

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
September 6, 2016



Dept. of Agriculture veterinarian Dr. Bruce Sherman speaking at a recent conference that explored how farms can reduce the risks associated with holding public events where visitors interact with livestock.

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON REDUCING HEALTH RISKS TO PEOPLE AND ANIMALS DURING AGRITOURISM EVENTS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

The home video posted on YouTube shows a little girl in a purple-and-white dress scampering around a farm, nuzzling and kissing four kid goats as her mother follows her with the camera.

Seconds after leaning down to kiss one of the goats, the girl sticks her fingers into her mouth.

"This is my worst nightmare," Dr. Megin Nichols, a veterinarian with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told an audience of about 80 farmers and others at a recent conference focusing on the risks associated with "agritourism" events that include contact between people and farm animals.

"It's cute, but every time she kisses one of those goats is an opportunity for *E. coli* infection," Nichols added. "It's not going to be cute when she's in the hospital."

The conference, ***Agritourism: Protecting Public Health, Animal Health and Your Farm***, was held at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford in response to an outbreak of *E. coli* this spring at a Connecticut goat farm that sickened more than 50 people who had attended weekend open houses.

Several of those who became ill were children that developed a severe kidney condition called hemolytic uremic syndrome, which required hospitalization and dialysis as part of their treatment.

"It is pretty much total meltdown of the kidneys," Nichols said. "It's very, very serious."

Nichols, who is with the CDC's Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch, said there are typically several hundred outbreaks of animal-to-human disease across the country every year.

Children under the age of five are most commonly affected, she said, and also develop the most severe symptoms. She described her experience in dealing with a number of outbreaks at farms, petting zoos and agricultural fairs, and how farmers can reduce the health risks for visitors.

"Number one – always have hand washing available for the public and have signs posted telling them to wash their hands," she said. "Maybe even have people there telling them to wash their hands. It's crucial."

Livestock can harbor and shed *E. coli* while showing no signs of infection and appearing to be in good health. The nature of public events can also be a contributor to outbreaks because they can put animals under stress, which triggers increased shedding of disease organisms through their feces and into the environment.

"When kids come running up to hug animals like goats and are all excited, that can be stressful for the animals," Nichols said.

Exhibitions involving dairy calves are also prone to outbreaks because of what she said is common and dangerous "hand-to-mouth behaviors" of children.

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	65.00	70.50
boners 80-85% lean	65.00	69.50
lean 88-90% lean	56.00	62.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	112.00	115.50
Choice 2-3	108.00	112.00
Sel 1-2	102.00	107.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	100.00	103.50
Ch 2-3	95.00	101.00
Sel 1-2	90.00	95.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-128 lbs	122.00	144.00
No 1 80-88 lbs	110.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	225.00	227.00
110-130 lbs	202.00	216.00
130-150 lbs	180.00	197.00
150-200 lbs	167.00	182.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	100.00	115.00
120-160 lbs	95.00	117.00
160-200 lbs	85.00	107.00
200-300 lbs	77.00	98.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	140.00	157.00
200-300 lbs	107.00	167.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-50 lbs	175.00	185.00
50-60 lbs	180.00	205.00
60-70 lbs	200.00	225.00
80-100 lbs	260.00	285.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1, by head		
80-130 lbs	220.00	255.00
130-180 lbs	260.00	280.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	325.00	345.00
150-250 lbs few	355.00	390.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

Sold by the head.

FRESH COWS:		
APPROVED	1250.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	925.00	1175.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1125.00	1275.00
MEDIUM	900.00	1150.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1525.00	1650.00
APPROVED	1200.00	1475.00
MEDIUM	975.00	1225.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1225.00	1425.00
MEDIUM	950.00	1175.00

WEEKLY GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION

Atlanta, GA. August 30, 2016. Price per pound.

CROSSBRED FOWL, 5-9 LBS	.35	.40
GUINEA FOWL	1.50	1.90
MUSCOVY DUCKS		
DRAKES	1.10	2.00
HENS	1.00	1.20
RED FOWL		
5-6 LBS	.55	.55
4-5 LBS	.10	.15

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, GNGERGLD, LOOSE	24.00	26.00
APPLES, PAULARED, XF, 96	30.00	32.00
APPLES, PAULARED, FNCY, 96	24.00	24.00
APPLES, PAULARED, LOOSE	24.00	26.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	45.00	45.00
BEANS, FLAT GREEN, BU	24.00	24.00
BEANS, GREEN, MACH PK, BU	20.00	20.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	24.00	24.00
BLUEBERRY, NONCULT, 12-1PT	60.00	60.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	10.00	12.00
BROCCOLI, CROWNS, 20 LBS	10.00	12.00
CABBAGE, 50 LBS	10.00	12.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 9	14.00	14.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 12	13.00	14.00
COLLARDS, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	18.00
CORN, SWT, BI-COLR, 48, CRATE	10.00	12.50
CORN, SWT, BI-COLR, 60, SACK	8.00	12.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9	12.00	12.00
PEPPER, GRNBELL W/RED, 1-1/9	7.00	9.00
PEPPER, CHERRY HOT, 1/2 BU	19.00	19.00
PEPPER, CUBANL, Y/GMIX, 1-1/9	10.00	10.00
PEPPERS, JALAPENO, 10 LBS	12.00	12.00
PLUM, BLUE ITALIAN, 20 LB	30.00	30.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1 CHEF, 50LB	15.00	15.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 10OZ, 50 LB	14.00	14.00
POTATO, RSST, #1, 40, 50LB CTN	18.00	18.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 70-90, 50LB	15.50	16.00
POTATO, YEL, #1, CHEF, 50 LB	18.00	20.00
SQUASH, ACORN/BTTNT, 1-1/9	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, SM, 1/2 BU	14.00	20.00
SQUASH, YLLW, MED, 1/2 BU	12.00	18.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, 1/2 BU	10.00	18.00
TOM, CHRY, GHSE, ONVINE, 5LB	16.00	18.00
TOM, CHRY, GHSE, 8-10 OZ	24.00	26.00
TOMS, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10 LBS	24.00	25.00
TOMATOES, 20 LBS	22.00	28.00
TOMATOES, XL, 25 LBS	22.00	24.00
TOMS, PLUM, ROMA, 25 LBS	13.00	14.00

CT FARMERS' MARKET REPORT

APPLES, MCINTOSH, 1/2 PECK	3.00	3.00
APPLES, PAULARED, 1/2 PECK	3.00	3.00
BEANS, GREEN, PER QUART	3.00	3.00
BEETS, W/TOPS, PER BUNCH	3.00	4.00
CARROTS, W/TOPS, PER BN	3.00	3.00
BLACKBERRIES, 1/2 PINT	3.00	3.00
CABBAGE, PER HEAD	3.00	3.00
CORN, EACH	.50	.50
CORN, 7 EARS	3.00	3.00
CUKES, EACH	.50	.50
EGGPLANT, EACH	1.00	1.00
EGGPLANT, 2	3.00	3.00
LETTUCE, HYDRO, PER HEAD	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, BANANA, 6	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, CUBANELLE, QUART	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, CUBANELLE, 5	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, CHERRY HOT, 6	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, BELL, LGE, 6	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, BELL, XL, 4	3.00	3.00
PLUMS, PER QUART	3.00	3.00
POTATOES, PER LB	1.00	1.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 2	3.00	3.00
SQUASH, GREEN/YELLOW, 2	3.00	3.00
SQUASH, GRN/YEL, 2 QUARTS	3.00	3.00
TOMATOES, 5	3.00	3.00
TOMATOES, PER QT (6-7)	3.00	3.00
WATERMELON, 30-35 LBS, EA	8.00	8.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT - September 5, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	50.00	55.00
61-75 lbs.	60.00	70.00
76-90 lbs.	72.00	77.50
91-105 lbs.	79.00	82.00
106 lbs. & up	83.00	85.00
Farm Calves	87.50	108.00
Starter Calves	45.00	52.00
Veal Calves	100.00	140.00
Open Heifers	90.00	130.00
Beef Heifers	82.50	93.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	85.00
Beef Steers	n/a	n/a
Stock Bulls	110.00	130.00
Beef Bulls	n/a	n/a
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 each	37.50	52.50
Sheep each	100.00	250.00
Lambs each	95.00	460.00
Goats each	100.00	380.00
Kid Goats each	70.00	150.00
Canners	up to	65.00
Cutters	66.00	69.00
Utility Grade Cows	70.00	72.50
Rabbits each	8.00	45.00
Chickens each	5.00	50.00
Ducks each	5.00	25.00

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

XTRA LARGE	.74	1.03
LARGE	.68	.82
MEDIUM	.35	.48

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

XTRA LARGE	1.19	1.29
LARGE	1.09	1.19
MEDIUM	.54	.64
SMALL	.32	.42

WEEKLY GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION

Atlanta, GA. August 30, 2016. Price per each.

BANTY ROOSTERS	3.00	4.00
BANTY HENS	2.00	2.50
BROILERS	.35	1.00
BUNNIES	1.00	3.00
CALL DUCKS	5.00	7.00
CHICKS	.15	.25
DUCKLINGS	1.00	2.00
GOOSE EGGS	2.50	2.50
GUINEA KEETS	1.50	2.00
LAYING PULLETS	5.00	5.00
LEGHORN HENS	.75	.75
MANDARIN DUCKS	29.00	4.00
PEKIN DUCKS	4.00	4.50
PIGEONS	2.00	2.25
QUAIL	1.10	1.70
TURKEYS	8.00	9.00
TURKEY POULTS	3.00	3.10

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.

85-R. 8 yearling Baldy steers. 8 open yearling Baldy heifers. 4 bred Baldy heifers due August. 860-485-5720.

89-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, Spaghetti by the box or bin. East Windsor, Connecticut. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

90-R. For Sale: Mulch hay in 500 lb. round bales. Asking 19.00 per bale. Call Mike Sr. – 860-528-4660.

91-R. Rough sawn hemlock and pine lumber, great for fall time repairs and construction. Oak trailer decking and sideboards. Pine shiplap and Tongue & Groove perfect for barn siding. We welcome custom sawn orders. Custom furniture ranging from bar tops to outdoor furniture. Large inventory of live edge slabs. Hinman Lumber, Burlington, CT. 860-673-9170.

93. For Sale: 1940 Farmall A w/cultivators. Completely restored. Excellent condition. \$4,500.00. Colchester, CT 860-984-3196.

94. For Sale: Hudson sawmill Oscar 228. Will cut 14 ft log. 4 years old. Excellent condition. \$2,150.00. Colchester, CT. 860-984-3196.

96-R. Bulk rye seed for cover crop. Also, bright, clean straw, square bales or net wrapped round bales. 860-355-1264.

WANTED

86-R. Orchard Opportunity. Drazen Orchards located on 30 acres in Cheshire, growing apples, peaches, pears and plums is seeking energetic farm foreman to help oversee all aspects of our current operation and ongoing expansion. Experience in orchard practices, operation of equipment and mechanical aptitude required. Additional opportunity for a farm couple which could include management and further development of existing retail and PYO operation with potential of on farm housing. Please only respond by email: edrazen1@gmail.com

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-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

92-R. Hills Farm- Dairy farm in Hebron CT seeking part time worker to milk and feed cows and clean barns and pens etc. Call Greg at 860-573-2664.

95-R. Wanted: Experienced vegetable grower- looking for a full time person to help oversee a new branch of our existing farm business. Experience in field crops and greenhouse is a must. Please contact Charles at 203-214-1408 or crbeasley@albertus.edu

**COVENTRY WINTER FARMERS' MARKET
SEEKING PRODUCE VENDORS**

Produce vendors, especially those selling greens, are being sought for the Coventry Winter Farmers' Market, held on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Nov. 20, 2016 to March 19, 2017, at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road.

The fee for 15 market days is \$250.00, and guest vendor fee is \$25.00 per market. Deadline for applications is Sept. 16. The market is certified as producer-only, meaning that all products must be grown and/or produced in Connecticut, and purchasing product for resale is not allowed. Those interested should contact market master Aline Hoffman at bahoffman@earthlink.net for an application.

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"Children love to stick their fingers in the calf's mouth and let them suck on it," she said. "And then that finger goes in their mouth or they chew on their nails."

Other speakers included experts from the state Dept. of Agriculture, the state Dept. of Public Health, UCONN Extension, the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services and Nationwide Insurance.

Bruce Sherman, DVM, MPH, who is Director of the Dept. of Agriculture's Bureau of Regulation and Inspection, said that some people who became ill in the outbreak at the goat farm this spring may have been infected not by direct contact with an animal, but by coming in contact with *E. coli* that was present in the goats' environment such as on a pen gate and on a hay bale where children would hold kid goats.

Others became ill after buying kid goats at the farm and taking them home.

"A lot of animals moved off that farm," during the 3-week-end open-houses that were attended by an estimated 1,500 visitors, said Sherman, who led the Dept. of Agriculture's portion of the investigation.

But because the farm did not maintain proper animal sales records and did not adhere to state and federal interstate movement requirements, it was difficult for investigators to track down who bought animals and where they went in order to alert the new owners to potential health risks.

Sherman stressed that farms should consider having all visitors during public events leave their contact information in a visitors' log so they can be reached later if needed.

He also advised farmers to take whatever steps they can to ensure their animals are healthy immediately before an event.

"If you're going to have an open house you might want to have a veterinarian come in the day before just to check all of your animals out," Sherman said.

Having visitors sign a waiver acknowledging the inherent risk of interacting with farm animals can also be helpful in the event of an incident, said Lance Reeve, a Senior Risk Management Consultant with Nationwide Insurance who specializes in agribusiness and food safety.

"It's helpful because it shows you were taking steps to reasonably warn your visitors," he said.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said in his remarks that while the outbreak at the farm demonstrates the risk of holding a public event, it should not discourage farmers from continuing to raise awareness about their operations.

"Today, our population is very far removed from the farm, so it's critically important that we all educate folks about the importance of farming and agriculture," he said.

"Our farmers have risen to the occasion and invite their neighbors, the community and the public at large to come to their farms to learn about how they farm and what they do and why they do it. All of those things are important to the future of agriculture not only here in Connecticut, but across the country."

A conference resource website is available at:

<http://s.uconn.edu/agritourism>

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR FARM TO TABLE DINNER AT NONNEWAUG

The Woodbury FFA Friends, Family, and Alumni Association is holding their 2nd Annual Farm to Table Harvest Dinner on Friday, September 16, beginning at 6:30 pm at Nonnewaug High School.

Renowned chefs using locally-grown and produced food sources will prepare a dinner complete with appetizers, entrees, side dishes, and dessert. Chefs participating include Carole Peck from the Good News Café in Woodbury, Chris Eddy from Winvian Resort in Morris, Raid Aamar from Oliva on Main in Bethlehem, Mike Hadoulis from Atlantis Restaurant in Naugatuck, as well as food produced from the kitchens of New Morning Market, March Farms, Nodine's Smokehouse, Arethusa Farm cheeses and Thorncrest Farms Milk House Chocolates.

Several area farms will be providing their locally grown produce that will be featured in the meal, including Maywood Farm in Bridgewater, The Farm in Woodbury, Toplands Farm in Roxbury, Percy Thomson Meadows Farm, Sun One Organic Farm and Narrow Bridge Farm, all in Bethlehem, and DeSantis Farm in Watertown, among others.

Last year's dinner was sold out and generated over \$13,000 for student scholarships to be awarded to agriscience students pursuing agricultural careers in colleges.

"This event is an excellent opportunity to showcase our incredible agriscience students and FFA members to the public," said Bill Davenport, Director of the Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Program. "Last year we had so many people from the community attend this event and leave being very impressed with our students and our program and many mentioned they had no idea what we did in the agriscience program prior to attending this event."

Tickets are \$100.00 each and are available for purchase online at www.woodburyffa.org

For more information, please contact Davenport at BDavenport@ctreg14.org or Mary Korowotny, President, Woodbury FFA Friends, Family and Alumni Association at woodburyffaalumni@gmail.com

FARMERS INVITED TO THREE FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THIS MONTH

Three free programs to assist farmers are being offered this month through a cooperative effort of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, UConn Extension, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the Risk Management Agency/USDA.

- **Processing Your Farm Produce: Tuesday Sept. 13, 6-8 p.m., Memorial Hall, Main Street Bethlehem.**

For any Connecticut farmer interested in adding value through processing of their farm produce. Diane Hirsch, MPH, UConn Extension Educator will address topics including selecting recipes, developing a good process, key kitchen hygiene tips, rules and regulations, and more.

Please RSVP by Sept. 9 to Cathy Beaudoin at Connecticut Farm Bureau Association 860 768-1100 or cathyb@cfba.org. Co-sponsored by the Goshen Agricultural Commission and the Harwinton Agricultural Committee

- **Grants and Financial Assistance for Connecticut Farmers: Monday, Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m., Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester.**

Learn about grants and funding opportunities and how to apply from representatives from the CT Department of Agriculture, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education

No registration is required. Sponsored by the Colchester Agriculture Commission.

- **Agricultural Labor: How to Comply With U.S. Department of Labor Standards: Wednesday Sept. 21, 6-8 p.m., Guilford Fire Department, 390 Church Street, Guilford.**

Learn about the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), including minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping, and child labor requirements; the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA), including disclosure, wage, recordkeeping, housing, and transportation requirements; and the OSHA field sanitation standards.

Featuring Heather Callahan, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist (CORPS) U.S. Department of Labor. No registration is required. Co-sponsored by New Haven County Farm Bureau.

All three programs will also feature a discussion led by Joseph Bonelli, UConn Extension Educator, on using crop insurance to manage farm risk, as well as a risk management program update.

Contact the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association at 860-768-1100 or www.cfba.org

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Agricultural Development linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation cam.weimar@ct.gov	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D. 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2865
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519