

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
April 7, 2015



Paul Trubey tends to some of the 80-plus dairy goats at his Beltane Farm and cheese-making operation in Lebanon, which last week was permanently protected from non-agricultural development under a state preservation program.

LEBANON GOAT DAIRY FARM WILL REMAIN FOREVER IN AGRICULTURE UNDER COMMUNITY FARMS PRESERVATION PROGRAM

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

LEBANON – After 17 years in the goat dairy business, Paul Trubey believes he's finally figured out the types and amount of cheese he wants to produce and what size herd he's willing to manage.

"Every year has been a little different but my goal has always been to create balance," Trubey said as he walked his 22-acre Beltane Farm, which last week became the latest to be protected by the Department of Agriculture. "I've been trying to build something a little more financially viable that is also sustainable personally."

An important part of that equation, he said, was ensuring the farm will forever remain available for agricultural production by conveying its development rights under the agriculture department's Community Farms Preservation Program.

Lebanon planning officials said the Beltane property could have been developed into a six-lot subdivision. But Trubey and partner Mark Pearsall were intent on preserving the farm as soon as they bought it in 2002 and moved their operation from their previous location in Glastonbury.

"We knew even back then that we didn't ever want to see anything like houses built here," Trubey said. "That resonated very strongly with both of us."

The Community Farms Preservation Program was created an alternative for smaller farms that may not qualify for funding through the department's long-running Farmland Preservation Program, which has protected more than 300 farms comprising nearly 40,000 acres.

With its cheese, milk and yogurt widely available in the Northeast, Beltane has become a popular destination for cheese-tastings and tours.

"Beltane Farm is a prime example of a smaller enterprise whose value-added products make a strong contribution to the agricultural economy," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "Protecting working lands like this is exactly why the Community Farms Preservation Program was created."

The agriculture department funded 75 percent of the \$150,000 purchase price, with other contributions made by the Connecticut

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	102.50	107.25
boners 80-85% lean	100.00	105.25
lean 85-90% lean	96.25	101.50
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 95-120lbs	475.75	526.25
No 1 80-90lbs	474.00	535.00
No 2 95-120lbs	435.25	486.75
No 2 80-90lbs	479.00	511.00
No 3 80-120lbs	363.00	444.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	160.50	164.50
Ch1-3	158.00	160.75
Sel1-2	151.00	155.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	159.50	162.00
Ch2-3	138.75	143.00
Sel1-2	135.50	139.25
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	159.50	162.00
Ch1-3	151.50	155.00
Sel1-2	149.50	151.50
VEALERS Utility 60-120lb	207.50	295.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
ch/pr 2-3		
40-60 lbs	282.00	335.00
60-70 lbs	260.00	280.00
80-90 lbs	227.00	232.00
90-130 lbs	222.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: 2-3		
120-160 lbs Good	120.00	120.00
160-200 lbs Good	112.00	124.00
BUCKS		
120-160 lbs	60.00	145.00
160-200 lbs	87.00	90.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.		
20-40 lbs	80.00	110.00
40-60 lbs	125.00	170.00
60-80 lbs	180.00	225.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	180.00	260.00
Bucks/Billies: 80-100 lbs	225.00	290.00
100-150 lbs	300.00	375.00

**USDA DAIRY
NORTHEAST/RETAIL**

BUTTER, 1LB	1.89	3.69
CHEESE, NATURAL, 8OZ	1.49	2.69
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16OZ	1.50	2.79
CREAM CHEESE, 8OZ	.89	2.99
ICE CREAM, 48-64OZ	1.99	3.50
MILK, ALL, GAL	1.99	3.49
SOUR CREAM, 16OZ	1.29	2.29
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6OZ	.95	1.00
YOGURT, GREEK 32 OZ	3.99	5.48
YOGURT, 4-6OZ	.50	.60

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**NEW ENGLAND GROWN****Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
APPLE, MACS, 120, USFCY	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MACS, 120 US#1	17.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	6.00	7.00
CIDER, APPLE 4-1 GAL	24.00	24.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	24.00	30.00
SQUASH, BTTRNT, 1-1/9 BU	12.00	14.00
TOMATOES, 25LB, GRHSE, VR	20.00	22.00
TOMS, CHERRY, GHS, 5LB	14.00	15.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLE, RED DEL, NY, 88, USXFCY	22.00	22.00
APPLE, GOL DEL, 88, NY, USXFCY	22.00	22.00
ASPARAGUS, CA, JBO, 11LB	32.00	36.00
BEANS, GREEN, FL, BU, MCHPK	24.00	24.00
BEETS, RED, TX, 12	20.00	20.00
BLUEBERRIES, FL, 12-6OZ	15.00	34.00
BROCCOLI, CA, 20 LB, CRWNS	16.00	19.00
CORN, BICOLOR, FL, 4DZ	16.00	18.00
CUKES, FL, 1-1/9 BU	22.00	25.00
KALE, GA, 12/CTN	13.00	14.00
LETTUCE, OAKLEAF, CA, 2.2LB	11.00	12.00
ORANGES, NAVEL, CA, 56	19.00	20.00
PEAR, D'ANJOU, OR, US#1, 120	34.00	34.00
PEPPERS, GRN, FL, LG, 1-1/9BU	18.00	20.00
RASPBERRIES, CA 6-12OZ	27.00	36.00
SWEET POTATOES, LA, 40LB	16.00	20.00
SWISS CHARD, TX, 12/CTN	16.00	16.00

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

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	250.00-325.00	205.00-250.00
MIXED HAY	250.00-390.00	190.00-250.00
TIMOTHY	250.00-325.00	190.00-230.00
STRAW	100.00-240.00	

USDA BEEF**NORTHEAST/RETAIL PER LB**

RIB EY ROAST, B/IN	6.88	14.99
RIBEYE STEAK, B/IN	8.98	12.99
RIB EYE ROAST, BNLS	8.99	15.99
TENDERLOIN	9.99	11.99
FILET MIGNON	14.99	14.99
NY STRIP STEAK, BNLS	5.99	10.99
SIRLOIN ROAST	7.99	7.99
SIRLOIN ROAST, BNLS	6.99	6.99
BOTTOM ROUND ROAST	4.69	5.49
TOP ROUND STEAK	4.99	6.49
LONDON BROIL	4.99	6.99
BRISKET, FLAT	6.99	7.99
BEEF SHORT RIBS	4.99	4.99
CUBE STEAKS	4.99	5.49
STEW MEAT	4.99	6.99
BEEF PATTIES	4.75	4.75

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT., April 6, 2015

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	55.00	60.00
61-75 lbs.	140.00	150.00
76-90 lbs.	380.00	390.00
91-105 lbs.	410.00	420.00
106 lbs. & up	430.00	440.00
Farm Calves	450.00	470.00
Starter Calves	45.00	48.00
Veal Calves	115.00	180.00
Open Heifers	138.00	185.00
Beef Heifers	136.00	142.00
Feeder Steers	135.00	190.00
Beef Steers	138.00	143.00
Stock Bulls	120.00	165.00
Beef Bulls	134.00	138.00
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	n/a	n/a
Lambs	1 @ 260.00	
Goats each	95.00	370.00
Kid Goats	2 @ 75.00 each	
Canners	up to	105.00
Cutters	106.00	108.00
Utility Grade Cows	109.00	111.00
Rabbits each	11.00	45.00
Chickens each	4.00	25.00
Ducks each	7.50	15.00

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.25	1.44
LARGE	1.21	1.35
MEDIUM	.81	.94

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.07	2.17
LARGE	2.01	2.13
MEDIUM	1.52	1.62

**NEW HOLLAND, PA.
HOG AUCTION**

Prices quoted by hundred wt.

48-52	200-400 lbs	35.00	39.00
52-56	200-400 lbs	44.00	50.00
Sows, US1-3			
	400-500 lbs	25.50	31.00
	500-750 lbs	34.50	40.00
Boars	300-450 lbs	17.00	20.00
	550-900 lbs	5.00	9.00

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US # 1-2	30-40 lb	200.00	240.00
	60-80 lb	85.00	110.00

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.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

27-R. Irrigation Pump on trailer--Yanmar Diesel-liquid cooled-3cyl -21.5hp/Rainbow SBB 4x3x9.5 pump/Primer with 4" SCAN-Kleen Filter, 4" Foot Valve and 170 Feet of 4"HPDE Suction Pipe. Used one season in 2012-excellent condition. Cost new was \$12,400. Reasonable offers considered. Mark after 6pm. 860-977-6948.

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MISCELLANEOUS

6-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.

CAES RECEIVES FUNDING TO CREATE GUIDELINES FOR GROWING PLANTS, PROTECTING POLLINATORS

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Has received funding to establish best management guidelines for growing plants and protecting pollinators in an effort to assure the public and retail sellers of these plants that growers' practices can result in plants that are safe for bees and other pollinators.

Dr. Richard Cowles, an entomologist at the Station's Valley Laboratory in Windsor, and Dr. Brian Eitzer of the Analytical Chemistry Department were awarded a \$54,000 grant from the Horticultural Research Institute as a part of the national Horticultural Industry Bee & Pollinator Stewardship Initiative.

Funding will be used to study systemic insecticide uptake and movement into nectar and pollen by conducting pesticide residue analysis of pollen and nectar from treated plants.

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Farmland Trust and the Town of Lebanon. Beltane is the 33rd farm in Lebanon protected by the agriculture department, several in collaboration with other partners.

Located in the southern end of town on gravel Taylor Bridge Road, it is part of nearly 2,500 acres of active farmland within a 3-mile radius. All of the farm's pasture and cropland contains prime farmland soils.

The farm is adjacent to the Bartlett Brook Wildlife Management Area, and in close proximity to the state-owned, 575-acre Savin Farm, also known as the Lebanon Agricultural Preserve, which is being leased for dairy production and support.

The property also contains the original 3,100 square-foot farmhouse, built in 1830. Outbuildings include a 1,500 square-foot barn that houses the milking room and the cheese-making operation, as well as a 3-stall carriage shed for equipment and hay storage, a greenhouse, and the farm's small cheese-tasting room.

Trubey said most of the proceeds from conveyance of the development rights will be used to eliminate debt built up over the years as he bought more equipment and expanded the operation, where the herd of 80-plus goats are milked twice daily in season.

"Paul and Mark have worked hard to turn Beltane Farm into a productive goat dairy and agri-tourism destination," said Lebanon First Selectman Joyce R. Okonuk. "The town supports their efforts and hopes that their success here will draw more new farmers into our community."

Elisabeth Moore, Executive Director of Connecticut Farmland Trust said: "We are thrilled to have partnered with the Department of Agriculture and the landowners to create a land preservation agreement for Beltane Farm. This agreement keeps the land in private hands and preserves traditional land uses such as working family farms."

Funded through the Community Investment Act, the community-farms program has led to 26 towns in all eight counties becoming eligible to participate in a joint state-municipality farm protection project.

Beltane Farm is the second to be protected under the program. The first was the 53-acre Kassman Farm in Columbia, where hay and corn are raised for dairy and livestock support. Commissioner Revczky encourages all municipalities to consider participating in the program.

"Leveraging funding through partnerships with local, state and federal programs gives municipalities added opportunities to protect working lands that are so important to local communities," Revczky said.

Beltane Farm also has been improved through a Farmland Restoration Program grant through the agriculture department that helped convert 14 wooded acres into goat pasture.

Trubey said he now plans to focus more energy on expanding the farm's agri-tourism business. Beside the tours and cheese-tastings, that now includes a daylong goat husbandry class that Trubey teaches three or four times a year and is nearly always filled to its limit of six students.

"I like cheesemaking but my first love is the goats, the animal husbandry," he said. "That's what gives me the most satisfaction. "You're responsible for all these souls and that requires you to do whatever you can for them."

Trubey said customers have in recent years become much more interested in how the animals are cared for, what they are fed, and how the cheese is produced.

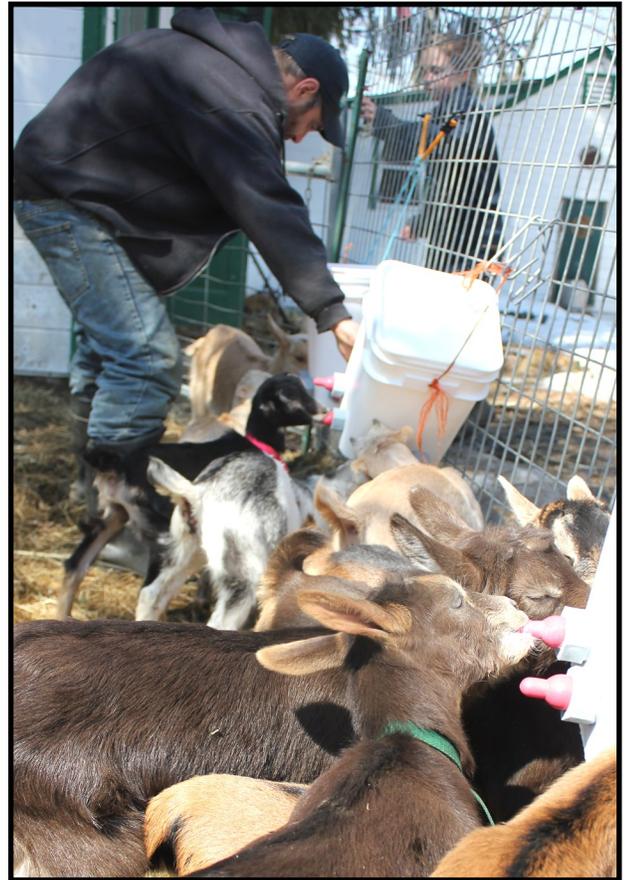
"A lot of people we meet at farmers' markets wind up coming out here for a visit," he said. "I get a lot more questions now about what the goats eat and how they are treated. I think it's a great thing and it really reinforces the idea of knowing where your food is coming from."



Left: Part of a formerly wooded, 14-acre section of Beltane Farm that was converted to pasture with the support of a state Farmland Restoration Program grant. The original 1830 farmhouse is seen at far right.

Below: Paul Trubey and assistant farm manager Kate Goodson feed some of the month-old goats born at the farm this spring

Below left: A variety of cheeses curing in the farm's aging room.



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