

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
December 9, 2014



A photo of Joseph Ackermann feeding an alpaca at Woolly Acres in Glastonbury is part of the “Know Your Connecticut Farmer” exhibit of Jack McConnell’s portraits that runs until January 10th at the MCC on Main gallery in Manchester.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO FARMING LIFE ON DISPLAY IN MANCHESTER

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

To photographer Jack McConnell, his “Know Your Connecticut Farmer” exhibit is about a lot more than just the 35 striking black-and-white pictures on display for the next month at a Manchester gallery.

“I see these photographs as a way to engage the public and to get folks thinking about ways they can help support farmers,” McConnell said at last Friday’s exhibit opening at Manchester Community College’s Dehn Gallery/MCC on Main, 903 Main St. “I have yet to meet a farmer that I don’t really respect and admire. They are the salt of the earth and I am proud to be associated with them in some way.”

The collection of photos – along with an accompanying video titled “This Life Calls to Me” – were shot during McConnell’s visits to more than 65 farms across the state during the last year.

Friday’s opening was attended by several of the featured farmers, and by Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky,

who McConnell invited to address the crowd.

“I hope when people look at these photographs they think of the love that farmers have for what they do and all the hard work that they put into it,” Reviczky said. “Jack has done the agricultural community a great favor by making these photographs that we can enjoy today, and enjoy forever.”

The exhibit grew out of McConnell’s a decade-long project photographing New England stone walls. About a year ago he started shooting portraits of Connecticut farmers he met in his travels.

McConnell, of Old Wethersfield, says his work is a collaboration between himself and the farmer.

“It takes two,” he said. “I have to get to a point where you trust me.”

The photos are shot in black-and-white, he said, in order to keep the focus on the subject, not colors.

(Continued on Page 3)

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:			
breakers 75-80% lean	102.00	112.00	
boners 80-85% lean	99.00	106.00	
lean 85-90% lean	94.00	102.00	
CALVES graded bull			
No 1 110-128lbs	350.00	375.00	
No 2 106-128lbs	340.00	360.00	
No 3 100-130lbs	335.00	340.00	
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS			
HiCh/Prm3-4	165.00	168.00	
Ch2-3	158.00	163.50	
Sel1-2	148.00	153.00	
SLAUGHTER STEERS.			
HiCh/prm3-4	166.00	173.00	
Ch2-3	163.00	170.00	
Sel1-3	159.25	163.00	
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS			
HiCh/prm3-4	156.00	163.00	
Ch2-3	150.00	155.00	
Sel1-2	144.00	149.00	
VEALERS n/a			
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3			
60-80 lbs	242.00	260.00	
80-90lbs	200.00	215.00	
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3			
120-150lbs	70.00	100.00	
150-200lbs	80.00	108.00	
Bucks			
150-160.lbs	98.00	115.00	
180-200lbs	72.00	102.00	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.			
50-60lb	150.00	210.00	
60-80lb	170.00	232.00	
80-110	198.00	220.00	
Nannies/Does:100-130lbs	175.00	197.00	
130-150lbs	185.00	222.00	
Bucks/Billies: 130-150lbs	330.00	385.00	
150-170lbs	325.00	335.00	

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
48-52	200-400 lbs	62.00	70.00
	300-350 lbs	n/a	
52-56	200-350 lbs	71.00	76.00
Sows,US1-3	300-500 lbs	pkg 66.00	
	500-700 lbs	65.50	68.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	n/a	

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
SQUASH,BUTTERCUP,1 1/9	14.00	14.00
LETTUCE,BOSTON,GH,12/4OZ	15.00	17.00
CIDER,9,4/1 GAL	17.00	18.00
KALE 24'S	10.00	12.00
CRANBERRIES,24/12OZ	32.00	35.00
POTATOES,10LB	2.00	2.20
BEAN SPROUTS,10LB	4.50	6.00
POTATOES,RUSSET,70CT	17.00	17.00
POTATOES,YELLOW,CHEF,50LB	15.00	15.00
SQUASH,ACORN,1 1/9	12.00	14.00
POTATOES.RED,SZ A,50LB	11.00	11.00
SQUASH,BUTTERNUT,1 1/9	12.00	14.00
TURNIP,PURPLE ,1 1/9	10.00	10.00
PARSNIPS,25LB	20.00	20.00
POTATOES,CHEF,50LB	10.00	11.00
TOMATOES,10IB,HEIRLOOM	26.00	30.00
APPLE,PINK LADY 80CT,XFCY	32.00	32.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,100CT XFCY	24.00	26.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,80 CT FCY	20.00	20.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,120,US#1	17.00	18.00
APPLE,GALA,80CT,XFCY	24.00	28.00
HONEY CRSP,72CT,XFCY	40.00	45.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,12/3	17.00	18.00
APPLE,FUJI,80CT,XFCY	26.00	30.00
APPLE,CORT,BU,FCY	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MACOUN,100CTX,FCY	26.00	28.00

**NORTHEAST/USDA RETAIL BEEF
PRICES PER LB,CHOICE**

BONE-IN RIBEYE	8.99	8.99
T-BONE STEAK	6.99	8.99
BONE-IN STRIP STEAK	5.99	8.99
BNLS SIRLOIN ROAST	5.99	5.99
CHUCK ROAST	2.99	5.49
BEEF SHORT RIBS	4.39	6.49
CUBE STEAK	4.29	5.99
LONDON BROIL	3.99	5.99

HAY**LANCASTER,PA/PRICE PER TON**

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	290.00-365.00	N/A
MIXED HAY	225.00-400.00	180.00-210.00
TIMOTHY	240.00-305.00	170.00-185.00
STRAW	125.00-225.00	N/A

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, Dec. 8, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	65.00	70.00
61-75 lbs.	250.00	270.00
76-90 lbs.	280.00	285.00
91-105 lbs.	255.00	300.00
106 lbs. & up	305.00	310.00
Farm Calves	320.00	360.00
Starter Calves	55.00	60.00
Veal Calves	90.00	155.00
Open Heifers	140.00	160.00
Beef Heifers	112.00	130.00
Feeder Steers	135.00	150.00
Beef Steers	118.00	155.00
Stock Bulls	140.00	155.00
Beef Bulls	125.00	150.00
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	n/a	n/a
Sheep	105.00	190.00
Lambs	85.00	210.00
Goats each	110.00	310.00
Kid Goats	85.00	90.00
Canners	up to	105.00
Cutters	106.00	109.00
Utility Grade Cows	110.00	115.00
Rabbits each	4.00	40.00
Chickens each	4.00	16.00
Ducks each	5.00	14.00

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	2.19	2.23
LARGE	2.17	2.21
MEDIUM	1.47	1.51

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.30	2.40
LARGE	2.29	2.39
MEDIUM	1.46	1.57

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US# 1-2		
20-30lb	185.00	235.00
40-50lb	175.00	185.00
US# 2		
20-30lb	175.00	200.00
30-40lb	220.00	225.00
40-50lb	160.00	180.00

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.

122-R. Dual Dump Wagon Model 1200, works good, \$1,500. JD 2940 with turbo, \$10,500. JD 6310 4X4 with 740 loader, \$24,000. JD 530, \$5,000. New 11 ft Pequea Rake, \$6,500. NH 1465 haybine, \$8,500. Balers, Rake and Tedders. 203-530-4953.

145-R. 6 month Hereford bull calves, Top Blood Lines. One cow-calf pair available. Old Beech Farm 860-693-2052.

146-R. Four (4) 26' X 96' greenhouses completely disassembled and ready to load. \$4,000.00 each. Call 860-844-0547.

148. Jatco #400 Cannon Sprayer, 3-pt, 540 pto, 100 gallon tank, new in 2008, \$7,000 or BO. Rear's Pul-Blast, mini blast sprayer, 300 gallon tank, 540 pto, \$3,200 or BO. 860-490-5029.

149. 36" Aerotech Advantage exhaust fans with louvers, grates, cones. 1/2 HP belt driven. 12,000 CFM. 4 available. \$200.00 each. 860-885-4087.

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.

CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

143-R. Bishop's Orchards - Application Development/Management specialist. Maintain/develop applications: MS Access, MS SQL Server and Excel; help Marketing Director and managers with data mining for electronic campaigns and meet our mission/goals:

<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/sof/4731214135.html> reply to: marketjobs@bishopsorchards.com

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CT GROWN DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

The Department of Agriculture is offering funding to growers interested in installing Connecticut Grown directional signs near their farms.

The funding is through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant and will pay 100 percent of the cost of manufacturing and installing the sign. Funds are available until January 31, 2015.

Growers must first obtain approvals from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation and provide the following forms to receive funding:

- A financial form/invoice showing cost to the grower of making and installing an approved sign.
- A SP-26 State of Connecticut Agency Vendor Form
- A W-9 form

Questions should be directed to Richard Macsuga at 860-713-2544 or richard.macsuga@ct.gov

(Continued from Page 1)

"Black and white is more powerful," McConnell said. "You have to have the real McCoy staring back at you in that photo."

He also achieves what he calls the "earthy" look of the photos by never shooting in bright sunlight, and by digitally "toning" them with a copper effect.

"I prefer the softer, gentler light of a cloudy day without the harsh shadows and mottled light between sunny and shady spots," he said. "Shooting on digital gives me great latitude of exposure, so I can even shoot in a darkened dairy barn without needing to use lights."

Lebanon goat farmer and cheesemaker Paul Trubey was the first farmer photographed for the project.

"I always wondered why Jack only showed up on cloudy, rainy days," Trubey said with a chuckle at the opening of the exhibit, in which he is pictured cradling a baby goat on his shoulders.

The photo is also included in the "This Life Calls to Me" video, which can be viewed at the website KnowYourCTFarmer.com. The 8-minute video features 65 farmers, animals and crops, many more than could be shown at the gallery.

"I really try to encourage folks to take a look at the video before they come to the exhibit," McConnell said.

"This Life Calls to Me" is also the title of a song written by Jack Collins, a friend of McConnell's who first saw the video on YouTube and was inspired to write the lyrics and music that is now its soundtrack.

Collins, of Chaplin, drew on his own experience growing vegetables for his family for more than 25 years, and recorded the song at his studio at Full Circle Farm.

Collins and the other musicians on the track, Ed Bradley, John Coates, and Jim Mercik, performed the song at the exhibit opening in Manchester.

"This one's for all the ones out of bed before the sun," the song begins. "Not to go work for the man. They rise to the calling of their land."

"Know Your Connecticut Farmer" runs until January 10. The MCC on Main Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and more information is available at:

www.manchestercc.edu/mcc-on-main/gallery.

McConnell said he will be at the gallery occasionally himself, and is willing to arrange a meeting there with anyone interested in getting his perspective on the exhibit. He can be reached at 860-563-6154. Prints and posters from the project can be purchased at:

JackMcConnellPhotography.com.

McConnell - who for the past 45 years has shot annual reports and ad campaigns for Fortune 500 companies - said he plans to continue photographing farms and farmers and is seeking suggestions for subjects.

"This project has been a joy and I'm happy to keep doing it as long as I can," he said. "I've never had anything but a positive experience with every farmer I've photographed, and I hope that in 50 years these people will become icons of this time."





Top Left: Jack McConnell (L) with Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky at the opening of the "Know Your Connecticut Farmer" exhibit.

Above: The exhibit includes a portrait of dairy farmer Ned Ellis, next to a bank of solar panels at his Hebron farm.

Left: A photo of Lebanon farmer Paul Trubey cradling a baby goat on his shoulders is part of the display.

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