# C O N N E C T I C U T W E E K L Y



M. Jodi Rell, Governor F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503 Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor Wednesday, November 11, 2009

## **NOTES from the DEPARTMENT** . .

### DEPARTMENT'S RESCUED HORSES CONSIGNED TO UCONN SALE

Bruce A. Sherman, DVM, MPH

Director, Bureau of Regulation and Inspection

The Department of Agriculture has announced a special fall sale of rescued horses on Saturday, November 21st, hosted by the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Animal Science Department. The special auction will be held at the Horse Barn Hill Arena. The sale consists of fourteen miniature horses (3 stallions, 9 mares and 2 weanling colts), six Quarter Horses (a gelding and 5 mares), one Arabian mare, one Morab mare and four goats. In addition, up to six UConn horses will be auctioned. Two Quarter horses and one Thoroughbred-cross will be available for adoption from the Department. The sale preview will begin at 10:00AM and the auction at 1:00PM.

The Auction will be held by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the benefit of the Equine Science Program in the Department of Animal Science. Funds raised by the sale of the Department of Agriculture's horses go into the Animal Abuse Cost Recovery Account to help offset the expenses incurred in rehabilitation of the horses and other livestock. Expenses usually exceed income in this account, so donations are always gratefully accepted.

The rescued and rehabilitated animals that the Department is offering at the UConn Auction have been cared for at the Department's large animal rescue barn located at the Gates Correctional Facility in Niantic, CT. The rescue barn was built in 2003 and is a cooperative effort of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Corrections. The animals, all of which have been seized as a result of evidence of animal cruelty and neglect, are cared for daily by Department of Agriculture staff and residents at the Gates Correctional facility. Approximately 125 horses have been rehabilitated at this facility since its opening. The Animal Science Department of UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been an important partner in finding good homes for the rehabilitated animals. The staff and students have taken a genuine interest in the animals as shown by their cooperation and dedication at each sale that has been held since 2003.

The animals offered for sale have been at the rescue barn for some time and are completely rehabilitated back to a healthy condition. All will have current Health Certificates, negative Coggins tests and have recently been fully vaccinated. All records will be available to interested parties. Although all of the animals are healthy, three are not sound and these will be shown to the viewing attendees as horses for adoption in need of good homes. For more information regarding the Department's animals contact Linda Wenner, State Animal Control Officer, at (860) 713-2506 or visit the auction website at www.ct.gov/doag. On this website you will find information and photos on all of the rescued animals and UConn horses.

## PRODUCTION OF DAIRY GOAT MILK FOR SALE

Saturday, November 21, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lunch \$10 per person, Students free RSVP to 860-774-9600 by Nov 13 TOLLAND AG CENTER, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT By Cooperative Extension System & CT Central Co-operative

#### ACREAGE REPORTS NEEDED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) may not be aware that all 2008 crops were required to be reported, in all counties, in which they have an interest to meet the requirements of the program. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acreage reports. "However, evidence of existence or disposition, must be provided," stated Marsha Jetté, State Executive Director.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

 $\hfill\square$  producers must report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest

□ late-filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required

□ if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall not be changed.

The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

SURE will be available to farmers who have had 10% or greater losses in production and have Crop Insurance, NAP Coverage or Buy In Coverage for the applicable years of loss. The SURE program provides assistance in addition to Crop Insurance or NAP Coverage.

More details on the 2008 SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A. November 9, 2009 Prices To Retailers, Sales To Volume Buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, White Eggs In Cartons, Warehouse, Cents Per Dozen EXTRA LARGE 114-118 LARGE 112-116 MEDIUM 93-99 MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION Middlefield, CT, November 9, 2009 Live animals brought the following average prices per cwt .: Bob Calves: Low High 45-60 lbs. 18.00 25.00 61-75 lbs. 26.00 28.00 76-90 lbs. 30.00 32.00 91-105 lbs. 35.00 37.50 106 lbs. & up 40.00 44.00 85.00 Farm Calves 47.50 Started Calves 32.00 42.00 87.50 50.00 Veal Calves 55.00 105.00 **Open Heifers Beef Heifers** 40.00 57.50 **Feeder Steers** 45.00 70.00 **Beef Steers** 62.50 75.00 Stock Bulls 70.00 100.00 **Beef Bulls** 41.50 55.00 1@ 17.00 Boars 10.00 22.00 Sows Hogs, Barrows and Gilts 20.00 36.00 30.00 Feeder Pigs each 40.00 Sheep each 75.00 120.00 Lambs each 65.00 180.00 Goats each 115.00 135.00 Kid Goats each 100.00 130.00 Canners 39.50 Up to Cutters 40.00 45.00 Utility Grade Cows 44.00 47.00 Rabbits each 5.00 10.00 Chickens each 3.00 22.00 Ducks each 4.00 20.00 Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction. **NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION** MONDAY, November 9, 2009 Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing SLAUGHTER COWS: 75-80% lean Breakers 41.00-46.00 ------39.00-40.00 80-85% lean **Boners** 40.00-42.00 -----37.00-38.50 Lean 85-90% lean 36.50-39.50 40.00-41.25 33.00-36.00 SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1 57.00-62.00 1015-1520 lbs 1625-2300 lbs 51.00-54.50 SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3 40-50 lbs 132.00-147.00 50-60 lbs 133.00-144.00 60-70 lbs 124.00-136.00 122.00-134.00 70-80 lbs 80-90 lbs 114.00-130.00 90-110 lbs 106.00-115.00 110-130 lbs 102.00-116.00 130-150 lbs 94.00-112.00 Sows: US 1-3 300-500 lbs SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Medium Flesh Boars: 120-160 lbs 44.00-57.00

## FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

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## **ADVERTISEMENTS**

#### FOR SALE

1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com.. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www. hobbyfarmusa.com., Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

3-R. CT Grown Mesh Bags - The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has CT Grown Mesh Bags for sale. These bags are super strong and exceptionally attractive. The dimensions are 16" I x 5" w x 12" h. They are being sold by the case (40 per case) for \$156.16. For more information or to order, please call (860)713-2503.

4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence (860) 491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm (860) 376-2227.

76-R. Rough Sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing. 203-788-2430.

99-R. Battery powered price computing scales with state compliance, battery powered cash registers, 60-pound pumpkin scale \$348. Call for more information at 1-800-403-5919.

116-R. Hay for sale – off meadow in Lebanon. Round bales \$45. Call 860-886-0716 for more information.

173-R. Christmas greens, balsam wreaths, several varieties of roping, kissing balls. Samples gladly shown. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

188. Registered polled Hereford bred cow-calf combinations, feeder steers and heifers, 3 year old registered Hereford bull with low birth weight and high intramuscular fat. Grand View Farm (860) 485-5720. lucasles-lie40@hotmail.com.

194-R. Registered yearling Hereford bulls for sale, halter broke, performance bred. Old Beech Farm 860-693-2052.

196-R. First cut 4x5 round bales \$40 p.u. First cut square bales \$4.50. Call 203-265-4588.

199-R. 1466 International \$14,500. Parts International tractor 3588 2+2. Fiat Allis 16B bulldozers. Bandit chipper - \$6,000. 860-274-8162.

200-R. Millcreek 35 bushel manure spreader with a rubberized floor, a new apron, also a spreader that can be used with a garden tractor. Phone 860-354-4659. Leave message.

#### WANTED

198. Brillion seeder 9' wide, scraper blade 3 pt hitch 8' wide. Call for information at 203-272-6540.

201-R. Several all wooden cattle stanchions wanted. Adult cow size. Must be serviceable. Call 860-434-2888.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

#### WHY ORGANIC?

Meet Bill Duesing, past President and current Executive director of NOFA (New England Organic Farming Association) as he reads from his book, Living on the Earth, and discusses why organic matters. Enjoy fall harvest desserts and organic cider and coffees, learn about the food you eat and

the earth you share, while you help to benefit NOFA. When: Tuesday, November 17, Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Where: Claire's Corner Copia 1000 Chapel Street, at College Street, New Haven, CT. 06510 Telephone: 203-562-3888

#### Cost: \$10.00

Please telephone NOFA at Claire's Corner Copia to reserve your seat, or you can register at the door on the night of the event.

#### PRODUCING QUALITY MAPLE SYRUP

Want to try your hand at making maple syrup? Then sign up for a 3-part course on becoming a maple sugar maker at the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center. This soup-to-nuts course will include a written manual and cover such topics as the health and management of maple trees, tapping, collecting & storing sap, and making and packaging syrup, with an emphasis on quality control throughout the process. Whether you want to make a few gallons or run a commercial operation, this course will provide the fundamentals essential to making a good, consistent and delicious product.

The course will be held at the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton, CT on December 2,9 & 12, 2009. Pre-registration is required. Registration fee for the 3-part course is \$40 and covers refreshments and handout/reference materials, including a copy of the North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual. Register online at www. ctwoodlands.org

#### COURSE OUTLINE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7:00-9:15 P.M.

(Snow Date December 3)

- Introduction, history of maple production
- Planning your operation: time & cost considerations, purchasing equipment
- Tree health and management: species to tap, tree health issues, managing forest trees vs. roadside trees
- Why, when and how sap flows
- The tapping process

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 7:00-9:15 P.M. (Snow Date December 10)

- •□ Collection & storage of sap
- Types of collection systems
- Tubing materials, layout, maintenance & cleaning
- Filtering and handling to maintain quality
- □ Syrup production
- Evaporator function, design, operation
- Finishing standard density syrup
- Filtering, grading, packaging
- Marketing your products

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 9:00-11:30 A.M.

#### (Snow Date December 19)

 Field session: visit to a managed sugarbush and sugarhouse, review all of the above.

For more information, contact Steve Broderick, Forester & Program Director, Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 860-455-9534, sbroderick@ctwoodlands.org or Mark Harran, President, Maple Syrup Producers Association of CT, 860-567-3805, jmharran@aol.com

COURSE INSTRUCTORS: Steve Broderick, Forester and Program Director at the Goodwin Center, will be the primary instructor. Broderick is a life member of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of CT and has made syrup himself, for nearly 30 years. He will be joined by veteran maple syrup producing members of the MSPAC.

#### RESEARCH ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY MAY HELP FIGHT EPIDEMIC

More than 16 percent of children and adolescents in the United States are overweight–a doubling of the estimated incidence of overweight among children and a tripling of the rate among adolescents in the past two decades. But scientists funded by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and based at the ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston, Texas, are fighting back.

The researchers' investigations may lead to new, cost-effective strategies to help America's kids make healthier food choices, manage their weight, and set and achieve fitness goals.

Among these researchers is Jason A. Mendoza, a pediatrician and assistant professor of pediatrics at BCM. In one early investigation, reported in 2008,

#### MORE CHILDHOOD OBESITY ON PAGE 4

#### MORE CHILDHOOD OBESITY FROM PAGE 3

Mendoza, study leader and economist Sharon I. O' Donnell and colleagues scrutinized the nutritional quality of kid-oriented "combo" meals offered at 10 well-known regional or national fast-food restaurant chains in Houston.

According to the scientists, only 3 percent of the kids' meals met seven key standards set by the National School Lunch Program for meals intended for children in kindergarten through third grade. Best-choice meals featured a deli-style sandwich combined with a fruit or a veggie that wasn't fried, and low-fat milk as the beverage. Also making the grade: a kids' meal that featured a plain hamburger, fruit as a side, and low-fat milk.

There's another way to look at the combo meals' report card: dietary energy density, calculated by dividing the total number of calories by the serving's weight in grams. The average energy density of the fast-food meals that did not meet the School Lunch standards was 2.3 calories per gram, compared with only 1.5 calories per gram for the meals that met the standards.

Read more about this research in the October 2009 issue of Agricultural Research magazine, available online at: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/ar-chive/oct09/kids1009.htm.

The CNRC is a joint venture of ARS, BCM, and Texas Children's Hospital. ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's principal intramural scientific research agency. The Houston studies reflect USDA's research priority of enhancing children's nutrition and health.

#### YOUR PHOTO COULD BE A WINNER

If you like birds, and you like to take pictures, USDA/APHIS' Biosecurity For Birds campaign is inviting you to enter your best poultry or pet bird photos in the Biosecurity For Birds calendar photo contest.

They are especially interested in photos of all kinds of poultry, gamebirds, wild birds, shorebirds, and pet birds shown in a clean environment and without people in the pictures. People of all ages are encouraged to enter.

The winning poultry or bird photo (or photos) will be featured in the 2011 Biosecurity For Birds calendar. Photos will be featured on the Biosecurity For Birds website http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov and may be featured as screensavers.

Your photos should accurately reflect the subject matter, and the main image should not be digitally altered beyond removing dust, cropping, cleaning up the background and making reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc. All photos will be credited with the person's name.

Entries can be submitted through the official on-line entry form at http:// healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov. A maximum of three photos per person will be accepted.

The deadline for submitting entries for the calendar is January 31, 2010. Winner(s) will be notified by e-mail by February 28.

#### PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY FREE WORKSHOP

Is Your Town Farm Friendly? Are you an agricultural producer, agricultural based business, a municipal decision maker, or do you just have an interest in keeping Connecticut's working lands viable? Come to a FREE workshop, sponsored by the AGvocate program, to learn about the tools your town can implement to promote farm viability. Learn about the experiences of other Connecticut towns as they:

- Implement Right-to-Farm Ordinances
- Establish Agriculture Commissions
- Update town regulations to be more farm-friendly
- · Develop educational and outreach programs about Agriculture
- · Share Ideas, Gather Resources

The workshop will take place on Monday, November 30, 2009 at the Town of Canterbury Community Center, 1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury, CT. Free Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Workshop will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, go to the website at www.canterbury@ct.org. To assure adequate materials, contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate Program Coordinator, 860-450-6007 or AGvocate@yahoo.com to reserve your space.

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