

Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, January 2, 2019

CONNECTICUT FARMLINK MATCHES FARMERS WITH FARMLAND

Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

When Vermont farmer Katie Taibi's partner, Matt Burrell, took a job as a paramedic in Connecticut, they found themselves looking for a place to live and land to farm.

Through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's FarmLink Program they found an opportunity to rent a historic home, cultivate a market garden, and learn about raising sheep on the Raymond Family Farm in South Windsor.

"It was a match made in heaven," said landowner Jessica Glass of the partnership formed through the program. "For us it's key to have help with the sheep, and Katie and Matt's use of the resources of this farm so far have been outstanding."

"We both work freelance jobs and a lot of our work is in New York City," said Jessica's husband David Raymond, whose family has been farming land along the Connecticut River in South Windsor since 1832.

About 50 acres are used by the farm owners for pasture and hay for the flock of about 55 sheep. The other 100 acres is rented to other farmers, for corn, pumpkin, and tobacco crops.

"In the 80s you couldn't make a living on anything like this," said David, whose grandmother Hildred Sperry Raymond began raising sheep on the family farm in the 1960s. "Now it's getting better, but we still have to work elsewhere to supplement our farm income."

The wool is sold through the Connecticut Sheep Breeders Association's Connecticut Blanket Project and at the annual Connecticut Sheep, Wool & Fiber Festival held each spring at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon.

"We just sold the last scarf from 2018's batch through our Etsy shop, GearDownFarm," said Jessica.

The Raymond Family Farm also sells blankets and sheepskins and a calendar filled with pictures of their photogenic sheep.

"People love to have something unique and local and we al-

ways sell out."

The sheep yielded about 106 pounds of wool when they were shorn in April by blade shearer Kevin Ford of Charlemont, MA, who is the only full time blade shearer in the country. Ford literally wrote the book on blade shearing¹ and without his efforts blade shearing may well have died out altogether in the U.S.

"We are so fortunate that Kevin Ford is our shearer," said David. "Blade shearing is much better for the sheep, and for the wool quality, when it's done by a master blade shearer."

After shearing, the wool is skirted and sold as raw wool, or washed, carded, and spun, and then woven or knitted into finished projects like blankets and scarves.

"We couldn't make this work without the help of neighbors and tenants," said Jessica.

Jessica and David listed the availability of the house and land with the requirement to help with the sheep for a reduced rent on Farmlink in the autumn of 2017. They got a few responses and after a month or so they hooked up with Katie and Matt.

"Kip [Kolesinskas of Farmlink] was very helpful and responsive during the listing and communication process," said Jessica.

Katie has a decade of experience in different types of farming in Vermont and the Hudson Valley of New York State.

"I used to farm full-time," said Katie. "But not since March [2017] when Atlas was born."

She is now a busy mom who appreciates the opportunity to learn about wool production from Jessica and David.

In addition to helping care for the sheep, Katie and Matt have cleared a half-acre of overgrown farmland, started a market garden, and set up a roadside farm stand where they sell vegetables, cut flowers, and eggs from the chickens they raise.



David Raymond and Jessica Glass of the Raymond Family Farm in South Windsor met Katie Taibi, holding her daughter Atlas, through the Connecticut FarmLink Program.

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.24	1.38
LARGE	1.18	1.32
MEDIUM	.72	.85

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.83	1.96
LARGE	1.75	1.89
MEDIUM	1.27	1.37
SMALL	.86	.96

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Choice/Prime 2-3	109.00	114.00
Choice 2-3	104.50	108.50
Select 1-2	99.00	105.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prime 3-4	80.00	85.00
Choice 2-3	78.00	80.00
Select 1-2	72.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	106.00	110.00
Choice 2-3	103.00	106.00
Select 2-3	95.50	98.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	43.00	49.50
boners 80-85% lean	40.00	46.50
lean 88-90% lean	32.00	39.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-130 lbs	20.00	25.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
80-90 lbs	185.00	195.00
90-110 lbs	180.00	200.00
110-130 lbs	152.00	180.00
150-200 lbs	135.00	150.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	65.00	80.00
120-160 lbs	70.00	85.00
160-200 lbs	50.00	80.00
200-300 lbs	50.00	70.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	130.00	150.00
40-60 lbs	150.00	170.00
60-80 lbs	170.00	205.00
80-100 lbs	190.00	225.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	170.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	190.00	215.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	195.00	225.00
100-150 lbs	250.00	265.00
150-250 lbs	280.00	320.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
52-56	200-300 lbs	50.00 54.00
	300-350 lbs	53.00 58.00
	350-400 lbs	42.00 44.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	41.00 49.00
	300-350 lbs	41.00 49.00
	350-400 lbs	36.00 44.00
Sows, US 1-3		
	300-500 lbs	28.00 36.50
	500-900 lbs	30.00 41.00
Boars		
	300-400 lbs	7.00 10.00
	500-900 lbs	3.00 5.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, GHS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE, CRTLND, XFCY, 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CRTLND, XFCY, 88	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CRTLND, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80	65.00	65.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 88	65.00	65.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 64	30.00	30.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 72	30.00	30.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	45.00	45.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 80	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MAC, 125, #1	16.00	17.00
APPLE, MAC, 138, #1	16.00	17.00
APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 80	38.00	38.00
APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 100	22.00	22.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	18.00	19.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 138	18.00	19.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	19.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	21.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	6.00	8.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, M-L	19.00	19.00
TOMS, GHS, 25LBS, VINERIPE, S-M	25.00	25.00
TOMS, GHS, ONVINE, 11LBS, S-M	24.00	24.00

SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 100	28.00	28.00
APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 125	24.00	26.00
APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 80	36.00	36.00
APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 88	36.00	36.00
APPLE, GALA, PA, XFCY, 80	36.00	36.00
APPLE, GALA, PA, XFCY, 88	36.00	36.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, NY, 50 LB, L	16.00	17.00
CABBAGE, RED, NY, 50 LB, L	22.00	23.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	22.00	23.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, CD, GHS, CTN	12.00	12.00
KALE, LACINATO, TX, 24	25.00	25.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, GHS, CD, 12-4OZ	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, AZ/CA, 24	25.00	30.00
LETTUCE, GRNLF, CRN CUT, AZ, 10 LB	18.50	20.00
MESCLUN MIX, AZ/CA, 3 LBS	7.00	10.00
ONION, GREEN, LEEK, CA, BU	16.00	16.00
ONION, GREEN, LEEK, CA, 12S	24.00	24.00
PARSNIPS, MI, 20 LBS, M	22.00	22.00
RUTABAGAS, PEI/CD, M, 50 LB	20.00	20.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, CA, BNCH, 24	30.00	30.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

CABBAGE, 45 LB, CRT, M-L	33.00	33.00
CUKE, CTN, 25S	25.00	25.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	41.00	41.00
MESCLUN MIX, 3 LB, CRT	16.00	16.00
PEPPERS, RED, 11 LB, CRT	30.00	30.00
PEPPERS, YELLOW, 11 LB, CRT	30.00	30.00
PEPPERS, ORANGE, 11 LB, CRT	34.00	34.00
SPINACH, BABY, 4 LB, CRT	21.00	21.00
SQUASH, ACORN, BU, CRT, M	24.00	24.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, BU, CRT, M	25.00	25.00
SWEET POTATOES, 40 LB, CRT	40.00	40.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - December 17, 2018

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	n/a	n/a
61-75 lbs.	5.00	10.00
76-90 lbs.	12.00	15.00
91-105 lbs.	20.00	22.00
106 lbs. & up	25.00	30.00
Farm Calves	up to	110.00
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	110.00	155.00
Feeder Heifers	62.50	130.00
Beef Heifers	58.00	69.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	132.50
Beef Steers	62.00	65.00
Feeder Bulls	140.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	55.00	65.00
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	2@	40.00
Sheep each	60.00	140.00
Lambs each	75.00	210.00
Goats each	85.00	347.50
Kid Goats each	45.00	150.00
Canners	up to	50.50
Cutters	51.00	54.00
Utility Grade Cows	55.00	57.00
Rabbits each	1@	5.00
Chickens each	4.00	17.00
Ducks each	7.00	25.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. December 21.

ALFALFA/GRASS		
SUPREME	460.00	540.00
PREMIUM	390.00	460.00
GOOD	290.00	340.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	285.00	370.00
GOOD	190.00	290.00
FAIR	155.00	205.00
STRAW	265.00	285.00

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH COWS		
APPROVED	900.00	1250.00
MEDIUM	525.00	825.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):		
MEDIUM FEW	750.00	800.00
SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS):		
MEDIUM FEW	675.00	800.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME FEW	1000.00	1150.00
APPROVED	700.00	1000.00
MEDIUM	425.00	675.00
BRED AND SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED FEW	550.00	725.00
OPEN HEIFERS:		
50-300 lbs		
APPROVED FEW	85.00	210.00
MEDIUM FEW	25.00	50.00
300-600 lbs		
APPROVED	250.00	275.00
MEDIUM	175.00	175.00
600-900 lbs		
APPROVED	450.00	460.00
MEDIUM	200.00	325.00

(continued from Page 1)

For next season, Katie plans to expand the market garden and reach out to a vegetable CSA about offering a flower share.

Katie said their partnership with the Raymond Family Farm, made possible through Farmlink, has worked out really well. She would like to get back to farming full-time, but not necessarily on a farm of her own right now.

"I'm definitely open to partnerships, and this one has worked out really well," said Katie.

Katie said the cost of land and the transition of farms to the next generation make partnerships, like those forged through the Connecticut FarmLink Program, important to the continuation of agriculture in Connecticut.

"Family farms aren't always passed on to the next generation as farmland because a lot of people are opting out of farming. A lot of land is available in Connecticut, but it's very expensive here," said Katie. "So partnerships are one of the best ways for young farmers to get a start because the cost to buy land can be very high."



Jessica Glass with a blanket made of wool from the Raymond Family Farm produced through the Connecticut Sheep Breeders Association's Connecticut Blanket Project.

The Connecticut FarmLink Program, administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) with assistance from the Connecticut Farmland Trust, has been helping owners of farmland partner with farmers looking for land since the program began in 2006.

The program connects owners of farmland with people looking for farmland through a website. Farmers can post information about their land which is available for lease or sale. Farmland seekers can post information about the farmland they're looking for.

If a farmland seeker is interested in an online posting of available farmland they send an email asking for more information. The contact information of the farm owner and the farmland seeker is not made available to the public through the website.

The FarmLink website currently lists 28 farms for sale, 55 farms for lease, and has more than 300 farmland seekers.

Administrative support for the Connecticut FarmLink Program is funded through the 2005 Community Investment Act which provides funding for open space, farmland preservation, historic preservation and affordable housing.

Owners of farmland and farmland seekers interested in participating in the Connecticut FarmLink Program should visit www.ctfarmlink.org, email Lily at lirr@ctfarmland.org, or call 860-247-0202 ext. 227 for more information.

¹ Shearing Day: Sheep Handling, Wool Science, and Shearing With Blades, Kevin Ford, Feet on the Ground Press, 1999.

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

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WANTED

9-R. Used green house approximately 20 x 24 ft in good working condition. Please call 203-213-8833.

MISCELLANEOUS

10. The Connecticut Hop Growers' Association will hold its annual meeting and day of seminars on January 12, 2019 at J. DeFrancesco and Son in Northford, CT. There will be several fantastic seminars as well as a lunch/beer tasting and an all-grain brewing demonstration. Suggested donation to attend the lunch/demonstration is \$20 for CHGA members and \$25 for non-members. Please visit <https://cthopgrowers.org> for a full agenda of the Annual meeting and the seminars/lunch. Please RSVP to cthopgrowers@yahoo.com by Friday, January 4th if you will be attending.

2019 SERVSAFE SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is expected to adopt proposed regulations implementing the 2017 FDA Food Code soon.

One of the changes is a requirement that a person in charge (PIC) must be on site at all times and be a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) who has shown proficiency of required information through passing a test that is part of an accredited program. ServSafe Manager meets this requirement. The CFPM was formerly known as a Qualified Food Operator (QFO).

While legislation passed during the 2018 legislative session included the ability for a PIC to assign a non-certified alternate, the proposed regulations stipulate that a non-certified alternate may only be the PIC during non-peak hours with minimal food preparation.

The Connecticut Restaurant Association has announced their 2019 ServSafe schedule for training to become a CFPM. For more information go to www.ctrestaurant.org/servsafe.

**USDA-NRCS DISASTER ASSISTANCE
ANNOUNCED FOR PORTIONS OF CONNECTICUT**

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the availability of federal funding in response to severe rain and flooding that impacted parts of Connecticut in September 2018. Assistance will be available for Middlesex and New London Counties, including the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes.

On September 25, 2018, Connecticut was struck by an extremely heavy rainfall event that went largely un-forecasted. Severe flooding caused extensive damage across a wide area of southern and eastern Connecticut.

NRCS will be accepting requests for assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The program allows communities to quickly address serious and long-lasting damages to infrastructure and to the land. All projects must demonstrate that they reduce threats to life and property; be economically, environmentally, and socially sound; and must be designed to acceptable engineering standards.

The program also allows NRCS to establish non-traditional partnerships with sponsors to complete projects. A 30-day window allows for individuals and towns from the affected areas to contact Arthur Ramthun, the agency's state conservation engineer via email at arthur.ramthun@ct.usda.gov or 860-871-4030.

Inquiries must be made by January 14, 2019. Properties will be assessed and if they are qualified, will be submitted to national headquarters for consideration.

DOAG TO HOST FARM-TO-SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is hosting the Connecticut Farm-to-School Conference, "Wholesale Readiness and Culinary Trainings: Making Connections Across the Sectors."

Producers, food service professionals, and others interested in farm-to-school initiatives are invited for a full day of trainings, panel discussion, educational sessions, and networking.

The conference will be held Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Hartford Sheraton South, 100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill, CT.

To register as an attendee, or apply for an exhibit space visit www.cognitofrms.com/CTDepartmentOfAgriculture/_2019ConnecticutFarmtoSchoolConference.

The registration fee is \$40 per person which includes breakfast, lunch and all materials. For additional information regarding exhibiting, registration, and scholarships contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

Funding for this conference is provided by a Farm-to-School Grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service to train producers and food service professionals on farm-to-school practices.

This annual grant program provides funding to support the use of locally produced food in schools. This project has been funded in part with federal funds from USDA. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of USDA, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



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