



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

REVIEW OF AVIAN INFLUENZA CONTROL IN VIETNAM

By Dr. Lech Szkudlarek**

As a Veterinary Medical Officer with the USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services, I was recently deployed to Vietnam for 6 weeks. My assignment was to review past and ongoing USDA activities related to controlling Avian Influenza in Vietnam and exploring future USDA participation, preferably with other federal agencies such as CDC. Vietnam was one of the first countries severely affected by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) that was associated with a number of human illnesses.

The Vietnamese Department of Animal Health reported five major outbreaks of HPAI in Vietnam between 2003 and 2008. Vietnam implemented a disease control strategy recommended by international experts, which included culling of all poultry in infected areas, restrictions on the introduction of new poultry into the area for at least a 21 day period, and movement restrictions in the neighboring areas. In late 2005, a mass twice-a-year (March-April/September-October) vaccination policy was introduced nationwide. More than 53 million poultry have been culled across the country. Live poultry markets and live bird trade were banned in large cities like Hanoi and the Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

Recently Hanoi authorities substantially strengthened live animal transportation regulations. Poultry and cattle must be transported by licensed animal haulers that are required to meet strict safety and biosecurity standards. Vietnam is one of the most successful countries in implementing strategies to control HPAI, although sporadic outbreaks of avian influenza are still reported across the country. The country has recognized the need to strengthen its surveillance and response activities and recognizes the benefits cooperative efforts with international animal and human health organizations.

The United States Government, mainly through USDA, CDC and the United States Agency for International Development, provides technical and financial support in disease eradication and prevention efforts in Vietnam. The main goal of international health organizations and foreign governments is to reduce the risk for development of human pandemic influenza from H5N1 Avian Influenza virus. Active disease control and surveillance of animal populations is the main component of this preventive program. There have been 106 human cases of avian influenza in Vietnam since the first case in December 2003.

Other livestock industries, mainly cattle and swine, are also facing many challenges related to outbreaks of animal diseases. Foot and Mouth disease has been reported in many regions of the country although the disease is considered to be under control. A recent outbreak of a new, highly pathogenic strain of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS, "blue-ear disease") in pigs has led to the culling of 536,000 sows.

Animal disease prevention and control, especially for those diseases with public health significance, is a complex effort requiring the cooperation of producers, regulatory officials, consumers and scientific and educational communities.

**NOTE: (Dr. Szkudlarek is the USDA Veterinary Medical Officer assigned to Connecticut, has an office in the Bureau of Regulation and Inspection at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and works with Bureau Director Dr. Bruce Sherman and State Veterinarian Dr. Mary Jane Lis on state and federal animal disease programs. In a letter to the USDA-APHIS Administrator, the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam stated "He (Dr. Szkudlarek) has shown great technical skill and an impressive ability to engage and win the respect of the Vietnamese government and our mission.").

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Connecticut NRCS is taking Applications for the following programs:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) – Used to assist farmers with structural and management practices to solve environmental concerns. Projects can include grazing, waste management, forestry, erosion control, pest management, air quality, and irrigation water reduction practices.

AMA (Agricultural Management Assistance) – This program is used to mitigate risk through production diversification and resource conservation. The focus this year is on deer fence, new micro-irrigation and alley cropping.

WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) – Used to assist land owners to develop and improve wildlife habitat. Focus areas are grasslands, riparian areas, old fields, streams and rivers and wetlands. Includes invasive species management.

GRP (Grasslands Reserve Program) – Used to provide an easement or rental payment to protect and restore grassland (pasture or hay). Used to protect grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses.

Persons interested in applying should contact Nancy Ferlow at the Brooklyn Service Center (860) 774-0224, Ext. 102, or visit the website at www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.

February 9, 2009

Prices To Retailers, Sales To Volume Buyers,
USDA Grade A and Grade A, White Eggs In
Cartons, Warehouse, Cents Per Dozen

EXTRA LARGE	99-103
LARGE	98-102
MEDIUM	89-91

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, February 9, 2009

Live animals brought the following average
prices per cwt.:

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	16.00	18.00
61-75 lbs.	22.00	26.00
76-90 lbs.	28.00	34.00
91-105 lbs.	36.00	40.00
106 lbs. & up	42.00	45.00
Farm Calves	47.50	77.50
Started Calves	18.00	26.00
Veal Calves	77.50	92.50
Open Heifers	60.00	70.00
Beef Heifers	35.50	53.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	80.00
Beef Steers	46.00	48.00
Stock Bulls	75.00	84.00
Beef Bulls	48.75	49.00
Boars	1 @	10.00
Hogs,Barrows and Gilts	36.00	41.00
Feeder Pigs each	32.50	52.50
Lambs each	90.00	97.50
Goats each	62.50	115.00
Kid Goats each	42.50	92.50
Canners	Up to	47.72
Cutters	48.00	52.00
Utility Grade Cows	52.00	55.50
Rabbits each	5.00	19.00
Chickens each	4.00	17.00
Ducks each	5.00	12.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

**Sale will be held on President's Day,
February 16, as usual.**

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, February 9, 2009

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:

Lean	85-90% lean
42.00-46.00	46.00-48.50 38.00-42.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1-2

1050-2340 lbs	58.00-63.00
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SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn

Choice and Prime 2-3	
50-60 lbs	148.00-167.00
60-70 lbs	138.00-160.00
70-80 lbs	136.00-149.00
80-90 lbs	132.00-146.00

Slaughter Ewes: Good 1-3

120-160 lbs	56.00-68.00
160-200 lbs	50.00-64.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1 sold by the head, on estimated weights.

Kids:	40-60 lbs	60.00-88.00
	60-80 lbs	74.00-90.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5lb	9.00	11.00
APPLE CIDER, 9-1/2 gallons	17.00	17.00
APPLES, Cortland 80ct xfancy	22.00	23.00
APPLES, McIntosh 96ct xfancy	21.00	22.00
APPLES, Red Delicious 2-3/4 no grade	14.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10lb bag	5.00	6.00
CELERY ROOT, 20lb organic	18.00	18.00
POTATOES, Russet 10lb	2.50	2.50
POTATOES, Round White Chef 50lbs US1	9.00	10.00
SQUASH, Acorn Organic 35lb	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, Butternut 1-1/9 bu lg	20.00	22.00
SQUASH, Butternut Organic med	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, Delicate Organic 35lb	37.50	37.50
TOMATOES, 11lb on vine Greenhouse	22.00	22.00
TURNIPS, White Cape 1-1/9 bu	23.00	23.00
SHIPPED IN		
ARRUGULA, Baby 3lb bag FL	12.00	14.00
ASPARAGUS, 11lb Green lge PERU	15.00	17.00
BEANS, Green bu Handpicked FLA	30.00	30.00
BLACKBERRIES, 12 - 1/2pts MEX	14.00	15.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12/1pt lge Chile	20.00	20.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, 25lb CA	17.00	18.00
CABBAGE, Green 50lb med/lge NY	9.00	10.00
CABBAGE, Nappa 50lb FL	17.00	18.00
CANTALOUPS, 9ct CR	14.00	16.00
CLEMENTINES, 5lb CA	6.50	6.50
CUCUMBERS, 1-1/9bu med HON	30.00	32.00
GARLIC, Col 30lbs CA	42.00	42.00
GRAPEFRUIT, Red 32ct FL	13.00	14.00
LEMON GRASS, 30lb CA	35.00	35.00
LETTUCE, Green Leaf 24's CAL	10.00	13.00
ONION, Yellow med 40lb NY	12.00	13.00
ORANGES, Navel 88 ct CA	19.00	22.00
PEPPER, Green lge 1-1/9bu FL	16.00	17.00
PEPPER, Habanero 1/2bu Red MEX	33.00	33.00
ROMAINE, 24's CA	11.00	14.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

80-100 lbs	98.00-116.00
100-120 lbs	106.00-114.00
Yearlings: 100-120 lbs	92.00-114.00
140-160 lbs	118.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	70.00-88.00
130-180 lbs	84.00-96.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	134.00-152.00
150-250 lbs	166.00-182.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Mon February 9, 2009

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by
hundred weight.

Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	45.00-48.50
	270-300 lbs	44.00-47.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00-49.00
45-49	220-270 lbs	42.00-45.00
	270-300 lbs	41.00-44.00
	300-350 lbs	42.00-45.00
40-45	220-270 lbs	38.00-42.00
	270-300 lbs	39.00-41.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	41.00-46.00
	500-700 lbs	46.00-50.00
Boars:	300-700 lbs	12.00-15.00

**METROPOLITAN AREA
U.S.D.A.**

**NEW YORK PRICES
WHITE EGGS
TO RETAILERS**

For 1 dozen,
Grade A eggs on:
February 9, 2009

EXTRA LARGE	104-108
LARGE	102-106
MEDIUM	96-100

Above quotations based on
CARTON sales to retailers.



**NEW BEDFORD
WHALING CITY SEAFOOD
DISPLAY AUCTION**

SEA SCALLOPS LANDINGS &
PRICES IN 1, 000 LBS

DATE 2/10/09

PRICES INCLUDES

DEALERS FEES

SPECIES SEA SCALLOPS

	LBS	MIN	HIGH
10/20 CHANNEL	14.5	715	720
20/30	15.0	705	725
U/12 MID ATL	1.6	890	890
10/20	0.1	725	725
20/30	26.8	71	735
U/10 ELEPHANT TRUNK			
	5.7	955	970
10/20	6.0	735	735
20/30	9.7	705	725

**NEW BEDFORD
WHALING CITY SEAFOOD DISPLAY
AUCTION**

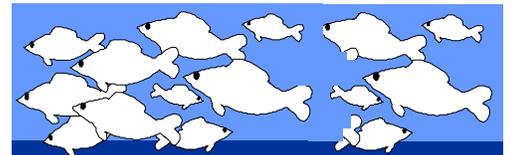
FISH LANDINGS & PRICES IN
1,000 LBS & \$/CWT

DATE 2/10/09

PRICES INCLUDES

DEALERS FEES

SPECIES	LBS	MIN	HIGH
GILLNET LGE COD 1/	0.0	255	255
MKT	2.3	196	209
SCRD	0.2	167	167
YELLOWTAIL LGE	0.2	253	253
SML	0.8	226	226
SAND DABS	0.0	23	23
BLACKBACKS CHAN SML	0.0	202	202
MONKTAIL LGE	1.1	315	341
SML	0.2	285	285
SKATE WINGS	1.0	67	67



ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323 or ddonahue01@comcast.net. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323 or ddonahue01@comcast.net, Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

3-R. CT Grown Mesh Bags - The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has CT Grown Mesh Bags for sale. These bags are super strong and exceptionally attractive. The dimensions are 16" l x 5" w x 12" h. They are being sold by the case (40 per case) for \$156.16. For more information or to order, please call (860)713-2503.

4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence (860) 491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm (860) 376-2227.

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, stakes, custom and portable sawing available. (203) 788-2430.

17-R. Curtis 7'-6" powerangle snow plow set to fit JD 460 quick attach front end loader. New \$1,750. Insulate 2-bowl antifreeze livestock waterers - \$150 each. (203) 996-9342.

18-R. John Deere 450 hydra-push manure spreader; Arkfeld scales for sheep/goats; Noland nipple waterers for sheep/goats; medication proportioner for water line; portable 4'x5' lambing pens; Premier sheep handling equipment; 300' fenceline feed bunks for sheep/goats; Vent-o-matic wall fan; 24 - 3'x16' white steel roof panels. Call Howard at (860) 489-3736 after 6:00 pm.

21-R. Round bales 4x5, 1st cut, unwrapped, stored inside. \$60 p.u. Square bales 1st and 2nd cut. (860) 537-1974.

22-R. Hay for Sale as low as \$3.00 per bale, second for \$4.00 per bale. Telephone (860) 274-8159 or (203) 206-1344.

WANTED

13-R. John Deere 3940, 50, 60 or 70 corn chopper wanted. Running or parts. Prefer 3960. Also wanted, 1 or 2 point sub soiler. For more information call (860) 875-0280.

16-R. Wanted: Farmers for the CT Farm-to-School - The Farm-to-School Program is a statewide effort designed to incorporate CT Grown fresh fruits and vegetables into local schools cafeteria meals and snacks. This project is intended to be twofold: to support local farms and to offer more nutritious school meals as a result of buying local, fresh, produce. If you are interested in selling to one, several, or to a whole school district of schools (through a wholesaler or direct), call Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588 or at Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov

20-R. Wanted: Land to Lease/ Rent - Small, outdoor recreational club seeks lease of farmland. Possible long term arrangements. References available. Leave message 860-303-5252.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has established the Farm Link Program. It is a matchmaking service to help new farmers find farm land owners (for rent or for sale) and to aid in the process of land rental and/or farm transfer to the next generation of farmers. A website will be developed to aid linking farm seekers and farm owners. Persons interested in the process can receive applications now available at www.farmlink.uconn.edu or calling the CT Dept. of Agriculture at (860) 713-2503. The Department is encouraging all next generation farmers and transitioning family farms in Connecticut to participate. For further information, please contact Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588.

7-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.

8-R. Horse properties, Farms and Land. Ralph's the man specializing in all types of Real Estate. With a lifetime of agricultural and business experience he is the best choice to represent both buyers and sellers and make your dreams come true. Call Ralph Winn, Century 21 Alaimo & Corrado (860) 648-6902 or www.winwithWINN.com.

10-R. Sign up to attend the Harvest New England Ag Marketing Conference & Trade Show! Over 20 breakout sessions, three general sessions, two pre-conference workshops, optional farm tours, and a trade show with over 60 vendors! Improve your marketing skills, network with producers from around New England, and learn from hearing the experiences of others! Don't miss out on the largest ag marketing conference in New England! One-day registrations are \$50, full conference registrations are \$85, and additional family members/employees are \$70! Register online at www.harvestnewengland.org or call Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 for more information!

USDA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

The United States Department of Agriculture has announced details of the final regulation for the mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) program required by the 2002 and 2008 farm bills. The rule becomes effective on March 16, 2009, 60 days after the date of publication.

The rule covers muscle cuts and ground beef, lamb, chicken, goat and pork; wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities (specifically fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables); macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng and peanuts.

Commodities covered under COOL must be labeled at retail to indicate its country of origin. For fish and shellfish, the method of production -- wild or farm-raised, -- must be specified. Commodities are excluded from mandatory COOL if the commodity is an ingredient in a processed food item.

The definition of a processed food item remains unchanged from the Aug. 1, 2008, interim final rule. Excluded from COOL labeling are items derived from a covered commodity that has undergone a physical or chemical change -- such as cooking, curing, or smoking -- or that has been combined with other covered commodities or other substantive food components such as chocolate, breadings and tomato sauce.

Also exempt are food service establishments, such as restaurants, lunchrooms, cafeterias, food stands, bars, lounges and similar enterprises.

The final rule outlines the requirements for labeling covered commodities and the recordkeeping requirements for retailers and suppliers. The law provides for penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation for both retailers and suppliers not complying with the law.

The rule prescribes specific criteria that must be met for a covered commodity to bear a "United States country of origin" declaration. In addition, the rule also contains provisions for labeling covered commodities of foreign origin, meat products from multiple origins, ground meat products, as well as commingled covered commodities.

USDA plans to make funding available to accelerate and expand training of state cooperator employees, initiate development of an automated review tracking system, conduct a retailer survey, conduct audits of the retail supply chain and continue conducting education and outreach activities. Currently, USDA has cooperative agreements with 42 states to conduct retail surveillance reviews. USDA will conduct the retail reviews in the states not covered by a cooperative agreement and perform the supply chain audits.

USDA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING - <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/01/0006.xml>

FREE ADVISORY SESSIONS

The CT Farm Risk Management Team is sponsoring free one-hour, one-on-one advisory sessions for CT Grown producers on 2/18/09 in Litchfield, 2/19/09 in West Suffield, 3/4/09 in Haddam, and 3/5/09 in Norwich. Topics include crop insurance; estate planning and farm succession; farm business and marketing; dealing with local officials; transitioning to organic production; and alternative energy opportunities. Contact Norm Bender at 860-887-1608 for more information or to sign up.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, NEWS

A new study funded in part by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) suggests that neutralizing an acid-producing diet may be an important key to reducing bone breakdown, or "turnover," while aging. The study comes on the heels of several ARS-reported studies suggesting that consuming more-than-recommended amounts of calcium may not be the main answer to protecting bone.

The study was led by physician and nutrition specialist Bess Dawson-Hughes at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, Boston, Mass. ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Fruits and vegetables are metabolized to bicarbonate and thus are alkali-producing. But the typical American diet is rich in protein and cereal grains that are metabolized to acid, and thus are acid-producing. With aging, such diets lead to a mild but slowly increasing metabolic "acidosis."

The researchers conducted a placebo-controlled study involving healthy male and female volunteers aged 50 or older. Key measurements were taken at the beginning and end of the intervention, which lasted three months.

A group of 78 volunteers had been provided either of two bicarbonates--potassium or sodium--along with their usual diet and exercise regimes. Key bone mineral nutrients were controlled to reduce variation in study outcomes. The bicarbonate groups consumed an amount of bicarbonate equivalent to about 9 servings of fruits and vegetables daily. This allowed the researchers to look at possible acid-neutralizing effects from an adequate, not high, alkali load.

The results showed that the 78 volunteers in the bicarbonate groups had significant reductions in biomarkers that are associated with bone loss and fracture than the 84 in the no-bicarbonate, or control, group.

The authors concluded that increasing the alkali content of the diet, for example by consuming more fruits and vegetables, merits further study as a safe and low-cost approach to improving skeletal health in older men and women.

The research was published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

PRODUCERS WANTED

Connecticut Farm-to-Chef is a free program that helps connect local culinary professionals with producers and distributors of CT Grown products. Informational newsletters, workshops, networking, promotions and other opportunities are provided to members as part of the program. Additional Connecticut producers and distributors are needed for this popular and expanding program. Please help us get your product into the hands of local chefs! Contact Linda at the CT Department of Agriculture, Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov or 860-713-2558, for more information.

Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report (ISSN: 1059- 8723, USPS 129-340) is published weekly (48 issues), except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, when the Governor closes State offices, and two additional weeks, for \$20.00 per year (hard copy - email copies are free) by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen words or less \$3.75 per insertion. For ads of more than 15 words, 25 cents per word per insertion. Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers and addresses, etc., are counted separately. **Print or type copy.** Publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Advertisements will be published on a first-come-first serve basis. Ads must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion. **Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted.** Remittance with copy required. Make checks or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and mail to: Marketing - Ag Report Classifieds, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

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Regional Market	Robert Pellegrino	(860) 566-3699
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Regulation&Inspection	Dr. Bruce Sherman	(860) 713-2504
Farmland Preservation	Joseph Dippel	(860) 713-2511
Aquaculture	David Carey	(203) 874-2855
FAX NUMBERS	(860) 713-2516	(860) 713--2514

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