

NEWS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AUCTIONING 13 GOATS SEIZED IN CORNWALL

Thirteen goats seized from a Cornwall farm in an animal-cruelty case are being offered to the public through a sealed-bid auction by the Department of Agriculture.

The goats, three adults and ten others between 7 and 9 months old, are disease-free and suitable to be returned to agricultural production, Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said.

“We are pleased to offer these goats to the agricultural community,” Reviczky said. “It is our hope that these healthy animals will be returned to a productive environment.”

Photographs of the animals and a detailed questionnaire for those interested in bidding on a goat or goats are available on the homepage of the department’s website:

CTGrown.gov.

Completed bid questionnaires must be received by the agriculture department by close of business on Monday, August 3.

Questionnaires may be mailed to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, attention Steve Jensen, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, or emailed to Steve.Jensen@ct.gov.

Successful bidders will be notified individually to arrange for transfer of the animals.

The 74-member herd was seized in January from the Butterfield Farm Co. cheese-making operation, where most were found malnourished and suffering from various other conditions impacting their health.

The animals have been housed at the department's large-animal rehabilitation facility in Niantic, where most were determined to be infected with one or more diseases.

Forty-eight goats were sold at livestock auction, and 12 others were placed with a rescue sanctuary.

Twenty-three kids born at the Niantic facility this spring are being offered to youth groups such as FFA and 4-H.

Any kids not taken by a youth group will be auctioned at a later date.

Multiple charges of animal cruelty were filed against the goats' former owners, Tara Bryson and Michael Hearl, and their cases are pending in Bantam Superior Court.