



Words of Windham



A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

Biographies on LAA-2 Candidates

Jonathan Eddy

I'm a lifelong resident of Thompson, CT. I graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School in 2002. I attended SUNY Morrisville for two years, one year majoring in Forestry and the second year in AG business. I'm a Farm Bureau Member and serve as Windham County's YF&R representative. I am also a member of the Last Green Valley.

I am owner and operator of New Boston Beef LLC, established in 2008, providing customers with all natural, antibiotic free and no added hormone beef. I raise between 30 and 45 head of Simmental, Simmental/Hereford cross cattle. I market the beef to customers at local Farmers Markets and other local businesses. I rent 80 acres of land to produce feed for the cattle and to sell commercially.

I have a genuine interest in agriculture, the future of agriculture and agricultural education. It is my goal to represent my agricultural community by serving on the Windham County Committee Board.

Diane Miller

I'm a member of Fairvue Farms LLC along with my husband Paul and our son David. Our farm is located in Woodstock, CT. I am involved on the farm by giving informational tours and educating the public about modern dairy farming. I also operate our retail business where we sell the Farmers Cow products.

Besides my involvement on the farm; I am Farm Tour Chairman for Celebrating Agriculture, member of The Farmers Cow where I spend a lot of time promoting our products along with the dairy industry, and a member of Very Alive which is a group of farmers who are helping to keep agriculture in CT by making legislators aware of the concerns of farmers. I have also served on the Farm Building Tax Abatement Committee for the town of Woodstock.

I believe that it is important to keep a local and affordable food supply as well as educate the consumer about agriculture. It is important to keep the rural character of our community in the Quiet Corner of CT. As a member of the FSA County Committee I will help promote the services the agency provides.

Harold Bishop

Born and brought up in Guilford, CT the home of Bishop's Orchard. I attended the University of CT, graduating with a BS in Horticulture. In 1958, I purchased Woodstock Orchards.

In 1998, an LLC was formed with Douglas & Donna Young as partners. The farm has diversified into apples, peaches, plums, pears, vegetables, pumpkins, hardy mums, greenhouse tomatoes, along with our sweet ciders with an increased emphasis on the retail side of the business.

I have been involved in many community, regional and state organizations including the Woodstock Vol. Fire Association, Woodstock Historical District Commission, Quinebaug Valley Cold Storage Association, Quinebaug Fruit Growers Association, Windham County Farm Bureau, CT Farm Bureau, CT Pomological Society & the New England Apple Council.

I have served on the County FSA Committee for 6 years and have endeavored to promote and serve the eligible agricultural entities. This committee oversees all of the various agricultural programs available under the Farm Service Agency in a fair and equitable manner.

Governor Rell Request Federal Aide

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced on October 29th that she is seeking federal relief for Connecticut farmers who suffered major crop losses due to severe rainfall, hail and flooding this past summer.

The Governor sent a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack asking for a disaster declaration for six counties affected by rainstorms, hail and flooding from May 12 to June 4, 2009. If the Secretary of Agriculture does approve a disaster declaration then it will allow farmers to apply for low-interest emergency loans and apply for certain programs to receive some financial relief. Also in some circumstances it may allow a farmer with loan payments to defer them if the requirements are met.

“Our farmers need this help to recover from setbacks caused by the one thing that none of us can control – the weather.” Governor Rell said.

The counties under consideration for the disaster designation are Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, New London and Windham.

Farm Land for Lease

The state of CT Department of Agriculture will accept agricultural lease proposals from interested farmers wishing to lease farmland in Lebanon & Colchester. The land is located on Norwich Avenue and Foote Hill Road. A dairy facility with a milking center barn and other agricultural structures are on the land along with a house for farmer tenant housing. There are approximately 263 acres of cropland and pasture available.

Proposals for all or portions of the property must be submitted by February 1, 2010 to:

Farmland Preservation Program
CT Department of Agriculture
Lebanon Farm Bid Proposal, Room G-8
165 Capital Avenue
Hartford CT 06106

For more information contact 860-713-2511.

Maple Syrup Class

Want to try your hand at making maple syrup? Then join the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center for a 3-part course on becoming a maple sugar maker. This soup-to-nuts course will include a written manual and cover such topics as the health and management of maple trees, tapping, collecting & storing sap, and making and packaging syrup, with an emphasis on quality control throughout the process. Whether you want to make a few gallons or run a commercial operation, this course will provide fundamentals essential to making a good, consistent and delicious product. Classes start December 2nd.

For more information:

Steve Broderick, Forester & Program Director
Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center
860-455-9534, sbroderick@ctwoodlands.org

CT Grown for the Holiday Season

As the holiday season unfolds, people of diverse cultures and faiths share a common focus on family, friends, and food. For those looking to celebrate with a closer connection to their community, the CT Department of Agriculture offers an assortment of guides to find CT Grown products.

To access all of these resources – as well as many more – go to the Department of Agriculture at www.ct.gov/doag or www.CTGrown.gov and click on “Publications” at the left of the page.

Calendar of Events

- December 2– CT Pomological Society Annual Meeting, The Gallery Restaurant, Glastonbury, CT 860-659-2656
- December 15-17– New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference & Tradeshow, Radisson Hotel, Manchester NH, Jude Boucher 860-875-3331

SURE

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) may not be aware that all 2008 crops were required to be reported, in all counties, in which they have an interest to meet the requirements of the program. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acreage reports. "However, evidence of existence or disposition, must be provided," stated Marsha Jette, State Executive Director.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

- Producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest
- Late filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- If the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the county office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed.

The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 & 2010 normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

SURE will be available to farmers who have had 10% or greater losses in production and have Crop Insurance, NAP Coverage or Buy in Coverage for the applicable years loss. The SURE Program provides assistance in addition to Crop Insurance or NAP Coverage.

More details are available from the office or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Loan Dollars

If you are interested in obtaining a farm loan please contact Ron Clark Farm Loan Manager 860-887-9941 x 105. The application process requires time to obtain funds to fill the loan request.

Agvocate

In 2009, the Town of Thompson was awarded a CT Department of Agriculture "Farm Viability Grant" to establish an Agvocate Pilot Program in six towns. Over the coming year, municipal leaders, agricultural producers and supportive citizens in the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Franklin, Sterling and Thompson will work with a circuit rider "AGvocate" to implement tools and create action plans to help promote farm viability in their towns. Some ways pilot towns are making farming viable are:

- Establishing a committed group of citizens and municipal leaders to meet regularly and develop plans that works for their communities. Many Agvocate towns hope to establish a permanent Agriculture commission to sustain the program in the long term.
- Reviewing and implementing tax policies for farmland and buildings.
- Promoting agriculture through education and outreach.
- Reviewing town land-use regulations to limit farm and non-farm conflicts.
- Creating supportive business environments for farms by including agriculture in the local economic development strategy and updating town regulations to be more farm friendly.
- Identifying where the agricultural producers are and what they produce. Once identified, AGvocate towns will promote these farms through brochures and town website and create forums for agricultural producers to communicate. All Farmers are encouraged to lend a voice.

November 30-

Agricultural Resources Meeting,
7 PM, Canterbury Town Hall
Open to public

Jennifer Kaufman

Agvocate Program Coordinator
860-450-6007 or AGvocate@yahoo.com

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Have a cheerful & safe Holiday Season & Happy New Year!!
Dawn, Diane & Sarah



LAA-2 Nominees for Woodstock, Thompson & Pomfret



Jonathan Eddy



Diane Miller



Harold Bishop

Return your ballots by December 7th!!

Artwork by Tyler Pindell



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Diane C. Holowaty, Program Technician x 111
Sarah M. Phaiah, Program Technician x110
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager
860-887-9941 x 105

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Harold Bishop, Chairman
Betsy Molodich,
Vice-Chairman
Charles Tyler,
Regular Member