

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
June 11, 2014

DOAG PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN FOOD-SAFETY WHILE MONITORING CHANGES IN FEDERAL RULES FOR FARMERS

*By Mark Zotti, DoAg Bureau of
Regulation and Inspection*

When Hurricane Irene struck Connecticut three summers ago, much of the state's focus was on the devastation to shoreline homes and power outages that left hundreds of thousands in the dark for a week or more .

But what was of equal concern to many farmers was the associated flooding that overwhelmed septic systems, pumping stations and sewage treatment facilities commonly located near rivers – and low-lying crop production areas.

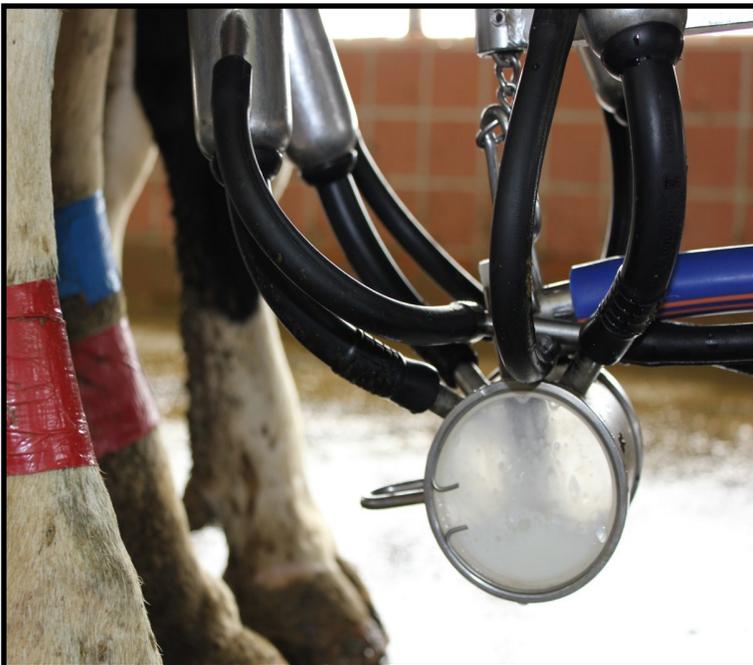
Polluted flood waters infiltrated fields and caused widespread contamination, prompting the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to declare affected crops inedible.

At the direction of Governor Dannel P. Malloy and in coordination with other state agencies at the state Emergency Operations Center, Dept. of Agriculture (DoAg) Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky dispatched employees across the state to notify producers of the potential impact on crops intended for human consumption.

In many cases, orders were issued to destroy crops – as well as shellfish such



Tomato fields in South Glastonbury (above) flooded by Hurricane Irene in August 2011. DoAg inspectors were dispatched across the state to notify farmers who sustained similar damage that portions of their crops were inedible for human consumption under federal food safety regulations that are now being revised and closely monitored by DoAg. The rules also will affect the production of milk.



as oysters and clams - that had been in direct contact with flood waters. Responding to such major emergencies is just one example of the role that DoAg plays in monitoring and maintaining food safety in Connecticut.

The agency has specific statutory authority regarding dairy production and processing; egg production and grading; certain poultry slaughter, and the manufacturing of animal feeds including pet food.

“DoAg has diverse authority and we take our public health responsibilities very seriously,” Cmsr. Reviczky said. “Our professional employees are dedicated to ensuring that high food safety standards are maintained.”

While it is a common misconception that all on-farm food production is regulated by DoAg, it is currently divided between the state Dept. of

Consumer Protection (DCP) and the Dept. of Public Health (DPH).

DCP has broad statutory powers that include enforcement of the U.S. Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. It also has adopted certain sections of the Code of Federal Regulations as Connecticut state regulations.

The DPH Food Protection program, administered through local public health officials, is largely responsible for overseeing food sourcing and handling practices in the food service industry such as restaurants, and in other places where prepared food is sold to the public.

Based on significant stakeholder input, the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development is considering a recommendation that seeks to streamline

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NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

| | | LOW | HIGH |
|------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| 49-54 | 200-300 lbs | 83.50 | 88.50 |
| | 300-400 lbs | 78.00 | 82.00 |
| 54-58 | 200-300 lbs | 89.00 | 93.00 |
| | 300-400 lbs | 83.50 | 85.50 |
| Sows,US1-3 | 300-500 lbs | 69.00 | 71.00 |
| | 500-700 lbs | 72.00 | 75.00 |
| Boars | 400-720 lbs | 46.00 | 52.00 |

PA GRADER FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. June 4

| | | LOW | HIGH |
|----------|----------|--------|--------|
| Gr US 1- | WT 15-25 | 250.00 | 260.00 |
| | WT 25-30 | 180.00 | 230.00 |
| | WT30-40 | 180.00 | 250.00 |
| GR. US 2 | WT20-25 | 170.00 | 250.00 |
| | WT30-40 | 210.00 | 260.00 |

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, June 9, 2014

| | LOW | HIGH |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Bob Calves: | | |
| 45-60 lbs. | 50.00 | 75.00 |
| 61-75 lbs. | 85.00 | 95.00 |
| 76-90 lbs. | 200.00 | 205.00 |
| 91-105 lbs. | 210.00 | 215.00 |
| 106 lbs. & up | 220.00 | 230.00 |
| Farm Calves | 235.00 | 255.00 |
| Starter Calves | 55.00 | 60.00 |
| Veal Calves | 120.00 | 165.00 |
| Open Heifers | 105.00 | 170.00 |
| Beef Steers | 138.00 | 142.50 |
| Beef Heifers | 108.00 | 142.00 |
| Feeder Steers | 90.00 | 115.00 |
| Stock Bulls | 150.00 | 160.00 |
| Beef Bulls | 111.00 | 124.00 |
| Boars | n/a | n/a |
| Sows | n/a | n/a |
| Butcher Hogs | n/a | n/a |
| Goats each | 145.00 | 170.00 |
| Kid Goats | 15.00 | 70.00 |
| Canners | up to | 100.00 |
| Cutters | 101.00 | 104.00 |
| Utility Grade Cows | 105.00 | 108.00 |
| Replacement Heifers | n/a | n/a |
| Replacement Cows | n/a | n/a |
| Rabbits each | 5.00 | 22.50 |
| Chickens each | 4.00 | 20.00 |
| Ducks each | 4.00 | 17.50 |
| Feeder Pigs | 30.00 | 45.00 |
| Lambs | 90.00 | 230.00 |
| Sheep | 60.00 | 160.00 |

EASTERN PA, HAY

average price per ton

| | PREMIUM | GOOD |
|---------|---------------|---------------|
| ALFALFA | 270.00-475.00 | 200.00-230.00 |
| MIXED | 260.00-365.00 | 225.00-230.00 |
| TIMOTHY | 300.00-390.00 | 195.00-195.00 |
| STRAW | | 160.00-180.00 |

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

| | LOW | HIGH |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| RHUBARB,20LB | 35.00 | 35.00 |
| ARUGULA,4LB | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| TOMATOES 25LB LG | 20.00 | 21.00 |
| SPINACH,4LB | 12.00 | 12.50 |

SHIPPED IN

| | LOW | HIGH |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| BEETS,12'S,NJ | 14.00 | 16.00 |
| BEAN,RD grn,bu,GA | 22.00 | 24.00 |
| BOK CHOY,50LB NJ | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| CABBAGE,SAVOY,50LB NJ | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| CABBAGE, NAPPA 50LB NJ | 28.00 | 30.00 |
| CILANTRO 1/2BU,NJ | 15.00 | 17.00 |
| CORN,4dz,FL | 17.00 | 20.00 |
| CUCUMBERS,1 1/9BU,NJ | 30.00 | 34.00 |
| ENDIVE, 11/9 BU NJ | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| KALE, 12ct,NJ | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| KOHLRABI,12'S,NJ | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| HORSERADISH,5LB,NJ | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| ONION,VIDALIA,40 IB,GA | 19.00 | 20.00 |
| PEA,SUGAR,10LB,GU | 22.00 | 24.00 |
| PEA,ENGLISH,1 1/9 BU,NJ | 48.00 | 55.00 |
| RADISHES 1/2BU,NJ | 16.00 | 18.00 |
| SQUASH,YELLOW,1/3BU,NJ | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| BLUEBERRIES12/1PT,GA | 18.00 | 21.00 |
| CHERRIES,9 1/2 ROWS,CA | 89.00 | 90.00 |
| PEACHES,1/2BU.2 1/2UP,GA | 33.00 | 35.00 |
| STRAWBERRIES,8/1LB.CA | 14.00 | 15.00 |

WHOLESALE GREENS, LETTUCE

| | LOW | HIGH |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| COLLARD GREENS,12'S NJ | 13.00 | 15.00 |
| DANDELION GREENS,12'S,NJ | 18.00 | 20.00 |
| ESCAROLE,1 1/9BU,NJ | 12.00 | 16.00 |
| BOSTON BIBB,24,NJ | 13.00 | 16.00 |
| RED LEAF,24'S,NJ | 15.00 | 18.00 |
| GREEN LEAF. 24'S NJ | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| ROMAINE,24'S,NJ | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| SWISS CHARD,12'S,NJ | 16.00 | 18.00 |

USDA WEEKLY RETAIL BEEF PRICES

NORTHEAST USA, PER LB.

| | LOW | HIGH |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| BNLS RIBEYE STEAK | 8.99 | 11.99 |
| STEW MEAT | 3.99 | 4.99 |
| T-BONE STEAK | 6.99 | 11.99 |
| PORTER HOUSE STEAK | 6.99 | 11.99 |
| SIRLOIN STEAK | 4.97 | 5.99 |
| LONDON BROIL | 1.99 | 5.99 |
| BRISKET | 6.99 | 6.99 |
| GROUND BEEF,80-90% | 3.99 | 3.99 |
| TOP ROUND STEAK | 3.29 | 5.49 |

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

| | LOW | HIGH |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| SLAUGHTER COWS: | | |
| breakers 75-80% lean | 96.25 | 101.25 |
| boners 80-85% lean | 92.75 | 97.00 |
| lean 85-90% lean | 87.25 | 92.00 |
| CALVES graded bull | | |
| No 1 95-120lbs | 234.50 | 267.50 |
| No 2 95-120lbs | 206.75 | 241.50 |
| No 3 80-120lbs | 166.50 | 222.00 |
| SLAUGHTER HEIFERS | | |
| HiCh/Prm3-4 | 147.25 | 150.00 |
| Ch2-3 | 143.25 | 144.50 |
| Sel1-2 | 132.50 | 135.50 |
| SLAUGHTER STEERS. | | |
| HiCh/prm3-4 | 148.75 | 152.25 |
| Ch2-3 | 145.00 | 148.50 |
| Sel | 138.75 | 142.25 |
| SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS | | |
| HiCh/prm2-3 | 127.00 | 130.00 |
| Ch2-3 | 127.50 | 126.50 |
| Sel2-3 | 115.00 | 105.00 |
| VEALERS | 42.25 | 74.25 |
| SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3 | | |
| 40-60lbs | 194.00 | 217.00 |
| 60-70lb | 198.00 | 210.00 |
| 70-90lbs | n/a | |
| 80-110lbs | 188.00 | 208.00 |
| SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3 | | |
| 90-120 lbs | 78.00 | 120.00 |
| 120-160lbs | 60.00 | 80.00 |
| Bucks | | |
| 160-2000lbs | 57.00 | 92.00 |
| 210-230lbs | 66.00 | 112.00 |
| SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est. | | |
| 20-40lb | n/a | |
| 40-60lb | 127.00 | 152.00 |
| 60-80lb | 132.00 | 144.00 |
| 80-100lb | 155.00 | 185.00 |
| Nannies/Does:90-120lbs | 160.00 | 190.00 |
| 120-170lbs | 175.00 | 210.00 |
| Bucks/Billies: 140-200lbs | 230.00 | 350.00 |

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

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

| | LOW | HIGH |
|------------|------|------|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.33 | 1.37 |
| LARGE | 1.31 | 1.35 |
| MEDIUM | 1.18 | 1.22 |

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Prices paid per doz. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

| | LOW | HIGH |
|------------|------|------|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.73 | 1.83 |
| LARGE | 1.68 | 1.78 |
| MEDIUM | 1.42 | 1.52 |

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 SECTION.

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 today at 203-444-6553.

56-R. Tomato stakes, tomato twine, fence boards, custom cut lumber. Staehly Products Co. LLC. 860-873-9774.

66-R. Used Tobacco netting. Great to cover berry bushes. Please Call 860-683-0266.

68-R. Broiler Chicks 3 weeks, \$5 each. Minimum order, 25 chicks. FOB Willimantic. Call Gary 860-716-9064.

69-R. Receive phone alerts from wireless sensors when your field or greenhouse is too cold or too hot! Visit New England Farm Sensors (NEFarmSensors.org) for details.

82-R. Goats: Nubian and Oberhasli; does and bucks, ADGA. Born April, 8 weeks ready. Details: 860-873-3531.

83-R. Proven breeder 2 year old 7/8 Boer buck throws beautiful, healthy kids every time. \$400.00. 203-494-8408.

84-R. New Holland 565 Baler with drop shoot. Kuhn 1 row tetter like new. New Holland 311 baler. JD 456 Round Baler with net wrap. Case IH 442 Round Baler string tie. JD 6310 4 wheel drive with 640 loader. 203-530-4953.

85-R. GOATS, Savanna/Boer does. Kiko/Savanna doeling and bucklings. Call 860-537-1974.

87-R. 4 passenger wagonnet that can be set up for team or single horse. Excellent condition. Asking \$3,900.00. 860-599-0792.

88-R. 256 N. H. hay rake, like new. 8N Ford with loader, runs good, needs paint. Call 860-857-3702.

89-R. Brillion Seeder 3 PH, 5'6" wide. 1st and 2nd cut baled hay. Conveyor for wood, hay or whatever, like new, 20' long. Call 203-843-1771.

90-R. Ford 1979 F350, 43,601 miles. Auto-460-V8. 7x11 Steel Plate body, \$2,500. 860-644-1454.

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.

76-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.

77-R. Farmland Restoration Program Contractor for hire. Large brush/small tree mowing. Excavator, dozer work such as stumping, grading, etc. Visit www.burkeridgeconstructionllc.com or call 860-559-3009.

WANTED

81-R. Got Land? Eastern CT non-profit looking for 50+ acres land/farm in CT Creative Living Community of CT are parents and friends of people with special needs; hoping to create a sustainable, farmstead life experience. 860-375-4313, leave message.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL FOOD-SAFETY RULES WILL AFFECT CONNECTICUT FARMERS (Continued from Page 1)

implementation of the pending federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) by designating DoAg as the lead agency on food safety matters.

DoAg now inspects all phases in the production, transportation, processing, sampling and retail sales of milk and certain milk products. Dairy division staff also conducts unannounced inspections of farms, processing facilities, and retail establishments that sell both pasteurized and raw milk.

These inspections include verification of compliance with the FDA's Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, and can involve collection of water and milk samples. Inspections also may include checking for updated licenses, properly maintained equipment, facility cleanliness and ensuring the milking animals are healthy and well-cared for.

Like most states and the USDA, Connecticut exempts sales of eggs directly to consumers from regulatory oversight except for labeling and refrigeration requirements. This exemption, however, does not allow producers to sell eggs through retail establishments, through distributors or to food service establishments.

A minimum of 3,000 laying birds is required to participate in the USDA inspection program. In order to facilitate the ability of smaller egg producers to sell through retail establishments and distributors or to food service establishments, DoAg took on the responsibility of providing regulatory oversight of producers with flocks of between 200 and 3,000 birds.

Such producers may participate in the agency's Voluntary Small Egg Processing Plant inspection program, which has egg room sanitation regulations and egg grading regulations substantially similar to USDA's.

DoAg cannot mandate a Salmonella enteritis (SE) surveillance program - required by the FDA of all producers with more than 3,000 birds - but does offer a voluntary SE reduction program.

DoAg also does not have specific food safety responsibility in the production of fruits and vegetables, but the agency is closely following a proposed Produce Safety Rule that is part of FSMA.

Adopted by Congress in 2010 and administered by the FDA, the act will change how food is regulated throughout the country. For example, the Produce Safety Rule will, for the first time, mandate certain on-farm practices in the cultivation and processing of produce intended for human consumption.

It is intended to implement science-based standards in the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce. Those standards include:

- **Agricultural Water:** Farmers would have to ensure that water intended or likely to contact produce or food-contact surfaces is safe and of adequate sanitary quality, with inspection and periodic testing requirements.
- **Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin:** The proposed rule specifies types of treatment, methods of application, and time intervals between application of certain soil amendments — including manure and composted manure — and crop harvest.
- **Health and Hygiene:** Farm personnel would have to follow hygienic practices, including hand washing, not working when sick, and maintaining personal cleanliness.
- **Domesticated and Wild Animals:** The proposed rule would require measures, such as waiting periods between grazing and crop harvest, if there is a reasonable probability of contamination. With respect to wild animals, farmers must monitor for wildlife intrusion and not harvest produce visibly contaminated with animal feces.
- **Equipment, tools, and buildings:** The proposed rule sets requirements for equipment and tools that come into contact with produce, as well as for buildings and other facilities.
- **Training:** The proposed rule requires training for supervisors and farm personnel who handle produce covered by the rule.

(Continued on Page 4)

FARMERS' MARKETS OPENING THIS WEEKEND, NEXT WEEK
For a complete listing of Connecticut's more than 125 farmers' markets, please visit the Department of Agriculture's website at CTGrown.gov

Ashford

Sun. 10 am- 1 pm
 Pompey Hollow Park, Rt. 44

Brooklyn

Wed. 4-6 pm
 Ocean State Job Lot parking lot
 Route 6

East Granby

Wed. 3-6 pm
 Center Shops/Rts. 20 and 87

Enfield

Wed. 3-6 pm
 Town Green/Town Hall, Rt. 5

Georgetown

Sat. 9:30 am- 1 pm
 4 Old Mill Rd.

Hartford – Old State House

Tues & Fri. 10 am-2 pm
 800 Main Street

Putnam

Sat. 10 am- 1 pm
 Riverview Marketplace, 16 Kennedy
 Dr.

Stamford Museum & Nature Center

Sun. 10 am- 2 pm
 39 Schofieldtown Road

Trumbull

Thurs. 2-6 pm
 Long Hill Green, Main Street

Wilton

Wed. 12:30-5 pm
 Wilton Historical Society

The federal Food Safety Modernization Act, now approaching implementation, will impact many aspects of farming in Connecticut, including how farmers respond to crop damage like that inflicted by Hurricane Irene on vegetable fields in South Glastonbury, (below).

**CHANGES IN FEDERAL FOOD-SAFETY RULES
 WILL AFFECT CONNECTICUT FARMERS**
 (Continued from Page 3)

DoAg currently offers voluntary, on-farm third party food safety audits based on the FDA guidance above. In most cases, farms seek audits based on a request from their wholesale customers.

It is anticipated that there will be some exemptions built into the rule, but it is difficult to predict its full impact on Connecticut's farmers until it is finalized later this year. The initial proposed rule is now undergoing revisions prompted by input received during an open comment period.

As DoAg monitors the expected new wave of rules and their impact, the agency will continue to regulate, and educate, farm and industry stakeholders to ensure consumer confidence and a healthy, prosperous business environment.



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 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

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