



Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor; Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director



Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Linda Piotrowicz, Interim Editor
Wednesday, January 4, 2012

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

INFORMATIONAL SESSION JAN 12: HOW TO BID ON STATE FOOD CONTRACTS

By Jane Slupecki, Marketing Representative

Have you ever wondered about big contracts that large wholesale distributors bid on to sell food to schools, colleges, and the prisons?

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAG) has teamed up with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to hold an informational meeting for Connecticut farmers and processors from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on January 12, 2012, in Room 161 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

Staff from DAS and DoAG will be on hand to answer questions and ensure you feel comfortable with the state bidding process. This session is free but preregistration by January 10, 2012, is required. Please RSVP to jane.slupecki@ct.gov or 860-713-2588.

This is another great opportunity for Connecticut farmers to participate in new wholesale markets. DoAG encourages farmers to sign up for the DAS bid notification process, which is conveniently conducted by email. Through this notification process, farmers can watch for contracts that are a good fit for their wholesale agricultural businesses. The bids vary, and usually involve commodities such as produce, meat, milk, or other farm products. It is the responsibility of the farmers and processors to sign up on the website, read the materials, and bid on any of the contracts that fit their business.

DAS offers a free subscription to their Bidder Notification System, which sends a daily email notification of any and all bids that are posted on their website each day. Sign up at

<https://www.biznet.ct.gov/AccountMaint/Login.aspx?l=n>

Find solicitations (bids and requests for proposals) and look up current and past contract awards at

<http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=12>.

Answers to frequently asked questions about doing business with the State of Connecticut are posted at

<http://www.das.state.ct.us/cr1.aspx?page=256>.

Great things are happening in the state. Demand for Connecticut Grown commodities—including such items as proteins—is on the rise. Although doing business with the State of Connecticut can seem challenging, the DAS contract specialist for food products and services (cafeterias, catering; commodity code 0029), various other refrigeration equipment (commodity code 0087), and commissary products (commodity code 0094) is happy to meet with you to explain the process.

Think of the possibilities: Can you imagine breaking through to another level of production for your farm? You could put more acreage into vegetable and fruit production, expand a herd of cattle, find a new market for dairy products, or explore the possibilities for larger USDA inspected poultry processing in Connecticut. DoAG realizes the potential this offers for Connecticut farm businesses, and DAS realizes that this can expand and diversify the number and type of persons/businesses who bid on these contracts, all of which is good for the state.

It's a great example of state agencies working together to better serve the residents of Connecticut.

CT GROWN JOINT VENTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the Connecticut Grown Joint Venture Grant Program through January 31, 2012.

This popular program offers matching funds for marketing projects that use the Connecticut Grown logo or slogan. Eligible projects include signage, advertisements, billboards, brochures, websites, and more. This competitive program is open to producers and agricultural nonprofits. Awards will be announced in March 2012.

The guidelines, application, and state forms can be downloaded from the Department of Agriculture website, www.ctgrown.gov (click on "Programs and Services," then "CT Grown Joint Venture Grants"). You can also call 860-713-2503 to have a copy of the information emailed to you.

Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2012.

**WHOLESALE FRUITS
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
APPLE,Cort,88 ct xfcy	23.00	25.00
APPLE,Cort,2-1/2bu,fcy	16.00	16.00
APPLE,Empire,80ct, xfcy	18.00	18.00
APPLE,Fuji,2-1/2, bu	14.00	16.00
APPLE,Gld Del,2-1/2in,bu	16.00	16.00
APPLE,Hnycsp,72ct,xfcy	46.00	46.00
APPLE,Hnycsp,64ct,xfcy	46.00	46.00
APPLE,Mac,96ct,US 1	16.00	16.00
APPLE,Mac,fcy,80ct	18.00	19.00
APPLE,Rd Del,2-1/2in,bu	16.00	16.00
APPLE,Rd Del,12/3	14.00	14.00
CIDER,9 1/2gal	18.00	18.00
CIDER,4-1gal	16.00	16.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

December 27, 2011

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

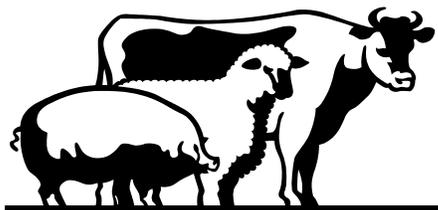
49-54	220-270 lbs	62.00-68.00
	270-300	64.00-68.50
	300-400lbs	63.00-67.00
45-49	220-270lbs	58.00-61.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	50.00-54.00
	500-700 lbs	n/a
Boars:	300-700 lbs	28.00-34.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, January 2, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	28.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	45.00	50.00
76-90 lbs.	65.00	70.00
91-105 lbs.	72.50	85.00
106 lbs. & up	87.00	95.00
Farm Calves	107.00	140.00
Veal Calves	85.00	100.00
Open Heifers	65.00	97.50
Feeder Steers	60.00	80.00
Starter Calves	35.00	42.00
Stock Bulls	92.50	105.00
Lambs each	70.00	135.00
Goats each	45.00	190.00
Kid Goats each	30.00	65.00
Canners	up to	69.50
Cutters	70.00	74.50
Utility Grade Cows	75.00	78.50
Rabbits each	6.00	40.00
Chickens each	5.00	40.00
Ducks each	8.00	18.00
Sheep	35.00	75.00
Feeder Pigs	145.00	175.00
Butcher Hogs	One at	92.50



**WHOLESALE VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
ALFALFA SPROUTS,5lb	11.00	12.00
BEAN SPROUTS,10lb	4.50	5.00
CRANBERRIES,24-12oz, film	32.00	34.00
PARSNIP,25lb	24.00	25.00
POTATOES,Rnd,wh, chef,50lb	11.00	13.00
POTATOES,10lb	2.60	2.60
SQUASH,Bttrnt,1/9bu,lg	14.00	16.00
TOMATOES,Cherry,5lb flat	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES,Grnhs,on vine,12lb	25.00	25.00

SHIPPED IN

	Low	High
ANISE,24ct,AZ	26.00	30.00
ARTICHOKES,24ct,CA	34.00	34.00
BEANS,Grn,rnd,bu,FL	20.00	24.00
BLACKBERRY,12/6,MX	9.00	15.00
BOK CHOY,30lb,AZ	18.00	20.00
BROCCOLI RABE,20lb,CA	38.00	40.00
CANTALOUPE,12ct,GU	12.00	14.00
CARROTS,50lb,CA	16.00	18.00
CLEMENTINES,5lb, SP	4.00	4.50
CORN,4doz,FL	18.00	20.00
GARLIC,Elphnt,10lb,CA	28.00	30.00
LETTUCE,Bstn,24,CA	16.00	18.00
ONION,Yel,25lb,NY	6.00	7.00
ORANGES,113ct,CA	17.00	19.00
RHUBARB,.6kg, Grnhs,NE	44.00	44.00
STRAWBERRIES,8/1,FL	9.00	12.00

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

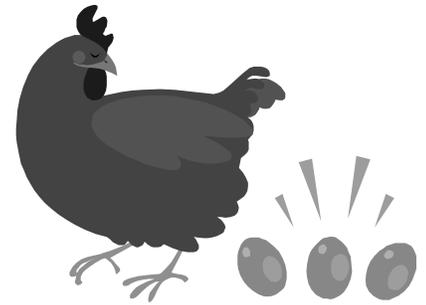
NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

December 27, 2011

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	
Breakers 75-80%lean	76.00-78.00--- 75.00-79.00----64.00---68.00
Boners 80-85% lean	68.00-72.00—74.00-76.00----61.00-64.00
Lean 88-90% lean	60.00-65.00----66.00-70.00----53.00-58.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1	830-1580 lbs -80.00-85.00
CALVES: All prices per cwt.	
Graded Bull Calves: Number 1	95-120lbs - 130.00-142.00

Holstein Heifers: Number 1	90-95 lbs 140.00—200.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:	
Woolled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3	40-60 lbs 260.00-280.00
	60-80 lbs 194.00-238.00
	80-90 lbs 176.00-191.00
	90-110 lbs 174.00-188.00
	110-130 lbs 167.00-180.00



**WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND
SHELL EGGS**

Prices paid per dozen. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	190-200
LARGE	188-198
MEDIUM	123-133

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

January 2, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, warehouse, centers per dozen. (Range)

EXTRA LARGE	144-148
LARGE	142-146
MEDIUM	105-109

PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN REPORT

December 27, 2011

Grain market for eastern Pennsylvania.

Corn, No.2, bu.	6.00-7.00
Ear Corn, ton	180.00-220.00
Soybeans, No.2, bu.	10.55-10.80



Woolled & Shorn Choice 2-3	
40-60 lbs	190.00-232.00
60-80 lbs	179.00-200.00
80-90 lbs	176.00-191.00
90-110lbs	174.00-188.00
110-130lbs	167.00-180.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh	
120-160 lbs	128.00 -140.00
160-200 lbs	115.00-130.00
200-300lbs	100.00-115.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	
120-160 lbs n/a	
160-200 lbs n/a	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.	
Kids: 30-40 lbs	92.00-100.00
50-60lbs	125.00-140.00
60-80lbs	128.00-160.00
80-90lbs	152.00-162.00
90-100lbs	150.00-165.00
100-110lbs	170.00-180.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	128.00-143.00
130-180 lbs	145.00-160.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	180.00-195.00
150-200 lbs	240.00-260.00

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now CT's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheepbreeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800 554-8049 or www.bludon.com

4-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. 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, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

211-R Good horse hay. Round bales, picked up or delivered. \$45 each. 203-530-4953.

212-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

225-R. Mail order business of "Alpine window box ivy geraniums of Europe." Hundreds of (UPS) customers in 48 states for 20 years. 860-342-2374, 888-GERANIUM (437-2648). www.wheelerfarmgardens.com

231-R. Utility vehicle Bobcat Pioneer 1299 model-electric start, tilt body, nerf bars, lights, bed mat, 351 cc engine 11 hp gas. \$6,200.00 – 860-559-0374 or wegrowall@sbcglobal.net

232-R. 4 ton trailer Cross Country custom deck over, 14 long x 8 feet wide with a 3 x 8 beaver tail custom trailer-Asking \$1,650.00 – 860-559-0374 or wegrowall@sbcglobal.net

WANTED

233-R. Prides Corner Farms is a diversified 500 acre wholesale production nursery located in Lebanon, CT that produces plants for customers in the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic region. Our product lineup includes perennials, grasses, herbs, native plants, trees, shrubs, & edible ornamentals. We are actively seeking individuals for Foreperson Trainees and Grower Interns. Qualified applicants will be enthusiastic, positive minded people that like working outdoors and have an interest in plants. We provide on the job training for these full time career opportunities with benefits. A great team environment! Give us a call or email. Human Resources HR@pridescorner.com 1-860-642-3081 www.pridescorner.com

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.

219-R. Lily's LLC Appraisal Services specializes in Estates, Commercial & Industrial, Residential, Agricultural, Conservation Easements and Reevaluation Appraisals. Call Lori Longhi at 860-463-9997.

CT MAPLE SEASON APPROACHES

According to the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut (MSPAC), research shows that maple syrup production in the United States and Canada dates back to the 1600s at least, and was undertaken by both Native Americans and the early settlers.

The traditional maple sugaring season here in Connecticut extends from early February until late March, depending greatly on the weather. Freezing nights and warm, sunny days are necessary for the maple tree to yield sap, a colorless liquid with a light, sweet taste. Maple syrup producers in Connecticut collect this maple sap and boil it down to form the signature maple taste and amber color.

MSPAC maintains a list of Connecticut sugarhouses open to the public, which can be found on the organization's website at www.ctmaple.org. This winter, consider a trip to a local sugarhouse to watch Connecticut maple syrup production in action.

UConn Extension Offers Bedding Plant Program for Greenhouse Growers

Get the latest information on pest control, disease management and other hot topics from university experts and network with professionals and other growers. *Bedding Plants - Spring 2012* is an educational program featuring the following topics:

- Tales from Grower Greenhouses: What Bugged You in 2011?
- Update on Nutrition, Chemical Growth Regulators and Other Production Tips
- Update on Emerging Diseases & New Fungicides for Spring Crops
- Overstaying Their Welcome: The Environmental Fate of Pesticides

This program will be offered in two locations:

- Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Tolland County Extension Office in Vernon
- Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Litchfield County Extension Center in Torrington.

Four pesticide recertification credits will be available. Handouts, lunch, and beverages are included in the \$20 registration fee. Make checks payable to the University of Connecticut and send to Litchfield County Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT 06790. For more information contact Leanne Pundt, 860-626-6240 or leanne.pundt@uconn.edu.

EQUIPMENT STUDY SEEKS INPUT

The University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension is conducting a study to identify available equipment, desired but unavailable equipment, and custom operators serving RI, MA, and CT.

They are asking anyone who influences the equipment decisions on his or her farm to fill out a short on-line survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/farmequipment. If you are not a farmer but you provide custom operator services, please fill out the survey. If you are a farmer AND you provide custom operator services, please fill out the survey. If you are neither a farmer nor a custom operator but you KNOW a custom operator, please fill out the survey. If you would prefer a paper version, please contact Becca Buckler at 401-934-0842 or becca.riacd@gmail.com.

This is a much-anticipated project, jointly funded by a USDA Beginning Farmer Grant (awarded to the RI Association of Conservation Districts and URI) and the RI Ag Partnership (through the generosity of the vanBuren Charitable Foundation). Your input will make this a success. Thanks for participating!

Questions about the study or survey can be directed to Kristen M. Castrataro, URI Cooperative Extension, 401-874-2967 or kcas@uri.edu.

USDA LAUNCHES NUTRITION SUPERTRACKER

Just in time to help Americans keep their New Year's resolutions by making healthy food and physical activity choices, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has released USDA's new nutrition SuperTracker. This comprehensive, state-of-the-art resource, available at www.ChooseMyPlate.gov, is designed to assist individuals as they make changes in their life to reduce their risk of chronic disease and maintain a healthy weight. Consumers can access this free, online tool at any time and can choose a variety of features to support nutrition and physical activity goals.

Release of this new web tool comes as USDA highlights the second in a series of themed consumer messages supporting the MyPlate icon – *Enjoy Your Food, But Eat Less* – that USDA is promoting the next three months in conjunction with more than 5,000 organizations participating in the MyPlate Nutrition Communicators Network.

CT 2012 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council is accepting nominations for the Connecticut 2012 Outstanding Young Farmer.

The application can be found on CT Agricultural Education Foundation website at www.ctaef.org. Applications must be post-marked by February 17, 2012. The winner will be notified in early March and the award will be presented at Ag Day at the Capitol, March 21, 2012.

Nationally sponsored by the U.S. Jaycees, the purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmer Program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer, to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of agriculture's challenges, to develop an appreciation of their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of farmers' importance and impact on the American economy.

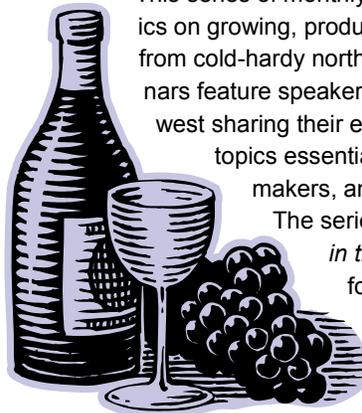
Read about the 2011 winner, Matt Peckham of Elm Farm in Woodstock, who is also a National Finalist at <http://www.ctaef.org/62740/index.html>

ATTENTION FARMERS' MARKET MASTERS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is creating a list of markets looking for farmers/vendors for the 2012 season. The list will be sent out to all farmers/vendors monthly beginning in January. If you would like your market included on this list contact Mark Zotti at Mark.Zotti@ct.gov or 860-713-2538.

WEBINAR SERIES FOR NORTHERN WINEGRAPE PRODUCERS

The Northern Grapes Webinar Series is presented live on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon and 7:00 p.m. Eastern time. Presentations are recorded and archived.



This series of monthly, one-hour webinars covers topics on growing, producing, and marketing wines made from cold-hardy northern winegrape cultivars. Webinars feature speakers from the Northeast and Midwest sharing their expertise and recent research on topics essential to cold-climate growers, wine-makers, and winery owners.

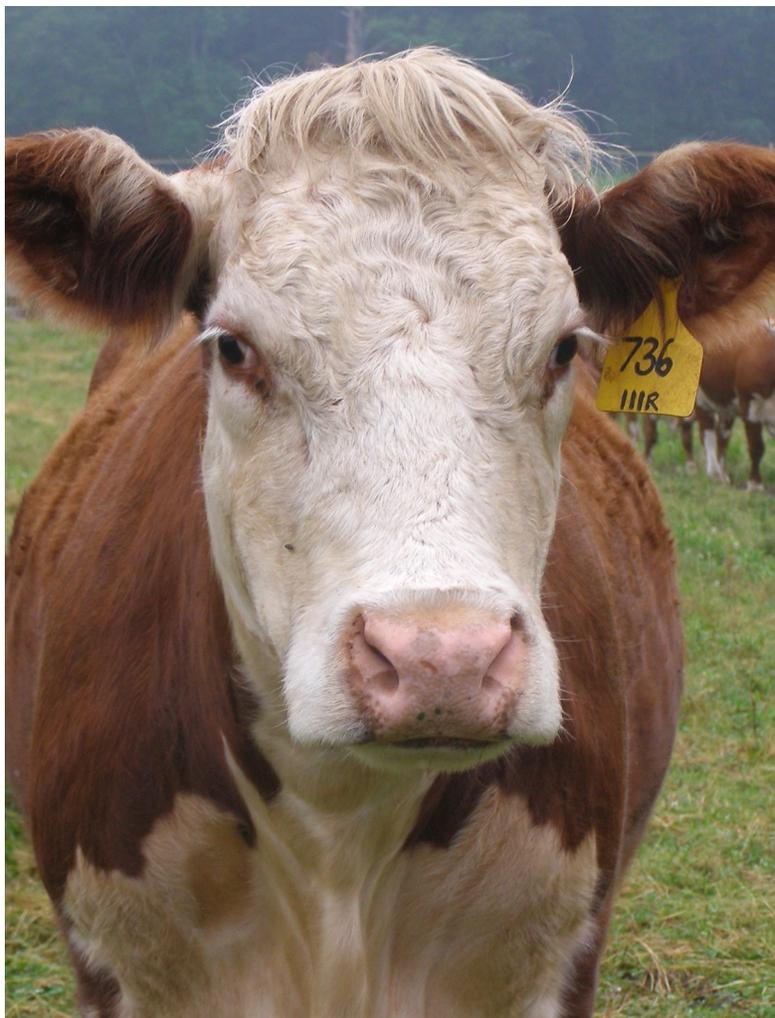
The series begins with *Managing Acidity in the Winery* on January 10, 2012, followed by *Nuts and Bolts of Canopy Management* on February 14, 2012.

Registration is free but required. Register online at

https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5pEmyXKrP6YODn6.

One week before the webinar, those who have registered will be sent the web address (URL) for the Adobe Connect session.

The Northern Grapes Project is funded by the USDA's Specialty Crops Research Initiative Program of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Project #2011-51181-30850.



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-served 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 check or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

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