

# Litchfield County Farmers Livestock Market

Welcome Friends, Producers, and Neighbors:

We would like to introduce you to a new marketing concept for livestock producers in Connecticut.

The Farmers Livestock Market is a facility where livestock producers can display their produce directly to the consumer. They can negotiate the terms of the purchase, contract slaughter procedures, and offer custom packaging.

The ultimate goal is to establish a location with a reputation of having a quality product. This established location could demand a higher return for our livestock.

By networking with each other we could:

- 1) develop inventory of stock,
- 2) create benchmarks for breeding,
- 3) develop a cycle of production, and
- 4) be able to satisfy the market demands.

Working together will allow us to access the best market for our products and to obtain the best price for our livestock.

Thank You,



Chris Glynos  
Bethlehem Boer Goat Ranch

# Litchfield County Farmers Livestock Market

## BENEFITS TO THE LCFLM . . .

1. YOU can display YOUR products
2. Conveniently located
3. Indoor Facilities
4. Availability of a harvest facility
5. Availability of custom packing
6. YOU set the price of YOUR product according to the added features
7. Quality vs. Quantity
8. Advertising and marketing as a group
9. Networking with other farmers
10. Develop a cycle of Production



**NRCS Meeting at the Bethlehem Boer Goat Ranch**  
**Wednesday, May 21, 2003**  
**1:30pm – 3:30pm**

The following people were in attendance:

Chris Glynos (Ranch Owner)  
Raye Hodgson (NRCS)  
Kathleen Johnson (NRCS)  
Jon Lantman (NRCS)  
Shawn McVey (NRCS)

Rich Meinert (UCONN Ext.)  
Joe Neafsey (NRCS)  
Joe Wettemann (DEP)  
Christina Clark (Ranch Ass't)

Chris Glynos addressed the group and began the discussion with issues that he felt needed to be addressed. They are as follows:

1. To have control of the surface water, which should be addressed as part of the waste management plan.
2. To establish a waste-management facility, which would be located in the "new parking lot" on the premises. Chris' concern is that as his number of animals' increases, then the amount of manure produced is also increasing. He feels that there is an interest in creating compost that he can then offer to the local landscapers. (The landscapers could also bring some of their leaves and grass clippings to be composted.)
3. To establish a custom-kill facility.
4. To utilize the natural spring located on the ranch.

Joe Neafsey of NRCS had some questions for Chris:

1. How many animals do you currently have on the property? *100 animals*
2. How much land is currently being used? *Approximately one-third*
3. How many rotational acres do you currently use? *We currently use only 8 – 12 acres. We hope to use most of the acreage as our land becomes more developed. My goal is to use 18 – 20 acres with only the parking lots and the buildings as the exceptions.*
4. What is the percentage of time that the animals are in the pasture? *All of the time. Year round? From November – April the animals stay inside, so I guess I would say they stay inside 50% of the time.*
5. What type of bedding do you use? *Shavings, we use about 20 – 25 bails a week.*

Jon Lantman of NRCS interjects:

6. Do you utilize a bedding pack? *The ammonia gets to strong in the barns. It may work in some of the barns, but not all of them.*

Joe Neafsey continues:

7. Do you spread the manure on your pastures? *Yes*
8. Have you had your soil tested? *Yes, we are waiting for the results.*
9. Do you grow your own hay? *No*  
What type of feed do you use? *We purchase goat feed. ("Goat Chow")*
10. Does the water supply also supply the house? *Yes.* Has it been tested? *Yes* How did it test? *It was fine.*
11. Do you have a deep well? *No, Shallow well.* Has that been tested? *Not yet*
12. What will you do with the spring? *My plans are to redefine it. To create a buffer zone to keep the animals out, but at the same time, use the water to feed that animals.*
13. Have you spoken with a conservationist? *Yes, we are currently working with them.*

Chris now takes us over to the projected site of the Waste Management Facility. He is looking for the input of the group to properly set-up his facility.

Joe Wettemann of the DEP asks:

1. What types of materials would be in your compost? *Manure, bedding . . .* What is the volume of the slaughter that you may be putting into the compost? *Still determining volume, but it would be the hooves, heads, entails, maybe the skin.*

Joe Neafsey asks:

2. What is the size of the animal for slaughter? *Small – goats, sheep, calves, maybe rabbit*

Rich Meinert of UCONN Ext. Services inquires as to when the slaughter facility would be open? *On the weekends and we will advertise the schedule.*

Joe Neafsey continues:

3. Do you have enough water? For cleaning up? *We have 3 wells on the property. One for the house, one shallow well, and one for the Store-n-lock.*

Joe Wettemann asks:

4. Can your leeching fields handle the increase? *Well, I did my own test and dumped 3000 gallons of gray water 3 times and there were no problems. I wanted to see if anything would surface and it never did.*

The group then discussed when and who built the existing barn. Kathy Johnson from NRCS may have the "as built" paperwork or it may be at Town Hall. The previous owner mentioned that UCONN Extension Services did design it – probably 40 years ago.

Chris Glynos stated that he is looking to maximize the use of his property. With the help of the NRCS, and other experienced professionals, he is hoping that they can direct him in how to best utilize the property.

The group then discussed the possibility of a kill-facility and the use of its waste in the composting process. Jon Lantman discussed the need to determine how the farm will be composting – passively or aggressively. He explained the differences between the two types of systems. He was also very helpful in explaining the different types of composting systems that could be implemented at the ranch. Through all of the discussion and explanations, it was then decided that Chris Glynos would **simply deal with the manure, bedding, and possibly some leaves/grass as he works to determine the proper "formula" to compost the material. (NO mortalities)**

Joe Wattermann stated that the composting needs a permit and to get that permit, the ranch needs to let him know volumes (leaves, grass, hay, bedding, manure, etc)

