At midnight on May 9, 2018, the short session of the Connecticut General Assembly came to a close. In even-numbered years, the regular legislative sessions begin in February and end in May—but the shorter term does not mean that there is less work to be done, only that there is less time to do it.

Nearly 300 bills passed both chambers of the General Assembly in concurrence and were sent to the governor for his signature. Some of those bills will have an impact on farming and agriculture.

Throughout the session, the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) tracked more than 120 bills, introduced legislation of our own, and advocated for policies that will be beneficial to the agriculture community in Connecticut—a community that contributes more than $4 billion per year to the state’s economy, according to the most recent economic impact study completed by the University of Connecticut.

DoAg successfully passed three legislative concepts. The first two concepts were included in House Bill 5360, An Act Concerning Revisions to Certain Environmental Quality and Conservation Programs of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The 2014 Farm Bill did away with the previous federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) and created in its place the Agricultural Lands Easement Program (ACEP). Existing Connecticut statute specifically referenced FRPP.

Because Connecticut statutes didn’t align with ACEP, Connecticut was at risk of missing out on federally reimbursed dollars for farmland preservation, an omission that would result in a loss of more than $12.5 million. House Bill 5360 corrected Connecticut statute language to maintain DoAg’s ability to re-capture federal funding for reimbursement of preserved agricultural lands.

Also under House Bill 5360, DoAg successfully advocated for an expansion of the buy/protect/sell program, allowing DoAg to partner with nonprofits and municipalities by buying farmland from farmers, selling it in fee simple to a partnering nonprofit or municipality, and then immediately buying back the development rights to the property, potentially in partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The third concept that secured passage by DoAg was Senate Bill 106, An Act Concerning the Sale of “Connecticut Grown” Products. In this bill DoAg successfully sought to extend the same farm-of-origin disclosure requirements required of farmers at local farmers’ markets to distributors who sell to schools.

The intent was to provide school districts in Connecticut seeking to support local agriculture through their procurement process some confirmation that products being sold and represented by distributors as “Connecticut Grown” are, in fact, grown in Connecticut.

It’s unfair to local producers to be in competition with out-of-state producers who claim to be producing in Connecticut, but are not actually doing so.

The end result is that if a distributor is selling to a school district product claimed to have been grown in Connecticut, that

(continued on Page 3)
### New England Shell Eggs
Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered door. (Range)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XTRA LARGE</th>
<th>LARGE</th>
<th>MEDIUM</th>
<th>SMALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New England Market Report

#### Slaughter Steers

- Hi Ch/Prime 3-4: 107.00
- Choice 2-3: 105.50
- Select 1-2: 101.00

#### Slaughter Holsteins

- Choice 2-3: avg. 79.00
- Select 1-2: avg. 73.50

#### Slaughter Heifers

- Choice 2-3: avg. 105.00

#### Slaughter Cows Avg. Dressing

- Breakers 75-80% lean: 65.00
- Boners 80-85% lean: 61.00
- Lean 88-90% lean: 55.00

#### Calves

- Small: 80 lbs
- Medium: 100 lbs
- Extra Large: 130 lbs

#### Wholesale Shipped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Range Per Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steers, Red</td>
<td>20.00 - 22.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle, Brown</td>
<td>30.00 - 32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulls, Medium</td>
<td>12.00 - 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulls, Large</td>
<td>15.00 - 18.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apples, Mac</td>
<td>105.00 - 120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli, Medium</td>
<td>32.00 - 38.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage, Green</td>
<td>18.00 - 20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Wholesale Market Organics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Range Per Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apples, Graded</td>
<td>20.00 - 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage, Green</td>
<td>25.00 - 30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots, Grade B</td>
<td>36.00 - 40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale, Medium</td>
<td>10.00 - 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce, Green</td>
<td>20.00 - 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesclun Mix, CA</td>
<td>12.00 - 15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Boston Market Cut Flowers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Wholesale Price ($/unit listed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chrysanthemums</td>
<td>90.00 - 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnations</td>
<td>12.00 - 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianthus</td>
<td>9.00 - 11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus</td>
<td>4.00 - 6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Dairy Replacement Cattle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Per Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heifers, Red</td>
<td>20.00 - 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves, Medium</td>
<td>12.00 - 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulls, Medium</td>
<td>15.00 - 18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cows, Red</td>
<td>20.00 - 25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Middletown Livestock Auction

- Bob Calves: 20.00 - 25.00
- Beef Calves: 30.00 - 35.00
- Fewer Calves: 50.00 - 55.00
- Feeder Calves: 70.00 - 75.00
- Replacement Calves: n/a
- Feeder Heifers: 100.00 - 110.00
- Fewer Sows: 68.00 - 70.00
- Sows: n/a
- Fewer Boars: 100.00 - 110.00
- Boars: n/a
distributor must disclose specifically where that product was grown.

The budget, which was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, benefits the agricultural community in Connecticut. It is immediate-ly reinvested into things like feed and equipment.

On May 29, 2018, with about 40 dairy farmers and agriculture stakeholders in attendance, Governor Malloy visited Cushman Farms in Franklin to make the announcement.

This type of investment in producers benefits the greater agricultural community because, in most cases, it is immediate-ly reinvested into things like feed and equipment.

There were many more bills introduced by advocates, stakeholders and legislative partners that will have an impact on the agricultural community in Connecticut.

An additional benefit to farmers in Connecticut is House Bill 5534, An Act Concerning the Classification of Farm Land, which requires tax assessors to approve applications to classify any land that meets the farm land criteria under Public Act 490 as farm land.

Specifically, assessors may not refuse to classify a portion of land as farm land on account of municipal zoning regulations establishing minimum acreage requirements for residential or agricultural parcels.

There were several proposals this session that would have allowed, in some way, for the cultivation of cannabis in Connecticut, a policy that DoAg supports with a number of conditions—specifically that it is considered an agricultural product, that it is appropriately regulated and necessary funding is in place to support a regulatory program, and that it comports with federal law. Under the 2014 Farm Bill, state departments of agriculture and land grant universities can implement pilot programs for market research purposes, not for commercial sales production.

There remains much work to do to provide opportunities for the diversification and continued growth of agriculture in Connecticut. We need to advocate for policies that allow for continued access to high-quality farmland; that allow for expansion of sales opportunities for farm wineries, farm breweries, and farm distilleries; that encourage market-access opportunities for new and beginning farmers; that encourage and assist with farm transition planning; and so many more issues.

USDA Extends Application Deadline for Dairy Margin Protection Program to June 22
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the re-enrollment deadline for the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy will be extended until June 22, 2018.

The new and improved program protects participating dairy producers when the margin—the difference between the price

(continued on Page 4)
of milk and feed costs—falls below levels of protection selected by the applicant. USDA has already issued more than $89 million for margins triggered in February, March, and April, and USDA offices are continuing to process remaining payments daily.

The re-enrollment deadline was previously extended through June 8, 2018. The deadline is being extended a second time to ensure that dairy producers are given every opportunity to make a calculated decision and enroll in the program if they choose.

This will be the last opportunity for producers to take advantage of key adjustments Congress made to provisions of the MPP program under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to strengthen its support of dairy producers. USDA encourages producers contemplating enrollment to use the online web resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation.

The next margin under MPP, for May 2018, will be published on June 28, 2018. Therefore, all coverage elections on form CCC-782 and the $100 administrative fee, unless exempt, must be submitted to the county FSA office no later than June 22, 2018. No registers will be utilized, so producers are encouraged to have their enrollment for 2018 completed by June 22, 2018.

All dairy operations must make new coverage elections for 2018 during the re-enrollment period, even if the operation was enrolled during the previous 2018 signup. Coverage elections made for 2018 will be retroactive to January 1, 2018. MPP payments will be sequestered at a rate of 6.6 percent.

To learn more about the Margin Protection Program for dairy, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency county office at offices.usda.gov or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

UCONN EXTENSION OFFERS FARM BRANDING WORKSHOP SERIES

The University of Connecticut (UConn) Extension is hosting the 2018 Simple Farm Marketing Summer Series to assist farmers in all aspects of farm marketing.

Each part of the five-part series will be held at the Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT, 6:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m.

The cost is $20 per workshop or sign up for all five for $80. Below is a list of dates and topics for the series.

- June 27, 2018: Branding 101
- July 19, 2018: Streamlining Your Social Media
- August 1, 2018: Smart Phones for Smarter Marketing
- August 16, 2018: Design Your Own Simple Website
- August 29, 2018: Marketing on a Budget

For more information or to register contact MacKenzie White at Mackenzie.White@uconn.edu or 860-875-3331.

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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