

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
January 6, 2015



**Department of Agriculture Inspector Mark Zotti (L) checks the health of a group of reindeer that were featured in Torrington's annual Christmas Village display. With Zotti is Stan Washburn, a Torrington parks and recreation employee who has handled reindeer at the display for 18 years.**

## **ENSURING THE HEALTH OF CAPTIVE DEER, FOR SHOW OR THE MENU**

*By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky*

Whether they are part of Santa's sleigh team or headed for the dinner table, domesticated deer, elk or reindeer being housed in Connecticut are inspected by the Department of Agriculture to ensure they comply with animal health regulations.

Department Inspector Mark Zotti late last month visited holiday displays featuring reindeer in Torrington and Greenwich, and a farm in Marlborough where the owner raises elk and deer for food.

At the city-run Christmas Village in Torrington, Zotti passed a long line of children and parents waiting to enter the display that has been a tradition for nearly 70 years.

"I just want to make sure the animals are well cared for and have all the proper paperwork," Zotti said to city parks and recreation employee Stan Washburn as they walked to pens

where four reindeer, technically caribou, were being kept. The first task was for Zotti to get near enough to the animals to read the identification numbers on their ear tags.

Washburn unlocked the pen and drew the reindeer close with a lure he has used countless times in the 18 years he has worked at the village – a chunk of bread.

"I never would have guessed bread," Zotti said as the docile animals, all between four and five years old, approached expectantly.

"That's because you don't know reindeer like I do," Washburn replied with a chuckle.

The reindeer are rented each year from a farm in Gloversville, New York, and must be accompanied by a Livestock Exhibition Permit by the agriculture department.

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing

LOW HIGH

**SLAUGHTER COWS:**

breakers 75-80% lean	100.50	105.75
boners 80-85% lean	99.50	103.75
lean 85-90% lean	94.25	99.25

**CALVES graded bull**

No 1 95-120lbs	375.50	423.75
No 2 95-120lbs	345.50	389.50
No 3 80-120lbs	256.75	342.50

**SLAUGHTER HEIFERS**

HiCh/Prm3-4	165.75	168.75
Ch2-3	159.50	160.50
Sel1-2	152.50	153.00

**SLAUGHTER STEERS.**

HiCh/prm3-4	166.75	171.75
Ch2-3	163.25	167.00
Sel1-3	152.50	155.75

**SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS**

HiCh/prm3-4	146.50	151.75
Ch2-3	139.25	144.50
Sel1-2	130.50	132.50

**VEALERS**

	63.00	147.50
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**SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3**

40-60lb	335.00	345.00
60-80 lbs	250.00	280.00
110-130lbs	196.00	222.00

**SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3**

120-160lbs	135.00	160.00
160-200lbs	122.00	
130.00		

**BUCKS**

120-160.lbs	110.00	160.00
200-300lbs	102.00	126.00

**SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.**

20-40lb	97.00	120.00
40-60lb	137.00	187.00
60-80lb	172.00	197.00
80-100	195.00	220.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130lbs	200.00	217.00
130-170lbs	225.00	235.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	235.00	275.00
150-250lbs	n/a	

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

48-52	250-350 lbs	62.00	66.00
	300-350 lbs	n/a	
52-56	250-350 lbs	68.00	73.00
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	n/a	
	450-650 lbs	50.00	57.50
Boars	400-800 lbs	30.00	30.50

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

	LOW	HIGH
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1 1/9	12.00	13.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, GH, 12/4OZ	15.00	17.00
CIDER9, 9-1/2 GAL	18.00	20.00
APPLE PINK LADY 88CT, XFCY	24.00	24.00
POTATOES, 10LB	1.90	2.10
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	4.50	6.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1 1/9	8.00	13.00
POTATOES, RED, SZ A, 50LB	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1 1/9	12.00	12.00
TURNIP, PURPLE, 1 1/9	8.00	8.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	19.00	22.00
TOMATOES, 11LB, VR	24.00	24.00
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	4.00	26.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 12/3	17.00	17.00
APPLE, EMPIRE, 80CT, XFCY	25.00	27.00

**SHIPPED IN**

AVOCADOS, 32CT, MX	36.00	36.00
CHERRIES, 5KG, CHILE	40.00	40.00
PEACHES, 48CT, CHILE	24.00	24.00
BEANS, GREEN, BU, FL	15.00	20.00
BRUSSEL SPROUTS, 25LB, CA	38.00	38.00

**NORTHEAST/USDA PORK  
WEEKLY RETAIL PRICES  
PER LB, CHOICE**

BONE-IN CC LOINS	3.99	3.99
CC CHOPS B/IN	1.99	3.79
SMOKED CHOPS	5.64	6.99
BACKRIBS	2.88	5.33
BUTT B/IN	1.29	2.49
PORK STEAK	2.99	2.99
CS RIBS B/IN	2.19	2.97
GROUND PORK	2.87	4.99

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

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	230.00-330.00	180.00-200.00
MIXED HAY	230.00-445.00	235.00-290.00
STRAW	140.00-245.00	N/A
TIMOTHY	260.00-335.00	N/A

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, Jan. 5, 2015

LOW HIGH

Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	52.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	75.00	100.00
76-90 lbs.	260.00	270.00
91-105 lbs.	280.00	285.00
106 lbs. & up	290.00	295.00
Farm Calves	300.00	305.00
Starter Calves	46.00	50.00
Veal Calves	130.00	170.00
Open Heifers	160.00	167.50
Beef Heifers	120.00	130.00
Feeder Steers	140.00	185.00
Beef Steers	119.00	122.50
Stock Bulls	105.00	160.00
Beef Bulls	127.00	136.00
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	47.50	52.50
Sheep	220.00	240.00
Lambs	7 at	150.00
Goats each	105.00	190.00
Kid Goats	3 at	60.00
Canners	up to	112.00
Cutters	113.00	117.00
Utility Grade Cows	118.00	122.00
Rabbits each	6.00	30.00
Chickens each	5.00	17.00
Ducks each	7.00	21.00

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.20	1.24
LARGE	1.18	1.22
MEDIUM	1.04	1.08

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	2.08	2.25
LARGE	2.07	2.20
MEDIUM	1.43	1.53

**PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY**

US # 1-2		
20-50lb	210.00	310.00
50-60lb	195.00	260.00
60-70lb	250.00	275.00
70-90lb	110.00	175.00

**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](http://www.bludon.com).

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://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.

7-R. Ford Skidsteer, Wisconsin V4, bucket, extension for snow, Hay Spike attachment, excellent condition, inside stored. \$4,900. 860-877-3335.

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

9. Trail Flite landscape trailer with ramp. \$950.00. Cub Cadet snowplow, chains and mower deck. \$150.00. Needs work. 203-266-0722.

**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.

**WIC/SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM RE-CERTIFICATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

All WIC/Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) certifications have expired and the Dept. of Agriculture will hold 2015-2017 re-certification meetings for farmers at the following dates and locations.

- **Jan. 21 – 10 a.m.**  
Litchfield County Extension Center  
843 University Drive, Torrington
- **Jan. 28 – 10 a.m.**  
Kellogg Environmental Center  
500 Hawthorne Ave., Derby
- **Jan. 29 – 10 a.m.**  
Middlesex County Extension Center  
1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam
- **Feb. 4 – 10 a.m.**  
New London County Extension Center  
562 New London Turnpike, Norwich
- **March 4 – 6 p.m.**  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor

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The permit requires exhibitors to familiarize themselves with Connecticut regulations concerning "Animals in Public Settings." Owners also must file documents certifying the animals are healthy.

That includes enrolling the animals in a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in their home state, testing them for tuberculosis and brucellosis, and bearing official identification. CWD has not been found in Connecticut's native white tail deer population.

Regulations are in place to minimize the risk of introducing CWD into the state from imported captive deer while allowing reindeer to be brought in for holiday exhibitions and permitting the raising of domesticated deer.

After confirming that the numbers on the ear tags matched those on the permit and visually inspecting the animals' general health, Zotti asked to see their food supply.

"We keep the grain full and give them hay every other day," Washburn said as he opened the feed shed.

The grain is a bovine variety shipped along with the reindeer by their owners, who typically pick the reindeer up for return to New York on Christmas Eve.

"You've got plenty of water and food and bedding," Zotti told Washburn after spending about an hour at the village. "There are no sharp objects or edges in the pens and the animals appear to be very well taken care of."

Zotti also found no issues with the way four reindeer were being treated at a smaller holiday display run at McArdle's Florist and Garden Center in Greenwich, which also imported the animals from a New York farm.

"The use of these animals is part of an industry and my department is committed to ensuring that they are being cared for properly like any livestock in our state," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "Chronic Wasting Disease is a serious concern, and there is a very delicate balance that must be struck between permitting the farming of deer and protecting against the potential introduction of the disease."

It was three days before Christmas when Zotti visited Albert Daigle's deer farm in Marlborough, but there wasn't a sleigh bell to be found among his herd of deer and elk.

The ex-Marine and retired contractor says his animals aren't for show – they're his main source of meat.

"Good eatin'," he said with a slight smile. "When they're farm-grown like this there's no game taste. I haven't had a piece of beef in years."

Daigle participates in the state's Captive Cervidae Herd Program that requires his farm to be registered and inspected by the agriculture department. Cervidae is the Latin name for the family of animals that include deer, elk, caribou, moose and other species.

A full-grown elk can provide about 350 pounds of meat, Daigle said. He also owns 18 small Sitka deer, which he said produce about 35 pounds of meat apiece. Zotti was there to make sure Daigle's livestock paperwork was up to date, and that the animals were healthy and being housed properly.

The herd lives on several acres of fenced-in pasture directly in front of Daigle's house and other buildings formerly used for his construction business. He feeds the animals corn and grain, he told Zotti, along with alfalfa and clover he grows and cuts on an adjacent 20-acre parcel.

Daigle shook a plastic bucket filled with dried corn to bring the herd to Zotti for inspection, which showed the animals to be in generally good health.

"In the wild, these animals rely on their instincts and Mother Nature," Zotti said when the inspection was over. "But in captivity they rely on humans, and it is our job to make sure the humans are living up to that responsibility."



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**Above:** One of four reindeer imported from New York to be part of a Christmas Village display in Torrington, where a Dept. of Agriculture inspector made a visit to ensure the animals were being cared for properly.



**Left:** An American Elk and a group of smaller Sitka deer feed at Albert Daigle's farm in Marlborough. Daigle raises the deer for meat and for their antlers, which are ground into a therapeutic powder.

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