

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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CONNECTICUT'S LARGEST DAIRY FARM EXPANDS WITH EYE TOWARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Revczky

ELLINGTON – Building a 350,000 square-foot dairy barn and milking parlor that houses thousands of cows in a relatively visible part of town is naturally going to focus a lot of public attention on the operation.

And that is why Oakridge Dairy is so intent on opening its doors to its neighbors in a variety of ways to try to prevent negative perceptions from forming about the enormous facility that opened in June.

“We’re surrounded by people and they want to know what we’re doing here and where their food comes from,” company CEO Seth Bahler said as he showed a visitor around the farm on Jobs Hill Road late last week. “So we’re trying to be as transparent as possible and educate the public about modern farming.”

The farm did exactly that in late October, when they held a one-day open house that drew more than 2,000 curious visitors, who toured the farm on guided hay wagons and were treated to hot apple crisp and fresh cold milk.

“It was a tremendous success,” Bahler said, adding that the event served as a template for future plans that call for perhaps 100,000 annual visitors to the farm, which was founded by

Adolph Bahler more than 120 years ago and is considered the largest dairy in Connecticut.

Finishing touches are now being put on a major part of those plans - a viewing room outfitted with an array of large windows that overlook an automatic milking carousel that is the heart of the operation.

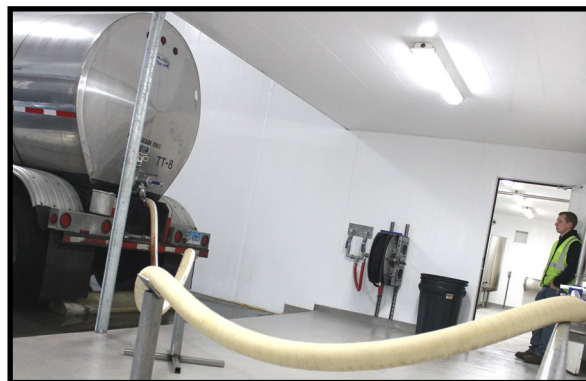
Powered by five electric motors that rotate the milking platform on Teflon wheels running on a circular metal track, the carousel holds 72 cows at a time. It runs virtually 24 hours a day, only shutting down three times daily for the system to be washed and sanitized.

Milked every eight hours, each cow is first given an application of anti-bacterial orange iodine foam to the teats, which is wiped off a few seconds later by another worker using a bright green microfiber towel.

“Every cow has her own towel,” which are laundered in machines installed near the carousel, facilities director Dave Moser said as he supervised the operation.

A third worker then attaches the vacuum milking unit. A digital flow meter mounted beneath each milking station displays exactly how much milk each cow

(Continued on Page 3)



NEW ENGLAND HONEY

\$/unit.

PROPOLIS TINCTURE:		
2 OZ, WHLSE	16.00	18.00
HONEY, 1 LB, WHOLESALE	9.00	12.00
HONEY, FOODSERVICE:		
5 GALLON	200.00	235.00
BEESWAX:		
1 LB,CLEAN WHITE,WHLSLE	5.50	5.75

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	2.18	2.28
LARGE	2.17	2.27
MEDIUM	1.36	1.47
SMALL	.76	.86

LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	50.00	56.50
boners 80-85% lean	49.00	56.50
lean 88-90% lean	44.00	49.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	114.00	119.00
Choice 2-3	108.00	114.00
Select 1-2	102.50	108.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 3-4	85.00	89.00
Choice 2-3	79.00	83.00
Sel 1-2	73.00	79.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 94-130 lbs	100.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	150.00	175.00
110-130 lbs	140.00	162.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	80.00	100.00
160-200 lbs	85.00	100.00
200-300 lbs	85.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
60-80 lbs	160.00	190.00
80-100 lbs	175.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	195.00	200.00
130-170 lbs	200.00	225.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	250.00	280.00
150-250 lbs	300.00	355.00
NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION		
Per cwt.		
52-56 200-300 lbs	66.00	69.00
300-350 lbs	59.00	60.00
350-400 lbs	48.00	51.00
48-52 200-300 lbs	56.00	67.00
300-350 lbs	47.00	55.00
350-400 lbs	42.00	42.00
Sows, US 1-3		
300-500 lbs	35.00	44.00
500-800 lbs	41.00	48.00
Boars 400-900 lbs	5.00	7.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston 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,2-1/223.00	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,TRAY10032.00	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 11, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	25.00	30.00
61-75 lbs.	38.00	40.00
76-90 lbs.	72.50	85.00
91-105 lbs.	87.50	100.00
106 lbs. & up	102.50	107.50
Farm Calves	110.00	115.00
Starter Calves	15.00	20.00
Veal Calves	70.00	140.00
Feeder Heifers	80.00	130.00
Beef Heifers	70.00	91.00
Feeder Steers	110.00	145.00
Beef Steers	70.00	93.00
Feeder Bulls	130.00	135.00
Beef Bulls	66.00	77.00
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	47.50	62.50
Sheep each	120.00	130.00
Lambs each	80.00	225.00
Goats each	170.00	275.00
Kid Goats each	50.00	167.50
Canners	up to	53.75
Cutters	54.00	57.00
Utility Grade Cows	58.00	60.50
Rabbits each	4.00	20.00
Chickens each	5.00	37.50
Ducks each	7.00	29.00

No Auction on Christmas Day.
Auction will be held Wednesday,
December 27, 2017 and
January 1, 2018.

USDA NORTHEAST RETAIL PORK

\$/Per lb. or as labeled.

SHOULDER 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

USDA - WEEKLY LAMB PELTS

Per piece price.

Unshorn		
Supreme	5.75	9.50
Premium	(2.50)	8.00
Standard	(1.00)	2.00
Fair	(1.50)	2.00
Mixed Class	(1.50)	1.50
Damaged/Puller	(1.50)	(1.25)
Shorn		
Supreme	1.50	5.75
Premium	(2.50)	2.00
Standard	(1.50)	2.50
Fair	(2.25)	1.00
Mixed Class	(2.50)	(2.25)
Damaged/Puller	(2.50)	(2.25)

is producing, and the milking unit automatically shuts down and drops off when she is done.

“We know how much each cow is giving every day and it all goes into a database,” Moser said, noting that the average cow gives about 80 pounds daily, and some up to 140 pounds.

Each rotation of the carousel takes about 10 minutes, and when done the cows step off the platform by themselves.

Their body-temperature milk is run through a cooler housed in the milk room just off the carousel, and immediately pumped into one of three tanker trucks that make daily trips to Guida’s milk plant in New Britain.

“It’s going in at 100 degrees and coming out at 37 degrees and within two minutes it’s out of the cow and onto the truck,” Moser said. “We don’t store any milk at the farm at all. That’s fresh.”

After each milking, cows return to the gigantic free-stall barn, where they feed on hay and corn grown on nearly 3,000 acres the farm owns or leases. Bahler said the barn has developed its own social structure.

“There are cliques in there,” he said with a laugh. “A lot of cows like to hang out with the same cows every day.”

The walls of the barn are equipped with 180 large ventilation fans for climate control.

Manure is cleaned out of the 600-foot-long alleys by a large vacuum truck (pictured at right) that is constantly making the rounds. Liquid is separated and used as crop fertilizer, which is stored in a 5-acre lagoon on a hillside above the barn.

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

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or 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.

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.

109. Are you interested in adding fresh log-grown shitake mushrooms to your product line-up? We are offering packages of currently fruiting and soon to fruit inoculated shitake logs that will produce high quality mushrooms for the 2018 season. We can customize a log package to suit your needs and will include initial and ongoing consultation to help ensure success. 860-593-2267 or shitake@cox.net

Solids are converted into bedding – now known in the business as “fiber” – which is changed every day. The overall goal of the operation is “cow comfort.”

“Happy cows make lots of milk,” Bahler said, using one of the farm’s main branding slogans that appears often on its website and Facebook page – two more tools being used in the farm’s public-relations efforts.

Getting the herd to its happy place, however, was a slow, months-long process after being moved from its former home in open-sided barns just down the road.

“Change is hard for cows,” Bahler said. “It took them quite a while to adjust.”

Now that the operation is running smoothly after about two years of planning and construction, the farm is readying for its next expansion to about 3,000 cows by December 2018.

“A lot has gone on here in the past two years and we thank the community for their understanding and patience,” Bahler said. “It’s been a huge undertaking.”



WANTED

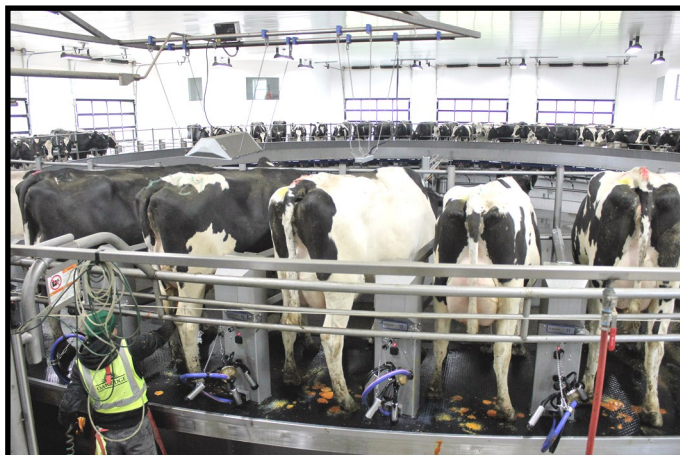
1008-R. Town of Granby – Request for Proposals. The Town of Granby is seeking Proposals for the purchase or lease of 125 acres of property for agricultural use. The property contains approximately 85 acres of tillable, prime farmland soils and is located at 107 East Street. Proposals will be accepted no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2018. Detailed information is available from the Town of Granby at www.granby-ct.gov or by calling 860-844-5318.

110-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

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 or call 800.562.2235 to reserve your spot.



Above left: A worker applies orange iodine foam to the teats of a cow on the milking carousel at Oakridge Dairy.

Above right: Company CEO Seth Bahler in a viewing room that will allow visitors to observe the milking operation.

Left: Dept. of Agriculture livestock inspector Tim McGuire checks a cow during a whole-herd tuberculosis surveillance test that is required every three years for dairy herds.

Below: The farm's new 350,000 square-foot freestall barn and milking parlor, located just behind the glass doors.

Page 1 top: Cows feeding in the barn.

Page 1 bottom: Facilities director Dave Moser stands by the open door of a room where milk pumped directly from the carousel is cooled to 37 degrees and immediately pumped into tanker trucks.



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