

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
October 29, 2014



Competitors in a pulling contest at the Hebron Harvest Fair, where Department of Agriculture inspectors conducted a surprise visit looking for any horses under the influence of performance-enhancing drugs.

KEEPING PULLING CONTESTS CLEAN AT THE COUNTRY FAIR

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Department of Agriculture Bureau Director Dr. Bruce Sherman's recent trip to a popular Eastern Connecticut country fair wasn't for the fun or the food.

Sherman's unannounced visit to the Hebron Harvest Fair was to see if any draft horses competing in a pulling contest were under the influence of performance-enhancing drugs that can increase both their chances of winning and of being injured.

Under state law, inspectors from the agriculture department are empowered to conduct random drug testing of draft horses, oxen and ponies participating in the contests.

Over the past several years, illegal substances have been found in about a half-dozen animals competing in Connecticut.

"Pulling contests are a time-honored agricultural tradition and the great majority of competitors are interested in nothing but enjoying a clean, fair and safe contest," said Sherman, a veterinarian and director of the department's Bureau of Regulation and Inspection. "But unfortunately there are also those few who want to win at any cost. And they are willing not only to risk

being caught and penalized, but to jeopardize the health of their animals."

While prize money at the events is typically modest or non-existent, drivers typically invest significant resources in their horses and equipment. Many also travel to other states to compete, and contests and rivalries can be intense.

Owners and trainers of animals that test positive may be banned from entering pulling contests in Connecticut for up to two years, and be subject to fines of up to \$2,500 for repeat offenses.

An owner or trainer whose animal tested positive in another state may be banned in Connecticut from one to two years.

A Maine resident is currently serving a two-year ban in Connecticut after three of his horses tested positive for prohibited substances on two consecutive days last year at a fair in Skowhegan, Maine.

The law also calls for any animal that tests positive to be banned from competing for a year.

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg Dressing		
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	104.50	109.25
boners 80-85% lean	104.50	109.25
lean 85-90% lean	100.00	105.00
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 95-120lbs	347.50	392.25
No 2 95-120lbs	319.50	373.00
No 3 80-120lbs	278.050	364.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm3-4	159.75	162.75
Ch2-3	155.25	158.00
Sel2-3	145.00	150.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	162.00	167.75
Ch2-3	157.00	161.25
Sel2-3	148.25	152.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	145.00	150.00
Ch2-3	138.25	142.00
Sel1-2	132.00	135.75
VEALERS		
	77.75	170.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
50-60lbs	n/a	
60-80lb	192.00	195.00
80-110lbs	172.00	190.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
170-200lbs	60.00	78.00
160-200lbs	72.00	85.00
Bucks		
180-220.lbs	82.00	90.00
230-250lbs	57.00	80.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	127.00	147.00
50-60lb	177.00	207.00
60-80lb	165.00	187.00
Nannies/Does: 110-130lbs	135.00	173.00
130-160lbs	152.00	177.00
Bucks/Billies: 120-150lbs	235.00	260.00
150-160lbs	265.00	310.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
48-52	200-300 lbs	n/a	
	300-350 lbs	n/a	
52-56	200-300 lbs	88.00	91.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	70.00	71.00
	500-700 lbs	73.50	74.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	40.50	41.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
POTATOES, RUSSET, 80CT	13.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1 1/9	13.00	16.00
CIDER 4/1GAL	17.00	18.00
APPLE, MUSTU, BU	20.00	22.00
RADISHES, 24'S	14.00	14.00
BROCCOLI, CROWNS, 20LB	12.00	16.00
CRANBERRIES, 24/12OZ	32.00	32.00
POTATOES, 10LB	2.50	2.60
COLLARD	12.00	14.00
CORN, 5DZ	12.00	14.00
CAULIFLOWER, 9-12CT	16.00	20.00
CAULIFLOWER, 26" BIN	125.00	140.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	4.50	6.00
KALE, 12'S	12.00	14.00
POTATOES, CHEF, 50LB	13.00	14.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, BOX	9.00	12.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1 1/9	12.00	15.00
PEPPER, CUBANELLE 11/9BU	10.00	10.00
CHIVES, 1 LB	8.00	10.00
PEPPER, CUBANELLE, RED	12.00	12.00
CABBAGE RED, 50LB, BOX	12.00	14.00
BROCCOLI, 14CT	15.00	15.00
POTATOES, FNGRLNGS, 20LB	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1 1/9	11.00	13.00
TOMATOES, HEIRLOOM, 10LB	26.00	30.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1 1/9	16.00	20.00
TURNIP, WHITE CAP, 1 1/9	27.00	27.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	24.00	24.00
GRAPE, CONCORD, 8/1QT	22.00	24.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 96CT XFCY	24.00	28.00
APPLE, GALA, 80CT, XFCY	24.00	30.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 12/3	17.00	18.00
PEAR, BOSCH, 4/5BU	26.00	26.00
APPLE, CORT, 120CT, FCY	19.00	19.00
APPLE, MCOUN, 100CTX, FCY	24.00	26.00

WHOLESALE SEASONAL NEW ENGLAND

INDIAN CORN, 20/3'S	20.00	25.00
PUMPKIN, HOWDEN, 36" BIN, JBO	150.00	225.00
PUMPKIN, Pie, sm, 36" bin, med	230.00	240.00
PUMPKIN, Pie, 1 1/9bu	12.00	18.00
PUMPKIN, MINI, 1/2 BU	13.00	18.00
CORN STALKS	4.50	4.50
GOURDS, SHELLACKED, 20 LB	16.00	20.00
STRAW BALE	6.00	9.00

**NORTHEAST RETAIL APPLE PRICES
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE**

HONEYCRISP	IB	2.04
MACS	IB	1.20
MACS	3IB	2.78
FUJI	IB	1.05
FUJI	3IB	1.85
GALA	IB	1.14
GALA	3IB	2.26

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, Oct. 27, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	60.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	120.00	130.00
76-90 lbs.	250.00	270.00
91-105 lbs.	285.00	290.00
106 lbs. & up	295.00	300.00
Farm Calves	320.00	330.00
Starter Calves	50.00	70.00
Veal Calves	125.00	180.00
Open Heifers	130.00	160.00
Beef Steers	118.00	140.00
Beef Heifers	127.50	138.00
Feeder Steers	126.00	150.00
Stock Bulls	125.00	165.00
Beef Bulls	115.00	130.00
Boars	1 at	11.00
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	2 at	75.00
Goats each	70.00	210.00
Kid Goats	85.00	105.00
Canners	up to	114.00
Cutters	115.00	119.00
Utility Grade Cows	120.00	129.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	3.00	12.00
Chickens each	5.00	25.00
Ducks each	3.00	9.00
Feeder Pigs	45.00	60.00
Lambs	85.00	290.00
Sheep	n/a	n/a

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.28	1.32
LARGE	1.26	1.30
MEDIUM	1.15	1.19

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.61	1.71
LARGE	1.58	1.68
MEDIUM	1.26	1.36

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

15-20lb	100.00	125.00
20-40lb	125.00	175.00
40-60lb	50.00	160.00
60-120lb	110.00	150.00

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 bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or 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.

112-R. 2011 Greenhouse 25 X 60, Furnace, Roth Oil Tank, Fans, Micro Gro, Poly Gal Ends Doors, roll up sides, Sodium lights, Benches, \$6,500. 203-233-9677. Photos available:

Martymonroegardens@gmail.com.

117-R. Rough sawn hemlock and white pine lumber, great for fall time repairs and new construction. Also, year end inventory bargains on air dried oak and mixed hardwood lumber sold as units of approx.. 500 board feet each. We welcome your custom orders to be sawn. Hinman Lumber, Burlington, CT 860-673-9170.

120-R. Christmas Greens, wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Samples gladly shown. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

122-R. Dual Dump Wagon Model 1200, works good, \$1,500. JD 2940 with turbo, \$10,500. JD 6310 4X4 with 740 loader, \$24,000. JD 530, \$5,000. New 11 ft Pequea Rake, \$6,500. NH 1465 haybine, \$8,500. Balers, Rake and Tettlers. 203-530-4953.

127-R. For Sale: Wholesale pumpkins, corn stalks, gourds, hay. Mitchell Farm, Southbury. 203-264-1588, 203-731-1314 or jamsouth@aol.com

135-R. Connecticut Grown Potatoes, Wholesale in Bulk Bins. 860-644-1454.

137-R. Round Baler JD 385 like new \$6000, Square Baler NH 271 nice \$3000, 17ft Hydra Tedder TD200 Vermeer \$3000, Kuhn GT3200 rake \$3200, NH 478 mower haybine \$3000, 1961 460 IH utility tractor 2 wet lines all redone \$4200. 6ft brush hog \$800, Farm Stand on wheels 400, 3-run in sheds 10x16 U Move \$1500 ea, brand new greenhouse sold complete, new poly 27x44 11ft ceiling U Remove \$4500, 8x16 Haywagon like new \$1,200. Call Tom or txt 860-491-8324.

MISCELLANEOUS

10-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.

130-R. Fitch Fibers - Bozrah, CT. Custom fiber processing. 860-222-3119. www.fitchfibers.com

FDA TO HOLD FSMA RULEMAKING PUBLIC MEETING

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is holding a public meeting in Maryland next month to discuss proposed changes to the following four rules originally proposed in 2013 to implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

- Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food.
- Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption.
- Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals.
- Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals.

The meeting to solicit stakeholder and public comments and questions will be held Nov. 13, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740.

To register on-line to attend in person or via live webcast, contact: Courtney Treece, Planning Professionals Ltd., 1210 W. McDermott St. Suite 111, Allen, TX 75013/ 704-258-4983, fax: 469-854-6992, or: ctreece@planningprofessionals.com.

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Among the substances found in recent years are:

- **Furosemide** - A diuretic drug commonly known by the brand name Lasix that causes rapid elimination of fluids through excessive urination. The drug, harmful to animals' electrolyte balance and hydration, is used to achieve a lower than normal weight at "weigh-in." Most pulling contests conduct different classes based on the combined weight of the animals. In a 3,300-pound weight class, for example, the total weight of a two-horse team cannot not exceed 3,300 pounds. The illegal use of furosemide could determine if one or both horses make the weight limit.
- **Caffeine** - a stimulant that can lead to increased excitement and agitation.
- **Androgenic-Anabolic Steroids** – including Boldenone (Equipose™) and testosterone are used to enhance muscle mass. This class of drugs can also result in more aggressive behavior when administered to geldings and mares.
- **Phenylbutazone** – a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory and potent pain reliever used to alleviate the effect that lameness or injury on an animal's performance. The drug can mask the pain of an injury or condition that would otherwise reduce a horse's performance, or prevent it from competing at all.

Any one of the drugs, and especially combinations of them, create an environment that can lead to a horse being injured or worsening an existing condition, Sherman said.

On a warm Friday night in September, Sherman and Inspector James Allyn watched several hours of pulling at the Hebron fair, taking blood samples from selected animals as each class ended.

Before the contest began, announcer Jody Whipple called the drivers to the viewing stand to notify them about the inspectors' presence and to go over contest rules, which are based on those of the Eastern Draft Horse Association.

"As you may have noticed the State of Connecticut is here and may want to see a few of you afterwards," she said, drawing nods and some grins from the drivers.

Motioning to the crowd of spectators lining a grassy rise along the pulling ring, Whipple added: "You also have no idea who's on that hillside, and these days everybody has a camera."

The treatment of pulling animals in contests has become more of a public issue in recent years, and Connecticut contest rules are very specific about techniques drivers can use in the ring.

For example, drivers may only "encourage" a horse to pull by slapping its reins on the rear between the top of the tail and the bottom of the rump.

With Sherman and Allyn watching from the viewing stand, team after team of horses was led from a holding area to the center of the pulling ring, where it was hitched up to a wooden sled stacked with concrete blocks.

The weight on the sled is increased with each round, and as the night wore on the pulls were only a few feet long. Each team – this night from Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island - was given five minutes to make three hitch attempts at each weight.

Every pull was punctuated by the commands of the driver, the clanking of chains and a cloud of dust kicked up by the horses. Minutes after a winner was declared in each class, Sherman and Allyn were in the holding area with their test kits.

Protocol calls for both horses on the winning team to be tested, as well as one horse each from the second and third-place team, and one horse selected from another team at random.

"We pick a random horse so if a driver knows we're testing and intentionally finishes last, they can still be tested," Sherman explained after drawing two sample tubes of blood from a horse on the first-place team.

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The blood samples taken in Hebron were sent to a private out-of-state laboratory for testing, which showed that every horse tested that night was clean of any improper substances.

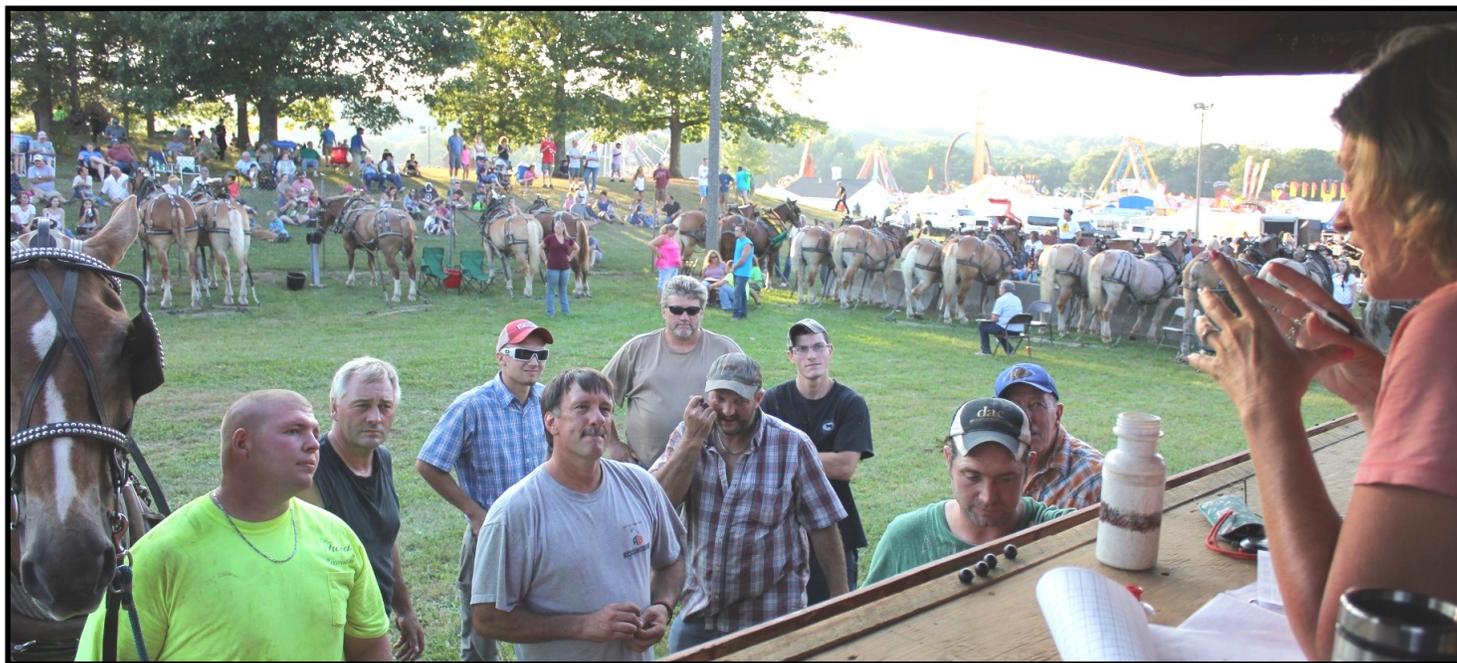
Sherman said he typically finds violators at perhaps one out of every four events he attends, but did not identify any during this season.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said he believes the department's aggressive stance toward the use of illegal drugs in pulling contests has had an impact in decreasing the practice.

"This is another example of the diverse and important work undertaken every day by employees of the Department of Agriculture," Reviczky said. "It is our expectation that these contests be fair and clean, and inspectors from the Bureau of Regulation and Inspection will carry out their responsibilities to ensure compliance with state and federal law."



Above: Dr. Bruce Sherman draws blood from a horse on a winning team in a pulling contest at the Hebron Harvest Fair, where (below) announcer Jody Whipple explained competition rules to the drivers.



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