

# Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
Ned Lamont, Governor  
Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner



Wednesday, July 31, 2019

## CONNECTICUT WOMEN LEAD THEIR FAMILY FARMS INTO THE FUTURE

By Jessica Mozo, Farm Flavor Media / Journal Communications Inc.

Jennifer Syme of Broad Brook probably doesn't look like the stereotypical image that comes to mind for the average consumer when they think of a farmer. But the 46-year-old wife and mother of two is the co-owner and operator of Syme Family Farm, a diverse business that grows and sells vegetable and herb plants, cut flowers, hanging baskets, mums, pumpkins, Christmas trees, wreaths and fresh eggs from their 100 laying hens. Her husband, Bill, works full time off the farm.

Syme is one of many Connecticut women who are leaders on the farm in various sectors of agriculture. Nationally speaking, one in three farm operators today is female.

"The farmer stereotype of an older man in overalls is slowly fading as the face of farming is changing," Syme says. "When I attend industry meetings and workshops, I see a mix of men and women. If you visit a farmers' market, you'll see lots of women involved in both plant and animal agriculture. It's a very exciting time for women in agriculture with lots of opportunities."

Syme's two daughters, Emily and Becca, are an integral part of the farm. Emily, 18, takes a lead role in the cut flower production, from seeding to harvesting and selling at markets. She also grows giant pumpkins to exhibit at local fairs through 4-H – her largest weighed 669 pounds – and she owns and raises her own dairy cattle. Emily shows her dairy cattle at the local, regional and national level.

"Becca is 15 and helps in all aspects of the farm, but her passion is beef cattle," Syme says. "She has a small herd and makes all the management, nutrition and breeding decisions for them. She also helps shear the thousands of Christmas trees we grow."

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in agriculture for the Symes is when customers purchase their plants, flowers or trees to bring into their own homes.

"Especially the Christmas trees – it is amazing to know that our farm is part of their family's Christmas memories and traditions," Syme says. "It is

very gratifying to see families up on our tree hill at Christmas-time making memories together. That's what makes working hard out in the scorching heat of August or the freezing temperatures of December all worthwhile."

In Woodstock, Erica Hermonot co-owns Fairholm Farm, a fourth-generation dairy operation, with her parents, Diane and Todd Morin, and her husband, Jon.

"One thing I've always been proud of is how our farm has been passed down from women to women," Hermonot says. "When my grandfather passed away at a young age, my grandmother took over along with my mother. The women in my family are strong – I come from good stock. Soon my father, Todd, joined the operation. We currently milk 400 cows, and we wholesale milk, shipping about 26,000 pounds per day."

Growing up on the dairy farm, Hermonot admits she didn't find agriculture appealing as a future career.

"Once I was in college, I moved far away so I wouldn't be called in to milk," she says. "I ended up in Wisconsin and quickly became friends with the agricultural community I had so much in common with. I realized dairy farming wasn't something I would just end up doing – it was what I was meant to do."

In addition to raising three young children – Mackenzie (5), Alexander (4) and Benjamin (18 months) – Hermonot works as the herdsman on the farm and is responsible for

milking and maintaining the overall health of the cattle. The farm recently invested in new technology by adding four robotic milking stations as well as activity collars, which are like Fitbits for cows that monitor each cow's daily activity and can let a farmer know if the cow is sick.

"We've worked hard to keep up with technology in order to have an appealing and sustainable business to pass on to the next generation, should they chose to do so," Hermonot says.

She enjoys watching the young calves grow and continue the farm's legacy.



Jennifer Syme is a wife, mother, and co-owner of Syme Family Farm in Broad Brook. Photo by Bob Handelman of Farm Flavor Media.

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**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	.49	.68
LARGE	.43	.57
MEDIUM	.33	.46

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.21	1.49
LARGE	1.05	1.39
MEDIUM	.77	.89
SMALL	.71	.79

**LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Choice 2-3	110.00	113.00
Select 2-3	103.00	109.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
Choice 2-3	102.00	105.00
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b> Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	64.00	69.50
boners 80-85% lean	60.00	65.50
lean 88-90% lean	54.00	60.00
<b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>		
No 1 100-105 lbs	85.00	100.00
No 2 90-95 lbs	65.00	85.00
No 2 100-105 lbs	70.00	85.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
80-88 lbs	215.00	220.00
91-98 lbs	185.00	220.00
100-149 lbs	154.00	210.00
Choice 1-2		
53-59 lbs	205.00	220.00
60-69 lbs	190.00	215.00
70-79 lbs	185.00	210.00
81-88 lbs	187.00	205.00
Choice 2-3		
90-98 lbs	175.00	190.00
100-148 lbs	154.00	185.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/ Est. weight</b>		
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
50-59 lbs	155.00	175.00
60-69 lbs	170.00	195.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
100-149 lbs	200.00	230.00
150-175 lbs	230.00	270.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
125-149 lbs	290.00	330.00
150-199 lbs	335.00	365.00

**FARMERS' MARKET AT THE HARTFORD REGIONAL MARKET**

Price Range. Per unit July 27, 2019

BASIL, 1 1/9, BNCH 12's	15.00	15.00
BEETS, 1 1/9, BNCH 12's	18.00	18.00
BOK CHOY, 1 1/9, BNCH 12's	18.00	18.00
CABBAGE, 1 1/9 BU	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, 1 1/9, BNCH 12's	18.00	18.00
CAULIFLOWER, 1 1/9 BU	15.00	15.00
CORN, BUTTER/SUGAR, 5 DZ	20.00	20.00
CUCUMBER, 1 1/9 BU	18.00	25.00
CUKES, PICKLING, 1/2 BU	15.00	20.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 BU	20.00	20.00
ONIONS, 1 1/9, BNCH 12's	15.00	15.00
RADISH, 1 1/9, BNCH 12's	12.00	12.00
ROMANESCO, 1 1/9 BU	15.00	15.00
SCALLIONS, 1 1/9, BNCH 12'S	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, GLDN ZUCC, 1/2 BU	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, PATTY PAN, 1/2 BU	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, #1, 1/2 BU	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, ZUCCCHINI, #1, 1/2 BU	15.00	15.00

**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, MAC, XFCY, 80	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88	31.00	32.00
APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	18.00	19.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 138	18.00	19.00
BEANS, GREEN, 1 BU	22.00	24.00
BEANS, WAX, 1 BU	32.00	32.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12-1 PT	32.00	33.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 50 LB	17.00	18.00
CABBAGE, RED, 50 LB, M/L	20.00	26.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, 1 7/8 BU	20.00	20.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	24.00	24.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	28.00	28.00
COLLARDS, 1 3/5 BU, 12S	13.00	16.00
CORN, BI-COLOR, 5 DZ	18.00	20.00
CUCUMBER, 1 1/9 BU, MED	20.00	22.00
CURRENTS, RED, 12- 1 PT	35.00	37.00
KALE, CTN, BNCH, 12'S	13.00	15.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 1 1/9 BU	60.00	60.00
PEAS, SUGAR SNAP, 10 LB	35.00	35.00
RADISHES, RED, BNCH 24S	13.00	14.00
RHUBARB, 20 LBS, CRT, L	34.00	35.00
SQUASH, BNUT, 1 1/9 BU, M	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, 1/2 BU, S	8.00	15.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU, S	14.00	19.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8- 1 QT	36.00	38.00
TOMS, GHS, 25 LB, M	25.00	25.00
TOMS, GHS, ON VINE, 11 LB	13.00	13.00

**SHIPPED IN**

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 64	31.00	31.00
APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 125	19.00	19.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NY, XFCY, 125	24.00	24.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, BNCH 12S	16.00	18.00
BEETS, GOLD, NJ, BNCH 12S	18.00	20.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU	25.00	26.00
CARROTS, CA, BNCH, 24S	22.00	24.00
CUKE, PICKLES, GA, 150-200	24.00	28.00
EGGPLANT, GA, 1 1/9 BU, MED	14.00	16.00
LETTUCE, GRN LF, CA, 24S	26.00	30.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, CA, 24S	24.00	28.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.50	8.00
PEACHES, YELLOW, GA, 1/2 BU #1	22.00	26.00
PEPPER, CUBANELLE, NJ 1 1/9 BU	20.00	23.00
PEPPER, JALAPENO, GA 1/2 BU	14.00	15.00
SWISS CHARD, MIXED, NJ, 12's	18.00	18.00

**BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC**

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, WA, XFCY, 80'S	35.00	35.00
BLUEBERRIES, CAN, 12-1 PT	27.00	27.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 45 LB CRT	26.00	26.00
CABBAGE, RED, 45 LB CRT	34.00	38.00
CARROTS, CA, 25 LB LOOSE	23.00	24.00
CUKE, LONG SEEDLESS, CRTN	14.00	16.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	25.00	25.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LB	9.50	10.00
RASPBERRIES, CA, 6-12 OZ	30.00	33.00
SQUASH, ZUC, 1/2 BU, S-M	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, YEL, 1/2 BU, S-M	20.00	20.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - July 29, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
<b>Bob Calves:</b>		
45-60 lbs.	5.00	8.00
61-75 lbs.	10.00	12.00
76-90 lbs.	15.00	20.00
91-105 lbs.	23.00	26.00
106 lbs. & up	27.50	30.00
Farm Calves	n/a	n/a
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	115.00	145.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	97.50
Beef Heifers	72.00	108.00
Feeder Steers	62.50	72.00
Beef Steers	72.00	79.00
Feeder Bulls	77.50	120.00
Beef Bulls	70.00	95.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	1@	130.00 by \$
Feeder Pigs each	22.50	50.00
Sheep each	55.00	220.00
Lambs each	85.00	310.00
Goats each	75.00	360.00
Kid Goats each	70.00	220.00
Canners	up to	64.50
Cutters	65.00	69.00
Utility Grade Cows	70.00	74.00
Rabbits each	6.00	22.00
Chickens each	5.00	21.00
Ducks each	6.00	25.00

**DAIRY CATTLE**

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

<b>FRESH/MILKING COWS</b>		
APPROVED	950.00	1400.00
MEDIUM	475.00	900.00
<b>SPRINGER HEIFERS:</b>		
APPROVED	900.00	1475.00
MEDIUM	500.00	875.00
<b>OPEN HEIFERS</b>		
APPROVED	650.00	710.00
MEDIUM	175.00	335.00
<b>BRED HEIFERS</b>		
APPROVED	700.00	1050.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT**

Price per ton, small squares. July 29, 2019

<b>ALFALFA/ GRASS</b>		
SUPREME	380.00	390.00
PREMIUM	320.00	355.00
<b>GRASS HAYS</b>		
PREMIUM	375.00	385.00
GOOD	290.00	335.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Per cwt.

<b>SLAUGHTER HOGS</b>		
<b>BARROWS AND GILTS</b>		
US 1-2 200-298 lbs	54.00	61.00
300-328 lbs	54.00	61.00
US 2-3 218-280 lbs	45.00	59.00
305-395 lbs	49.00	56.00
<b>SOWS</b>		
US 1-2 405-498 lbs	27.00	34.00
500-595 lbs	30.00	32.00

(continued from Page 1)

"There is an honesty to agriculture that I admire," Hermonot

says. "The famous Paul Harvey speech 'So God Made a Farmer' comes to mind. As farmers, we know there are always going to be challenges, from the weather to the price of our products sold, but there's also great pride that comes with what we do every day producing food for other people."



Erica Hermonot (right) and her husband, Jon, operate Fairholm Farm with Erica's parents. The dairy is a fourth-generation family farm. Photo by Mitch Wojnarowicz of Dairy Farmers of America.

If you visit Sankow's Beaver Brook Farm in Lyme, you'll likely find 81-year-old Suzanne Sankow interacting with her 600 sheep, making a fresh batch of sheep's milk cheese or crafting hand-spun wool into vests or socks that they sell in their on-site wool shop. Her husband, Stan, was born on the farm, but it was Suzanne who brought it back to life after Stan's father died in the 1980s.

"The farm has been in my husband's family since 1917," Sankow says. "When I came to live here, they weren't farming and the buildings needed work. As my children grew, I began to raise sheep. I wasn't raised on a farm, but I'm an avid reader, and I inhaled every article I could find about sheep. My husband has always given me a free hand at doing this."

The Sankows produce 2,000 pounds of wool each year, and in addition to vests and socks, they make blankets, hats, sweaters, scarves and yarn to sell. Stan isn't directly involved with raising the animals, but for the past couple of years, he has been making wool socks. The farm store is open daily and also offers fresh lamb meat, several varieties of cheese and prepared foods such as white bean chili and lamb curry stew. The weekend before Thanksgiving, Sankow's Beaver Brook Farm hosts a farm day with sheep shearing and spinning demonstrations, hayrides and free samples of their award-winning meats and cheeses.

Not having grown up on a farm, Sankow says she never came into agriculture with the preconceived idea that men run a farm.

"I didn't come here with the notion that Dad knows everything or my brother inherits the farm because he's a man," she says. "I was raised in a family of all girls, and my mom was a teacher who told us we could do anything."

Sankow recalls a conversation with a male customer who asked her how she knew she could make sheep's cheese.

"I said, 'I never thought I couldn't,'" she says. "If it turns out wrong, you read a book or make a phone call. What I have found is everything I need to know, I can find in a book."



Susan Sankow runs Beaver Brook Farm in Lyme. Photo Courtesy of Beaver Brook Farm.

This article originally appeared in the 2019 issue of Connecticut Grown Magazine available at <https://www.farmflavor.com/connecticut/connecticut-women-agriculture>.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### FOR SALE

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 Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

27-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039

### WANTED

6-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

44-R. Connecticut Greenhouse Company. Installation, maintenance and fabrication of greenhouses, cold frames and NRCS high tunnels. 12' to 30' wide by any length. Designed and manufactured in CT, a farmer owned and operated business. Maintenance parts, supplies and custom plastic. [www.ctgreenhouse.com](http://www.ctgreenhouse.com) or call Toby 203-654-1595

43. Wanted: retired mechanic needed for small orchard in Cheshire, CT. 2 gas tractors, 2 diesel tractors, and other equipment. Please call 203-213-8833

### SERVSAFE MANAGER CERTIFICATION

A ServSafe Manager Certification course will be offered by CLiCK on Saturday, August 3, 2019, 10:15 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The course will be held at 41 Club Road, Windham, CT.

The cost of the class is \$150 per person. If you are a Connecticut farmer the class is free courtesy of a Farm Viability Grant provided by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

For more information visit <https://clickwillimantic.com> or call 860-786-7907. To register email Rachel LaPorte at [rachael.clickwillimantic@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.clickwillimantic@gmail.com).

### UConn AGRICULTURE CERTIFICATE SURVEY

UConn Extension is developing agriculture certificates to enhance skill sets of farmers, farm employees, students, and others interested. We would like your input on which program certificates would be most useful to you. This survey should take approximately three minutes. Go to [https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0cAjhUkSSulEsvj](https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cAjhUkSSulEsvj) to compete the survey.

### HEALTHY SOILS WORKSHOP

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) will offer a Silvopasture & Agroforestry 101 workshop on Wednesday, August 14, 2019; 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Hidden Blossom Farm, 18 Old Barrows Road, Union, CT.

The workshop is part of Connecticut RC&D's Healthy Soils Initiative. In collaboration with partners, this workshop will focus on the basics of silvopasture and agroforestry. The day will include guest speakers, demonstrations, and field walks in rugged terrain. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Two CEU's from DEEP Forestry Division will be available for this event.

The registration fee is \$25 and lunch is included. For additional information and registration go to <https://ctrctd.org/silvopasture-agroforestry-workshop>. For more information, please contact Amanda at [ajohnson@ctrctd.org](mailto:ajohnson@ctrctd.org) or call 860.345.3977 x100.

## NRCS AMA APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 16, 2019

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering eligible producers another opportunity to sign-up for FY2019 program funding through the Agricultural Management Assistance Program. AMA is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers to address issues such as water management, water quality, erosion control, and extending the growing season through use of a high tunnel.

Eligible crop production includes – but is not limited to – field-grown ornamentals, fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards. Each eligible conservation practice has a Practice Payment Rate which is a fixed amount based on regional costs of a typical installation of that practice.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, to be eligible for FY2019 funding, applications must be received by your local NRCS office by August 16, 2019.

To find out more, fill out eligibility forms, or obtain an application, contact your local USDA Service Center: Danielson – (860) 779-0557; Hamden – (203) 287-8038; Norwich – (860) 887-3604; Torrington – (860) 626-8852; Windsor – (860) 688-7725.

## UConn VEGETABLE IPM FIELD WORKSHOP

UConn Extension is offering a Vegetable IPM Field Workshop on Tuesday, August 13, 2019; 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. The workshop will be held at the UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility located at 59 Agronomy Road, Storrs, CT.

Classroom and farm field sessions will cover IPM basics and new ecologically-based pest management tactics being tested.

There is no cost to attend this workshop but registration by Aug. 11 is required. For registration go to <http://s.uconn.edu/veggieworkshopregistration> or call 860-486-0572.

Dress appropriately for walking to fields and spending some time outdoors. For additional information call 860-486-0572 or email [ana.legrand@uconn.edu](mailto:ana.legrand@uconn.edu).

## DOAG LAUNCHES NEW PUBLIC WEBSITE

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) announces the migration of its public website to a new format, beginning Tuesday, July 30, 2019. Visitors will continue to be able to access the site using [www.ctgown.gov](http://www.ctgown.gov).

The all-new mobile-friendly, responsive design site allows CTGrown.gov to be accessed across multiple devices providing an optimal user experience for mobile, tablet, and desktop users. In addition to a new layout and additional features, CTGrown.gov aims to make programs and services more accessible to online visitors.

The new site has a modern look, with all of the content producers and consumers regularly seek, including: Ag Business Development and Assistance; Aquaculture; Regulatory Services; Animals and Animal Health; Hartford Regional Market; Farmland Preservation; Programs, Services & Grants; Licenses and Permits; and Where to Find CT Grown Products

For questions regarding CT DoAg web content, please contact Mark Hood, [Mark.Hood@ct.gov](mailto:Mark.Hood@ct.gov).

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

**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 [Crystal.Morris@ct.gov](mailto:Crystal.Morris@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2533.

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
[www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov)  
860-713-2500

Commissioner  
[bryan.hurlburt@ct.gov](mailto:bryan.hurlburt@ct.gov) Bryan P. Hurlburt  
860-713-2501

Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation  
[linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov](mailto:linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov) Linda Piotrowicz  
860-713-2503

Regional Market  
[linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov](mailto:linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov) Linda Piotrowicz  
860-566-3699

Regulatory Services  
[bruce.sherman@ct.gov](mailto:bruce.sherman@ct.gov) Dr. Bruce Sherman  
860-713-2504

State Veterinarian  
[mary.lis@ct.gov](mailto:mary.lis@ct.gov) Dr. Mary J. Lis  
860-713-2505

Aquaculture  
[david.carey@ct.gov](mailto:david.carey@ct.gov) David Carey  
203-874-2855

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