

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Ned Lamont, Governor
Melody A. Currey, Acting Commissioner



Wednesday, March 6, 2019

FUTURE OF POMFRET FARM SECURE THANKS IN PART TO STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

Carolyn Miller, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Back in 1924, when Russian immigrants Alexander and Stephanida Wolchesky purchased their 120-acre farm in Pomfret, Connecticut, it probably never occurred to them there would be a reason to protect it from development.

According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture Historical Archive, back then approximately 61% of the state's land surface was devoted to farming. However, construction, manufacturing, and industrial uses over the next few decades changed things, and by 1964 the number had dropped to about 23%. Today that number is even smaller at just under 14%.

Because of the constant decline in the state's agricultural land, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture created the Farmland Preservation Program in 1978.

Through the program, the state acquires development rights to agricultural properties, ensuring the land remains available only for agricultural use in perpetuity.

The main objective is to establish a food-and-fiber producing land resource base, consisting mainly of prime and important farmland soils, that will ensure local availability of fresh farm products, and help agriculture remain an important part of the state's economy.

This program works hand-in-hand with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, which provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Agricultural land easements protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses.

Land protected by these

easements provides additional public benefits including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat, and protection of open space.

The Wolchesky's maintained ownership of their beloved farm for the rest of their lives and following their deaths, the land was divided up among their children. Over time, several shares were passed down to grandchildren, until it was owned by 14 separate family members.

One of the Wolchesky's grandsons, John Jr., had been brought up on his dad's stories about how he and his siblings helped their father clear the land with little more than bow saws and horses.

The younger Wolchesky loved the farm and the stories that went with it. He hated the thought of it being fragmented – it was not what his grandparents would have wanted.

So, from 1977 to 2003, John Jr. talked about, planned, and discussed with his dad the idea of getting the entire farm back under one parcel. He reached out to kinfolk, who all agreed that something needed to be done. The land, once a

thriving farm under the watchful eyes of Alexander and Stephanida, was now overgrown and neglected.

John Sr. didn't think it could be done – but he was wrong. His son was able to negotiate with family members and in 2003, John Wolchesky, Jr. became the sole owner of every bit of the 120 acres his grandparents had worked so hard to acquire.

Even before he owned it, the younger Wolchesky knew if he was able to procure the property, he wasn't going to risk it becoming anything other than open agricultural land. And he



John Wolchesky Jr. partnered with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to preserve the 120-acre Wolchesky Farm.

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.93	1.10
LARGE	.87	1.01
MEDIUM	.74	.87

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.84	1.95
LARGE	1.76	1.89
MEDIUM	1.25	1.35
SMALL	.84	.94

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Choice/Prime 3-4	122.00	127.00
Choice 2-3	117.00	122.00
Select 2-3	107.00	114.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	119.00	125.00
Choice 2-3	114.00	118.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	54.50	61.00
boners 80-85% lean	52.00	59.50
lean 88-90% lean	46.00	52.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 94- 108 lbs	60.00	72.00
No 2 106- 118 lbs	62.00	77.00
No 2 98- 100 lbs	85.00	90.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	240.00	250.00
110-130 lbs	220.00	232.00
130-150 lbs	185.00	205.00
150-200 lbs	185.00	195.00
Choice 1-2		
60-70 lbs fancy	295.00	300.00
70-80 lbs	245.00	255.00
80-90 lbs	220.00	240.00
Choice 2-3		
90-100 lbs	215.00	245.00
100-130 lbs	180.00	220.00
130-150 lbs	165.00	175.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	95.00	130.00
120-160 lbs	85.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	85.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	140.00	180.00
60-80 lbs	185.00	225.00
80-100 lbs	220.00	240.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	190.00	225.00
130-200 lbs	220.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	230.00	270.00
150-250 lbs	285.00	355.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
52-56	200-300 lbs	52.00 60.00
	300-350 lbs	54.00 61.00
	350-400 lbs	62.00 69.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	45.00 51.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00 54.00
Sows, US 1-3		
	300-500 lbs	24.00 37.00
	550-700 lbs	31.00 36.00

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, 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, 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
POTATOES, RED, 50 LB, #1, SZ A	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, M-L	18.00	20.00
TOMS, GHS, 15LBS, CRTN S-M	10.00	10.00
TOMS, GHS, ONVINE, 11LBS, S-M	23.00	23.00
TOMS, GHS, CHERRY, 10 LB	30.00	30.00

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, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 80	36.00	36.00
APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 88	36.00	36.00
APPLE, GALA, FCY, 88	31.00	31.00
BRUSSEL SPROUTS, CA, 25 LB	38.00	44.00
CABBAGE, GRN, FL, 50 LB, M/L	18.00	22.00
CABBAGE, RED, FL, 50 LB, M/L	34.00	38.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	23.00	24.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, CD, GHS, CTN	11.00	13.00
KALE, GA, CTN, BNCH, 12	16.00	18.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, GHS, CD, 12-4OZ	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, AZ/CA, 24	28.00	30.00
LETTUCE, GRNLF, AZ, 24'S	28.00	30.00
MESCLUN MIX, AZ/CA, 3 LBS	6.50	8.00
MUSHROOM, SHITAKE, 3 LB CTN	12.00	12.00
ONION, YELLOW, NY, 24- 2 LB, M	16.00	17.00
ONION, RED GLOBE, NY, 20- 2 LB	20.00	20.00
PARSNIPS, MI, 20 LBS, M	22.00	23.00
POTATOES, RUSSETT, 50 LB, 70'S	20.00	23.00
SPINACH, FLAT, CA, BNCH, 24	25.00	28.00
SWEET POTATOE, NC, 40 LB CRT	20.00	20.00
TURNIP, PRPL TOP, 25 LB BAG	22.00	22.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

CABBAGE, 45 LB, CRT, M-L	33.00	33.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	37.00	37.00
MESCLUN MIX, 3 LB, CRT	9.50	9.50
ONION, YELLOW, 50 LB, M/L	28.00	28.00
PEPPERS, RED, 11 LB, CRT	24.00	24.00
PEPPERS, YELLOW, 11 LB, CRT	30.00	30.00
PEPPERS, ORANGE, 11 LB, CRT	30.00	30.00
POTATOES, RUSSETT, 50 LB, 70'S	30.00	30.00
POTATOES, RED, 50 LB, #1, SZ A	26.00	26.00
SPINACH, BABY, 4 LB, CRT	13.50	13.50
SQUASH, ACORN, BU, CRT, M	24.00	24.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, BU, CRT, M	28.00	28.00
SWEET POTATOES, 40 LB, CRT	36.00	36.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - March 4, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	5.00	20.00
61-75 lbs.	25.00	30.00
76-90 lbs.	35.00	40.00
91-105 lbs.	45.00	50.00
106 lbs. & up	55.00	57.50
Farm Calves	125.00	150.00
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	62.50	145.00
Feeder Heifers	60.00	100.00
Beef Heifers	63.00	92.50
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a
Beef Steers	n/a	n/a
Feeder Bulls	95.00	127.50
Beef Bulls	1@	67.50
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	45.00	50.00
Lambs each	90.00	120.00
Goats each	85.00	215.00
Kid Goats each	50.00	185.00
Canners	up to	61.00
Cutters	62.00	67.00
Utility Grade Cows	68.00	71.00
Rabbits each	15.00	25.00
Chickens each	13.00	36.00
Ducks each	n/a	n/a
Pigeons	n/a	n/a

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH COWS		
APPROVED	800.00	1225.00
MEDIUM	450.00	800.00
SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	500.00	700.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1175.00	1200.00
APPROVED	750.00	1075.00
MEDIUM	475.00	650.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	900.00	1125.00
APPROVED	600.00	875.00
OPEN HEIFERS:		
300-600 lbs		
APPROVED	225.00	375.00
MEDIUM	100.00	150.00
600-900 lbs		
APPROVED	400.00	460.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. March 1, 2019

ALFALFA/GRASS		
SUPREME	375.00	380.00
GOOD	350.00	325.00
FAIR	175.00	240.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	340.00	370.00
GOOD	250.00	320.00
FAIR	175.00	250.00
STRAW	295.00	350.00

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knew the solution to that was through an easement.

He contacted the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAg) and talked about the what/if's and the if/when's.

Over the next several years, his life changed. He retired from his full-time job and began working to fix the things that had fallen into disrepair. And, he got the wheels moving for a conservation easement for the property.

Wolchesky worked with NRCS and DOAg to secure protection of his family legacy. The land where his grandparents raised their family, where his father grew up – where he feels such a close connection. In December 2018, the easement became official.



Photo of Alexander Wolchesky taken approximately 1938.



John Wolchesky Jr. in front of the Wolchesky Farm dairy barn built on the foundation of the original barn, which burned down in a fire in 1955.

Today, John Wolchesky grows vegetables and hay on the land he knows can never be developed. He dreams of someday growing hops and maybe starting a small brewery.



Alexander (left) and Stephanida (right) Wolchesky with her sister (center) in front of the original farm house built in 1924.

And he likes to think that his grandparents would be proud of all he has done to restore the farm that means as much to him as it did to them.

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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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.

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18-R. Work and Live in an Organic Farm-Centered Co-housing Neighborhood. New energy efficient neighborhood in Bethany. www.rockycorner.org

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.

BLUE RIBBON FORUM & 4H SHEEP PROGRAM

The Connecticut Sheep Breeders Association will hold a Blue Ribbon Forum and 4H Sheep Program on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, 1380 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT.

The Blue Ribbon Forum will include a presentation regarding maternal nutrition and raising healthy lambs, a wool quality workshop, and discussions for wool and meat producers.

The 4H Program will include sheep fitting for meat and wool breeds, halter making, sheep judging, selection and oral reasons, showmanship, and quiz bowl.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at no cost. For more information go to <http://www.ctsheep.org>.

FARM ENERGY WORKSHOP

The Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area (CT RC&D) will host a Farm Energy Workshop Monday, March 11, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Bishop's Orchards, 1355 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT.

The workshop will provide information regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and incentives eligible to farmers in Connecticut. Information from Energize Connecticut, Litchfield Geothermal, the Connecticut Farm Energy Program, and Independence Solar will be provided.

A round table discussion about agriculture in the South Central Region of Connecticut will be held before the workshop from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The event is free and pizza will be offered. Please register for the workshop by March 8, 2019 by contacting Amanda Johnson at 860-345-3977 or ajohnson@ctrctd.org.

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) invites agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities to register for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the North Lobby and Hall of Flags at the Capitol in Hartford, CT. The snow date is March 21, 2019.

For more information about Ag Day at the Capitol go to: <http://ctaginfocouncil.org/index.html>.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is seeking applications for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Projects cannot begin until after January 1, 2020, and must be completed by March 1, 2022. The maximum award is \$100,000.

Eligible applicants include universities and colleges, municipalities, registered nonprofits, state agencies, and Council of Governments.

A training workshop on how to write and submit an application for the program will be held on March 22, 2019 from

1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT. RSVP's are required no later than March 19 to Jaime Smith, Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

More info and complete application guidelines and forms are available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants, or by contacting Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 or jaime.smith@ct.gov.

Applications are due to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture by 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 2019.

DOAG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS' MARKET AT THE REGIONAL MARKET

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the Farmers' Market at the Regional Market. The 2019 farmers' market season runs from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Stall use agreements are available for periods of three months up to one year.

Applications and information can be found on DoAg's website at https://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/regional_market/2018/Farmers_Market_Application_2019.pdf. For more information or questions, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or Erin.Windham@ct.gov.

TRUCK SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

The Hartford County Farm Bureau will hold a truck safety and compliance educational program for the agricultural industry on Saturday, March 16, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Nutrien Ag Solutions, 15 Chamberlain Road, Broad Brook, CT. The program is free but registration is required by March 8, 2019. To register call 860 768-1100 or email joann@cfba.org.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
www.CTGrown.gov
860-713-2500

Acting Commissioner Melody A. Currey

Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation Linda Piotrowicz
860-713-2503
linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov

Regional Market Linda Piotrowicz
linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov 860-566-3699

Regulatory Services Dr. Bruce Sherman
bruce.sherman@ct.gov 860-713-2504

State Veterinarian Dr. Mary J. Lis
mary.lis@ct.gov 860-713-2505

Aquaculture David Carey
david.carey@ct.gov 203-874-2855

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