

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
January 5, 2016



Christine Whitney weeding lettuce this week at Phoenix Farm in Cromwell.

CROMWELL ORGANIC FARM FIRST IN TOWN TO BE PROTECTED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farms in Sharon, Lebanon Also Enter Preservation Program

One of the last working farms in Cromwell will forever remain available for agricultural production after its owners conveyed development rights to the state under the Community Farms Preservation Program.

Phoenix Farm, which dates to the late 1800s, grows more than 80 varieties of organic fruits and vegetables that are sold directly from the farm, as well as at several area farmers' markets and a large local supermarket.

Located on Nooks Hill Road just a few miles from the city of Middletown and the busy intersection of Interstate 91 and Route 9, it is the first in Cromwell to be preserved under the state program.

Owner Christine Whitney, whose parents Margaret and Carl Lassen bought the 47-acre farm in 1957, said she and her husband John decided to preserve it after witnessing much of the town's farmland be replaced with shopping plazas and residential developments over the years.

"Our heritage was agriculture and now we grow condos," she said. "Everything around here is being built up and commercialized. You see farmland disappear and once it's gone - it's

gone."

The Community Farms Preservation Program (CFPP) focuses on smaller farms, often in close proximity to population centers, and which do not qualify for the state's long-standing Farmland Preservation Program. Combined, the programs have preserved 318 farms - including 15 in 2015 - and nearly 42,000 acres of farmland.

"Maintaining and growing a strong agricultural presence near densely-populated areas is extremely important, both for farms and for the communities they serve," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "Agricultural staff has worked diligently with local officials and farmers to protect these critical resources and I applaud the Whitneys for taking this step to maintain their family's legacy."

The CFPP also encourages municipalities to participate in the protection of farms of local importance. A significant portion of Phoenix Farm lies within the floodplain of the Connecticut River, and is directly connected to the river via the 10-acre Dead Man's Swamp that is part of a wildlife preserve.

(Continued on Page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	68.00	75.00
boners 80-85% lean	64.00	73.00
lean 88-90% lean	60.00	68.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	121.00	125.00
Choice 2-3	115.00	123.00
Sel 1-3	110.00	117.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 2-3	106.00	110.50
Ch 2-3	99.00	107.00
Sel 2-3	94.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	121.50	122.50
Ch 2-3	115.00	119.50
CALVES Graded bull		
No 1 122 lbs	245.00	245.00
No 1 95-112 lbs	275.00	280.00
No 1 90 lbs	185.00	185.00
No 2 95-115 lbs	237.00	255.00
No 2 85-90 lbs	165.00	177.00
No 3 73-109 lbs	125.00	157.00
Utility 82-103 lbs	100.00	135.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
80-90 lbs	250.00	252.00
90-110 lbs	207.00	225.00
110-130 lbs	192.00	212.00
130-150 lbs	165.00	185.00
150-200 lbs	170.00	182.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	125.00	135.00
120-160 lbs	115.00	137.00
160-200 lbs	80.00	127.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	100.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	87.00	117.00
200-300 lbs	85.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-50 lbs	230.00	235.00
50-60 lbs	245.00	270.00
80-100 lbs	280.00	310.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	235.00	255.00
130-180 lbs	260.00	285.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
80-100 lbs	265.00	275.00
100-150 lbs	330.00	370.00
150-250 lbs	365.00	445.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA., HOG AUCTION

All prices per cwt.

52-56	250-350 lbs	45.00	50.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	35.00	46.00
Sows 1-3	300-500 lbs	31.00	38.00
	500-700 lbs	26.50	31.00
Boars	300-500 lbs	4.00	6.00

VERMONT FARMERS MKT

Retail prices. Per lb or as marked. Dec 31, 2015

LAMB CHOPS	16.50	18.00
GROUND LAMB	11.00	11.00
GROUND BEEF	6.00	10.00
RIB EYE	19.00	23.50
CHUCK ROAST	6.45	12.00
TENDERLOINS	20.25	29.50

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES, CORTLAND, #1, 100	19.00	19.00
APPLES, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80, 88	68.00	68.00
APPLES, EMPIRE, 120/140, #1, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 80, 88	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 120, 140	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MACS, FNCY, 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
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	33.00	33.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	19.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 18-1 LB	18.00	22.00
POTATO, FINGERLING, 20 LB	20.00	20.00
POTATO, RNDRED, 50 LBS	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDWHT, 1, CHEF, 50#	10.00	10.00
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
SPINACH, FLAT, CTN, 24	15.00	17.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1-1/9	12.00	15.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9	12.00	14.00
TOMS, GHSE, CHERRY, 8-10 OZ	14.00	17.00
TOMS, GHSE, CHERRY, VINE 5LB	12.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, ONVINE, 11LB	8.00	15.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25LB	16.00	20.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00
TURNIPS, PURPLE TOPS, 25LBS	10.00	12.00

SHIPPED IN

DAIKON, NJ, 12 COUNT	16.00	19.00
ENDIVE, CA, 24 COUNT	15.00	20.00
GARLIC, COLOSSAL, CA, 30 LBS	55.00	65.00
GINGER ROOT, 5 LBS	8.00	11.00
KALE, SC, CRATES, 12 BNCH	13.00	13.00
LETT, BOSTN, CAN, HYDR, 12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
MACHE, GHSE, PA, 3 LBS	12.00	12.00
KOHLRABI, GA, CRT, 12 BNCHS	16.00	18.00
MESCULIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.00	6.50
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
MUSHRM, PORTABELLA, PA 5LB	7.50	12.50
MUSHRM, SHITAKE, PA, LG, 3LB	14.00	15.00
MUSTARD GREENS, GA, 12	14.00	14.00
ONIONS, BOILERS, ID, 25 LBS	17.00	18.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 50 LBS	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 20-2LB	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, RED, 10 LBS	7.50	9.00
SWISSCHARD, GREEN, CA, 12	16.00	20.00

NEW ENGLAND AND NJ FLOWERS

SUNFLOWER, LGE, PA, 5	5.50	6.50
SUNFLOWER, LGE, NE, EACH	.85	1.00
SUNFLOWER, MINI, PA, 10	7.50	7.50
TULIPS, NJ, LONG STEM, 10	12.00	12.00
SUNFLOWER, LGE, PA, 5 FLWRS	6.50	7.50
SUNFLOWER, LGE, NE, EACH	.85	1.00
SUNFLOWER, MINI, PA, 10 STEMS	7.50	7.50
SUNFLOWER, LGE, PA, 5	6.50	7.50
SUNFLOWER, LGE, NE, EACH	.85	1.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, January 4, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	110.00	125.00
76-90 lbs.	177.50	180.00
91-105 lbs.	182.50	185.00
106 lbs. & up	187.50	190.00
Farm Calves	195.00	197.50
Starter Calves	52.00	55.00
Veal Calves	110.00	170.00
Open Heifers	110.00	120.00
Beef Heifers	71.00	95.00
Feeder Steers	90.00	130.00
Beef Steers	83.00	106.00
Stock Bulls	120.00	135.00
Beef Bulls	99.00	104.00
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	35.00	60.00
Sheep	95.00	142.50
Lambs	50.00	210.00
Goats each	95.00	320.00
Kid Goats	130.00	195.00
Canners	up to	75.50
Cutters	76.00	79.00
Utility Grade Cows	80.00	22.50
Rabbits each	4.00	18.00
Chickens each	5.00	60.00
Ducks each	9.00	14.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.98	1.14
LARGE	.94	1.08
MEDIUM	.65	.78

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	.98	1.14
LARGE	.94	1.08
MEDIUM	1.20	1.29
SMALL	1.00	1.08

VERMONT FARMERS MKT

Retail prices. Per lb or as marked. Dec 31, 2015

APPLES	1.50	3.00
BEETS	2.00	2.50
GARLIC	10.00	12.00
KALE	2.50	4.00
ONIONS	1.60	2.00
PARSNIPS	3.00	3.00
RUTABAGA	1.25	1.25
SWEET POTATO	2.75	4.00
WINTER SQUASH	1.25	2.00
EGGS, DOZ	4.50	5.00
WHOLE CHICKEN	4.15	5.00
GROUND PORK	7.95	8.00
PORK CHOPS	8.00	13.00
PORK LOIN	10.00	12.00
BABY BACK RIBS	7.00	10.50

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.

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.

138. Farm tractor for sale: Massey Harris Pacer with snow plow. \$2,000.00. Call George 860-617-8652.

139. Farm tractor for sale: 1955 or 1956 Massey Harris Model 50. \$1,200.00. Call George 860-617-8652.

WANTED

137-R. Maple Lane Farms is a hydroponic grower of produce for the retail and food service markets. Due to increased demand from our customers, we are seeking greenhouse owners to grow our products on a contract basis. If interested, call 860-227-8786.

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.

140-R. FREE Off grade potatoes for animal feed in East Windsor, Conn. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

**DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE OFFERING
GRANT-WRITING SEMINARS**

Connecticut Department of Agriculture staff are available to present at farmer meetings and conferences on grant opportunities and ways to improve grant-writing skills.

Presentations will be customized to the event and can range from 45 minutes to up to two hours in length. All presentations will include:

- Grant opportunities through the agency
- How to improve grant-writing skills
- What makes a successful application
- Insight into project evaluation

Presentations longer than an hour may also include:

- Farmer success stories
- Active brainstorming; putting pen to paper

Those interested may contact Jaime Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860-713-2559.

**CT VEGETABLE AND SMALL FRUIT GROWERS'
CONFERENCE JAN. 11**

The annual CT Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers' Conference will be held Monday, January 11 from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Maneeley's Conference Center, 65 Rye St., South Windsor.

This will be one of the last chances to obtain Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Credits for 2015. There will be 2-3 hours of re-certification credits available (pending DEEP approval).

Pre-registration postmarked by Jan. 6 is \$40 and reserves food and refreshments. Late registration or walk-in's are \$60.

Door registration, continental breakfast and trade show starts at 8 a.m. and educational talks start at 8:55 a.m.

For full program, directions and a pre-registration form, go to www.ipm.uconn.edu/ or email Mackenzie.White@UConn.edu, or call 860-875-3331.

(Continued from Page 1)

Citing the need to protect its dwindling farmland and wetlands, the town of Cromwell made a financial contribution to the conveyance. Other funding was provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Conservation easement programs keep land available for farming, improve agricultural sustainability, and encourage on-farm conservation," said Connecticut NRCS State Conservationist Thomas L. Morgart. "We are committed to preserving working agricultural lands for future generations of farmers, and to restoring and protecting vital, sensitive wetlands that provide important wildlife habitat and improve water quality."

The farm is also adjacent to the Cromwell Fish & Game Club and the Upper 40 Farm, owned by the Caruso family, who for years leased some of the Phoenix property to grow organic crops.

"The Carusos were our organic mentors," said John Whitney, who also works as operations supervisor at a large retail complex in Canton.

Christine Whitney ended her 29-year career in human services last year to begin farming full-time, and is determined to continue the gradual but steady growth of the farm.

When the couple took over the farm six years ago, they grew only watermelons and pumpkins, sold from a small roadside table. Now, along with the dozens of varieties of fruits and vegetables, they also raise free-range chickens for eggs and sell honey, maple syrup, and award-winning pickles.

Short-term plans include building a permanent farm stand, starting a CSA next year and continuing to expand their roster of customers, which now includes the popular Flatbread Company pizza restaurant in Canton. The Whitneys supply the restaurant year-round with vegetables used for pizza toppings.

"We tell them what we have that week they'll make specials from those items," Christine said.

Earlier this week, the couple was tending to a variety of greens and other cool-weather crops they are growing in winter for the first time in one of their greenhouses, where the thermometer read 39 degrees.

"As long as it stays in the upper 20s to the 40s these guys are happy," Christine said of some lettuce plants she was weeding with a hoe.

Preserving the farm will allow it to be potentially taken over by their daughter Danielle, who graduated several years ago from the Vo-Ag program at nearby Middletown High and now works on the farm.

John Whitney said he is particularly proud that the farm is the only one in town that sells its own certified organic crops directly to retail customers.

"That's one of the reasons it is so important to preserve this as a farm," he said. "People these days really want to know what's in their food and we want to keep growing for the local community."

Other farmland recently protected under the state program includes:

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

- 55 acres on Exeter Road in Lebanon owned by Green Gate LLC and used to grow hay and corn for dairy support. It is the 34th farm comprising more than 4,000 acres protected in Lebanon under the program.
- The 79-acre J.A. Church Farm in Sharon, which grows hay for livestock support and vegetables. Located on White Hollow Road and Gavel Cabin Road, it is the 12th farm in Sharon to be preserved under the state program.

The farm is bordered by the Housatonic State Forest to the south, and is surrounded by other environmentally sensitive and historically significant lands that have been protected by the state and private land trusts.

Totaling nearly 1,800 acres, the other protected Sharon farms include the adjacent Wike Brothers Farm, preserved in 2010, as well as the Mary Del Farm, Four Maples Farm, and farms owned by the Moore, Griskauskas, Creel, Childs, Turkiewicz, Johnson, Johnson Brothers, and Paley families.



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