

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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WOODBURY FFA FLORICULTURE TEAM HEADING TO EUROPE, SEEKS DONATIONS TO FUND "ONCE IN A LIFETIME" TRIP

One member of the award-winning team plans to be a clinical pharmacist with a specialty in herbal remedies, while another wants to research plant genetics and a third is pursuing a degree to teach high school Ag Science.

And despite the wide variation in their interests, each member of the Woodbury FFA Floriculture Team is intent on fueling their intended career during a planned June tour of flower, vegetable and nursery businesses in Europe.

The team members going on the trip, Catherine Dunham, Courtney Gibson, Elizabeth Nielsen and their coach Eric Birkenberger, were given the opportunity after placing 7th among the 43 teams competing in the National FFA Convention held last October in Indianapolis.

The contest included being asked to identify 30 plants from a list of 200; a 50-question general knowledge test; problem solving; a job interview; a customer complaint; a team activity where the students work together to complete a florist order; handling a hazardous situation; selling one-on-one and many other tasks involving making arrangements, propagating and potting plants.

The team's goal now is to raise the remaining \$8,000 of the total \$19,000 cost of the nine-day trip through The Netherlands and Belgium, scheduled for June 15-24.

Among the planned stops are a number of commercial and private family growers, along with the largest landscape garden design business in Belgium and the world's largest flower market.

They will also witness first-hand production of perennials, hydrangea, cut lilies, orchids, pine berry, leek and salad greens, azaleas, rhododendrons, tomatoes, amaryllis and other bulbs.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity," said Birkenberger, an Agriscience and Technology Teacher at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury and the team's coach and advisor. "I truly believe that success in life is largely influenced by putting oneself in situations that provide unique opportunities and then taking advantage of those opportunities."

Team member Courtney Gibson said she is particularly looking forward to visiting large-scale cut flower producers and Berryworld, an attraction that breeds novelty berries and fruits.

(Continued on page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	58.00	63.50
boners 80-85% lean	58.00	63.00
lean 88-90% lean	53.00	58.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	124.00	127.00
Choice 2-3	120.50	124.50
Select 1-2	115.50	119.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	104.00	104.00
Choice 2-3	90.00	95.00
Sel 1-2	82.00	87.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 112-130 lbs	132.00	145.00
No 1 96-105 lbs	162.00	162.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice 1-2		
40-50 lbs	250.00	270.00
50-60 lbs	252.00	267.00
60-70 lbs	245.00	255.00
70-80 lbs	250.00	262.00
80-90 lbs	240.00	250.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	110.00	130.00
160-200 lbs	100.00	125.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	92.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	115.00	135.00
40-60 lbs	140.00	165.00
60-80 lbs	160.00	197.00
80-100 lbs	200.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	180.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	215.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	220.00	265.00
150-250 lbs	285.00	315.00
SLAUGHTER WETHERS Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	270.00	305.00
150-250 lbs	345.00	390.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	49.00	56.00
	300-350 lbs	50.00	58.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	41.00	51.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	30.00	37.00
	500-800 lbs	30.50	40.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	2.00	5.00

GREYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION

April 4, 2017. \$ per lb or as marked.

Muscovy Ducks, Drakes	1.50	2.50
Leghorn Roosters, each	6.50	6.50
Peking Ducks, each	7.00	7.00
Red Fowl, 4-5 lbs	.50	.55
Red Fowl, 5-6 lbs	.60	.80
Rooster, Crossbred, 7-11 lbs	1.20	1.30
Banty hens, each	3.50	4.00
Banty roosters, each	5.00	6.00
Guinea fowl	3.10	4.00
Geese, 9-14, each	10.00	15.00
Pigeons, each	3.00	3.10
Bunnies, each	6.00	17.00
Chicks, each	.40	1.40
Doves, each	6.00	17.00
Turkeys, each	8.00	25.00
Broilers	.40	.70

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston 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, CORTLND, XF, 12-3LB	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, #1, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, #1, 140	18.00	19.00
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	22.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	18.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHF, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, 10 LB FILM	2.25	2.50
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 10OZ, 50LB	12.00	13.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, SZB, 50 LB	11.00	11.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZA, 50LB	13.00	22.00
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 DAIRY REPORT

\$ per lb or as noted.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.49	3.49
CHEESE, NAT., 8 OZ	1.99	3.50
CHEESE, NAT., 1 LB	3.99	3.99
CHEESE, SHRED, 8 OZ	1.99	3.00
CHEESE, SHRED, 1 LB	3.99	3.99
COTTAGE CHEESE, 1 LB	1.66	2.29
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	.85	2.50
FLAVORED MILK, 1/2 GALLON	2.49	2.49
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.99	4.99
MILK, GALLON	3.69	3.69
MILK, ORG., 1/2 GALLON	3.99	3.99
MILK, ORG., GALLON	4.99	4.99
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.50	2.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6 OZ	.69	1.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 32 OZ	3.49	4.50
YOGURT, GREEK, ORG., 4-6 OZ	.88	1.25
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	.33	.60
YOGURT, 32 OZ	2.49	4.99
YOGURT, ORG., 32 OZ	3.50	3.50

NORTHEAST RETAIL APPLE REPORT

\$ per lb or as noted.

APPLES, BRAEBURN, ORG.	.69	2.29
APPLES, FUJI	1.49	1.49
APPLES, FUJI, ORG.	1.29	3.99
APPLES, GALA, ORG.	1.45	3.99
APPLES, GALA, ORG., 3 LBS	3.99	5.99
APPLES, GALA, ORG., 5 LBS	4.99	4.99
APPLES, GRANNY SMITH, ORG.	1.45	2.99
APPLES, GOLD DEL, ORG.	1.45	1.99
APPLES, HONEYCRISP	2.49	2.49
APPLES, MAC, ORG., 3 LBS	3.98	3.98
APPLES, PINK LADY	1.49	1.49
APPLES, PINK LADY, ORG.	1.98	2.99
APPLES, PINK LADY, ORG. 3 LB	2.99	5.99
APPLES, RED DEL, ORG.	.69	1.99
APPLES, RED DEL, ORG., 3 LBS	2.89	3.99

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - April 24, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	50.00	55.00
76-90 lbs.	70.00	75.00
91-105 lbs.	80.00	85.00
106 lbs. & up	90.00	92.50
Farm Calves	95.00	210.00
Starter Calves	45.00	55.00
Veal Calves	70.00	145.00
Feeder Heifers	95.00	107.50
Beef Heifers	80.00	107.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	112.50
Beef Steers	78.00	118.00
Feeder Bulls	68.00	87.00
Beef Bulls	80.00	92.50
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	55.00
Sows	1@	21.00
Butcher Hogs	46.00	56.00
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	105.00	120.00
Lambs each	120.00	280.00
Goats each	80.00	300.00
Kid Goats each	65.00	160.00
Canners	up to	66.50
Cutters	67.00	70.00
Utility Grade Cows	71.00	75.50
Rabbits each	10.00	30.00
Chickens each	7.00	25.00
Ducks each	7.00	16.00

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

XTRA LARGE	.86	1.05
LARGE	.80	.94
MEDIUM	.58	.71

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

XTRA LARGE	1.20	1.32
LARGE	1.17	1.29
MEDIUM	.83	.95
SMALL	.63	.64

NEW HOLLAND, PA FEEDER PIGS

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

US1-2		
20-30 lbs	170.00	210.00
30-40 lbs	110.00	160.00
50-60 lbs	140.00	160.00
60-80 lbs	120.00	160.00
US 2		
20-30 lbs	100.00	170.00
30-40 lbs	150.00	160.00
40-50 lbs	90.00	90.00
50-60 lbs	110.00	110.00
60-80 lbs	100.00	115.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per small square. April 10, 2017.

Alfalfa- Premium	350.00	350.00
Good	185.00	265.00
Grass Hays- Premium	270.00	300.00
Good	180.00	250.00
Alfalfa/Grass- Premium	335.00	345.00
Good	185.00	255.00
Straw	85.00	125.00

(Continued from Page 1)

"This trip is going to be an amazing opportunity to tour the best parts of the horticulture industry," said Gibson, of Southbury, who has been accepted into Cornell University, where she will study plant genetics and research.

Catherine Dunham from Woodbury is planning to attend Shenandoah University for a fast-track, six-year Doctor of Pharmacy program that will enable her to become a clinical pharmacist with a specialty in herbal remedies.

"I am really excited to see other countries' ways of growing plants and their greenhouses," she said. "This trip will be an amazing experience for me to expand my knowledge and see the many other ways plants are produced."

Elizabeth Nielsen, also of Woodbury, is attending Liberty University in Virginia for two years before transferring to UCONN to complete her degree in Agricultural Education in preparation to teach high school Ag Science.

A fourth member of the team, Shannon Goggin, will not be making the trip. She plans to attend Texas A&M University to become an emergency care veterinarian.

Birkenberger said the team will make a presentation about the trip to students at Nonnewaug sometime after returning, and he plans to use the experience in his classroom.

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.

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.

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.

46-R. NH TT75A Tractor w/bucket, 75 HP, NH 411 Discbine, NH BR 730 Round Baler, NH 276 Square Baler, Kuhn 4 star Tedder, 98 Bison Stock Trailer, Bale Spear, 5 ft. Tiller, cow manure. 203-770-4199. J&S Farm, New Milford, CT.

He is particularly looking forward to bringing the team to the flower auction in Aalsmeer, The Netherlands. It is the world's largest flower market, where nearly 40 million flowers go to auction every day.

More than 3.7 billion roses and 1.7 billion tulips are among the 12.5 billion flowers and plants sold there each year.

Birkenberger has included the highly-automated Aalsmeer auction in his curriculum for years due to its significance in the worldwide chain of distribution.

"I love high tech-plant production and new innovations," he said. "I want to be able to see and learn as much as I can so that I can use that information to make my students leaders and more competitive in the horticulture industry."

He said the team's success is based on their commitment to working not just on their horticulture skills, but also focusing on teamwork and communication.

"They know that being on this team will make them better prepared for their future, no matter what career they pursued," he said. "Even the preparation for this trip, planning and fundraising, has taught us a great deal. That in itself is an educational experience."

Donation checks to defray cost of the trip can be made out to Woodbury FFA Alumni and sent to Eric Birkenberger, 5 Minortown Rd, Woodbury CT 06798.

47-R. Hay square bales- 1st cut \$6.00. 2nd cut \$7.00. P.U. Dried chicken manure, trailer loads, delivered. 860-537-1974.

48-R. 16 foot aluminum refrigerated/freezer trailer perfect for Farmers' Markets or emergency backup. Call 860-302-0194.

49-R. Angus bull-proven breeder, Yearling Angus, and Angus cross heifer. Call Diane 860-302-0194.

50-R. Retiring from farming. Greenhouse and vegetable equipment for sale. www.wagonroadgreenhouse.com for pictures and details.

53. For Sale: Poultry equipment – nesting boxes, transport crates, feeders, etc. call 860-651-8928.

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.

51-R. Research, written information. Irving Lockwood stationery Hay-Baler; manufactured and patented 1906, Georgetown, CT. Tel. 203-544-8411. Lv msg.

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.

AG JOB CONNECTION

52-R. Gouveia Vineyards, LLC is looking for an experienced Farm Manager to manage and implement production, maintenance, harvest and expand to start growing organic vegetables. Send resume to gouveiavineyards@sbcglobal.net.



Above: The world's largest flower and plant auction in Aalsmeer, The Netherlands, which the Woodbury FFA Floriculture Team will visit in June.

Page 1 right: (L to R) Team advisor Eric Birkenberger, Catherine Dunham, Courtney Gibson, Shannon Goggin and Elizabeth Nielsen. **Page 1 left:** Team members at the state horticulture competition held at UCONN in November 2015, when they qualified for the 2016 national finals in Indianapolis.

Below: A photo of peach orchards at Bishop's Orchards in Guilford posted on social media with the hashtag #CTGrown and the caption: "Looking south with Long Island Sound in the background. Everything is in full bloom at Bishop's Orchards Farm Market! You can see color differences in the blossoms, based on varieties in our orchards."



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