



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, March 28, 2012

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT

IT'S OFFICIALLY SPRING

By Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner

Having experienced the mildest winter in recent memory, it is easy for some to set aside the weather challenges agriculture faced last year—record snow, record rain, tropical storm Irene, and the October snow storm—causing significant impact that resulted in immeasurable losses for farm families across Connecticut.

Today, most are reporting that they are weeks ahead of schedule, completing on-farm tasks that during most winters would be inconceivable. At the same time, folks are wondering what outcomes are in store as a result of such mild temperatures, especially in terms of pests or a late frost. Time will tell.

As commissioner, I spend the vast majority of my time tending to administrative functions and staying focused on the long-term future of Connecticut agriculture. Unfortunately daily demands keep me in the office or attending a wide variety of indoor meetings for long hours.

Over the past couple of weeks, however, I have made an extra effort to get out and visit a number of farms and related enterprises. Seeing first-hand what Connecticut producers are doing, expanding, innovating, and accomplishing is truly inspirational. Among the agribusinesses I recently toured:

Star Light Gardens in Durham: Ty and David Zemelsky hosted a CT NOFA greenhouse and high tunnel workshop that was attended by a good number of both new and experienced growers. Star Light produces a significant amount of produce year round in high and low tunnels without supplemental heat. It was exciting to see the potential that exists for greater use of season-extension techniques and a larger supply of fresh, year-round, Connecticut Grown produce.

Arethusa Farm in Litchfield: Owners George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis, along with Production Manager Chris Casiello and a significant staff of dedicated employees and interns, run this relatively young, mid-sized specialty dairy that milks 80 Holsteins and Jerseys. The farm specializes in top-of-the-line genetics; its animals compete nationally and internationally and have taken world championships. With a goal of retailing 100 percent of its products, the farm processes its own milk and makes value-added

products including yogurt, ice cream, and fresh and aged cheeses, which are sold at its farm store in Bantam.

YoCrunch in Naugatuck: This Connecticut company began 27 years ago as YoFarm Yogurt Company, “with the mission to create a healthy snack by pairing the smoothest European yogurt recipes with New England’s farm-fresh dairy products.” It now produces in its four Naugatuck locations nearly six million cups of yogurt each week, made with approximately three tanker trucks a day of primarily Connecticut milk. Product is shipped to locations throughout the entire U.S., including Hawaii.

Thorncrest Farm, Goshen: Kim and Clint Thorn are using a DoAG Farm Transition Grant to help build a signature post-and-beam barn that incorporates siding made with native lumber the Thorns are sawing themselves. The structure will house processing facilities and a cheese cave. This project is part of the medium-sized dairy farm’s transition from one that focuses on solely wholesaling unprocessed milk to one that processes and retails that milk as well as uses it to make a line of specialty value-added products.

Grower Direct Farms, Somers: Owner Len Van Wingerden built his 18-acre greenhouse range on a declining sand and gravel pit that offered not rich agricultural soils but an ample supply of high-quality water and an easily graded foundation. This large-scale operation uses state-of-the-art technology, including ebb-and-flow irrigation and a biomass heating system fed by wood chips, to produce a variety of plants and flowers sold to major retailers throughout the Northeast. Along with his 15 siblings, Len and the Van Wingerden family also operate Double Harvest, an organization that helps men and women in third-world countries start sustainable agricultural practices using modern, environmentally sound technologies.

These five businesses showcase just some of the exciting, progressive work being done in agriculture around Connecticut on a daily, year-round basis. And each year in March, we take time to present the diversity and strength of Connecticut agriculture, along with the infrastructure that supports it, to our state’s elected officials at Ag Day at the Capitol, which was held on March 21, 2012.

(continued on Page 3)

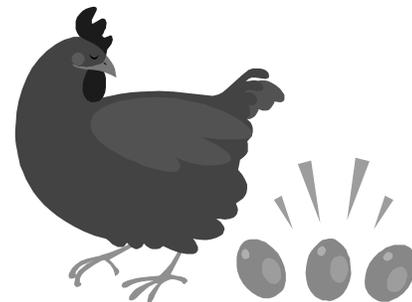
WHOLESALE ASIAN PRODUCE SHIPPED IN

	Low	High
BOY CHOY,50lb,FL	18.00	20.00
NAPPA,50lb,TX	22.00	24.00
CH CELERY,Crate,FL	50.00	50.00
CH CHIVES,HD	20.00	20.00
CHOY SUM,30lb,CA	30.00	30.00
THAI EGGPLANT,35lb,HD	50.00	55.00
CH MUSTARD,35lb,CA	25.00	30.00
LEMON GRASS,30lb,CA	40.00	45.00
LO BOK,40lb,CA	25.00	30.00
LONG BEAN,30 CA	60.00	60.00
AS SWT POTATO,40lb,CA	25.00	28.00



WHOLESALE VEGETABLES NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	Low	High
ALFALFA SPRTS,5lb	11.00	12.00
APPLE,Mac,100ct,US1	17.00	17.00
APPLE,Red del,88ct,xfcy	20.00	21.00
BEAN SPROUT,10lb	4.50	5.00
CIDER 4/1gal	14.50	16.00
LETTUCE,Bstn,12/4oz	14.00	16.00
PARSNIP,25lb	22.00	22.00
POTATO,Rnd,wh,50lb	12.00	15.00
POTATO,10lb	2.75	3.00
SQUASH,Bttrnt,1/9bu,lg	18.00	20.00
TOMATO,Chrry,5lb flat	14.00	14.00
TOMATO,Grnhs,25lb,lg	16.00	17.00



WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	150-162
LARGE	148-160
MEDIUM	111-125

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

March 26, 2012

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

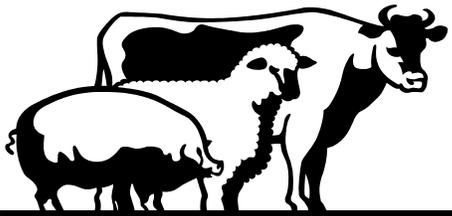
49-54	220-270 lbs	62.00-65.00
	270-300lbs	63.00-64.00
	300-400lbs	56.00-59.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	51.00-56.00
	500-700 lbs	55.00-58.00
Boars:	300-700 lbs	30.00-33.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, March 26, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	40.00	55.00
61-75 lbs.	75.00	85.00
76-90 lbs.	90.00	110.00
91-105 lbs.	115.00	120.00
106 lbs. & up	125.50	132.50
Farm Calves	140.00	165.00
Veal Calves	95.00	137.50
Open Heifers	95.00	125.00
Beef Steers	85.00	90.00
Feeder Steers	100.00	127.50
Starter Calves	60.00	65.00
Stock Bulls	115.00	145.00
Beef Bulls	99.00	104.00
Sows	1 at	42.00
Goats each	95.00	220.00
Kid Goats	30.00	90.00
Canners	Up to	81.50
Cutters	82.00	85.00
Utility Grade Cows	86.75	92.00
Rabbits each	6.00	26.00
Chickens each	5.00	16.00
Ducks each	20.00	27.00
Feeder Pigs	85.00	100.00
Lambs	45.00	240.00
Sheep	95.00	160.00
Butcher Hogs	75.00	77.50



SHIPPED IN

	Low	High
ASPARAGUS,11lb,lg,CA	18.00	22.00
BEAN,Grn,hnd pk,bu,FL	18.00	21.00
BLUEBERRIES,12/6,FL	25.00	27.00
CABBAGE,Grn,50lb,GA	10.00	11.00
CANTALOUPE,12ct,HD	16.00	18.00
CARROTS,50lb,med,TX	12.00	13.00
CILANTRO,30s,TX	11.00	12.00
COLLARDS,12-16,SC	12.00	13.00
CORN,4dz,FL	20.00	25.00
DANDELION GRNS,bu,NJ	17.00	17.00
EGGPLANT,1-1/9,md,FL	20.00	21.00
LEEKs,12s,CA	16.00	18.00
LETTUCE Grnlf,24,AZ	14.00	15.00
ONION,Yel,25lb,NY	7.00	7.00
ORANGE,88ct,CA	16.00	16.00
PEPPER,Grn,1-1/9,lg,FL	15.00	16.00
STRAWBERRIES,8/1lb,CA	17.00	18.00

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

March 26, 2012

	Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
SLAUGHTER COWS:			
Breakers	75-80%lean		
	85.00-88.00	88.00-94.00	82.00-85.00
Boners	80-85% lean		
	82.00-86.00	88.00-90.00	80.00-82.00
Lean	88-90% lean		
	76.00-80.50	81.00-82.00	71.00-74.50
SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1			
	995-1685 lbs	96.50-101.00	
CALVES: All prices per cwt.			
Graded Bull Calves: Number 1			
	95-120 lbs	210.00-232.00	
	Number 2	95-120 lbs	190.00-210.00
	Number 3	95-125 lbs	140.00-170.00
Holstein Heifers: Number 1			
	95-110 lbs	190.00-265.00	
Number 2			
	70-115 lbs	100.00-150.00	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:			
Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3			
	40-60 lbs	230.00-275.00	
	60-80 lbs	215.00-243.00	
	80-90 lbs	210.00-226.00	
	90-110 lbs	188.00-198.00	

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

March 26, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA

Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, warehouse, centers per dozen. (Range)

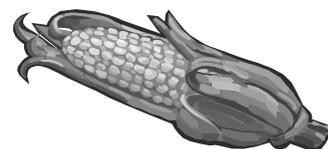
EXTRA LARGE	131-135
LARGE	129-133
MEDIUM	106-110

PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN REPORT

March 19, 2012

Grain market for eastern Pennsylvania.

Corn, No.2, bu.	7.13-7.45
Ear Corn, ton	208-210
Soybeans, No.2, bu.	12.99-13.50



90-110 lbs	188.00-198.00
110-130 lbs	172.00-186.00
130-150lbs	153.00-168.00
Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3	
40-60 lbs	215.00-245.00
60-80 lbs	178.00-225.00
80-90 lbs	176.00-191.00
110-130 lbs	154.00-170.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh	
120-160 lbs	90.00-116.00
160-200 lbs	100.00-112.00
200-300 lbs	88.00-98.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	
120-160 lbs	95.00-110.00
160-200 lbs	72.00-97.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.	
30-40lbs	100.00-116.00
40-60 lbs	122.00-148.00
60-80lbs	158.00-175.00
80-100lbs	160.00-181.00
100-110lbs	165.00-185.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	142.00-155.00
130-180 lbs	156.00-171.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	195.00-215.00
150-250 lbs	235.00-255.00

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.

10-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.

38-R. Blodgett electric convection oven, full size, includes ~50 feet of wire to hook up. Works great. \$350. Call 203-925-9746 evenings.

40-R. JD 6310 4x4 640 loader \$26,000.00. NH 575 baler with thrower. NH 311 baler, 315 with throw, JD 336 with kicker, New 17 ft. Morra hydraulic fold tedder, New Pecquea 11ft. rotary rake. JD 660 rake, NH 256, 258 rakes. NH BR 730 round baler, Case IH 6430. Balers IH 710 4 bottom plow, 720, 4 and 5 bottom reset plow, JD 1600 4 bottom reset plow, JD 530, 730, B tractors. 203-530-4953.

46-R. First cut round bales \$45.00. Guaranteed quality. Four Winds Farm, Lebanon. 860-886-0716.

47-R. Feeder cattle and grass or grain fed steers for sale at Four Winds Farm. 860-886-0716.

48-R. Balage, 2nd cutting, 4x4 bales. Located in Bristol. Will load. 860-635-1379.

49-R. Manure spreader, 519 NH. \$1,400.00. 3 bottom auto reset plow, trailer type. \$1,200.00. JD 1500 no till grass seeder, 8 ft. \$2,300.00. Salem, CT 860-961-1161.

WANTED

45-R. Meriden farmers market is seeking farmers for eggs, cheese, meat, maple syrup, cut flowers, etc. In 2011, we had more than 275 customers every Saturday morning. This year we will be increasing our marketing fourfold! Call Dennis Barry 203-237-2785.

www.cityofmeriden.org

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.

11-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.

NON-PROFIT AG LEARNING CENTER SEEKS ASSISTANT CSA MANAGER

Holcomb Farm, a 26-acre organic vegetable non-profit CSA in Granby, Connecticut (near Hartford), is looking for an assistant farm manager to help manage their 400-member CSA for the 2012 growing season. The assistant farm manager will assist the farm manager in all aspects of production and CSA management. Focus areas for the assistant farm manager will be greenhouse management, crew leadership, and CSA management. The assistant farm manager will also be expected to assist with tractor work and irrigation. Previous tractor skills a bonus, but willingness to learn a must.

This position offers a competitive salary (dependent on experience), with possible housing available. Hiring immediately. Please send resume and cover letter to: karen@holcombfarm.org, or for questions call 508-259 4427.

IT'S OFFICIALLY SPRING (continued from Page 1)

Once again, we were honored that Governor Malloy spent time with us at Ag Day, touring exhibits, visiting with Future Farmers of America, presenting the Outstanding Young Farmer Award to Russell Holmberg, and speaking to those gathered. Governor Malloy re-confirmed his sincere interest in the industry, demonstrated by the questions he asked producers and the breadth and depth of knowledge he acquired and shared during the event.

Ag Day is a day of celebration and pride for all those involved. It truly is an exciting time to be part of agriculture in Connecticut, and I am inspired by the hard work, creativity, and resourcefulness of the state's farmers and agribusiness men and women who continue to move this industry forward and secure its future as a significant component of Connecticut's economy.



L to R: Russ Holmberg, Governor Malloy, Commissioner Reviczky

2012 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER AWARD PRESENTED TO RUSS HOLMBERG

The 2012 Outstanding Young Farmer Award was presented by Governor Dannel P. Malloy to Russell Holmberg on March 21, 2012, during Ag Day at the state Capitol.

Russ is the fourth generation working Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry. He graduated with high honors in 2004 from the University of Connecticut, earning a B.S. in plant science. Using his education from school and from years working on the family farm, Russ has built greenhouses, grown small fruits and ornamentals, and, with the help of a DoAG Farm Viability Grant, started a farm winery that produces 1,500 gallons of wine and 1,500-2,000 gallons of hard ciders. Russ is active in numerous trade organizations.

UCONN SPRING HORSE AUCTION APR 28

The University Of Connecticut College Of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department Of Animal Science presents its annual spring horse auction Saturday, April 28, 2012, in Horsebarn Hill Arena on the Storrs campus. The auction will include horses from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Equine Rescue Program. The sale is organized exclusively by UConn students with faculty and staff supervision. Preview starts at 11:00 a.m. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Tack/equipment sale will be held all day.

For catalog information or to sell at the tag sale, please call 860-486-2034. For updated sale information and horse photos, go to <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/equine/horsesale.php>.

EXPERIMENT STATION ASSOCIATES ANNUAL MEETING MAR 29

Two lectures will be given during The Experiment Station Associates Annual Meeting, March 29, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Sharon Douglas, chief scientist in the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology, will speak on "Boxwood Blight: A New Threat to Boxwood in Connecticut and the U.S." The blight is caused by a fungus that is new to the U.S. Infected plants die quickly. Boxwood is a popular landscape plant and an important crop for Connecticut nurseries.

Dr. Richard Cowles, an entomologist who works at the Experiment Station's research facility (Valley Laboratory) in Windsor, will speak on "Protecting Your Fruit from Spotted Wing Drosophila." This insect, also known as the "vinegar fly," is an exotic pest of Asian origin. First detected in North America in 2008, the insect attacks small fruits, such as blueberries, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, and grapes.

SUMMER RIDING LESSONS AT UCONN

Looking for something fun to do this summer? How about horse riding lessons? The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Animal Science once again brings you its ever-popular summer horse riding lessons. Choose from dressage, hunt seat, western, polo, and trail riding. The first lesson begins in May. Register quickly; classes fill fast. For registration form, prices, and scheduling, please visit www.animalscience.uconn.edu. For questions, email Kathy.Noyes@uconn.edu.



AG JOURNALISM AWARDS PRESENTED AT AG DAY

The following Ag Journalism Awards were presented by Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky during Ag Day at the state Capitol. Given by the nonprofit Connecticut Agriculture & Natural Resources Association, they recognize excellence in reporting on agricultural issues published or broadcast in Connecticut in 2011.

- Feature Story (Daily): John Woike, *Hartford Courant*, "Beating the Weather Odds/Vineyard Completes Harvest after Scare from Tropical Storm Irene," October 25
- Feature Story (Daily): Jan Ellen Spiegel, *New York Times*, "Fruit Wines Move into a Sophisticated Realm," October 8
- Feature Story (Radio): Nancy Cohen, Connecticut Public Radio, "Delivering from the Farm to Kitchen," June 3
- Photography (Daily): Stephen Dunn, *Hartford Courant*, "More Natives, Less Work," August 19
- Feature Story (Magazine): Cathy Shufro, *Edible Nutmeg*, "Local and Legal/Liberating Poultry Farmers in Connecticut," winter issue
- Feature Story (TV): John Charlton, WTIC-TV/Fox CT, "Kensington Fish Farm," July 27
- Feature Story (Daily): Cornel Garfman, *Journal-Inquirer*, "Farmers Markets Jump in Popularity," September 7
- Feature Story (Online): Bree Shirvell, *Stonington-Mystic Patch*, "Denison Farm Market Ushers in Summertime," June 2
- Series (Daily): Suzanne Thompson, *The Day*, "Local Dirt"
- Feature Story (Daily): Theresa Barger, *Hartford Courant*, "From Immigration Enforcement to Edibles, Lebanon Nursery Supplier Embraces Change," November 17

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.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commissioner	Steven K. Reviczky 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

Email: Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov
Internet: www.CT.gov/doag

Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report (ISSN: 1059-8723, USPS 129-340) is published weekly by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, except for the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas, two other weeks each year, and when the Governor closes state offices. Print subscriptions are \$40.00 for two years. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. **Print subscriptions expire on December 31, 2013.**

**VOL. XCII
No. 13
March 28, 2012**