

# Agricultural Report

Agrivolution, Groton

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



Steve Jensen, Editor  
 Wednesday, April 9, 2014

## DOAG GRANT HELPS BUILD AQUACULTURE BUSINESS IN FORMER TYPEWRITER FACTORY

By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Among the endless quirks that Bill Clayton has learned about raising American eels, one of the oddest is the type of music they seem to prefer.

"They like country," Clayton said with a grin while taking a break from renovating space in a former typewriter factory in Middletown, where he is expanding his Marine Bait Wholesale business with help from a DoAg grant.

The 5,000 or so "head" of *Anguilla rostrata* that fill his big blue tanks are very sensitive to temperature, food type, sound and other environmental factors.

A loud noise or other disruption can cause them to stop feeding for days.

That is wasted growing time he can't afford as he continues to build a business he says was germinated 25 years ago, when he a was teenager raising bait for himself in his hometown of Deep River.

After earning a marine biology degree and spending time as commercial fisherman out of Old Saybrook, Clayton for years raised and sold bait from a shed behind his house just outside of downtown Middletown.

He moved about a year ago to a 7,000 square-foot space in the red-brick former Remington Rand Typewriter factory, where he envisions building wall-to-wall tanks with the help of funding from a DoAg Farm Transition Grant.

Clayton was one of 15 farmers and producers who recently received one of the grants - funded through the Community Investment Act - to help them expand, diversify and create jobs.



**Bill Clayton holds one of the American eels he is raising in a former factory in Middletown.**

Two or three times a week, he drives to the Chesapeake Bay area to buy "seed stock" from a network of fishing boats, hauling them back to Middletown in a tank mounted in the rear of his pickup. The bait wholesalers and retailers he supplies are very particular about the size of eel they will buy.

"The challenge is to get them to correct market size," of about 9 ounces, he said.

Some of the seed stock can get to that weight in as little as two weeks, while others take up to three years.

The reason for the growth-rate disparity is confounding, he said, and

illustrates how difficult it can be to produce a consistent, sellable product.

He said his ability to decipher some of the eel's mysteries - especially when it comes to feeding - is why his business is thriving while many eel producers around the country are closing.

"This area is going to be nothing but tanks," he said of a huge, nearly-empty space where he is building his first new growing tank.

Now helped out by his wife and one employee, Clayton plans to hire four or five more workers as he brings more tanks online. He is currently advertising for an aquaculture tech worker through programs at UConn and the Sound School Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center in New Haven.

(Continued on Page 3)

**WHOLESALE GREENHOUSE PRODUCE  
U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL**

	LOW	HIGH
LETTUCE,bstn,12/4oz,CT	15.00	17.00
MACHE,3lb,PA	12.00	12.00
PEPPER,bl,YEL,11lb,DR	17.00	19.00
LEEK,5KG,NETH	16.00	19.00
RHUBARB,10lb,MI	33.00	33.00
TOMATO,25lb,vnrp,ME	21.00	22.00
TOMATO,Heirloom,10lb,can	32.00	34.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
9-54	220-300 lbs	95.00	100.00
	300-400 lbs	90.00	92.00
45-49	220-300 lbs	90.00	94.00
	300-400 lbs	81.00	86.00
Sows,US1	300-500 lbs	84.00	88.00
	500-700 lbs	88.00	90.00
Boars	300-700 lbs	18.00	18.00

**PA GRADER FEEDER PIGS**

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. March 19

		Low	High
Gr US 1	wt 20-30	345.00	420.00
	wt 30-50	310.00	350.00
GR US 2	wt 15-25	360.00	420.00
	Wt 25-35	330.00	380.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, April 7, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	48.00	55.00
76-90 lbs.	60.00	70.00
91-105 lbs.	75.00	85.00
106 lbs. & up	100.00	140.00
Farm Calves	165.00	220.00
Starter Calves	45.00	55.00
Veal Calves	85.00	165.00
Open Heifers	120.00	150.00
Beef Steers	105.00	142.00
Beef Heifers	87.00	107.00
Feeder Steers	95.00	105.00
Stock Bulls	132.50	155.00
Beef Bulls	85.00	121.00
Boars	1 at	.05
Sows	65.00	75.00
Butcher Hogs	75.00	185.00
Goats each	50.00	280.00
Kid Goats	30.00	175.00
Canners	up to	95.50
Cutters	96.00	101.00
Utility Grade Cows	102.00	107.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	12.00	145.00
Chickens each	7.00	50.00
Ducks each	11.00	26.00
Feeder Pigs	2 at	1.00
Lambs	95.00	200.00
Sheep	40.00	210.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

	Low	High
APPLE,EMPIRE,EXFCY,80CT	23.00	27.00
Bean Sprouts,10lb	4.50	6.00
APPLE,Red del.XFCY,100ct	24.00	29.00
CIDER,9½gal	18.00	18.00



**SHIPPED IN**

ASPARAGUS,28lb,CA	48.00	58.00
BEAN,grn,bu,FL	18.00	20.00
HONEYDEW,5CT,HON	11.00	14.00
BRUSSEL SPRT,25lb,CA	45.00	45.00
CABBAGE,grn,50lb,GA	14.00	18.00
CIPOLINOS,10LB,NY	21.00	21.00
CORN,4dz,FL	16.00	18.00
DENDELION GREEN,12s,GA	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT,1¼bu,FL	15.00	18.00
JERUSLM ARTCHK,10ct,CA	42.00	42.00
KALE,12ct,GA	17.00	18.00
BLURBERRIES12/6OZ,CA	36.00	36.00
ROMAINE,24CT,CA	20.00	24.00
CURRY LEAVES,1LB,HI	16.00	16.00
PEA SUGAR,10LB,GU	13.00	15.00
PEAR,bsc,80ct,OR	35.00	38.00
PEANUTS,25LB,RAW,VA	25.00	28.00
STRAWBERRIES,8/1LB,CA	16.00	19.00

**USDA WEEKLY RETAIL PORK PRICES  
NORTHEAST USA, PER LB**

	Low	High
CC CHOPS,B/IN	1.69	4.39
TENDERLOIN	2.99	4.99
BACKRIB	1.99	6.21
BUTT ROAST BNLS	3.19	3.99
SPARE RIBS	1.89	3.99
HAM B/IN	1.19	3.49
HAM,BNLS	1.98	4.99
BACON,	2.98	7.03
GROUND PORK	2.99	3.79
DELI HAM	2.99	9.99
CHORIZO	6.38	6.38

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Average Dressing

<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>			
breakers 75-80% lean	93.50	98.00	
boners 80-85% lean	88.50	92.75	
lean 85-90% lean	84.50	89.75	
<b>CALVES graded bull</b>			
No 1 95-120lbs	231.25	267.50	
No 2 95-120lbs	201.75	242.00	
No 3 80-120lbs	161.50	219.50	
<b>SLAUGHTER BULLS yield gr</b>			
High dressing	117.75	122.50	
Avg.dressing	109.25	111.50	
Low dressing	101.25	107.50	
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>			
HiCh/Prm2-3	148.25	151.50	
Ch1-3	141.50	145.75	
Sel1-2	138.50	142.25	
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS.</b>			
HiCh/prm2-3	148.75	153.50	
Ch1-3	143.50	148.25	
Sel1-2	132.25	136.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>			
HiCh/prm2-3	127.25	131.25	
Ch2-3	121.50	126.25	
Ch1-2	115.50	119.25	
Vealers-60-120lbs	40.00	70.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3 HAIR</b>			
40-60lbs	225.00	270.00	
60-80lb	232.00	256.00	
80-110lbs	227.00	245.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3</b>			
90-120lbs	n/a		
120-160	70.00	92.00	
160-220	70.00	92.00	
Bucks	105-160lbs	70.00	98.00
	160-200lbs	70.00	82.00
	200-250lbs	74.00	90.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.</b>			
	40-60lb	140.00	165.00
	60-80lb	157.00	187.00
	80-110lb	160.00	195.00
Nannies/Does: 80.-130lbs	112.00	130.00	
	130-160lbs	135.00	172.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	175.00	200.00	
	150-250lbs	215.00	270.00
<b>EASTERN PA GRAIN</b>			
Average price per bushel			
BARLEY		3.15	
CORN		5.13	
OATS		n/a	
SOYBEANS		14.72	
WHEAT		7.47	
<b>NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA</b>			
Per doz./USDA GradeA/GradeA white in cartons (volume buyers)			
XTRA LARGE	1.73	1.77	
LARGE	1.71	1.75	
MEDIUM	1.52	1.56	
<b>NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS</b>			
Per doz., wholesale Grade A brown in cartons (delivered)			
XTRA LARGE	1.85	1.95	
Large	1.81	1.89	
MEDIUM	1.49	1.55	

## ADVERTISEMENTS

The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information.

Advertisements of 35 or fewer words for job openings at Connecticut farms may be placed for up to four weeks for free in the report's new  
**CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION**

### 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](http://www.bludon.com).

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://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 today at 203-444-6553.

29-R. KINZE CORN PLANTER, model DF, 4 row, 30" between rows, double frame, no till, excellent condition. \$5,000. 860-537-1974.

30-R. DRIED CHICKEN MANURE, best fertilizer for hay lots, by the trailer load. HAY, 1st & 2nd cut square bales. Call 860-537-1974.

35-R. 1994 Custom Fab 20' gooseneck aluminum Stock Trailer, new tires, excellent condition, \$8,000. Fargo Silage Dump Wagon, \$1,500. 1000 gallon poly water tank, \$500. John Deere 12' wheel harrow, \$2,000. Pre cast feed bunks, JD grass head, (2) John Deere 3960 corn choppers. Quality corn silage, kernel processed finely chopped. Also 100% Alfalfa bailleage 4X4 bales, delivery available if needed. Burke Ridge Farms 860-559-3009 or 860-748-9336.

40-R. For Sale: 3 point hitch. 5 ft. rotary mower. 860-670-1275.

41-R. First cutting hay for sale. \$3.50/bale. 860-881-4219.

### MISCELLANEOUS

10-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.

13-R. \$500/acre. Landowners, I am looking to lease 25+ acres of "A" land for up to \$500 per acre per year. Tell your friends or call Doug at 203-952-8542.

37-R. Announcing new Biozyme Dealership for New England. Now available locally VitaFerm, VitaCharge, SureChamp and Conceptaide. Please call 860-896-0888 or 860-748-9336 for details and pricing. Burke Ridge Farms, Ellington/South Windsor.

38-R. Farmland Restoration Program Contractor for hire. Large brush/small tree mowing. Excavator, dozer work such as stumping, grading, etc. Visit [www.burkeridgeconstructionllc.com](http://www.burkeridgeconstructionllc.com) or 860-559-3009.

### WANTED

42-R. Farmland Preservation Assistant: We are seeking a Farmland Preservation Assistant to serve as an intermediary for farmland preservation groups operating at the town, land trust, state and national levels. The position will jointly support the CT Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the CT Department of Agriculture, and work up to 40 hours per week on the Agriculture Lands Easement (ALE) Program. Duties include: farmland owner outreach; conducting resource inventories; reviewing conservation plans and agricultural preservation deeds; and conducting farm visits for baseline inventories and stewardship, among other tasks. Qualifications: ability to conduct outdoor field assessments, strong communication skills, MS Office proficiency, and a valid CT driver's license. Familiarity with GIS, farming community, Connecticut and USDA agricultural policy, and conservation easements a plus. Background check required. \$18.50/hour. Submit resumes to: [cwbennett@ultimaservices.com](mailto:cwbennett@ultimaservices.com) and write "CT Farmland Preservation Assistant" in the subject line.

(Continued from Page 1)

While raising and selling bait is an ancient trade, making a good profit at it today requires more than just a net and a place to keep the fish alive.

Clayton says he has achieved success not only through years of experience, but through countless scientific trials to determine the eel's optimum growing conditions.

He learned some invaluable tricks a few years ago when a potential customer flew him to Taiwan, where he visited some production sites and realized "that I was doing a lot of things right but was definitely doing one big thing wrong."

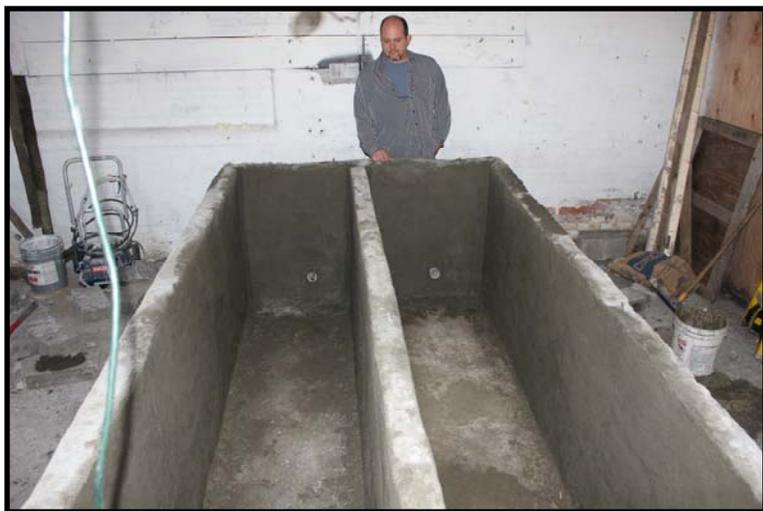
What that one thing is, he's not telling. Clayton says he enjoys the fact that his vocation is a complicated, obscure one that is pursued by few and draws raised eyebrows from many.

"It's totally out of left field," he said, "and that's part of why I like it."

**See story on Page 4 for more information about DoAg's Farm Transition Grant Program**



**A net teeming with American eels (above) and (below) a tank being built in Middletown to raise them.**



### ANNUAL UCONN HORSE AUCTION APRIL 26

The annual UConn spring horse auction will be held Saturday, April 26 at Horsebarn Hill Arena on the Storrs campus. Preview of the horses begins at 11 a.m. and the auction at 1 p.m. The event is sponsored by the UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. More information is available at [www.animalscience.uconn.edu](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu)

**FARM TRANSITION GRANTS ANNOUNCED**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy and DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky recently announced that 15 state farms will receive more than \$500,000 in Farm Transition Grants to expand, diversify and create jobs. Grants are capped at \$49,999 and require a match.

“Connecticut’s agriculture economy is making many significant advances in the right direction, and these grants will help keep that momentum going,” Reviczky said.

**2014 Farm Transition Grants**

**Taylor Brooke Winery, Woodstock** - Expansion of winery through construction of a covered external grape crush pad, wine storage building and automated bottling room.

**Larson’s Garden Center, Burlington** - Purchase sustainable wood-heating system for greenhouse facility and an additional Quonset greenhouse for wood and crop residue storage of the fuel.

**Miller Tree Farm Durham** - Farm diversification into a maple syrup production facility.

**Six Paca Farm, Bozrah** - Increase fiber mill efficiency through purchase of compressor for washer and carding machine; hot water heater for faster, efficient heat, and a rug yarn-winder and a tumbler that cleans fibers.

**7 Falls Mushroom Farm, Higganum** - Creation of a 1,000 log Shiitake mushroom production area for sale at local markets.

**MK Dairy, Lebanon** - Construction of a pavilion for educational functions on preserved farm.

**May Hill Farm, Woodstock** - Increase milk production through purchase of a Lely Juno Feed Pusher.

**Shady Maple Farm, Salisbury** - Redo milking parlor to raise dairy and beef cows.

**Holmberg Orchards, Gales Ferry** - Purchase of orchard work platform and pruning system.

**Sweet Apple Farm, Easton**- Plantings for new orchard.

**Marine Bait Wholesale, Middletown** - Construction of aquaculture production system for the raising of wild eels for sale.

**Fabyan Sugar Shack, North Grosvenordale** - Convert from gas generator to electric power in order to run vacuum pump and add lines and taps to produce more syrup.

**Allen Hill Farm, Brooklyn**- Install photovoltaic solar electric generating system for Christmas tree farm.

**Rogers Orchards, Southington** - Install trellis system for a high-density orchard.

**Jones Family Farms Winery, Shelton**– Facility expansion.

*DoAg plans to accept applications for Farm Transition grants again in November. For more information, please visit the Department’s website at [www.CTgrown.gov](http://www.CTgrown.gov). Click on: “Programs and Services” and then: “Agriculture Viability Grants.”*



Agrivolution, Groton

**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. (Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses are counted separately.) Print or type copy. Advertisements accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Ads with payment must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion in that issue. Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted. Remittance with copy required. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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 860-713-2500

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