



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503
 Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor
Wednesday, January 19, 2011

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .



**2011 CT SPECIALTY FOOD
 PRODUCT AWARDS
 COMPETITION INCLUDES
 MORE FARM-FRIENDLY
 CATEGORIES**

by Linda Piotrowicz, Marketing Representative

The Connecticut Specialty Food Association (CSFA) will hold its tenth Product Awards Competition on February 17, 2011, at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. This year's categories have been revamped to include many that are farm friendly, including cheese, certified organic product, CT Grown product, CT wine, fresh fruit or vegetable, jam/honey/syrup/sweet topping, meat/pate/fish, and more (see complete category list at end). Participation is open to both members and non-members of the association.

CSFA, a subdivision of the Connecticut Food Association, is a non-profit organization representing small, medium, and large Connecticut based food entrepreneurs whose shared vision is to provide consumers with high-quality specialty food products. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAG) serves on CSFA's board of directors in an advisory, non-voting capacity. CSFA and DoAG have worked in recent years to encourage CSFA members to use CT Grown ingredients in their products whenever possible, and have worked to share information about CSFA and its programming with farmers.

Many Connecticut farms produce specialty food items that qualify for entry in CSFA's Product Awards Competition, and this year's new line-up of categories provide even more opportunities for participation and recognition. Winners from past competitions have received considerable media attention and have used their trophies as effective marketing tools in promoting their products.

The 2010 Product of the Year, The Purple Pear by Tina's Buttered Almond Cream dessert topping, was featured in four major Connecticut newspaper stories, bringing a flurry of new business to the company.

"Sales for Buttered Almond Cream now far exceed those for our other flavors," explained the Purple Pear's Tina Fearnley. "And the press we received has pushed our whole company to a different level."

Sonal Miller of Mama Manju's Salsa concurred that her CSFA award has improved business.

"People definitely take notice of the honor," said Ms. Miller, whose Fandango Mango Salsa won the top prize for best salsa or hot sauce in the 2010 competition. "I mention it in all my marketing materials and display the plaque every time I demo my products. Customers are much more likely to try and buy when they learn it's an award-winning salsa. It really does

make a difference."

Another benefit entrants enjoy by competing is having their products sampled by some of the state's leading chefs and food writers. Scott Miller, executive chef at Max's Oyster Bar and member of DoAG's Farm-to-Chef Program, discovered Ola! Granola at the 2008 competition and immediately began buying it for his restaurant.

"It was love at first bite," Chef Miller recounted. "After living and working in Colorado for six years, I did not think there was anything produced here that could compare with those premium granolas, but I was wrong. If I hadn't volunteered to be a judge, I probably would not have tried Ola! and that would have been my—and my diners'—loss."

The deadline to enter the 2011 competition is February 7. For more information or registration forms, contact Tricia Levesque at CSFA, 860-677-8097 or Tricia@ctfoodassociation.org.

Categories for the 2011 competition are as follows:

1. Bean, Grain, Pasta, Rice, or Soup
2. Beer or Ale
3. Bread
 - a. Quick Bread
 - b. Yeast Bread
4. Certified Organic Product
5. Confection or Dessert
 - a. Cake
 - b. Chocolate
 - c. Cookie
 - d. Pie
6. Cheese
 - a. Aged
 - b. Fresh
7. CT Grown Product1
8. Fresh Fruit or Vegetable
9. Frozen Food
10. Gluten Free Product
11. Herb, Spice, or Seasoning Blend
12. Hors d'oeuvre
13. Jam, Honey, Syrup, or Sweet Topping
14. Meat, Pate, or Fish
15. Non-Alcoholic Beverage
16. Oil
17. Packaged Mix2
 - a. Baked Good or Dessert

SPECIALTY FOODS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.

January 18, 2010

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

EXTRA LARGE	98-102
LARGE	93-97
MEDIUM	82-85

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, January 17, 2010

Live animals brought the following average prices
per cwt.:

Bob Calves:	Low	High
45-60 lbs.	10.00	20.00
61-75 lbs.	22.00	26.00
76-90 lbs.	28.00	32.50
91-105 lbs.	40.00	47.50
106 lbs. & up	50.00	57.00
Farm Calves	58.00	65.00
Started Calves	25.00	30.00
Veal Calves	60.00	100.00
Open Heifers	62.00	65.00
Beef Heifers	58.00	66.00
Feeder Steers	65.00	72.50
Beef Steers	64.00	69.00
Stock Bulls	62.00	80.00
Beef Bulls	59.00	62.50
Sheep each	65.00	107.50
Lambs each	140.00	160.00
Goats each	40.00	200.00
Kid Goats each	5.00	82.50
Canners	Up to	54.50
Cutters	55.00	59.00
Utility Grade Cows	61.00	65.50
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	4.00	48.00
Ducks each	4.00	8.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

ORGANIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

APPLES, Fuji 80ct WA	35.00	35.00
APPLES, Red Deli 80ct xfcy WA	32.00	32.00
ARTICHOKES 24ct CA	51.00	51.50
ASPARAGUS 11LBS MX	61.00	61.00
BEETS, 25lb med CAN	37.00	37.00
BLUEBERRIES 12/1PT CHILE	20.00	20.00
CARROTS, 25lbs CA	20.00	20.00
CAULIFLOWER 12CT CA	29.00	29.00
CORN 4 1/2dz	41.00	41.00
MESCULIN mix, 3lb CA	7.50	9.00
ONION, Yellow 50lb jbo WA	38.00	40.00
PEPPER, red grnhouse 11lb SP	60.00	60.00
PINEAPPLE, 7ct CR	20.50	24.50
POTATO 70ct, Russet ID	47.00	47.00
ROMAINE HEARTS 12/18oz	38.00	38.00
SPINACH, Baby 4lb Flat CA	10.00	12.00
SWEET POTATOES, 40lb med NJ	30.00	30.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Mon January 17, 2010 - Hogs sold by actual
weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

49-54% lean	220-300 lbs	55.00-59.00
	300-400 lbs	59.00-60.00
45-49% lean	220-270 lbs	52.00-54.50
	270-300 lbs	53.00-55.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	45.00-50.00
	500-700 lbs	48.00-53.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

APPLE CIDER, 4-one gallon	16.00	16.00
APPLE CIDER, 9 half-gallons	18.00	18.00
APPLES, Cortland, no grade, bu	20.00	20.00
APPLES, Red Delicious, 12/3lb, xfcy	18.00	18.00
APPLES, Macintosh 100ct, xfcy	22.00	22.00
APPLES, Macintosh US#1 140ct	14.00	14.00
CURRANT, Black, frozen fruit per lb	1.60	2.20
CURRANT, Black, juice 6/64oz	13.00	14.25
LETTUCE, 12/4oz Boston, greenhouse	14.00	16.00
PARSNIPS, 25lb bag	21.00	21.00
POTATOES, 10lb bag	2.00	2.00
POTATOES, Russet, 10oz min, 50lb	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, Butternut, 10lb peeled, per lb	.60	.60
TOMATOES, Cherry 5lb flat ,on vine	12.00	12.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 15lb flat	32.00	32.00

SHIPPED IN

ARUGULA, 4lb med FLA	14.00	14.00
BEANS, Green handpicked bu FLA	48.00	50.00
BLACKBERRIES, 12/6oz MX	14.00	18.00
BROCCOLI, 14ct AZ	25.00	28.00
CABBAGE, Green, 50lb, med FL	21.00	24.00
CAULIFLOWER, 12ct AZ	24.00	26.00
CLEMENTINES, 5lb SP	4.00	5.00
CUCUMBERS, 1 1/9 bu med MX	24.00	27.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9bu med FL	18.00	20.00
GRAPEFRUIT, 32ct FL	18.00	19.00
KIWI, 19LBS, 30sz CA	20.00	20.00
LEEKs, Greenhouse, 5kg NETH	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, Green leaf 24ct AZ	17.00	18.00
ONION, 50lb, yellow med NY	14.00	15.00
ORANGES, 88ct Navel CA	19.00	22.00
PEACHES, 44ct CHILE	21.00	22.00
PEACHES, 40ct CHILE	18.00	20.00
PEARS, Bosc 4/5 bu 100ct OR	34.00	34.00
PEPPER, Bell Red xl FL	20.00	22.00
SPINACH, 4lb Flat AZ	9.00	10.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2bu, FL	12.00	14.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1lb FL	22.00	24.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, January 17, 2010

Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
Breakers	75-80% lean	
61.00-65.00	-----	58.00-60.50
Boners	80-85% lean	
58.50-62.50	-----	56.50-58.50
Lean	85-90% lean	
53.50-56.50	58.50-62.00	48.50-52.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1		
	1530-2145 lbs	69.00-72.00
Bullocks: 865-1535 lbs		70.00-74.50
HOLSTEIN HEIFERS: Number 1		
	90-120 lbs	170.00-220.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
	Wooled & Shorn, Choice and Prime 2-3	
	40-60 lbs	219.00-250.00
	60-80 lbs	215.00-249.00
	80-90 lbs	222.00-234.00
	90-110 lbs	214.00-226.00
	110-130 lbs	200.00-212.00
	Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3	
	70-80 lbs	208.00-223.00
	80-90 lbs	203.00-217.00
	90-110 lbs	186.00-201.00

METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A.

NEW YORK PRICES

WHITE EGGS

TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen,
Grade A eggs on:
January 18, 2010

EXTRA LARGE	102-106
LARGE	100-104
MEDIUM	90-94

Above quotations based on
CARTON sales to retailers.

EAST FLUID MILK AND CREAM REVIEW - January 12, 2011

The effects of the dramatic rise in the butter price last week and winter storms along the Eastern seaboard were the major factors affecting cream and fluid milk in the East this week. The CME Group butter price jumped 35 cents in the last two sessions last week, increasing the weekly average price and effectively raising cream prices. Current week's demand for cream is strong as users of cream try to increase supplies ahead of the expected price increases for next week. Cream cheese makers are looking to scale back production to the level of contracted loads to avoid the higher priced spot market cream. Some ice cream makers are also cutting back and limiting production, waiting for the market to settle and to better analyze their market positions. Cream multiples this week ranged from 110-127 with the low end of the range reflecting weekend activity. A winter storm

moved north along the Eastern seaboard this week from Atlanta to Boston and significantly increased Class I demand as bottlers attempted to have adequate supplies ahead of the storm. The Northeast had storms on two fronts as a weather system moved in from the Midwest and combined with the coastal storm to create blizzard conditions in Boston on Wednesday. The increase in Class I demand reduced manufacturing milk supplies in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions.

	110-130 lbs	196.00-211.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Medium Flesh		
	110-130 lbs	118.00-133.00
	120-160 lbs	113.00-128.00
	160-200 lbs	103.00-118.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on estimated weights.		
Kids:	30-40 lbs	118.00
	40-60 lbs	123.00-138.00
	60-80 lbs	130.00-151.00
	80-100 lbs	141.00-166.00
Nannies/Does:	80-130 lbs	120.00-135.00
	130-180 lbs	118.00-132.00
Bucks/Billies:	100-150 lbs	168.00-182.00
	150-250 lbs	184.00-198.00

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.

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

11-R. Hay – excellent 1st cut, plastic wrapped round bales \$40. Call 860-886-0716 for more information.

15-R. Reg. Hereford Heifers for sale. www.doublehacres.net or call 860-250-3311 for more information.

22-R. Round bales mixed grasses, no canary. Pick up or delivered. 203-530-4953.

28. Winpower Generator, single phase 60amp, 2 – 125 volt outlets, 1 – 250 volt outlet. Call 860-668-7128.

29-R. Honeybees for sale, 3lb packages mid-April, Riverside Apiaries 860-295-8972.

32-R. 48' storage or road trailers, roll up door, good for hay, good shape. \$1,000. ea. del available. Ford LN9000 tandem tractor, cummins diesel, 9 speed, \$4,000. Hereford 3 yrs. old bred to club calf due end of Jan. \$1,000. Hay square bales 1st cut 4.50 & 2nd 5.50 p.u. 860-537-1974.

WANTED

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

18-R. Looking for stands of red cedar for harvest, any quality, no brush will be left behind. Also seeking hemlock. Contact Charles Leigus 860-301-0673.

30-R. Starter for Belarus T25A or 250AS tractor with 2 cylinder diesel engine. 860-663-1769. 5-9 pm.

31-R. Small bulldozer for farm use. JD 350 size or equivalent, inexpensive, must be in running condition. 860-663-1769 5-9 pm.

510-R. Producers Wanted: Connecticut Farm-to-Chef is a free program that helps connect local culinary professionals with producers and distributors of CT Grown products. Informational newsletters, workshops, networking, promotions and other opportunities are provided to members as part of the program. Additional Connecticut producers and distributors are needed for this popular and expanding program. Contact Linda at the CT Dept of Agriculture, Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov or 860-713-2558, for more information.

511-R. Wanted: Farmers for the CT Farm-to-School - The Farm-to-School Program is a statewide effort designed to incorporate CT Grown fresh fruits and vegetables into local schools cafeteria meals and snacks. If you're interested in selling to one, several, or to a whole school district of schools (through a wholesaler or direct), call Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588 or at Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov

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.

16-R. Overgrown hedge rows, drainage ditches, fence lines or any other hard to reach areas? We have a solution. An Excavator mounted tree/brush mower capable of mowing 8"-12" diameters flush to the ground. Call for Brochure 860-875-0280.

26-R. Can We Save Our Trails? Cutting Edge panelists from key orgs. will discuss this issue on 2/12/11 in New London as part of weekend of parties and panels on key topics for all horsemen. 40th Ann. Convention of Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Assn. For full details contact: Patti@PattiBrooksBooks.com ; Patti Brooks 860-442-4237



Connecticut FarmLink

611-R. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture – Marketing Division has established the Farm Link Program. It is a matchmaking service to help new farmers find farm land owners (for rent or for sale) and to aid in the process of land rental and/or farm transfer to the next generation of farmers. A website offers information on farm transfer and is our conduit for connecting farm seekers and farm owners. Persons interested in the process can use fillable applications right on the computer now available at www.farmlink.uconn.edu or have a copy mailed to them by calling Marketing Division at (860) 713-2503. The Department is encouraging all next generation farmers and transitioning family farms in Connecticut to participate. We have a great need for land owners at this time. For further information, please contact Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588.

THE NEW ENGLAND GREENHOUSE UPDATE IS NOW AVAILABLE BY EMAIL!

Receive timely reports about what's happening in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island with insect and mite pests, diseases, nutrition, greenhouse engineering, and upcoming educational programs for your greenhouse business. University Extension specialists contribute information to the New England Greenhouse Update website from our visits and conversations with growers. As new information is added, an email sends a reminder and provides a direct link to the website (www.negreenhouse-update.info). This website consists of both greenhouse updates and photo gallery. The photo gallery provides photos and descriptions of hundreds of plant problems caused by insects, mites, diseases, nutritional disorders and cultural procedures. To sign up, please email Leanne Pundt at leanne.pundt@uconn.edu or call 860-626-6240.

DOAG JOINT VENTURE GRANTS

The Department of Agriculture will accept applications for the CT Grown Joint Venture Grant Program from January 1 through January 31, 2011.

This popular program offers matching funds for marketing projects that use the CT Grown logo or slogan. Eligible projects include signage, advertisements, billboards, brochures, websites, etc. This competitive program is open to producers and agricultural nonprofits. Awards will be announced in February 2011.

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.

SPECIALTY FOODS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- b. Dip or Dressing
- c. Savory Product
- 18. Packaging3
- 19. Pasta Sauce
- 20. Pickle, Relish, or Tapenade
- 21. Salsa
- 22. Savory Condiment
- 23. Snack Food
- 24. Vinegar or Salad Dressing
- 25. Wine4
 - a. Blush
 - b. Dessert
 - c. Fruit
 - d. Red
 - e. Rose
 - f. White

- 1 Processed products must contain a minimum of 51% CT Grown ingredients.
- 2 Submit finished product prepared from the mix.
- 3 If your product is perishable, submit packaging only.
- 4 Must contain 100% CT Grown fruit.

NATURAL TICK CONTROL TESTED

By Jan Suszkiw

Nootkatone, a component of essential oil in grapefruit peels and other sources, is used in many food, beverage and personal-care products because of its clean, citrusy taste and smell.

Now, nootkatone may find another use: repelling blacklegged deer ticks that spread Lyme disease. USDA entomologist Bob Behle is investigating the possibility with Kirby Stafford, an entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in New Haven, Conn.

Stafford began researching nootkatone's tick repellency in 2008 and sought Behle's formulation expertise when it became apparent the essential oil lacked sufficient residual activity to kill the tick's tiny nymph stage, which is more likely to transmit the Lyme disease bacterium than the larger, easier-to-spot adults.

In studies at the Crop Bioprotection Research Unit, operated in Peoria, Ill., by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Behle and colleagues refined a spray-dry procedure that uses lignin to encapsulate the nootkatone.

In nature, lignin acts like a molecular mortar that binds plant cell walls. In this instance, the lignin served as semipermeable packaging that extended nootkatone's residual activity and improved its effectiveness.

In greenhouse tests, the lignin-encapsulated (LE) nootkatone lasted longer than a previously tried formulation, known as emulsified concentrate (EC), and caused less harm (phytotoxicity) to cabbage plants when applied at standard field rates. No signs of plant damage were observed when researchers applied the LE formulation in outdoor trials, conducted in 2009 on residential properties. Just as importantly, no live ticks were recovered from treated sites.

Another round of tests was conducted this past June on nine residential properties—five of them using another nootkatone-encapsulating formulation devised by Behle.

In 2009, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 29,959 confirmed cases of Lyme disease, which can affect the joints, heart and nervous system of afflicted individuals if left untreated.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR VEGETABLE AND SPECIALTY GROWERS

Interested in extending your vegetable and specialty crop season by 2 or more weeks, and improving the quality of the crops you grow? The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is one of several pilot states offering a new conservation practice involving the use of seasonal tunnels – also known as high tunnels or hoop houses – for vegetable and specialty crop production.

These systems cover rows of plants in fields as they grow, modifying the climate to create more favorable growing conditions and addressing soil and water quality concerns. The systems consist of hoops covered with a layer of plastic that can be sealed on the ends during cold times, or opened on the ends and sides for ventilation. High tunnels are tall enough to walk in comfortably and grow tall, trellised crops. They are ideal for heat-loving crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and melons, or can be used to grow very early or late seasonal greens. Because of the plastic covering, crops may need to be irrigated and roof runoff must be handled to prevent erosion.

High tunnels have applicability to all farms, but may offer particular advantages to small, limited resource and organic farmers by extending the growing season, producing higher quality crops and improved yields, and addressing soil and water quality concerns.

Through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), producers may receive up to 75% of the cost of a high tunnel. Although applications are accepted on a continuous basis, the deadline for this year's funding has been extended to January 28, 2011.

Since 1935, NRCS has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov, or contact your nearest NRCS Field Office: Brooklyn - (860) 774-0224; Hamden - (203) 287-8038; Norwich - (860) 887-3604; Torrington - (860) 626-8258; Windsor - (860) 688-7725.

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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.

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