

Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, May 8, 2019

REACHING NEW HORIZONS

By Dawn Pindell, USDA Farm Service Agency

Jeffrey, Louis, and Jacob Lipton are owners and operators of Pleasant View Farms in Somers, Connecticut. The farm has been in the Lipton family since 1918. Originally a dairy, the farm has transitioned into growing 600 acres of small grains and 650 acres of hay.



Photo courtesy of Dawn Pindell, USDA Farm Service Agency.

FILLING A NEED

When a local grain mill went out of business a few years ago, livestock producers approached the Liptons to purchase local feed. At the time, the family was selling small amounts of bulk and bagged feed. To meet the needs of the local agriculture community, they decided to expand their sales by adding improved storage and handling facilities.

Jeffrey reached out to his local USDA Farm Service Agency office and was able to purchase a scale and grain vacuum through the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. This program provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade facilities to store eligible commodities.

"The scale of Connecticut agriculture may not be as large as other parts of the country, but the diversity is here," said Jeffrey. "My sons and I enjoy being farmers and we get satisfaction from being able to grow, produce, and provide quality feed for our local farmers."

Modifying the operation to reflect Connecticut's changing agriculture industry is important to the Liptons.

"In the past few months adding automated processing has

saved us labor and time," said Louis. "This lets us sell grain at competitive prices to farmers who want to buy local feed. We can process custom mixes in as small as one-ton batches."

INTO THE FUTURE

As the fourth generation on the farm, Louis and Jacob plan to keep growing their customer base beyond Connecticut.

"I feel we help smaller-scale farmers grow because our feed is easily accessible and customized to meet their animal needs," said Jacob.

Pleasant View Farms provides feed to almost 700 farms, which includes feed purchased on the farm and bulk loads delivered to customers. Their goal is to increase their feed sales by 20 percent each year.

While farming occupies most of their time, the Liptons find the time to connect with their peers and represent their industry. Louis and Jacob are currently members of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee and host an annual summer cookout at Pleasant View Farms.

"We are so busy farming that it is hard to take time away from the farm, but we recognize the importance of staying involved," said Louis.



Photo courtesy of USDA Farm Service Agency.

MORE INFORMATION

USDA offers a variety of risk management, disaster assistance, loan, and conservation programs to help agricultural producers in the United States weather ups and downs in the market and recover from natural disasters as well as invest in improvements to their operations.

For more information about USDA programs and to find your local service center, visit farmers.gov.

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

| | | |
|------------|-----|-----|
| XTRA LARGE | .53 | .69 |
| LARGE | .47 | .61 |
| MEDIUM | .46 | .59 |

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

| | | |
|------------|------|------|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.13 | 1.59 |
| LARGE | 1.00 | 1.49 |
| MEDIUM | .89 | .99 |
| SMALL | .72 | .82 |

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| SLAUGHTER STEERS | | |
| PRIME 3-4 | 119.50 | 124.00 |
| Choice 2-3 | 113.00 | 118.50 |
| Select 2-3 | 111.00 | 112.00 |
| SLAUGHTER HEIFERS | | |
| PRIME 3-4 | 116.00 | 122.00 |
| Choice 2-3 | 112.00 | 116.00 |
| Select 2-3 | 106.00 | 111.00 |
| SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing | | |
| breakers 75-80% lean | 53.00 | 58.50 |
| boners 80-85% lean | 54.00 | 58.50 |
| lean 88-90% lean | 46.00 | 51.50 |
| CALVES - Graded bull | | |
| No 1 100-118 lbs | 120.00 | 130.00 |
| No 2 80-128 lbs | 110.00 | 130.00 |
| SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn | | |
| Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3 | | |
| 70-80 lbs | 217.00 | 255.00 |
| 80-90 lbs | 217.00 | 245.00 |
| 110-130 lbs | 205.00 | 235.00 |
| 130-150 lbs | 180.00 | 210.00 |
| Choice 1-2 | | |
| 40-50 lbs | 210.00 | 245.00 |
| 60-70 lbs | 195.00 | 220.00 |
| 70-80 lbs | 190.00 | 215.00 |
| 80-90 lbs | 190.00 | 215.00 |
| Choice 2-3 | | |
| 90-100 lbs | 185.00 | 200.00 |
| 110-130 lbs | 160.00 | 190.00 |
| 130-150 lbs | 150.00 | 177.00 |
| SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3 | | |
| 120-160 lbs | 70.00 | 90.00 |
| 160-200 lbs | 60.00 | 90.00 |
| 200-300 lbs | 50.00 | 70.00 |
| SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1 | | |
| 40-60 lbs | 160.00 | 192.00 |
| 60-80 lbs | 180.00 | 225.00 |
| 80-100 lbs | 220.00 | 240.00 |
| SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1 | | |
| 80-130 lbs | 165.00 | 205.00 |
| 130-180 lbs | 210.00 | 245.00 |
| SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1 | | |
| 100-150 lbs | 255.00 | 310.00 |
| 150-250 lbs | 290.00 | 365.00 |

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| SLAUGHTER HOGS | | |
| 52-56 | 200-300 lbs | 54.00 61.00 |
| | 300-350 lbs | 56.00 64.00 |
| 48-52 | 200-300 lbs | 47.00 56.00 |
| | 300-350 lbs | 48.00 57.00 |
| Sows, US 1-3 | | |
| | 300-500 lbs | 42.00 53.00 |
| | 500-800 lbs | 35.00 50.00 |

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, MAC, XFCY, 100 | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, 125, #1 | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| APPLE, MAC, 138, #1 | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 100 | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| 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 | 22.00 | 22.00 |
| CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON | 27.00 | 27.00 |
| PARSNIPS, 20 LB, LSE | 30.00 | 32.00 |
| SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, M-L | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| TOMS, GHS, 25 LB, S-M | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| TOMS, GHS, CHERRY, 10 LB | 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 | 29.00 |
| APPLE, GLD DEL, PA, XFCY, 125 | 29.00 | 29.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 80 | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| APPLE, FUJI, PA, XFCY, 88 | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| APPLE, GALA, NY, XFCY, 88 | 31.00 | 31.00 |
| ASPARAGUS, NJ, 28 LB, BNCH, L | 65.00 | 65.00 |
| BROCCOLI, CTN, CA, 14'S | 24.00 | 26.00 |
| CABBAGE, GRN, FL, 50 LB | 13.00 | 66.00 |
| CABBAGE, RED, FL, 50 LB, M/L | 23.00 | 26.00 |
| CABBAGE, SAVOY, FL, 40 LB, M/L | 18.00 | 23.00 |
| CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24 | 22.00 | 24.00 |
| CAULIFLOWER, CA, 12's | 48.00 | 54.00 |
| CUKE, LNG SDLS, CD, GHS, CTN | 7.00 | 8.00 |
| DANDELION GREENS, NJ 1/2 BU | 18.00 | 20.00 |
| KALE, GA, CTN, 12'S | 13.00 | 16.00 |
| LETTUCE, BOSTON, NJ, 24S | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| LETTUCE, RDLF, NJ, 24S | 21.00 | 22.00 |
| LETTUCE, GRNLF, NJ, 24S | 21.00 | 22.00 |
| MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LBS | 6.50 | 8.00 |
| MUSHROOM, SHITAKE, PA, 3 LB | 14.00 | 16.00 |
| ONION, GREEN LEEK, CA, 12S | 20.00 | 24.00 |
| RADISHES, NJ, CRT, BNCH, 24S | 14.00 | 15.00 |
| SPINACH, SAV, NJ, 1.3 BU, LSE | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, FL, 1/2 BU, S | 10.00 | 14.00 |
| SQUASH, YELLOW, FL, 1/2 BU, S | 18.00 | 20.00 |
| SWEET POTATOES, NC, 40 LB | 27.00 | 30.00 |
| SWISS CHARD, RED, CA, 24's | 18.00 | 18.00 |

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| CABBAGE, GRN, 45 LB CRT | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| CABBAGE, RED, 45 LB CRT | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| CUKE, LNG SDLS, CD, GHS, CTN | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| MESCLUN MIX, 3 LB, CRT | 9.50 | 10.00 |
| PEPPERS, RED, 11 LB, CRT | 32.00 | 32.00 |
| PEPPERS, YELLOW, 11 LB, CRT | 32.00 | 32.00 |
| PEPPERS, ORANGE, 11 LB, CRT | 32.00 | 32.00 |
| SPINACH, FLAT, 4 LB, CRT | 13.50 | 13.50 |
| SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, 1/2 BU, S-M | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU, S-M | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| SWEET POTATOES, 40 LB, CRT | 40.00 | 40.00 |

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - May 6, 2019

| | LOW | HIGH |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Bob Calves: | | |
| 45-60 lbs. | 10.00 | 15.00 |
| 61-75 lbs. | 40.00 | 55.00 |
| 76-90 lbs. | 60.00 | 70.00 |
| 91-105 lbs. | 75.00 | 80.00 |
| 106 lbs. & up | 105.00 | 110.00 |
| Farm Calves | 180.00 | 220.00 |
| Starter Calves | n/a | n/a |
| Veal Calves | 110.00 | 140.00 |
| Feeder Heifers | 65.00 | 95.00 |
| Beef Heifers | 60.00 | 81.00 |
| Feeder Steers | 80.00 | 122.50 |
| Beef Steers | 65.00 | 71.50 |
| Feeder Bulls | 80.00 | 110.00 |
| Beef Bulls | 70.00 | 86.00 |
| Replacement Cows | n/a | n/a |
| Replacement Heifers | n/a | n/a |
| Boars | n/a | n/a |
| Sows | 1@ | .38/lb |
| Butcher Hogs | 1@ | .45/lb |
| Feeder Pigs each | 4@ | 80.00 |
| Sheep each | 80.00 | 185.00 |
| Lambs each | 75.00 | 250.00 |
| Goats each | 205.00 | 355.00 |
| Kid Goats each | 45.00 | 220.00 |
| Canners | up to | 61.00 |
| Cutters | 62.00 | 66.00 |
| Utility Grade Cows | 67.00 | 71.00 |
| Rabbits each | 7.00 | 21.00 |
| Chickens each | 5.00 | 25.00 |
| Ducks each | 4.00 | 26.00 |
| Turkeys each | 6.00 | 35.00 |

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| FRESH COWS | | |
| SUPREME | 1350.00 | 1500.00 |
| APPROVED | 900.00 | 1300.00 |
| MEDIUM | 550.00 | 900.00 |
| SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS): | | |
| SUPREME | 1150.00 | 1250.00 |
| APPROVED | 675.00 | 1075.00 |
| MEDIUM | 450.00 | 700.00 |
| BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS): | | |
| SUPREME | 1050.00 | 1050.00 |
| APPROVED | 600.00 | 1025.00 |
| MEDIUM | 500.00 | 525.00 |
| SHORT BRED HEIFERS | | |
| APPROVED | 575.00 | 825.00 |
| MEDIUM | 275.00 | 575.00 |
| OPEN HEIFERS: | | |
| 300-600 lbs | | |
| APPROVED | 275.00 | 535.00 |
| MEDIUM | 175.00 | 325.00 |
| 600-900 lbs | | |
| APPROVED | 400.00 | 610.00 |

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. May 3, 2019

| | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| ALFALFA/GRASS | | |
| PREMIUM | 330.00 | 410.00 |
| GOOD | 255.00 | 300.00 |
| FAIR | 170.00 | 230.00 |
| GRASS HAYS | | |
| PREMIUM | 350.00 | 370.00 |
| GOOD | 220.00 | 305.00 |
| FAIR | 150.00 | 240.00 |
| STRAW | 300.00 | 330.00 |

NRCS EQIP/AMA APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 17, 2019

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from agricultural producers for financial assistance to improve farm conservation operations.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for those engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production – including organics. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

It also provides payments for implementing practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long-term production and sustainability. Eligible crop production includes, but is not limited to, field-grown ornamentals, fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards.

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.

Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, they are holding a second batching date for current year funding. To be eligible, you must ensure your application is submitted to your local NRCS office by May 17, 2019.

Visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/programs/financial/> for more information. NRCS staff will need to complete an assessment of resource conditions and practice feasibility prior to making a determination of program eligibility.

To find out more 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.

NRCS CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Connecticut, has announced the availability of funds for competitive grants through the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program.

The program aims to spark the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers and other landowners.

CIG is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are used to award competitive grants to non-federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals.

CIG enables NRCS to work with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the state's most pressing natural resource concerns.

Projects may include on-farm pilot projects and field demonstrations and are funded to accelerate the transfer and adoption of promising technologies to landowners to address critical natural resource concerns.

Projects must involve EQIP-eligible agricultural producers or landowners, and at least 50% of the total cost must come from non-federal matching funds, including in-kind contributions.

Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on June 14, 2019. For more information go to <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/programs/financial/cig>.

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 Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

26-R. First cutting round bales. Wrapped and unwrapped. Delivery available upon request. 203-264-2217

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

AG JOB CONNECTION

31-R. Hop yard in Morris looks for part-time help, people who enjoy back-breaking labor, repetition and sweat. Work includes training, pruning, weeding, maintenance. Hourly pay. Available for two-plus weekdays per week? Contact allyrh@ct-hops.com

NRCS CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Are you an agricultural producer wanting to continue to farm but use less resources and have less of an effect on the land? Why not consider applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)?

Through CSP, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps private landowners build their business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of their entire operation.

While applications for CSP are accepted year-round, to be considered for FY2019 funds they must be received by May 10.

Through the program, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities such as cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rates, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

Some of these benefits of CSP include increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife population improvements, and better resilience to weather extremes.

Interested? Find out if you're qualified for CSP by contacting your local USDA service center or visiting the Get Started portion of the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/home/?cid=stelprdb1252233>.

FORMER COMMISSIONER GRESCZYK MEMORIAL

The Honorable Bruce H. Gresczyk, 63, passed away on May 1, 2019 surrounded by his family. He was the loving husband of Bernadette (Barcomb) Gresczyk for 38 years. Born November 6, 1955 in New Britain; the son of the late Henry and Adeline (Weber) Grzesczyk.

Following high school he served as a police officer in Southington until his passion for agriculture consumed him and he started a dairy farm on rented land in Harwinton in 1979. In 1984, he purchased the land where Gresczyk Farms continues on today.

He served as First Selectman for New Hartford from 1992 – 1998. He then served the Connecticut Department of Agriculture as Deputy Commissioner from 1999-2002 and as Commissioner from 2002-05. He loved history, politics, food, and conversation.

In addition to his wife, he leaves sons, Bruce Gresczyk, Jr., and his wife Amy of Torrington and Henry Gresczyk of New Hartford; two beloved grandchildren, Bruce Gresczyk, III and Adeline Gresczyk, both of Torrington; and many friends.

Friends may call on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at Montano-Shea Funeral Home, 5 Steele Road, New Hartford from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the funeral home in New Hartford at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be private at Village Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Disabled American Veterans, 191 Riverside Avenue, Bristol, CT 06010. Visit an online guestbook at montano-shea.com.

GREENHOUSE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL CONFERENCE

Growers of greenhouse crops are invited to learn more about planning and forecasting for success with biological controls, proper identification of aphids and thrips, biological controls at DS Cole, supplemental food and their applications, and grower case studies.

The conference will be held June 19, 2019 at the Jones Auditorium at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington St, New Haven, CT. Five pesticide recertification credits available.

The registration fee is \$25 and includes handouts, refreshment, and lunch. The registration deadline is June 14, 2019. To register contact Leanne Pundt at 860-626-6855 or leanne.pundt@uconn.edu. For more information go to http://ipm.uconn.edu/pa_greenhouse.

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.



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 or call 860-713-2533.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.

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

Commissioner
bryan.hurlburt@ct.gov Bryan P. Hurlburt
860-713-2501

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

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

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

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

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

**VOL. XCIX
No. 19
May 8, 2019**