLE,HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	55.00	55.00
APPLE,PAULA RED,BU, LOOSE	18.00	21.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	42.00	45.00
BEANS, FLAT GREEN, BU	25.00	25.00
BEANS, GRN, HNDPKD, BU	15.00	15.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	25.00	32.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, RED, 12 BNCH/CRATE	15.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	12.00	14.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, M, 50 LBS	14.00	14.00
CABBAGE, RED, M, 50 LBS	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, 10-5 LB FILM	14.00	14.00
CARROT, 25 LB SACK, LOOSE	10.00	11.00
CHIVES, 1 LB, BNCHED 12	8.00	11.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
COLLARDS,CRATE, BNCHD, 12	13.00	13.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	12.00	18.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	13.00	15.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24	15.00	15.00
MINT, 1/2 BU, BUNCHED 12	10.00	12.00
MUSTARD, 12	15.00	16.00
PEPPER,GREEN BELL,XL, 1-1/9	10.00	12.00
PEPPER,GREEN BELL,L, 1-1/9	9.00	10.00
POTATO, RND WHT, CHF, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RND WHT, SZA, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RSST, #1, 80, 50 LBS	20.00	20.00
POTATO, YELLOW, CHF, 50LB	18.00	19.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 36"BIN	300.00	300.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	23.00	23.00
SQUASH, BTTRNUT, S, 1-1/9	28.00	28.00
SQUASH, SPAGHET, S, 1-1/9	25.00	25.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, S, 1/2 BU	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, M, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, SM, 1/2 BU	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, MED, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
SWISS CHARD, RED, 12/CRATE	15.00	15.00
TARRAGON, 1 LB, BUNCHED 12	10.00	10.00
TOM,GHS,CHRRY,ONVINE,5 LB	13.00	14.00
TOM,GHS,CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOM,GHS, HEIRLOOM, 10 LBS	28.00	30.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS,ON VINE	12.00	14.00
TOMATOES, XL, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
TOMATOES, XL, 25 LBS	16.00	16.00
TOMATOES, JUMBO, 25 LBS	16.00	16.00
TOMATOES, PLUM, 25 LBS	14.00	18.00
TURNIP TOP GREENS, 12 BN	15.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - September 4, 2017

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	35.00	39.00
61-75 lbs.	55.00	60.00
76-90 lbs.	62.00	66.00
91-105 lbs.	70.00	75.00
106 lbs. & up	77.50	82.50
Farm Calves	83.50	86.00
Starter Calves	22.50	34.00
Veal Calves	120.00	175.00
Feeder Heifers	82.00	115.00
Beef Heifers	66.00	82.00
Feeder Steers	55.00	92.50
Beef Steers	81.00	85.00
Feeder Bulls	84.00	125.00
Beef Bulls	80.00	89.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	50.00
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	80.00	95.00
Feeder Pigs each	65.00	117.50
Sheep each	60.00	200.00
Lambs each	80.00	220.00
Goats each	200.00	355.00
Kid Goats each	180.00	320.00
Canners	up to	57.50
Cutters	58.00	60.00
Utility Grade Cows	61.00	64.00
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	4.00	50.00
Ducks each	3.00	18.00

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK
SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	58.00	64.50
boners 80-85% lean	58.00	63.50
lean 88-90% lean	52.00	59.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	105.00	110.00
Choice 2-3	100.00	105.00
Select 1-2	96.50	109.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	96.00	101.00
Choice 2-3	93.00	95.00
Sel 1-2	84.00	89.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	100.00	102.00
Choice 2-3	95.00	99.00
Sel 1-2	90.00	92.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-130 lbs	100.00	117.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn Markets:		
Choice 2-3		
90-110 lbs	210.00	230.00
110-130 lbs	197.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	100.00	130.00
120-160 lbs	85.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	72.00	115.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	140.00	175.00
60-80 lbs	175.00	215.00
80-100 lbs	215.00	240.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS & BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	285.00	310.00
100-150 lbs	300.00	325.00
150-250 lbs	320.00	365.00

(Continued from Page 1)

community knew with a mix of new things," he said.

A cool, wet spring delayed many of the crops, and he was unable to open the farm stand until mid-July.

"The primary challenges were weather and soil, but once the system was up it's been pretty self-maintaining," Pihl said. "I'm just trying to keep up with the produce at this point."

Corn and tomatoes are the biggest sellers.

"People are happy the stand is open – they're raving about it," Pihl said. "But trying to get people to try new stuff is tough."

The farm created a Facebook page to help in marketing the stand, and Pihl has been trying to drum up business wherever he can.

Stopping for lunch at a nearby Ramen noodle restaurant before the tour, he struck up a conversation with the owner about what he may be able to offer from the farm.

"They're interested in my Shishito and Togarashi peppers," Pihl said later.

The farm uses animals to help manage the land whenever possible, including a pair of goats to clear brush around the property, which contains about 18 acres of White Pine forest.

"They're quite efficient at munching," Bill Bentley said during the tour as the group viewed the Saanen goats in action. "They love Multiflora rose and Asian bittersweet. About the only thing they won't eat is Japanese Barberry."

Pihl uses chickens in the garden to eat insects as they scratch around the rows, and pigs may be brought in to help uproot stumps.

"I only have two chickens left," Pihl said with a wry

smile. "I had a lot more until they met the local bear."

Although the partnership and the various projects and techniques it is employing has not yet concluded its first season, they consider their progress a success that gives them a solid base to move forward.

"This shows what can be done in a landscape in a very short time," Pihl said. "Our goal was to build soil health and grow healthy food for people, and that's exactly what we are doing."

SAVE THE DATE - Monday September 25th, 2017

Registration at 9:30am, Program 10:00am – 4:00pm

Preventing, Monitoring, and Responding to Poultry and Livestock Disease Emergencies:

A Workshop Using Connecticut's Avian Influenza Monitoring and Response Plan as an All-Disease Framework

Location: Legislative Office Building, Room 2C, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

(Parking at the Legislative Office Building Parking Garage, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT)

This program is free but we ask that you please register by emailing:

mackenzie.white@uconn.edu



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

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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.

83-R. John Deere loader; yellow machine, gas, chains, 1 -1/4 yard bucket. Well maintained. \$5,000.00. 860-933-6918.

84-R. Farm Truck: 1999 Chevy K-3500, 4 wheel drive, towing package, hydraulic/electric Meyers snowplow. Frame good. \$5,800.00. 860-481-0029.

86-R. Bright, clean rye straw, round bales ore squares. Also, rye seed for cover crop. 860-355-1264.

85-R. Willington, 47.29 acres. Two hay fields and pond. 540' frontage on Route 44. Property backs onto Nipmuck/blue trail and Willington Conservation area. Six-minute drive to UCONN center. 860-872-6637 or 860614-5954.

87. Registered 5 year old Jersey cow. Would make great family cow. Calved once already. Bred and due in October. \$1,100. 860-688-2341.

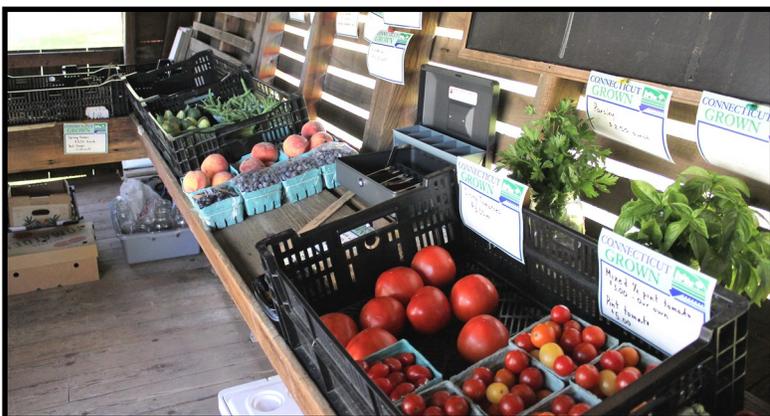
88-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, by the box or bin. East Windsor, Conn. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

89-R. 1/2 bushel apple baskets. Truck load sale: 1,000 or more = \$2 each. 500 or more = \$3 each. Less than 500 = \$4 each. Call Doug 860-657-4172.

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.

81-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm (most any type of agriculture), commercial/business, life insurance and more! Cell: 860-377-8947. Early morning, evening, or weekend appointments available.



FARM-TO-CHEF WEEK: SEPTEMBER 17-23

Connecticut's annual statewide Farm-to-Chef Week is scheduled for Sept. 17-23, 2017.

Open to all restaurants and foodservice businesses in the state, it invites participants to create a special Farm-to-Chef menu showcasing Connecticut Grown ingredients and beverages.

This promotion is an initiative of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-Chef Program, which connects farmers and producers of Connecticut Grown products with chefs and other culinary professionals.

Farm-to-Chef Week is pleased to partner with the Coventry Farmers' Market at the Nathan Hale Homestead, one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in the state, for this year's kick-off event on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chefs from around the state will shop the market and prepare delicious Connecticut Grown bites for market-goers to sample.

To find a participating dining venue, or view participant menus, please visit www.ctfarmtochef.com. Farm-to-Chef Week is made possible by the following sponsors: Connecticut Milk Promotion Board, New Morning Market, Spotlight Theatres/Front St. Bistro, and Skyline Studios, LLC.

For more information about participating in Farm-to-Chef Week, or being a sponsor of the event, contact Erin Windham at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-713-

Above left: The market garden at Wilhelm Farm.

Middle: A look inside the farm stand.

Left: Goats being used to clear brush on the property.

Page 1 left: Bill Bentley and Ann Wilhelm leading a tour of the farm.

Page 1 right: Sven Pihl on the steps of the farm stand discussing his growing and land-management techniques.

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 or call 860-713-2588.

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