



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

M. Jodi Rell, Governor
F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner
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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

BUREAU OF AQUACULTURE UPDATE

By David Carey, Director, Bureau of Aquaculture

The Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory is located in Milford, Connecticut, regulating and licensing the commercial shellfish industry and wholesale distributors. Connecticut state statutes require that the Department of Agriculture operates under the standards of the US Food & Drug Administration's National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance, a standardized guidance document for the minimum standards required to ship shellfish interstate. The facility employs 12 staff members who license the 45 harvesters and 40 wholesalers, collect approximately 8000 water samples annually from 500 sample stations, open and close specific shellfish growing areas daily based on laboratory results, and perform all sanitation inspections. Staff survey and buoy shellfish beds, collect and manage all leases and payments as well as collect taxes on all franchise shellfish grounds totaling 57,000 acres. The industry generated \$25,000,000 in sales in 2007.

Two individuals participated in the state's recent retirement incentive program. The Supervising Environmental Analyst, Jim Citak who was certified by US FDA as the State Standardization Officer who trains, evaluates and certifies all state shellfish inspectors. The second individual is the Laboratory Supervising Microbiologist, John Karolus who was certified by US FDA as the Laboratory Emulation Officer for both the shellfish laboratories and staff statewide as well as for the Dairy laboratories, performing dairy antibiotic testing and microbiology work. Both individuals worked for the Department of Public Health prior to joining the Aquaculture Division and the Department of Agriculture. The loss of these individuals and their knowledge and experience working with the Shellfish and Dairy US FDA programs is significant and will present a challenge to the Bureau. This challenge can be overcome when the necessary implements are provided to the Bureau in order to sow a new crop that will mature into the knowledgeable and experienced next generation.

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION INVESTIGATES NEW SPECIALTY CROPS

By: Dr. Abigail A. Maynard

Department of Forestry and Horticulture

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Agriculture in Connecticut has undergone vast changes in the past three decades. Tobacco and dairy farming, once the largest agricultural industries, have diversified with vegetables, nursery stock, and Christmas trees now occupying 36,000 acres. New farming ventures on idle and rented land has increased the number of farms (annual income exceeding

\$1,000) in Connecticut. The National Agricultural Statistics Service reported 4,200 farms in 2002 compared to 3,900 farms in 2000. Sixty-four percent of these farms are less than 50 acres in size. In 2004, the cash value of all vegetable crops grown on approximately 10,000 acres in Connecticut was 24.8 million dollars or 8.1% of all crops grown. This compares to 16.2 million dollars in 1999.

The marketing of produce in Connecticut has shifted from wholesale contracts with local supermarkets to direct retail sales. According to the Connecticut Agricultural Marketing Directory, approximately 560 farms offer a variety of fruit, vegetables, bedding plants, and Christmas trees at roadside stands and sales rooms. About 120 of these are open all year. Nearly 30% of these farms offer pick-your-own fruit and vegetables to reduce the cost of harvest labor. These savings are passed on to the consumer.

The development of a network of farmers' markets in Connecticut's major urban centers and densely populated suburbs is an important segment of direct sales of vegetables to consumers. All produce sold at farmers' markets must be "Connecticut Grown". In 2008, there were 114 farmers' markets attended by over 400 farmers compared to 87 markets in 2007, a 24% increase. Connecticut became the first state to have a statewide WIC/Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program and a Senior/Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program in 1990. The WIC program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) is one of the largest nutrition programs in the U.S. and in 2000 served about half of all U.S. infants and about a quarter of children ages 1-4. In 2008, Connecticut's farmers' markets served approximately 52,000 WIC clients and 29,000 seniors.

As the popularity of farmers' markets in Connecticut have surged, so too has the need for growers to find a diversity of high value niche crops. Consumers used to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in large supermarkets are seeking a greater diversity of ethnic and specialty crops at farmers' markets and roadside stands. Because of this demand, specialty crops have been a topic at both fruit and vegetable growers' meetings in Connecticut and New England for the past 5 years. Since 1982, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has been investigating specialty crops to provide new opportunities for Connecticut's farmers. Over 40 fruits and vegetables have been studied resulting in over 50 publications. Some of the crops studied in the New Crops Program include globe artichoke, Belgian endive, radicchio, jilo, specialty melons, sweet potato, okra, and tomatillas. Research included variety trials and experiments to determine the best cultural methods for growing each crop in Connecticut. Crops that were chosen have a high market value and an existing or expanding market that would readily accommodate these commodities.

SPECIALTY CROPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.

July 13, 2009

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

EXTRA LARGE	72-74
LARGE	68-72
MEDIUM	51-53

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, Ct, July 13, 2009

Live animals brought the following average prices
per cwt.:

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	10.00	14.00
61-75 lbs.	15.00	18.00
76-90 lbs.	20.00	24.00
91-105 lbs.	25.00	27.00
106 lbs. & up	28.00	33.00
Veal Calves	80.00	90.00
Open Heifers	47.50	75.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	87.50
Beef Steers	50.00	53.00
Stock Bulls	40.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	58.00	64.00
Replacement Heifers	350.00	1175.00
Feeder Pigs each	2 @ 5.00	
Sheep each	90.00	100.00
Lambs each	60.00	150.00
Goats each	70.00	165.00
Kid Goats each	27.50	50.00
Canners	Up to 46.50	
Cutters	47.00	49.00
Utility Grade Cows	50.00	53.00
Rabbits each	4.00	16.00
Chickens each	5.00	14.00
Ducks each	7.00	32.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, July 13, 2009

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:		
Breakers	75-80% lean	
52.00-54.00	55.00-56.00	50.00-51.00
Boners	80-85% lean	
48.50-52.00	-----	45.00-47.00
Lean	85-90% lean	
43.50-48.00	48.50-49.50	38.50-43.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1		
1025-2290 lbs	57.00-63.50	
high dress	67.50-72.00	
low dress	54.00-56.00	
Bullocks: 785-1115 lbs	66.00-68.00	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	144.00-155.00	
50-60 lbs	130.00-142.00	
60-70 lbs	128.00-146.00	
70-80 lbs	128.00-140.00	
80-90 lbs	122.00-146.00	
90-110 lbs	118.00-138.00	
110-130 lbs	120.00-134.00	
Choice 2-3 40-50 lbs	120.00-130.00	
50-60 lbs	126.00-132.00	
60-70 lbs	122.00-136.00	
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 1-2		
120-160 lbs	40.00-68.00	

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5lb	11.00	11.00
APPLES, Mac US Fancy 80ct	25.00	26.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10lb bag	5.00	5.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12 - 12oz packages	9.00	9.00
BEANS, Fava 1-1/2bu	25.00	25.00
BEANS, green bu CT	20.00	20.00
BEANS, Yellow bu	27.00	27.00
BLUEBERRIES, fiber/net pt 12/1pt	25.00	25.00
BLUEBERRIES, clamshell-12/1pt	23.00	23.00
CHIVES, 1/lb 12/bunch	6.00	8.00
CILANTRO, 1/2 crate 24s	11.00	12.00
COLLARD GREENS, 12-16 crate	11.00	11.00
CORN, 5dz	18.00	22.00
CUCUMBERS, 1-1/9bu	14.00	14.00
CUCUMBERS, 1/2bu	12.00	12.00
GREENS, Mustard Crate	12.00	12.00
MINT, 1/2 bu	10.00	10.00
PARSNIPS, 25lb	21.00	21.00
PEAS, English bu CT	30.00	30.00
PEAS, Snow 10lb CT	12.00	12.00
PEAS, Sugar snap 10lbs CT	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, Green 1/2 bu sm-med	10.00	10.00
SQUASH, Green 1/2bu med	8.00	8.00
SQUASH, Yellow 1/2 bu sm-med	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, Yellow 1/2 bu med	18.00	18.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 11lb med	10.00	10.00

SHIPPED IN

ARRUGULA, 3lb NY	13.00	13.00
BEETS Cartons 12's NJ	12.00	12.00
CABBAGE, green 50lb med DEL	14.00	14.00
CANTALOUPE, 12 ct AZ	12.00	14.00
GREENS, Kale crate NJ	11.00	12.00
LETTUCE, Green Leaf 24's CAN	10.00	11.00
NECTARINES, 25lb 64sz CA	22.00	22.00
ONION, Vidalia 40lbs jbo GA	25.00	25.00
PEACHES, 1/2bu 2 1/2 up GA	19.00	20.00
RASPBERRIES, 12 - 6oz lge CA	24.00	24.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

160-200 lbs	30.00-58.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1 sold by the head, estimated weights.	
Kids:	
40-50 lbs	50.00-62.00
50-60 lbs	66.00-80.00
60-70 lbs	76.00-93.00
70-80 lbs	90.00-112.00
80-90 lbs	92.00-118.00
90-100 lbs	98.00-120.00
100-110 lbs	100.00-116.00
110-120 lbs	108.00-128.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	70.00-89.00
130-180 lbs	80.00-94.00.

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Mon July 13, 2009 - Hogs sold by actual weights,
prices quoted by hundred weight.

Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	40.00-42.00
	270-300 lbs	39.00-40.50
	300-350 lbs	39.50-41.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	38.50-41.00
	270-300 lbs	37.00-39.00
	300-350 lbs	35.50-36.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	20.00-25.50
	500-700 lbs	32.00-33.50

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

NEW YORK PRICES

WHITE EGGS

TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen,
Grade A eggs on:
July 13, 2009

EXTRA LARGE	81-85
LARGE	79-83
MEDIUM	58-62

Above quotations based on
CARTON sales to retailers.

**NEW BEDFORD
WHALING CITY SEAFOOD
DISPLAY AUCTION**

SEA SCALLOPS LANDINGS &
PRICES IN 1, 000 LBS
DATE 7/13/09 - PRICES
INCLUDES DEALERS FEES
SPECIES SEA SCALLOPS

	LBS	MIN	HIGH
U/10 CHANNEL	3.2	875	895
10/20	2.1	630	670
20/30	2.8	615	665
U/10 GEORGES	7.4	845	890
U/12	1.2	775	775
10/20	130.7	615	660
20/30	51.3	625	645
U/10 DELMARVA	1.0	905	905
10/20	1.6	690	700

**NEW BEDFORD
WHALING CITY SEAFOOD
DISPLAY AUCTION**

FISH LANDINGS & PRICES IN
1,000 LBS & \$/CWT DATE 7/13/09
PRICES INCLUDE DEALERS
FEES - 1/0 MEANS LESS THAN
100 POUND

	LBS	MIN	HIGH
SPECIES			
COD LGE	0.2	153	159
MKT	8.4	127	144
SCRD	0.5	129	135
MIXED 1/	0.0	37	37
GILLNET LGE COD	0.0	139	139
MKT	1.0	109	116
SCRD	0.1	97	97
HADDOCK	0.5	230	237
HADD SCR D	24.3	104	124
POLLOCK MED	0.2	104	104
SCRD	0.0	78	78
WOLF	0.1	27	27
HAKE LGE	0.0	94	94
MED	0.0	71	71
MED DRESSED BLUEFISH	0.0	81	81
YELLOWTAIL LGE	2.3	93	109
SM	0.8	88	88
DABS MED	0.1	62	88
SML	0.4	62	76
LEMONSOLE GEO	1.0	137	184
LGE GEO BB MIXED	6.4	149	239
MIXED GEO BB	6.1	169	185
PEEWEE	0.0	112	112
LGE SHOAL FLDR	0.8	170	170
SML	1.4	173	174

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, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com. 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, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com., 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.

50-R. Registered Scottish Highland cattle, smaller size, nearly miniature in frame size. \$400 to \$1,000. 860-599-3759.

76-R. Rough Sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing. 203-788-2430.

78-R. Hardwood tomato stakes, tobacco lath, horse fence, beams, rough lumber. Call 860-873-9774. Staehly Products Co.

99-R. Battery powered price computing scales with state compliance, battery powered cash registers, livestock truck scales. 1-800-403-5919.

101-R. Rough lumber; parts for Grimm hay tedders. Sylvan Tetrault Call 860-684-3458.

105-R. Hedge rows, drainage ditches, fence lines or any other hard to reach areas getting overgrown? We have the solution. An excavator mounted tree/brush mower capable of mowing 8"-12" diameters flush to the ground. Call for brochure or machine location to observe working or free demonstration on your site. (860) 875-0280 or visit Burkeridge.com Commercial Mowing Division.

115-R. Round 4x4 hay bales, dry, silage grass, alfalfa. Tightly plastic wrapped starting at \$45. 860-884-2889.

116-R. Hay for sale - off meadow in Lebanon. Round bales \$45. For more information call 860-886-0716.

117-R. Grass fed white Galloways for sale. The ultimate cattle breed for grass only performance. 860-886-0716.

121-R. Krone & Massey Ferguson Haying Equipment, Tedders, Rakes, Square and Round Balers, Disk Mowers and much more! Easy financing Available 0% on most equipment. Big Boy's Toys, LLC, Pomfret Center, CT 860-928-9778. www.BIGBOYSTOYSLLC.NET

122-R. Two creep feeders for sale, 6 ft. long, 900 lb capacity. Built to last by Frey Brothers, kept inside, no rust. \$600 each. 203-788-0978.

126. Hay, 1st cutting from last year. 400+ Bales \$5.00 per bale picked up in East Windsor, Del. Available

John Deere Hammer Mill for Feed, Belt Driven. Call Ralph Winn for more information at 860-550-5138

133-R. Brush hog #306 heavy duty rotary mower, good condition. \$1,500. Hale irrigation pump, excellent \$1,250. 203-623-2956.

134-R. Potato equipment, 1,000lb scale, several sorting and bagging conveyers, 14' loading conveyor, 2-1 row diggers. 860-684-2206.

135-R. Tobacco hook-lath. Large quantity. Reasonable. Call for more information at 860-982-7056.

MISCELLANEOUS

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 with Century 21 Alaimo & Corrado at (860) 648-6902 or www.winwithWINN.com.

WANTED

103-R. Ford tractor wanted: with bucket loader. --will Gentleman in Southington with information please call 860-653-0491.

104-R. Ever think of leasing your land? What if you could retain full use for farming? Established waterfowling group seeks land for seasonal use. Dedicated to wildlife conservation and habitat development. Exceptional references available from other Connecticut farmers. Contact Ken (860) 912-6109 or kperry.mjsullivan@snet.net

120-R. Wanted Hay Land - Prefer close to Ellington/South Windsor, CT but will consider travel for larger acreage. Also, looking for rye grass for straw. 860-559-3009

ATTENTION: FARM LAND RENTAL FIGURES NEEDED

If you are a landowner renting farmland to a farmer or are a farmer renting land from a landowner your assistance is urgently needed. In the next month, you will be receiving a Land Use Value Survey questionnaire in the mail from the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

The Connecticut General Statutes requires the CT Department of Agriculture to compile revised recommended farmland use assessment values every five years for the PA 490 Land Use Assessment Program. The PA 490 program allows farm, forest and open space lands to be assessed at their current use value rather than fair market or potential highest and best use value. In order to compile these values, a large sampling of land rental data on land that is being rented by farmers and used for production agriculture needs to be collected and analyzed.

This is where you, the farmer comes in. It is imperative that these surveys are completed accurately and returned to Connecticut Farm Bureau as soon as possible. This rental data will be compiled and used to help calculate recommended farmland use values for PA 490 assessment purposes for the next five years.

If you have any questions please contact Joan Nichols at Connecticut Farm Bureau at 860 768-1105 or Ron Olsen at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture at 860 713-2550. Your cooperation is critical to the success of the survey. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it today! If you do not receive a survey and need one, please contact Ron or Joan.

SPECIALTY CROPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Recent research in the New Crops Program has concentrated on vegetables of interest to ethnic populations. According to the 2006 census, 11% of Connecticut's residents are of Hispanic heritage and 19% of Connecticut's residents are of Italian ancestry. The Asian population grew 42% from 2000 to 2006. The greatest concentrations of these ethnic groups are in Hartford, New Haven, and Fairfield Counties where many of the farmers' markets are located. In addition, there is a large Brazilian population in the Waterbury-Danbury area. These ethnic groups wish to continue consumption of vegetables that are customarily in their diets, thereby giving farmers opportunities for production of crops with a ready market. Ethnic vegetables also appeal to high-end buyers for whom ethnic vegetables are not everyday fare, but who enjoy gourmet produce and culinary variety. Many farmers wish to diversify their operations by growing specialty crops, but there is little information on the culture of these vegetables in Connecticut. It is important that cultural techniques for these vegetables be adapted to Connecticut's soils and climate.

Currently, 10 specialty vegetables and 2 specialty fruits are being studied as part of the New Crops Program at our Lockwood Farm in Hamden and at our Valley Laboratory in Windsor. These include, among others, pak choi, vegetable amaranth (callaloo), edamame, calabaza, heirloom tomatoes, personal-sized watermelon, and beach plums. Some of the New Crops Program research is being supported by a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Farm Bill through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Results of these trials and other previous trials are and will be distributed to growers through Station fact sheets and bulletins. Armed with cultural information and the correct varieties to grow, farmers can grow many crops, not normally seen in Connecticut, successfully and profitably.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS!

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Marketing Bureau is requesting applications for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture.)

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution or individual. Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners. Submitted applications can have projects that last the duration of up to three years.

For complete application guidelines please contact Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 or jaime.smith@ct.gov. Application are due to the State Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave, Rm 129 by August 3, 2009.

CONNECTICUT WINE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE

Goshen Fairgrounds, Goshen, CT, Saturday, August 1st and Sunday, August 2nd, 2009: The Connecticut Wine Festival will celebrate the bounty and diversity of Connecticut wines at the Goshen Fairgrounds in Goshen, CT. Support Connecticut agriculture by sampling fine local wines and delectable specialty foods. Peruse fine arts and crafts while relaxing to the sounds of various local musicians. This year's festival offers the rare opportunity to purchase bottles and cases of wine directly from the wineries at the festival.

Festival Hours are Saturday, August 1st from 12pm-7pm and Sunday, August 2nd from 12pm-6pm. The Goshen Fairgrounds are located approximately 1/2 mile south of Goshen center on Route 63. <http://www.goshenfair.org/directions.htm> Parking is free.

Ticket cost at the gate is \$25 daily for general admission, \$10 daily for designated drivers and those under 21. A two-day ticket is available for \$40. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a discounted daily rate of \$20 from the following CT Vineyards: Jones Winery, Shelton, CT; White Silo Winery, Sherman, CT; Hopkins Vineyard, Warren, CT; Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT; Miranda Vineyard, Goshen, CT; Land of Nod, Canaan, CT; Rosedale Farms & Vineyard, Simsbury, CT; Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT; Priam Vineyards, Colchester, CT; Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Pomfret, CT; Jonathan Edwards Winery, North Stonington, CT; Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT; and Bishop's Orchards Winery, Guilford, CT. <http://www.ctwine.com/> Also at the festival will be CT Valley Winery, New Hartford, CT and Taylor Brooke Winery, Woodstock, CT.

Admission includes a commemorative festival wine glass and tote bag, 20 wine tasting tickets, specialty food samples, entertainment and the opportunity to purchase bottles/cases of wine and artisan crafts. Additional tasting tickets are available for purchase at the festival. Entertainment includes the Shawn Taylor Duo, the Jerrod Cattey Double Trio and more.

Connecticut farm wineries occupy more than 1500 acres of open space in the state offering award-winning artisan wines. Connecticut grapes are cultivated from first bud through fermentation and wines are blended in small batches to produce extraordinary wines. Connecticut wines range from dry, barrel fermented Chardonnays, Cabernet Francs, Dry Rieslings and Seyval Blanc, to fruitier, sweeter whites, reds and late harvest Vidals, Vignoles and fruit wines.

Vendors interested in participating in this year's festival should contact Kristin Manning at manning@feralcreative.com for more information.

Join the Connecticut Wine Festival, August 1st and August 2nd, 2009, and celebrate Connecticut agricultural excellence!

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Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report

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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
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