

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner



Wednesday, November 7, 2018

CONSIDERATIONS FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DURING COLDER WEATHER

Elizabeth Hall, Bureau of Regulatory Services

Autumn is a season that brings many changes to Connecticut. The shorter days bring us our beautiful foliage, fresh cider, and all of the wonderful winter-keeping vegetables.

It is also a time however, for making the necessary plans and preparations to ensure that livestock and poultry have access to adequate water, feed, and protection from the cold temperatures to not just survive but actually thrive during the winter months.

The shorter days also trigger the beginning of winter hair growth in most livestock species including horses. Most farmers recognize the need to begin to increase supplemental feedings to maintain good body condition in their stock. Assessing an animal's current body condition serves as a valuable tool in predicting what nutritional changes may be needed to maintain or even increase an animal's weight, if warranted, during the cold weather.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS) is a numerical scoring system which is used as a management tool to estimate energy reserves in the form of fat and muscle of livestock, and to evaluate their nutritional status. Body condition affects the amount and type of winter-feed supplements that will be required to maintain current body condition, and influences subsequent growth, reproduction, milk production, and life span. Scores are subjectively assigned, ranging from one for severely emaciated to five for very obese, with a BCS in the middle range considered as optimum.

The Henneke Body Condition Scoring System, the one most recognized for use in horses, utilizes a one through nine score with a score of five indicating ideal body condition.

A BCS score can be determined and assigned by visual appraisal, but palpation of the animal's condition may be more reliable especially for animals with thick hair coats. Long, dark colored hair can make an accurate visual assessment difficult.

Low BCS and significant weight

loss may be an indicator of compromised welfare. Low scoring animals are more prone to disease and parasitism.

Livestock, with adequate body condition and nutritional level, can adapt to a wide range of thermal conditions. Protection from extreme conditions should be available when those conditions create a risk to the welfare of the animals. This can be provided by natural or manmade structures.

Evaluation, placement, and proper bedding management of your shelter are important. Some stands of trees or ravines can provide protection from the wind; however, each pasture is unique. Buildings and tree lines can also act as a funnel and increase the wind speed. These situations are less than ideal especially if the animals are in wet, muddy conditions with no dry areas available.

Heat and cold stress are influenced by various environmental conditions such as air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed. Certain animal factors such as breed, age, coat color, body condition, and stocking density can also contribute to just how cold the animals feel—this is called cold stress.

The thickness of the animal's coat, and if the coat is wet or dry, effects the insulation value of the coat. A wet coat increases heat loss up to as much as 40 percent. This causes the animal to burn its own energy to maintain body temperature.



Melvin, the Haflinger cross pony is "Ready for Winter".

The temperature at which an animal begins to use additional energy is called the lower critical temperature (LCT). The LCT varies depending on both the severity of the environmental conditions and the individual animal's factors. The lower the critical temperature, the higher energy requirements are for the animal. Indications of cold stress include abnormal posture, shivering, and huddling.

During extreme cold weather conditions, livestock caregivers need to provide adequate feed and ample supply of water. When water is restricted, feed intake will also be reduced.

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.18	1.42
LARGE	1.12	1.26
MEDIUM	.77	.90

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.74	1.89
LARGE	1.65	1.79
MEDIUM	1.16	1.26
SMALL	.82	.92

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	107.50	111.00
Choice 2-3	105.00	107.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 2-3	80.00	82.50
Select 1-2	77.50	78.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	106.00	106.50
Choice 2-3	103.00	104.00
Select 1-2	97.00	101.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-118 lbs	60.00	70.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	44.00	49.50
boners 80-85% lean	44.00	49.90
lean 88-90% lean	37.00	43.50
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	170.00	205.00
110-130 lbs	162.00	200.00
130-150 lbs	165.00	185.00
150-200 lbs	165.00	165.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	85.00	95.00
120-160 lbs	65.00	90.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	85.00
200-300 lbs	75.00	82.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	160.00	190.00
60-80 lbs	185.00	200.00
80-100 lbs	195.00	235.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	170.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	210.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	230.00	260.00
150-250 lbs	310.00	355.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
52-56	200-300 lbs	51.00 61.00
	300-350 lbs	42.00 48.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	40.00 53.00
	300-350 lbs	39.00 45.00
	350-400 lbs	40.50 42.00
Sows, US 1-3		
	300-500 lbs	25.00 40.50
	500-700 lbs	37.00 41.00
Boars		
	300-350 lbs	8.00 23.00
	400-1000 lbs	2.00 5.00

BOSTON MARKET CUT FLOWERS

Wholesale. \$/unit listed.

Long stem unless noted. November 6, 2018.

SNAPDRGN, NENG 10/BU	12.75	13.50
SOLIDAGO, NENG /BN	8.50	8.50
SUNFLWR, NENG, 5/BN	7.50	8.75
SUNFLWR, NENG, EA	1.00	1.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE, CRTLND, 80, CRT, XFCY	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CRTLND, 88, CRT, XFCY	30.00	31.00
APPLE, GALA, LOOSE, NG	22.00	22.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, 80, CRT, XFCY	65.00	65.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, 88, CRT, XFCY	65.00	65.00
APPLE, MAC, 80, CRT, XFCY	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, 88, CRT, XFCY	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, 100, CRT, XFCY	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MAC, 125, CRT	17.00	18.00
APPLE, MAC, 138, CRT	17.00	18.00
APPLE, MACOUN, 80, CRT, XFCY	38.00	38.00
APPLE, CRISPIN, BU, NG	20.00	22.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, RED, BNCH, 12S, CRT	18.00	21.00
BEETS, CHIOGGA, BNCH, 12S, CRT	14.00	16.00
BEETS, GOLD, BNCH, 12S, CRT	16.00	16.00
BROCC, BNCH, 14S, CRT	18.00	21.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	19.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	21.00
CORN, ORN, INDIAN, BNCH, 20-3S	45.00	50.00
CORN, ORN, POP, BNCH, 20-3S	45.00	50.00
CORN, ORN, MINI, BNCH, 20-3S	28.00	32.00
CORNSTALKS, /BUNDLE, 5	5.00	8.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	28.00	32.00
GOURDS, ORNAMENT, 1/2 BU	14.00	16.00
GOURDS, ORN, SHELLACK 1/2 BU	22.00	25.00
PMPKN, PIE, OR, 1/2 BU, M	20.00	25.00
PMPKN, PIE, OR, 24" BIN, M	250.00	285.00
PMPKN, PIE, OR, 36" BIN, M	270.00	300.00
PMPKN, HEIRLOOM, 1/2 BU, M	18.00	20.00
RUTABAGAS, 50 LB, CRT, M	35.00	36.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1-1/9, M-L	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1-1/9, M-L	15.00	18.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, M-L	15.00	18.00
SQUASH, CARNIVAL, 1-1/9, L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, 1-1/9, L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, BLUE HUB, 1-1/9, L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, 1-1/9, M-L	15.00	18.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	18.00
STRAW BALE, STAND, 1 BALE	7.00	8.00
STRAW BALE, MINI, 1 BALE	4.50	5.50
TOMS, GHS, 15LBS, VINERIPPE, L	27.00	27.00
TOMS, GHS, 25LBS, VINERIPPE, S-M	19.00	19.00
TOMS, GHS, ONVINE, 11LBS, S-M	15.00	15.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, 10 LB CRT, S-M	19.00	19.50
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, 5 LB FLAT, S-M	13.00	14.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ, S-M	20.00	24.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

CABBAGE, 45 LB, CRT, M-L	24.00	24.00
EGGPLANT, WRPPD, 1-1/9, M	25.00	26.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	22.00	22.00
MESCULIN MIX, 3 LB, CRT	8.00	9.00
PEPPERS, RED, 11 LB, CRT	28.00	32.00
PEPPERS, YELLOW, 11 LB, CRT	28.00	32.00
PEPPERS, ORANGE, 11 LB, CRT	32.00	34.00
SPINACH, BABY, CA, 4 LB, CRT	12.00	13.00
SQUASH, ACORN, BU, CRT, M	24.00	24.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, BU, CRT, M	30.00	32.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, BU, CRT, M	24.00	24.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, BU, CRT, M	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, BU, CRT, M	29.00	29.00
SWEET POTATOES, 40 LB, CRT	48.00	54.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - October 29, 2018

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	15.00	22.00
61-75 lbs.	42.00	47.50
76-90 lbs.	55.00	62.00
91-105 lbs.	65.00	70.00
106 lbs. & up	145.00	155.00
Farm Calves	165.00	172.50
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	87.50	112.50
Feeder Heifers	65.00	105.00
Beef Heifers	60.00	86.00
Feeder Steers	77.00	117.50
Beef Steers	74.00	93.00
Feeder Bulls	60.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	65.00	68.00
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	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	50.00	125.00
Lambs each	75.00	170.00
Goats each	80.00	280.00
Kid Goats each	70.00	140.00
Canners	up to	41.00
Cutters	42.00	46.00
Utility Grade Cows	47.00	51.00
Rabbits each	10.00	50.00
Chickens each	3.00	24.00
Ducks each	n/a	n/a

The Auction will be held November 12.

RETAIL GRASS FED BISON MEAT

\$/lb. Frozen. October 18, 2018.

RIBEYE STEAKS	19.49	39.95
FILET MIGNON	36.75	39.95
NEW YORK STRIP	17.99	28.57
FLAT IRON	13.50	14.99
FLANK STEAK	15.49	31.92
SKIRT STEAK	12.95	18.95
CHUCK ROAST	11.99	13.72
EYE OF ROUND ROAST	12.99	13.66
TOP SIRLOIN	24.95	31.95
SIRLOIN TIP	12.99	13.83
BRISKET	11.49	14.54
RIBS	n/a	n/a
PRIME RIB	37.51	39.98
TENDERLOIN	41.49	60.00
STEW MEAT	11.49	14.99
JERKY	10.95	43.80
HEARTS	7.50	9.99
LIVERS	8.25	9.99
TONGUES	6.99	10.99
HOT DOGS	14.95	17.50
GROUND BISON:		
BULK LEAN	10.69	14.95
PATTIES	11.39	15.95

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

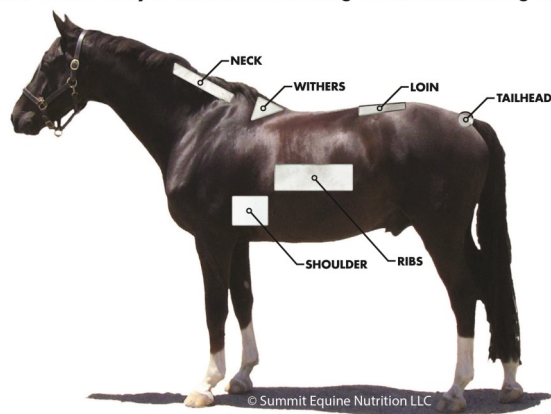
Price per ton, small squares. Oct. 26, 2018.

ALFALFA/GRASS		
SUPREME	445.00	460.00
PREMIUM	300.00	410.00
GOOD	200.00	280.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	270.00	350.00
GOOD	200.00	280.00
FAIR	160.00	185.00
STRAW	285.00	340.00

(continued from Page 1)

The following is an estimate of the gallons of water that the various species will consume daily: cattle (7 to 12); goats and sheep (1 to 4); hogs (6 to 8); horses (8 to 12); and llamas (2 to 5).

Areas of the horse's body to be assessed during a condition scoring evaluation

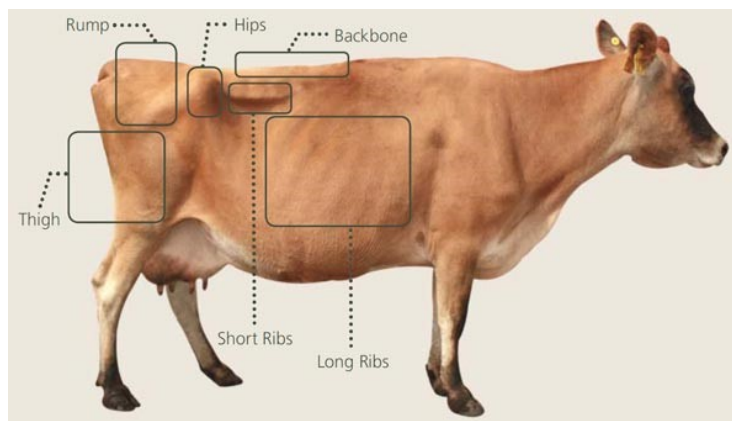


Henke scale body areas.

Image courtesy of Summit Equine Nutrition LLC.

Providing more hay (good quality) is usually sufficient for horses, cattle, and sheep to weather storms. Increasing the total daily hay amount slowly and steadily in the days leading up to the cold and continuing to feed larger quantities during and following cold weather will help reduce adverse effects of cold stress.

In some instances, higher energy feeds may be needed to supplement the diet. However, to avoid digestive and other metabolic problems, the amount of concentrates (grain) added to a ration should start at a low level with a gradual increase over time until the required level is achieved.



Body areas evaluated to body condition score dairy cattle.

Image courtesy of DairyNZ.

Livestock usually can handle a few cold, miserable days without suffering long term effects. Research has shown a strong link between the body condition of breeding stock and of the offspring's vigor at birth.

The requirements to keep your poultry flock healthy are not that different from their larger counterparts. Poultry need a dry, well-ventilated, but not drafty environment. Just as old farmhouses were oriented, a coop with south facing windows will help maximize the amount of sun exposure during the short days during winter.

The fall is a common time for poultry to go through their annual molt, the time when the shedding and growth of new feathers occur. Feeding a good quality commercial poultry feed is the best sources of balanced nutrition for your birds and will provide the nutrients the birds need during this time.

A watertight roof will help ensure bedding and birds stay

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

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

91-R. Farm for sale. 9.2 acre about 40,000 sq. ft. greenhouses in Eastford, CT. Used to produce lettuce, cucumbers, herbs, tomatoes. \$299,900. Negotiable. 860-336-8000.

92-R. Christmas Trees: Wholesale Fraser Fir and Balsam Fir. Excellent shape, color, spray program. Dzen Farms, 860-648-1355.

93-R. Border collie pups - \$800.00. Males, females. Black and white. Ready Nov. 1st. 203-263-4725, eveningstardodd@charter.net

95-R. Frist cut hay and mulch available. Suffield. 860-668-2181.

WANTED

7-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.

87-R. Livestock trailer, any size or condition. Call Bruce 860-465-7543.

88-R. Seeking rear differential for an International truck, or entire International truck for parts. Call Bruce 860-465-7543.

94. Sink. Deep double stainless steel with legs and back splash in good condition. 203-265-6012.

MISCELLANEOUS

89-R. Bulldozing in Eastern CT. Farm ponds up to 3 acres. Need farm water, call Don Kemp. Also, land clearing. 860-546-9500.

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dry. A common mistake is to close up or insulate the coop to the point that the air circulation is limited.

Overstocking increases moisture in the environment and reduces the birds' natural ability to keep warm, just as a wet hair coat on livestock does. Poor ventilation and an accumulation of manure can lead to a buildup of ammonia gas that can cause lung damage and blindness in birds.

Dry wood shavings are the best for litter on the floor; but whatever is used, it needs to stay dry and clean. Baby chicks cannot regulate their body temperature adequately after hatching and need a supplemental heat source.

Birds require adequate space based on their size and characteristic's. Chickens require six to 10 inches of roost space per bird and one nest box for every four to five females. Dr. Michael Darre at the University of Connecticut recommends the following as minimum space requirements for housing poultry:

Type of Bird	Sq. ft. / bird inside	Sq. ft. / bird outside runs
Bantam Chicken	1	4
Laying Hens	1.5	8
Large Chickens	2	10
Quail	1	4
Pheasants	5	25
Ducks	3	15
Geese	6	18

As is the case with large livestock, access to adequate clean water is essential in the winter and some poultry may consume

up to one gallon daily. To keep waterers from freezing there are heated base units that waterers can sit on. A submersible fish tank heater can be used for bucket waterers with nipples.

There are many online resources available to help guide livestock and poultry caregivers on body condition scoring and cold stress. A local veterinarian, along with feed and extension specialists, are likely the best sources for advice to help evaluate feed rations and provide recommendations that will prevent the economic losses due to low body condition.

FARM VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 20

Grant guidelines and applications for DoAg's Farm Viability Grant program are available online and must be submitted by November 20.

The Farm Viability Grant can provide matching funds to Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments, and/or agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that foster agricultural viability. Please note this program may be limited by the availability of funding. The maximum award under this program is \$49,999. Applicants must provide a 40 percent match through cash or in-kind services.

Previously funded projects have included town-owned farm improvements, efforts related to farmland preservation, and the purchase of processing equipment to increasing the availability of Connecticut Grown products year-round in schools. Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CTGrown.gov

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