Connecticut Weekly
AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Dec. 8, 2015

Benjamin Stiles adjusts a giant wreath hung on a barn built in 1690 on his Southbury farm.

HISTORIC SOUTHBURY FARM LATEST TO BE PRESERVED BY STATE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS

A 315-year-old Southbury farm that is home to one of the oldest barns in Connecticut is the latest to be permanently protected for agricultural use under the state's Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).

Ragland Farm was created in 1690 by Benjamin Stiles, who that same year built the barn as required to receive a land grant from the King of England.

"In order to get a grant you had to establish that you would live on the land year-round," said namesake and current owner Benjamin Stiles, a member of the family's twelfth generation who raises Christmas trees and produces maple syrup. "So the first thing they built was a barn to house the animals in the winter."

The deep-red English barn, listed on a survey of historic barns by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, is the visual centerpiece of the 23-acre farm.

It is now being used to store oak planks harvested from the property that Stiles is using to renovate the 1740 farmhouse that fronts the property along busy Route 6 in the Southbury Historic District.

A small portion of the farm, which is nearly all prime and statewide important soils, extends over the town line into Woodbury.

The farm is the third to be protected under the Community Farms Preservation Program (CFPP), which encourages municipalities to support the preservation of smaller farms of local importance that may be closer to population centers and might not meet the criteria of the FPP.

Combined, the programs have preserved 315 farms and more than 41,500 acres of farmland by owner's conveying development rights to the state.

"Leveraging funding through partnerships with local, state and federal partners gives municipalities added opportunities to protect working lands that are important to local communities," state Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said.

Thirty municipalities have completed the steps needed to protect working land under the CFPP, and Reviczky encourages all municipalities to consider participating in the program. Community support in the Ragland Farm preservation included a financial contribution to the agreement that was approved by Southbury voters at a town meeting last summer.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also was a key financial partner in the Ragland Farm preservation.

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

		Avg. Dressing	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS:				
breakers 75-80% lean			71.00	75.00
boners 80-85% lean			70.00	75.50
lean 88-90% lean			68.00	75.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS				
HiCh/Prm 3-4			121.50	124.00
Ch2-3	1300-1600 lbs		119.00	124.00
	1600-1800 lbs		113.50	119.00
Sel 1-3	1200-1600 lbs		115.00	120.00
	1600-1800 lbs		107.00	114.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS				
HiCh/Prm 3-4				
	1400-1650 lbs		116.00	118.00
Ch 2-3	1300-1650 lbs		111.00	115.00
	1650-1800 lbs		104.00	109.00
Sel 1-2	1300-1650 lbs		103.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS				
Ch 2-3	1200-1500 lbs		117.00	122.00
Sel 1-3	1200-1500 lbs		112.00	115.00
CALVES Graded bull				
No 1 85-128 lbs			255.00	280.00
No 2 80-128 lbs			240.00	257.00
No 3 100-130 lbs			190.00	197.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn				
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3				
50-60 lbs			320.00	330.00
90-110 lbs			195.00	225.00
110-130 lbs			158.00	205.00
130-150 lbs			152.00	177.00
150-200 lbs			155.00	170.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3				
80-120 lbs			90.00	125.00
120-160 lbs			80.00	110.00
160-200 lbs			90.00	106.00
200-300 lbs			75.00	95.00
BUCKS				
160-200 lbs			94.00	111.00
200-250 lbs			85.00	115.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.				
40-60 lbs			140.00	175.00
60-80 lbs			170.00	215.00
80-100 lbs			190.00	220.00
100-120 lbs			260.00	265.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel1,by head, est.				
80-130 lbs			185.00	210.00
130-180 lbs			190.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1				
80-100 lbs			250.00	305.00
100-150 lbs			355.00	410.00
150-250 lbs			455.00	570.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA., HOG AUCTION

All prices per cwt.

52-56	250-300 lbs	47.00	52.00
	300-400 lbs	45.00	48.00
48-52	250-300 lbs	38.00	47.00
	300-400 lbs	35.00	40.00
Sows1-3	400-500 lbs	27.00	32.50
	500-750 lbs	25.00	30.00
Boars	300-700 lbs	5.00	5.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES,CORTLAND,USFCY,BU	19.00	19.00
APPLES,HNYCRSP,XFCY,80,88	68.00	68.00
APPLES,HONYCRSP, NG, BU	35.00	35.00
APPLES,EMPIRE,120/140, #1,BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS,FNCY, 120	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, 80	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, 88	18.00	18.00
APPLES,MAC,120, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES,MAC,140, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, #1, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, #1, 140	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	15.00	16.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, 25 LBS	38.00	38.00
CORN, ORN., STRAWB, 20-3	28.00	30.00
CORN, ORN, BLUE, 203	28.00	30.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	28.00	30.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	19.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 18-1 LB	18.00	22.00
POPCORN, 20-3S	28.00	30.00
POTATO,FINGERLING, 20 LB	20.00	20.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, SZ A, 50LB	14.00	14.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF,50LB	14.00	14.00
PUMPKINS, PIE, 1-1/9	11.00	15.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 36" BIN	190.00	230.00
RUTABAGAS, 50 LBS	12.00	13.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1-1/9	12.00	15.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, 1/2 BU	9.00	13.00
TOMATO,GHSE,CHERRY,5LB	12.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25LB	16.00	20.00
TOMATO,GHSE,ONVINE, 11LB	8.00	14.50
TOMATO,HEIRLM,GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00
TURNIPS,PURPLE TOPS,25LBS	10.00	15.00
TURNIPS, WHITE CAPE, 1-1/9	17.00	18.00

SHIPPED IN

CABBAGE, NY 50 LBS	8.00	10.00
KALE, NJ, CRATES, 12 BNCH	16.00	18.00
KOHLRABI,NJ, CRT,12-16 BNCH	16.00	18.00
MESCULIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	8.00	8.00
MUSHROOM,ENOKI,PA,12-3.5OZ	18.00	19.00
MUSHROOM, OYSTER,PA,3 LBS	13.00	13.25
MUSHROOM, OYSTER, PA, 5 LBS	18.00	20.00
MUSHROOM, SHITAKE, PA, 3LB	14.00	15.00
MUSTARD GREENS, GA, 12	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 50 LBS	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 20-2LB	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, RED, NY, 25 LBS	13.00	17.00
PARSLEY, NJ 30 BUNCHES	26.00	30.00
POTATO, RNDWHT,PEI, 10-5LB	12.00	12.00
POTATO,RNDRED,PEI,10-5LB,A	15.00	16.00
POTATO, RUSSET, ID #1, 50	16.00	19.00
POTATO, RUSSET, ID #1 100	15.00	19.00

NEW ENGLAND AND PA CUT FLOWERS

LILIES, ASIATIC, NE, 10	25.00	25.00
LILIES,SORBONNE,NE, 10	25.00	25.00
SUNFLOWER, LGE, NE, 5	5.50	6.50

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, December 7, 2015

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	55.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	85.00	150.00
76-90 lbs.	155.00	160.00
91-105 lbs.	165.00	170.00
106 lbs. & up	175.00	180.00
Farm Calves	185.00	205.00
Starter Calves	50.00	60.00
Veal Calves	85.00	182.50
Open Heifers	75.00	150.00
Beef Heifers	79.00	84.00
Feeder Steers	150.00	180.00
Beef Steers	90.00	130.00
Stock Bulls	120.00	160.00
Beef Bulls	97.00	120.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	.01
Sows	1@	22.00
Butcher Hogs	37.50	60.00
Feeder Pigs	20.00	35.00
Sheep	210.00	290.00
Lambs	190.00	260.00
Goats each	65.00	260.00
Kid Goats	50.00	130.00
Canners	up to	69.00
Cutters	70.00	74.00
Utility Grade Cows	75.00	79.00
Rabbits each	5.00	16.00
Chickens each	5.00	16.00
Ducks each	4.00	14.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.97	2.11
LARGE	1.91	2.05
MEDIUM	1.32	1.45

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.34	2.60
LARGE	2.27	2.50
MEDIUM	1.55	1.69
SMALL	1.03	1.13

FEEDER PIGS - NEW HOLLAND, PA

Sold by cwt.

US 1-2	20-30 lbs	135.00	200.00
	30-40 lbs	100.00	150.00
	40-50 lbs	60.00	95.00
	50-100 lbs	40.00	70.00
US 2-3	30-40 lbs	145.00	155.00
	40-50 lbs	70.00	95.00

HAY - LANCASTER, PA

Small squares, each

ALFALFA			
	Premium	300.00	300.00
GRASS HAYS			
	Premium	295.00	330.00
	Good	225.00	285.00
ALFALFA/GRASS			
	Supreme	350.00	395.00
	Premium	305.00	305.00
STRAW		230.00	290.00
	Medium		164.52

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.

125-R. 20 ton tag along Custom trailer. Purchased new in 2000. Original owner/operator. Excellent condition. $8,900.00. Lebanon. 860-642-4292.

128-R. For Sale: Branford 2+ acres land, barns and 3 bedroom farmhouse. Previously farmed by 3 generations of the same family. Had operated a fruit/vegetable stand. Nut trees on property include black walnut, filbert (hazelnuts), heart nuts. Large barn with hayloft & stand above with room for heavy equipment/truck and chicken barn/stall below. Smaller barn/shed for pullets. Previous animals include chickens, turkeys, horse, goat. Zoned for small animals or 2 large. Situated on a tidal marsh with natural beauty. Close to town and commuter rail, photos available upon request. Contact: Stephanie F. Dorman at 203-488-1641, Ext. 205.

131-R. For sale: Vaughan vertical wet-well recirculating Chopper Pump; type used for manure pit. Best offer.
Call Steve S. 860-286-9999 X 134.

133-R. 72X30x12 (high) foot hi-tunnel for sale. Lots of extra parts. 203-387-3055.

134R. Save time, labor, money. GLEASON Soil Mixer, 1 yard, with cell, flat pot filler, with agitator, brushes, roller, with elevator and soil return. Very good condition. Strong as an army tank with unbelievable number of adjustments. Four separate units. Offered at one-third value, $12,000.00, O.B.O. Wheeler Farm, 171 Bartlett Street, Portland, CT 06480. Tel. 860-342-2374, email: bebelarson1@gmail.com

135-R. For Sale: Goats, Kiko bucks. Purebred. 8 months old. No papers. 860-537-1974.

WANTED

127-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/Softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

132-R. Wanted: Quick detach forks and complete backhoe assembly for a JD 790 tractor. 860-663-1769, 5pm-9pm.

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.

The Dept. of Agriculture is promoting the purchase of Connecticut Grown Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland this holiday season.

The promotion includes audio and visual ads on Pandora Radio, iHeartRadio and Bomba FM, in addition to an enhanced page on the agency's website: www.CTGrown.gov/trees and promotion via the agency's social media platforms, including Facebook: www.Facebook.com/ConnecticutGrown and Pinterest : www.pinterest.com/GrowCTAg/ct-grown-christmas-trees/

HISTORIC SOUTHBURY FARM LATEST TO BE PRESERVED BY STATE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS

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"Conservation easement programs have benefits on multiple levels," said Connecticut NRCS State Conservationist Thomas L. Morgart. "They keep the land available for farming, improve agricultural viability, and encourage on-farm conservation. And, because prices of protected land are often lower than comparable unprotected land, it can allow new and beginning farmers access to land they might not otherwise be able to afford."

Benjamin Stiles, a retired teacher, said preserving the farm for agricultural use in perpetuity was very important to him and his wife Sharon, who do all the work on the farm themselves.

His father, David Stiles, planted the first crop of Christmas trees in the mid-1960s, and began making maple syrup around the same time.

Prior to that, the long line of owners in the Stiles family used the farm to grow their own food and raise animals, but did not do so commercially. The Stiles now sell about 250-300 Christmas cut-your-own trees a season, as well as 100 to 150 gallons of maple syrup.

Future plans include having the farm being taken over by the Stiles' daughter, Sarah, a graduate of the nearby Nonnewaug High School's agriscience and technology program who intends to pursue a degree in horticulture.

"My goal was to make sure this stays as farmland," Stiles said as he walked the farm last week. "And if for some reason my daughter can't keep it, this will allow her to sell it but it will always be a farm."

For now, the Stiles' are busy tending to customers who select a bow saw hanging on the outside of the sugarhouse to cut their own Christmas tree from the rolling property that contains about 10,000 trees in various stages of growth.

"We started selling the day after Thanksgiving and as soon as the sun came up we went crazy," Benjamin Stiles said. "We've sold a hundred trees already."

They raise mostly Blue Spruce, and plant about 500 new trees each season. Most species typically mature to about 6-feet-tall in about seven years, but Stiles has found evergreens to be a quirky and often high-maintenance crop.

"There are so many diseases and pests it's unbelievable," he said, noting how much time he spends in the fields with his backpack pesticide sprayer and pruning shears.

"You'll have a 5-foot tree next to a 1-foot tree and I know they were planted on the same day. The thing is, you try something new and it takes five or six years to find out if it works."

Last winter's heavy snow blanketed the trees for months, he said, and seemed to spark a growing pattern where the top vertical "leader" sprouted up several feet, but had few or no horizontal branches.

"So now I've got a whole section of tree with no branches," Stiles said. "What do you do with them?"

They typically donate unsellable trees to the Nonnewaug school, where students turn them into wreaths sold as a fundraiser.

Proceeds from the conveyance of development rights to the farm will be used to invest in the farm's infrastructure, including renovating the farmhouse and planting Plantation Maple trees that Stiles said are touted as being able to produce an extraordinarily large amount of sap from just a thin sapling.

"That's what they say, anyway," Stiles said with a grin as he pointed out the area planned for the maples. "We'll see what happens."

Clockwise from top left: Sharon and Benjamin Stiles in one of their Christmas tree fields; the farm's original barn; the 1740 farmhouse under renovation; customers picking out a cut-your-own tree late last week; a view of the farm from the edge of Route 6.

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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