

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
 M. Jodi Rell, Governor
 F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner
 Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director



Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503
 Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor
Wednesday, May 5, 2010

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

FOCUS ON SHELLFISH SANITATION: THE DA/BA SHORELINE SURVEY

by Shannon Kelly, Bureau of Aquaculture

Most of us take a walk on the beach to relax, perhaps stopping to enjoy the whiff of the salty air and a peer into the clear water. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture's (DA/BA) environmental analysts have a slightly differently experience as they walk Connecticut's shoreline to conduct a sanitary survey. Read on to get a glimpse into their world and learn what it really takes to ensure the safety of our local seafood supply.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture is the lead agency responsible for shellfisheries and aquaculture, and administers the State's shellfish sanitation program. This program is conducted to assure safe shellfishing areas for commercial and recreational harvest of oysters, clams, mussels and roe-on scallops. In order to maintain compliance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) the Bureau is required to perform sanitary surveys along Connecticut's 250 mile coastline. Each shoreline town in the state must be surveyed at least every twelve years – a lofty goal for a small staff. However, failure to comply would put public health at risk and would mandate the closure of waters to shellfish harvesting for both commercial and recreational use.

The sanitary survey involves the evaluation of multiple environmental factors, including actual and potential pollution sources, which have a bearing on the water quality in a shellfish growing area. The goal of the survey is to determine how these sources impact shellfish growing areas in order to properly classify and demarcate those areas (Table 1, Figure 1) and protect public health.

Figure 1. Closure signs such as this one mark the status of recreational shellfishing beds.



Table 1. Shellfishing Area Classifications

Approved - An area for the growing and harvesting of shellfish for recreational and commercial use and direct consumption
Conditionally Approved - An area that predictably does not conform to "Approved" area criteria due to the occurrence of specified hydrologic or meteorological events or conditions, but will predictably return to the "Approved" area criteria.
Restricted-Relay/Depuration - An area to be used by DA/BA licensed operations for the relaying of shellfish to a depuration plant for controlled purification, to designated beds in Approved or Conditionally Approved areas for natural cleansing or to areas satisfactory to the DA/BA, excluding Prohibited, Conditionally Restricted-Relay, and Restricted-Relay areas. These shellfish may not be directly harvested for market nor consumed prior to the purification process involving relay or depuration.
Conditionally Restricted-Relay/Depuration - An area that predictably does not conform to Restricted-Relay/Depuration area criteria due to the occurrence of specified hydrologic or meteorological events or conditions, but will predictably return to the Restricted-Relay/Depuration area criteria.
Restricted-Relay - An area where DA/BA allows aquaculture, relay or transplant activities. Operations may be licensed to relay shellfish to designated beds in Approved or Conditionally Approved areas for natural cleansing.
Conditionally Restricted-Relay - An area that predictably does not conform to Restricted-Relay area criteria due to the occurrence of specified events or conditions, but predictably returns to the Restricted-Relay area criteria.
Prohibited - An area closed to harvest of shellfish with exception of some aquaculture and seed oystering activities.

Environmental analysts assess actual impacts from treatment plants or failing septic systems, potential impacts from sources such as farms, point sources such as sewer pipes cross-connected to the storm drain system (Figure 2), and non-point sources, such as that related to storm water runoff and development. The information is compiled and shared with the town health department and public works department in order to investigate and correct any problems found.

MORE SHELLFISH SANITATION ON PAGE 3

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.
May 3, 2010

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

EXTRA LARGE	67-69
LARGE	63-67
MEDIUM	59-62

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, May 3, 2010

Live animals brought the following average
 prices per cwt.:

Bob Calves:	Low	High
45-60 lbs.	25.00	30.00
61-75 lbs.	45.00	50.00
76-90 lbs.	55.00	60.00
91-105 lbs.	62.50	65.00
106 lbs. & up	70.00	77.50
Farm Calves	80.00	275.00
Started Calves	32.00	35.00
Veal Calves	85.00	105.00
Open Heifers	67.50	90.00
Beef Heifers	59.50	90.00
Feeder Steers	64.00	96.00
Beef Steers	64.00	80.00
Stock Bulls	67.00	95.00
Beef Bulls	70.00	84.00
Replacement Cows	600.00	700.00
Feeder Pigs each	3 @	135.00
Sheep each	90.00	125.00
Lambs each	70.00	155.00
Goats each	75.00	115.00
Kid Goats each	47.50	105.00
Canners	Up to	51.50
Cutters	52.00	56.00
Utility Grade Cows	57.00	59.00
Rabbits each	11.00	19.00
Chickens each	5.00	18.00
Ducks each	4.00	17.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION
 MONDAY, May 3, 2010

SLAUGHTER COWS:

Percent Lean Avg. Dressing High

Dressing Low Dressing

Breakers	75-80% lean		
	60.00-63.00	-----	55.00-57.50
Boners	80-85% lean		
	56.00-60.00	61.00-63.00	51.50-53.50
Lean	85-90% lean		
	51.50-55.50	57.00-59.00	47.00-51.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

	1335-2025 lbs	66.00-68.50
Bullocks:	865-1380 lbs	70.00-74.00

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn

Choice and Prime 2-3	
40-60 lbs	162.00-178.00
60-80 lbs	152.00-172.00
90-110 lbs	152.00-164.00
130-150 lbs	130.00-144.00
Choice 2-3 40-60 lbs	128.00-155.00
60-80 lbs	120.00-140.00
80-110 lbs	118.00-135.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Medium Flesh

	120-160 lbs	46.00-64.00
	160-200 lbs	42.00-58.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

APPLE CIDER, 9 - 1/2 gal	15.00	15.00
APPLES, McIntosh, us fcy, 120ct	13.00	14.00
APPLES, Red Delicious 12/ 3-lb bags xfcy	16.00	16.00
CHIVES, 1-lb bag	6.00	8.00
FIDDLEHEADS, per lb	4.50	4.50
POTATOES, Russett 10 - 5lb bags	9.00	9.00
TOMATOES, Vine Ripes 25lb box med ,ghouse	24.00	24.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLES, Fuji us xfcy, 80ct WA	36.00	39.00
ARTICHOKES, 30ct cartons CA	18.00	18.00
ASPARAGUS, 28lb NJ	51.00	51.00
BEANS, Green bu handpicked FL	20.00	22.00
BEETS, Red 12's SC	11.00	12.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12/4.4oz cups med FL	30.00	33.00
BROCCOLI RABE, 20lb CA	34.00	34.00
CILANTRO, 24's NJ	14.00	14.00
COLLARD GREENS, 12-16s GA	10.00	11.00
CORN, 4 1/2 dz FL	14.00	15.00
CUCUMBER, 1-1/9bu med FL	16.00	18.00
DANDELION GREENS, 12's NJ	14.00	16.00
HORSERADISH, 5lb MIZZ	12.00	12.00
LEEKs, 12's NJ	14.00	15.00
LETTUCE, Boston 24ct NJ	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, Romaine 24ct NJ	15.00	15.00
MINT, 1/2bu NJ	12.00	13.00
NAPPA, 50lb FL	26.00	28.00
ONION, Vidalia jbo GA	35.00	37.00
PEAS, English, bu GA	40.00	42.00
PEAR, D' Anjou, 90ct, us #1 OR	26.00	26.00
PEPPER, Cubanelles 1-1/9 bu FL	50.00	50.00
PEPPER, Bell xlg , 1-1/9 bu Green FL	30.00	32.00
POTATOES, Long White 50lb sz B CA	20.00	20.00
RHUBARB, 10lb WASH	32.00	32.00
SPINACH, 1.3 bu Flat NJ	14.00	15.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1lb med-lg CAL	14.00	15.00
TOMATOES, 5x6 FL	29.00	30.00
TOMATOES, 10lbs heirloom ghouse CAN	36.00	36.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

200-300 lbs	40.00-56.00
SLAUGHTER EWES Utility 1-2: Thin Fleshed	
120-160 lbs	35.00-48.00
160-200 lbs	30.00-40.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on estimated weights.	
Kids: 50-60 lbs	102.00-116.00
60-80 lbs	118.00-136.00
80-100 lbs	130.00-150.00
100-110 lbs	146.00-160.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	94.00-105.00
130-180 lbs	100.00-114.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	158.00-178.00
150-250 lbs	174.00-190.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Mon May 3, 2010 - Hogs sold by actual weights,
 prices quoted by hundred weight.

Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	64.50-66.50
	270-300 lbs	62.75-65.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	63.00-63.50
	270-300 lbs	60.75-62.75
	300-350 lbs	54.00-58.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	52.00-56.50
	500-700 lbs	55.00-60.00

METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A.

NEW YORK PRICES WHITE EGGS TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen,
 Grade A eggs on:
May 3, 2010

EXTRA LARGE	72-76
LARGE	70-74
MEDIUM	67-71

Above quotations based on
 CARTON sales to retailers.



PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY HAY REPORT

Monday May 3, 2010

Hay and Straw Market for Eastern
 Pennsylvania. All hay prices paid
 by dealers at the farm and per ton.
 Premium

Alfalfa	140.00-150.00
Mixed Hay	140.00-145.00
	Good
Timothy	110.00-140.00
Straw	90.00-125.00

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE RETAIL REPORT

Retail Prices at Grocery Stores
 in the Northeast

Week of April 30, 2010

Prices are in dollars per pound
 unless otherwise stated.

VEGETABLES

Asparagus	1.99 - 3.49
Broccoli	0.98 - 2.00 per bunch
Cabbage	0.39 - 0.69
Carrots, Baby organic	1.69 - 2.49 1lb bag
Celery	0.99 - 2.00 each
Cucumbers	0.33 - 0.75 each
Lettuce, Romaine	0.99 - 1.29 each
Mushrooms, White	0.99 - 2.00 8oz pkg
Peppers, Bell green	1.99 - 1.99
Peppers, Bell red	2.49 - 2.99
Potatoes, Russet	1.50 - 2.99 5lb bag
Squash, Zucchini	1.28 - 1.79
Tomatoes on the vine	1.79 - 2.99

FRUITS

Apples, Red delicious	0.67 - 1.79
Avocados, Haas	0.69 - 1.79 each
Cantaloup	0.99 - 3.49 each
Grapes, Green/Red	0.98 - 2.49
Grapefruit, Red	0.40 - 1.00 each
Honeydew	2.98 - 2.99 each
Lemons	0.33 - 0.66 each
Mangoes	0.50 - 1.50 each
Oranges, Navel	0.25 - 1.00 each
Pears, Bartlett	0.99 - 1.29
Strawberries	1.50 - 3.00 16oz pkg

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, 1-888-526-8815, 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.

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.

46-R. 300 tomato cages, 4ft tall, steel reinforcing wire, \$3.00 each, Killingworth:860-663-3282

59-R. Milking Shorthorn heifer calves for 2010 shows, also cow/calf pairs. Airlinefarm@yahoo.com or 860-267-9975.

66-R. Reg Hereford Bulls and Bred Cows for sale. Excellent bloodlines. All animals sell with a breeding guarantee and current vaccinations. 860-250-3311.

67-R. Liquidating farm sale: Call Frank for prices, 203 494-1651 or 203 874-7036. 100 ft. Sears hoses, wheelbarrows, oil and gas furnaces, compressor, old fashioned trunk, 3 by 6 steel tables, shade cloths for greenhouses, fuel tanks, 3 and 4 ft. fans, 443 automatic drip systems, drill press, 3 ton jeweler's safe, electric sprayers, 3 miniature horses, 2 registered, gas fork lift, plenty hibiscus.

75-R. Hay: first-cut \$4.50/bale. Call 860-828-9403.

76-R. Case 4-bar side delivery rake. Penguin 9-ft hay tedder. World Agriculture teck 6-ft rotary mower. Cub Cadet Model 1225 38 mower deck - 12 hp Briggs Stratton motor. Call 860-354-4659.

77-R. Small tie stall milking herd, mostly first calf Holstein heifers, bred back. DMSCC 57,000. 860-355-2962.

78-R. Fertilizer; Fieldworks Agricultural Products, Voluntown, CT. Agricultural grades and custom blends, in bags, bulk bags, bulk and applied. Good blends for vegetables, hay, corn and tobacco and turf. Bulk lime application service. Ag chemicals, corn and forage seed. Organic OMRI certified fertilizer available. Call Paul Peters, Agronomist at 860-428-4846. Farm quantities only. Delivery available.

80-R. 20' Hillboro horse trailer for fifth wheel hitch - \$1,200. Call 203-206-1344 or 860-274-8159.

81. Custom fabrication and machining for agricultural equipment. Contact Mikro Tool and Machining 860-230-6580.

82-R. Brillion 5' sure stand 3-pt seeder, handles both small and large seeds - \$3,500. John Deere 10' AW disk harrow - \$500. Call 860-485-5461 after 6 p.m.

83-R. Registered Hereford feeder cattle 860-485-5720.

84. 1870 Carriage shed barn boards, take down, best offer. Call for more information at 860-429-0721.

85-R. Tomato stakes, tree stakes, fence boards, custom cut lumber. Staehly Products Co., LLC 860-873-9774.

87-R. 30 bales of hay \$3.50 each. 203-235-63550.

WANTED

35-R. All standing timber wanted. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call New England Timber, LLC at 860-662-2412.

86. Pallet forks and grapple forks for Bobcat skid steer loader. Call 860-528-4660.

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.

62-R. Free Alpaca & Llama Fiber-- From 5 Alpacas and 4 Llamas, Available in May., Call for Details, Westview Farm, Monroe, Ct. Ask for Bernie 203-880-6814.

79-R. All the benefits. Half the price. Connecticut Farm Bureau, The Voice of Connecticut Agriculture, is offering a half-price special to new members through June 30. We advocate for the future of Connecticut farms. Join us at www.cfba.org today. (Membership year expires 9/30/10).

SHELLFISH SANITATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Figure 2. Excess contaminants and nutrients can enter shellfishing areas from drainage pipes such as this one. (Photo: Shannon Kelly)



There are other important environmental benefits associated with locating and correcting these pollution sources, including reducing bacterial and viral pathogens and reducing excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, entering Long Island Sound (LIS). The water quality improvements associated with abating pollution sources include improved habitat for wildlife such as finfish and waterfowl, and improved water quality for recreational uses such as fishing, swimming, and boating.

The DA/BA staff physically walk the shoreline, conducting a visual inspection of homes with septic systems within 250 ft of LIS or its tributary, to ensure that there is not a straight pipe coming from the septic system or a faulty septic system (usually denoted by spongy ground and long, very green grass) which could ultimately reach the water. The survey is conducted on foot and/or by boat depending on public access to the area. Along the way the location of storm drains and outfalls are noted and a "sniff test" is done to determine if there is any septic odor. A foul smelling odor could indicate the possibility of a cross connection with the storm drain system.

Agricultural activity is also observed to determine what impact, if any, it might have on shellfish growing waters. The use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers is examined in terms of quantity and application methods. For farms with animals/livestock, the numbers and types, how pastured, how manure is handled and if a watercourse run through the property is noted. Populations of waterfowl and other wild animals, including an estimation of their numbers, is also taken into consideration.

Sewage treatment plants, pump stations and industries discharging into coastal waters are inspected to ensure they are working within their permit requirements and that if there was a problem then the shellfishing areas within close proximity could be shut down in a timely manner to protect public health. Marina surveys are also conducted to determine the potential pollution based on the number and size of boats present along with the marina's policies regarding pollution abatement/deterrence. Marina owners and any boat owners present are interviewed to ascertain what type of marine sanitation devices are utilized (if any) on land and out on the water.

At the conclusion of the survey, a report is generated complete with maps of the area surveyed, locations noted with actual or potential pollution sources, industrial locations and outfalls, sewage treatment plants and pump stations, farms and the distance and impact of the pollution source on the shellfish growing area. Since many towns now have GIS capability and infrastructure information mapped such as public sewer lines, which properties are connected, storm drains and their outlets, etc. it makes the job a lot easier to do and to compile the information at the conclusion of the survey.

Since the overall objective of the shoreline survey is to ensure the consumer of a safe product this could mean either the upgrading or down

MORE SHELLFISH SANITATION ON PAGE 4

SHELLFISH SANITATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

grading in the classification of an area to protect the public from illness associated with consumption of contaminated shellfish. A recent shoreline survey is required when a town requests and/or the DA/BA plans to an upgrade to the classification of an area for either commercial or recreational use. The correction or remediation of any problems found should, hopefully, lead to an upgrade in the classification of an area and allow increased use of shellfishing waters.

To learn more about the shoreline survey and Connecticut's Shellfish Sanitation Program, contact Shannon Kelly, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture, at shannonkelly@snet.net

AG FACTS - TODAY'S FARMER AND FARM FAMILY

Nearly two million people farm or ranch in the United States. Almost 90 percent of U.S. farms are operated by individuals or family corporations. And American agriculture provides jobs—including production agriculture, farm inputs, processing and marketing, along with retail and wholesale sales—for 15 percent of the U.S. population.

A recent survey of America's young farmers and ranchers revealed that 97.2 percent planned to farm and ranch for life. And 90 percent said they would like their children to follow in their footsteps. This provides strong incentive for today's farmers and ranchers to protect and preserve the natural resources on their property. Not only is the land and its resources a farmer's lifeblood today, it represents the future for his family and its business.

OPPORTUNITIES AT TERRA FIRMA FARM

Volunteer Opportunities - Terra Firma Farm in Stonington is currently recruiting volunteers to help out at the Farm this Spring & Summer! They are seeking individuals interested in helping out in the garden, farm stand, barn, fields, and more. They seek individuals with a passion for preserving rural lifestyles and farming as a way of life, and who are self-motivated and able to work on their own or as part of a team. Applicants must be able to

represent the Farm in a positive, professional manner and feel comfortable acting as an ambassador to visitors.

Volunteers typically commit to a minimum of 2 hours per week, and all volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. If you are interested in becoming part of the Terra Firma Farm family, please contact the Farm at 860-535-8171 or info@terrafirmafarm.org .

Field Trip Tour Guides -The farm is currently looking for volunteers for Spring Field Trips starting April 22nd. They are looking for confident, enthusiastic individuals interested in expanding their skills in educating students and public about farm and environmental topics.

The Farm is always looking for instructors/counselors for the school year programs. Based on current needs, these positions may be paid or volunteer. The programs provide opportunities both for participants and instructors to gain valuable experience in agricultural education.

Summer Camp Staff - Terra Firma Farm Summer Camp is the perfect place to enjoy the summer while developing new leadership, activity planning and communication skills. If you love kids, mentoring children to connect with the farm and surrounding land is one of the most rewarding summer experiences.

From playing in the brook to feeding cows to harvesting vegetables, Terra Firma Farm Summer Camp will encourage you to grow and expand your abilities. You will have the opportunity to work with an experienced, cohesive staff in a great natural setting. If you are interested please contact the farm at 860-535-8171 or info@terrafirmafarm.org for more information.

Afternoon or After School Animal Chores Volunteers - Get to know the farm animals by helping to feed and water in the chicken coop, pig pen and sheep pasture. Help feed the goats, collect & clean eggs, feed the rabbits and care for the chicks. Kids are welcome to volunteer with parents. The animals love the company! Training will be available as well as help in the beginning. Animal Chore Volunteers must commit to a 1 afternoon a week, and all volunteers must be at least 14 years of age unless accompanied by a parent.

For more information, visit the farm's website: www.terrafirmafarm.org

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.

Commissioner	F. Philip Prelli	(860) 713-2500
Marketing&Technology	Robert Pellegrino	(860) 713-2503
Regional Market	Robert Pellegrino	(860) 566-3699
State Veterinarian	Dr. Mary J. Lis	(860) 713-2505
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

E-Mail: jessey.ina-lee@ct.gov
 Internet: <http://www.ct.gov/doag>

**Connecticut Weekly
 Agricultural Report**

**VOL. XC
 NO. 18
 May 5, 2010**