

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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FARMERS GIVE INPUT ON HARTFORD REGIONAL MARKET REDESIGN

By Steve Jensen
Office of DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

They want more space to sell their products, perhaps a bigger roof over their heads and more ways to attract farmers and customers.

That was the broad consensus voiced by a group of producers at a presentation last week of DoAg's proposed redesign of the Hartford Regional Market. And according to the man leading the effort, the plan is to provide all of that and much more.

"We want to showcase Connecticut food and agriculture," said Ted Spitzer, president of the Market Ventures firm that is heading the planning efforts. "We're looking to increase the number of farmers who participate in the market and increase the retail sales that they make."

Spitzer pointed out that the plan calls for bigger outdoor stalls and construction of a larger open-sided "shed" that could accommodate 105 farmers under its roof. At 23,000 square feet, the new shed would provide nearly triple the space of the existing one.

"If it was about the same price (as an outdoor stall) I'd absolutely go under the shed," said Becky Jones, a Farmington beekeeper and honey producer who attended the meeting with her husband and business partner, Ted.

A portion of the shed also could be equipped with garage-type doors to accommodate an indoor winter market.

All of the producers at the meeting, held in the Market's conference room, are veteran tenants of the farmer's market that has been a centerpiece of the facility for decades. Many of their questions and comments centered on planned changes to the selling area.

"We need more space to get our products out there on display," said Luke Zapadka of Woodland Gardens in Manchester.

"Every stall will be bigger than they are right now," replied Hugh Boyd, a design architect on Spitzer's team, adding that electric power and water service also will be available.

The meeting was called to discuss the completion of the master plan's development and design phase. Five Connecticut farmers who sell at the market also sit on the project's steering committee, which has provided ongoing input.

A separate meeting was held with the year-round tenants of the Market's wholesale warehouses and processing facilities, which would be greatly expanded under the plan.

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Farmington beekeeper and honey producer Becky Jones, (above) describes what she would like to see included in a new 105-stall farmer's market shed being planned as part of the redesign of the Hartford Regional Market. Below, a drawing of the proposed shed and a new retail area at the market.



NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	200-400 lbs	70.00	77.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	
54-58	200-400 lbs	75.00	83.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	
Sows,	300-500 lbs	58.00	64.00
	500-700 lbs	78.00	79.50
Boars	300-700 lbs	50.00	55.00

PA GRADER FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. May 7

		Low	High
Gr US 1-	wt 20-40	340.00	400.00
	wt 40-45	300.00	330.00
GR. US 2	WT30-35	360.00	390.00
	WT30-40	290.00	290.00
	WT40-90	200.00	210.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, May 19, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	65.00	75.00
61-75 lbs.	125.00	150.00
76-90 lbs.	170.00	175.00
91-105 lbs.	180.00	190.00
106 lbs. & up	195.00	200.00
Farm Calves	215.00	250.00
Starter Calves	55.00	70.00
Veal Calves	115.00	250.00
Open Heifers	120.00	135.00
Beef Steers	140.00	149.00
Beef Heifers	111.00	142.00
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a
Stock Bulls	87.50	127.50
Beef Bulls	115.00	117.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	65.00	330.00
Kid Goats	20.00	50.00
Canners	up to	109.00
Cutters	110.00	114.00
Utility Grade Cows	115.00	118.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	5.00	28.00
Ducks each	10.00	27.50
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Lambs	145.00	180.00
Sheep	75.00	85.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
RHUBARB,20LB	30.00	30.00
ASPARGUS,28LB	72.00	75.00
Chives,12's	8.00	10.00
FIDDLEHEAD,PER LB	3.75	6.00
Bedding plant flat,48/1	7.00	10.00
TOMATOES 25LB	21.00	22.00

SHIPPED IN

BEETS,12'S,NJ	20.00	21.00
BEAN,grn,bu,GA	35.00	38.00
CILANTRO 1/2BU,NJ	16.00	16.00
HORSERADISH,5LB,NJ	14.00	14.00
PEACHES,1/2BU.2 1/2UP,GA	34.00	36.00
RADISHES 1/2BU,NJ	14.00	16.00
CORN,4dz,FL	15.00	17.00
CHERRIES,9 1/2 ROWS,CA	89.00	90.00
CHINESE CABBAGE,12'S,NJ	16.00	18.00
PEA,ENGLISH,1 1/9BU,CA	60.00	60.00
KALE,12ct,NJ	16.00	16.00
BLUEBERRIES12/1PT,GA	18.00	21.00
SPINACH,1.3BU,NJ	16.00	20.00
KOHLRABI,12'S,NJ	20.00	20.00
PEA, SUGAR,10LB,GU	20.00	22.00
ONION,VIDALIA,40IB,GA	19.00	22.00
LEEKS,12'S,NJ	18.00	24.00
STRAWBERRIES,8/1LB.CA	12.00	16.00

WHOLESALE GREENS, LETTUCE

DANDELION GREENS,12'S,NJ	16.00	20.00
ESCAROLE,1 1/9BU,NJ	19.00	20.00
BOSTON BIBB,24,NJ	16.00	17.00
RED LEAF,24'S,NJ	18.00	20.00
ROMAINE,24'S,NJ	17.00	19.00
SWISS CHARD,12'S,NJ	16.00	16.00

**USDA WEEKLY RETAIL BEEF PRICES
NORTHEAST USA, PER LB.**

	Low	High
B/IN RIBEYE STEAK	6.99	7.99
SIRLION STEAK TIPS	5.99	5.99
T-BONE STEAK	7.99	9.99
ROUND ROAST	4.99	4.99
SIRLOIN	5.99	7.99
LONDON BROIL	3.29	4.99
SHORT RIBS	3.99	3.99
GROUND BEEF,80-90%	3.99	5.49
TOP ROUND STEAK	3.99	3.99

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:			
breakers 75-80% lean	95.25	100.00	
boners 80-85% lean	91.75	96.75	
lean 85-90% lean	87.25	91.25	
CALVES graded bull			
No 1 95-120lbs	260.00	290.75	
No 2 95-120lbs	227.50	259.00	
No 3 80-105lbs	172.25	200.75	
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS			
HiCh/Prm3-4	145.00	146.50	
Ch2-3	143.25	146.00	
Sel1-2	n/a		
SLAUGHTER STEERS.			
HiCh/prm3-4	145.75	149.00	
Ch2-3	139.00	144.00	
Sel	133.25	137.25	
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS			
HiCh/prm2-3	131.75	134.25	
Ch2-3	121.75	126.75	
Sel2-3	116.00	121.50	
VEALERS-60-120lbs	54.25	85.50	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3			
40-60lbs	n/a		
60-80lb	n/a		
80-110lbs	200.00	225.00	
150-200lbs	174.00	177.00	
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3			
80-120 lbs	n/a		
120-160lbs	72.00	95.00	
Bucks	100-200lbs	62.00	92.00
	200-250lbs	70.00	70.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.			
20-40lb	100.00	120.00	
40-60lb	132.00	168.00	
60-80lb	187.00	225.00	
80-100lb	225.00	265.00	
Nannies/Does:	80-130lbs	130.00	157.00
	130-180lbs	177.00	182.00
Bucks/Billies:	100-150lbs	230.00	250.00
	150-200lbs	n/a	

EASTERN, PA, HAY

average price per ton

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	270.00-475.00	180.00-250.00
MIXED	260.00-404.00	175.00-250.00
TIMOTHY	300.00-390.00	195.00-195.00
GRASS		180.00-335.00
STRAW		110.00-265.00

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.35	1.39
LARGE	1.33	1.37
MEDIUM	1.21	1.25

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Prices paid per doz. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.70	1.80
LARGE	1.64	1.74
MEDIUM	1.39	1.49

The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information.

Advertisements of 35 or fewer words for job openings at Connecticut farms may be placed for up to four weeks for free in the report's new

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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.

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62-R. Hay Round Bales 4X5. Dried chicken manure. By the trailer load. 860-537-1974.

66-R. Used Tobacco netting. Great to cover berry bushes. Please Call 860-683-0266.

68-R. Broiler Chicks 3 weeks, \$5 each. Minimum order, 25 chicks. FOB Willimantic. Call Gary 860-716-9064.

69-R. Receive phone alerts from wireless sensors when your field or greenhouse is too cold or too hot! Visit New England Farm Sensors (NEFarmSensors.org) for details.

70-R. PAK Flail SPF Mower, 8' hydraulic offset, \$2,500. Oliver 11' Transport Harrow, \$1,200. DonderoOrchards@cox.net.

71-R. GMC 1986 steel plated dump, 8' by 16' with silage tailgate. \$4,750. Telephone 860-643-5301.

72-R. Brand new 16 ft Hay Wagon custom built. Call for description. Also for sale F 200D International 10 Wheeler chassis. Call for details. Rockland Farm, Bolton. 860-324-1602.

73. N.H. 55 Side Delivery. Good Condition. 860-999-3856.

74. JD 4400 Combine with 4 Row Corn Head, \$8,500. JD 435 Round Baler, \$6,000. 860-678-0704 or 860-930-3373.

75. Grimm Hay Tedder. 4 Bar Drum-Ground driven. Good for horse drawn. Good condition. \$250 or best offer. 860-485-9150.

78-R. Fargo Silage Dump Wagon, \$1,500. 1000 gallon poly water tank, \$500. John Deere 12' wheel harrow, \$2,000. Pre cast feed bunks, JD grass head, (2) John Deere 3960 corn choppers. Quality corn silage, kernel processed finely chopped. Also 100% Alfalfa bailleage 4X4 bales, delivery available if needed. Burke Ridge Farms 860-559-3009 or 860-748-9336.

79-R. Quality Registered Angus Bulls for sale. Semen tested, ready to work. SAV Iron Mtn 5/16/12, OCC Freestyle 4/11/12, BC Eagle Eye 1/3/12 Sons. Must see! \$3,000 each. 860-896-0888/860-748-9336.

80-R. Storage tank-300 gal water, syrup, drain oil, etc. \$125.00. Sunsetter Awning 16' \$400.00. P/U '02, Ford Ranger XLT 6 cyl, auto, PS, PB, AC 80K \$5,500.00. P/U '02 Toyota Tacoma 4 cyl, 4 speed, 4WD PS/PB, 79K \$8,800.00. Farm Gas tanks 300 Gal with pumps \$300.00 ea. 3PT hitch cordwood saw rig \$ 500.00. 860-228-9685, 860-918-8515.

82-R. Goats: Nubian and Oberhasli; does and bucks, ADGA. Born April, 8 weeks ready. Details: 860-873-3531.

83. Proven breeder 2 year old 7/8 Boer buck throws beautiful, healthy kids every time. \$400.00. 203-494-8404.

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FARMERS GIVE INPUT ON HARTFORD REGIONAL MARKET REDESIGN

(Continued from Page 1)

The plan calls for all buildings on the 32-acre site to be demolished and replaced. Work would be done in phases to minimize disruption to the tenants, ensuring that businesses will be able to operate throughout the multi-year construction.

"No one will be put out of business as the transition happens," Spitzer said.

Increasing efforts to draw more customers was also suggested by several at the meeting.

"There's a lot of competition now," said Ted Jones, mentioning a few popular big-box stores, as well as the nearly 140 local farmers' markets across the state.

Spitzer replied: "We need to do more marketing and outreach and we have to have the staff to do that."

The master plan suggests an appropriate level of increased staffing covering a broad spectrum of management, marketing and maintenance.

Other highlights of the plan include:

- A new multi-use building that will house an expanded restaurant, as well as space for retail sales, offices and educational programs. The building also could be rented for special events such as weddings and conferences.
- Expanded and reorganized public parking.
- A new public entrance and a public bus stop off Reserve Road.
- Creating a "service hub" to provide farmers convenient access to farm-support information and organizations.
- Expanding the Market's role in providing fresh food to residents of Hartford and surrounding communities.
- Improved storm water drainage and sanitation facilities.
- A shared commercial kitchen that could be used by tenants, regional farmers or entrepreneurs.
- Enhancing promotional signs visible from nearby highways.

Spitzer said the new market will incorporate elements of successful markets in South Carolina; Rochester, New York; Grand Rapids and Detroit, Michigan; and even the largest market in the world, Farmer's Square at Rungis Market in Paris.

"We want this rebuild to take us into the next century," he said. "All the trends in Connecticut farming are moving in the right direction – we just need the facility to accommodate that."

The master plan is a joint project between DoAg, the state Dept. of Administrative Services and the Connecticut Marketing Authority.

"The current facilities were designed and constructed in the 1940s and 50s," DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "We are looking to revolutionize the regional market by creating state-of-the-art facilities that will grow jobs and Connecticut farms."

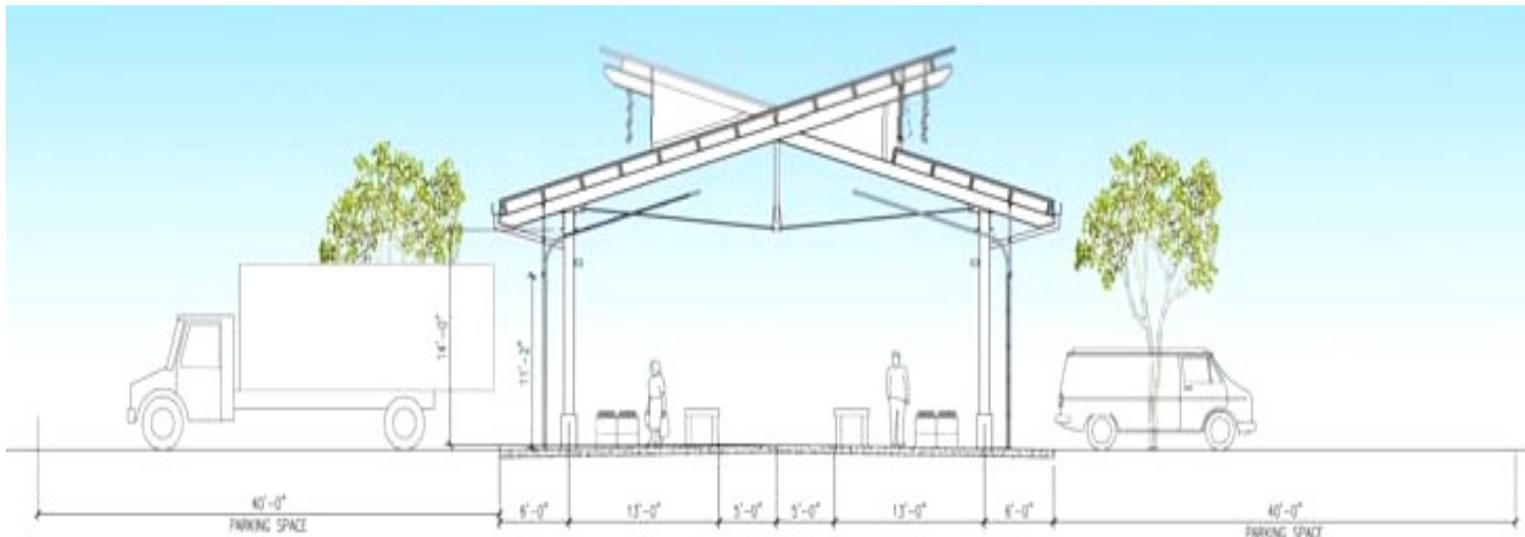
The final phase of Spitzer's report, expected this summer, will encompass construction cost estimates and funding sources, as well as an economic impact analysis.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Above, a rendering of the expanded farmers' market shed planned for the Hartford Regional Market. Below, Ted Spitzer, President of Market Ventures Inc. (far right) describes plans for the redesign at a meeting late last week with producers who sell at the facility's farmers' market.



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