

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

M. Jodi Rell, Governor
F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner
Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director

CONNECTICUT
GROWN



Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

PART TIME FARMING

By Ron Olsen, Marketing Representative

In addition to my professional occupation as a Marketing/Inspection Representative for the Department of Agriculture, I also moonlight part time as a Christmas tree grower, which, as my wife is quick to point out, seems to take up the remainder of my spare time! I thought I would share with you a typical year of my "part time" job.

Our family owns and operates Olsen's Christmas Tree Farm, a choose and cut operation in Voluntown, CT. My father started growing trees there in the 1960's, taught me the art of growing Christmas trees as I grew and made me a partner after high school as we expanded from one acre to the 8 acres in production today. Dad passed away last year but he instilled in me a love for tree farming and its tradition, a tradition that I will carry with me as long as I am physically able.

The tasks of a tree grower are numerous. I do not practice organic growing but do practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). With IPM, farmers try to understand the needs of the particular plant and the life cycle of their pests in order to suppress them with minimal spraying. Chemicals are used but only as needed and I regularly scout the plantation during the year for weeds, insects and other pests that may damage the crop of Christmas trees. During my scouting, if I spot something that needs spraying I will then spray. It's my belief that chemical use is a necessity in Christmas tree culture if a perfect tree is desired, due to the multitude of insects and diseases that attack Christmas trees.

Early spring begins the yearly cycle much like any other farmer. Being a choose and cut farm, there are many missing trees to replace as we replant the ones that have been harvested from the previous December sales. As soon as the frost has left the ground I begin planting seedlings that have been purchased from various nursery suppliers. These are planted close to the stumps of the cut trees. This is my least favorite job as my back seems to grow weaker with each passing year! Using a manual backpack sprayer, I chemically spray all cut stumps in order to kill a weevil that will attack and eat tree branches. I spray the tops of certain species of trees to prevent another type of weevil from killing the leader and disfiguring the tree, making it useless for sale. Using the backpack sprayer I apply herbicides between the rows of trees in order to obtain weed and grass control so that less mowing is needed during the growing season. The fields are mowed using a walk behind rotary mower. For the most part our trees are planted in old pasture lands that are filled with stones. In the few areas that are not filled with New England stone, I am able to use a riding mower which is a welcome relief. I may have to apply fungicides or insecticides as the need may arise during my scouting activities. A small Kubota tractor and a gas powered knapsack mist blower are used for this.

**MORE CHRISTMAS TREES
ON PAGE 3**



NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.
July 26, 2010

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

EXTRA LARGE	80-84
LARGE	77-81
MEDIUM	57-59

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, Connecticut
July 26, 2010

Live animals brought the following average
prices per cwt.:

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	15.00	25.00
61-75 lbs.	32.00	35.00
76-90 lbs.	38.00	45.00
91-105 lbs.	47.50	49.00
106 lbs. & up	50.00	52.50
Farm Calves	55.00	60.00
Started Calves	18.00	25.00
Veal Calves	65.00	115.00
Open Heifers	82.50	92.50
Beef Heifers	53.00	63.00
Feeder Steers	71.00	107.50
Beef Steers	66.00	68.50
Stock Bulls	79.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	66.00	79.00
Sows each	5.00	25.00
Sheep each	50.00	85.00
Lambs each	150.00	175.00
Goats each	55.00	130.00
Kid Goats each	50.00	85.00
Canners	Up to	56.00
Cutters	57.00	60.00
Utility Grade Cows	61.50	63.00
Rabbits each	5.00	15.00
Chickens each	5.00	14.00
Ducks each	4.00	14.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, July 26, 2010

SLAUGHTER COWS:

Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
Premium White	65-75% lean	
58.00-60.50	-----	56.00-57.50
Breakers	75-80% lean	
55.00-58.00	-----	52.00-54.00
Boners	80-85% lean	
51.00-54.50	55.50-56.50	48.00-49.50
Lean	85-90% lean	
47.00-51.00	52.00-54.00	43.00-46.50

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

1345-1840 lbs	60.50-64.00
Bullocks: 875-1285 lbs	64.00-68.00
high dress	70.00-74.00
low dress	56.00-60.00

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn

Choice and Prime 2-3	
40-60 lbs	144.00-160.00
60-80 lbs	142.00-159.00
80-90 lbs	140.00-151.00
90-110 lbs	134.00-148.00
110-130 lbs	130.00-144.00
Choice 2-3 40-60 lbs	118.00-144.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

APPLE CIDER, 9 - 1/2 gal	13.00	13.00
APPLES, Jersey Mac bu 2-1/2 up	25.00	25.00
ARRUGULA, 24's bunched	12.00	13.00
BEAN, Cranberry bu	35.00	35.00
BEANS, Green bu	14.00	16.00
BEAN, Wax bu	26.00	28.00
BLACKBERRY, 12/ 1/2-pt	27.00	28.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12/1-pint clamshell	19.00	22.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12/1-pint fiberboard	24.00	25.00
BROCCOLI, 14ct	10.00	11.00
BROCCOLI, Crowns 20lb	14.00	14.00
CABBAGE, Green box 50lb	9.00	9.00
CABBAGE, Savoy 40lb	14.00	14.00
CANTALOUPS, 6-8ct	10.00	10.00
CARROTS, 24 bunched/ w tops	19.00	19.00
CHIVES, 1-lb bag	5.00	8.00
COLLARD GREENS, Crate	11.00	11.00
CORN, 5 dz	10.00	10.00
CUCUMBERS, Pickling 1-1/9 bu	24.00	24.00
CUCUMBERS, 1-1/9 bu med	12.00	14.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 bu	10.00	12.00
KALE, Crate 12-16's	11.00	11.00
MINT, 1/2 bu	9.00	10.00
MUSTARD GREENS, Crate 12-16's	12.00	12.00
NECTARINES, 20lb box 2-1/2 up	28.00	30.00
PEACHES, 25lb box 2-1/2 up	20.00	22.00
PEACHES, White 25lb 2-1/2 up	28.00	28.00
PEPPER, Bell Green 1-1/9 bu xlge	12.00	14.00
PLUMS, Kelly Yellow 20lb	25.00	25.00
PLUMS, Methley 20lb	25.00	25.00
SQUASH, Green 1/2bu sm-med CT	8.00	12.00
SQUASH, Yellow sm-med CT	10.00	12.00
SWISS CHARD, 12's	10.00	14.00
TOMATOES, 20lb	25.00	25.00
TOMATOES, 8 qt basket lge	16.00	16.00
TOMATOES, Vine Ripes 20lb box med, ghouse	16.00	16.00
TOMATOES, Cherry 12/1pt	10.00	10.00
TURNIP TOP Greens, crates	12.00	12.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

60-80 lbs	126.00-141.00
90-110 lbs	119.00-134.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Medium Flesh	
120-160 lbs	60.00-74.00
160-200 lbs	58.00-70.00
SLAUGHTER EWES Utility 1-2: Thin Fleshed	
120-160 lbs	50.00-64.00
160-200 lbs	45.00-60.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on estimated weights.	
Kids: 40-60 lbs	102.00-122.00
60-80 lbs	112.00-128.00
80-100 lbs	119.00-148.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	94.00-109.00
130-180 lbs	106.00-120.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	176.00-190.00
150-250 lbs	190.00-205.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Mon July 26, 2010 - Hogs sold by actual weights,
prices quoted by hundred weight.

49-54	220-270 lbs	59.50-62.50
	270-300 lbs	58.50-61.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	56.00-60.00
	500-700 lbs	62.50-64.50
Boars:	300-700 lbs	28.00-31.00

METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A.

NEW YORK PRICES WHITE EGGS TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen,
Grade A eggs on:
July 26, 2010

EXTRA LARGE	86-90
LARGE	84-88
MEDIUM	64-68

Above quotations based on
CARTON sales to retailers.



PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY HAY REPORT

Monday July 26, 2010

Hay and Straw Market for Eastern
Pennsylvania. All hay prices paid
by dealers at the farm and per ton.

	Premium
Alfalfa	140.00-150.00
Mixed Hay	120.00-140.00
	Good
Timothy	110.00-120.00
Straw	100.00-120.00

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE RETAIL REPORT

Retail Prices at Grocery Stores
in the Northeast

Week of July 23, 2010

Prices are in dollars per pound
unless otherwise stated.

VEGETABLES

Asparagus	2.49 - 2.99
Broccoli	0.99 - 2.00 per bunch
Cabbage	0.29 - 0.50
Carrots, Baby organic	1.00 - 1.50 1 lb bag
Celery	1.50 - 1.50 each
Cucumbers	0.33 - 0.75 each
Lettuce, Romaine	2.50 - 2.50 each
Mushrooms, White	1.49 - 2.00 8 oz pkg
Peppers, Bell green	0.98 - 1.69
Peppers, Bell red	1.99 - 3.99
Potatoes, Russet	2.50 - 2.99 5 lb bag
Squash, Zucchini	0.78 - 1.50
Tomatoes on the vine	1.29 - 2.99

FRUITS

Apples, Red delicious	0.98 - 0.99
Avocados, Haas	0.88 - 1.50 each
Cantaloup	1.50 - 2.99 each
Grapes, Green/Red	0.98 - 2.49
Lemons	0.34 - 0.50 each
Mangoes	0.78 - 1.50 each
Nectarines	0.99 - 1.99
Oranges, Navel	0.79 - 1.00 each
Peaches	0.78 - 1.99
Strawberries	1.50 - 2.99 16 oz pkg
Strawberries organic	3.00 - 3.99 16 oz pkg

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Bee-keepers 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.

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

102. Parts for Grimm hay tedders for sale, also rough lumber. 860-684-3458.

105-R. Battery powered price computing scales CAS 60lb \$328. (CT state compliant). Battery powered cash registers, \$280. 800-403-5919.

115-R. Quality hay, 1st cutting new hay \$4.50 per bale. 2nd cutting \$5.50 per bale. Telephone 860-642-6856.

121-R. Good Hay – Good Prices. Round bales, wrapped, conventional and organic \$25/bale and up. Square bales good hay \$4.25 and mulch \$3.50. 860-429-9698 or 860-234-1605.

126-R. JD 6405 2WD with loader, sharp - \$27,000. JD 6310 L 4x4 with 640 self-leveling loader, left-hand forward reverser, 5700 hours - \$27,000. IH SBX 520 baler, like new - \$9,000. NH 575 baler with thrower - \$11,500. NH 570 baler with thrower - \$11,500. NH 258 hydraulic drive rake, like new - \$3,200. NH BR 730 round baler \$11,000. 2 Case IH 8430 round balers \$6,500 and \$7,500. 3 – 4-star tedders. 2 JD 730 direct start diesels. Sharp JD 336 baler with kicker. JD and IH front and rear weights. 2 4020's. 203-530-4953.

127-R. Three Registered Male Llamas, - one Black and white, Two Brown. Great Pets, Easy to keep. Price for all Three \$285. Or 2 Llamas for \$190. Will keep dogs, coyotes and deer off your property. Bernie @ West view Farm, Monroe, Ct... 203-880-6814

128-R. Round 4x4 bales. Premium dry, silage grass, alfalfa. Tightly plastic wrapped, starting \$43. 860-884-2889.

129-R. Mower conditioner John Deere 1219, new guards, knives. Hydraulic swing/lift. Excellent condition \$3,100. 860-884-2889.

130-R. Hay for sale. 1st cutting \$3.50 per bale. Mulch hay \$3.00. 203-558-0016. Shelton.

WANTED

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

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.

CHRISTMAS TREES FROM PAGE 1

From mid June through early July, I shear and shape the White Pine trees. I do this job with a serrated machete-like knife and I also use a gas powered trimmer with a 5 ft cutting bar. I have a harness that I am able to strap on and it makes it easier on my back as I use this device. I continue to shear the remainder of the tree species during the summer and into the fall hoping to finish by September. I usually mow the whole plantation at least twice a year and touch up again in late fall to make it more aesthetically pleasing to look at. Before a hard frost hits I may apply herbicide to control hard to handle weeds such as Poison Ivy, Vetch, brambles etc. In addition, I may go thru and re-shear those trees that have put on a second growth and look a little "leggy".

By September/October much of the "bull" work has been done for the year. However, I can always count on there being loose stones that need to be picked up, trees to cut out that have not survived the summer, brush to cut along the edge of the plantation, and other miscellaneous jobs to keep me busy. This is also the time I place orders for materials needed for next year which may include seedlings, chemicals, fertilizer and any equipment needed. In addition I place orders for supplies needed for this year's December sales season such as wreath rings, ribbon, wire, signs, and other items needed for our retail customers.

Most tree growers open up for business the day after Thanksgiving and stay open through Christmas Eve. We love this time of the year! It's not only spiritually but financially rewarding, as it is the one month of the year you reap the rewards of your labor. Our stand is open Friday-Sunday and is a family affair with my Mom, my wife and kids, my sister and brother in law and nephew helping out. They assist by directing traffic, cutting and hauling customers' trees, tying trees to vehicles, working in the Christmas shop, and baling the cut trees. It's a great time of the year but also a welcome relief when the holiday season ends!

Like most farmers, I look forward to the winter months as a time of rest. It's a time for vacation, for relaxation, and for attending winter meetings while always, in the back of my mind, I'm thinking about the upcoming season and wondering what's in store for the coming year.



**THE CONNECTICUT GREENHOUSE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
2010 CGGA GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Play and Sponsor for a good cause!
Have Some Fun. Support CGGA!

CGGA's annual golf outing helps fund a scholarship program for students in horticulture at major colleges. The funds have also assisted projects at some of our state's agricultural science high schools.

Tournament Details:

Monday, August 9 at The Farms Country Club, Wallingford
8:00am - Continental Breakfast.

8:30-9:00am - Shotgun Start. Beer, Soda, Bottled Water on the Course

2:00pm - Lunch to include Burgers, Dogs, sausage & peppers over pasta, barbecued chicken, salads

\$130 per player includes...

✓ 18 holes of golf & cart

✓ Continental breakfast

✓ Refreshments on the course

✓ Great lunch

Sponsorship Donations Promote You & CGGA

✓ Tee Sponsor: \$200.00

Your company's name displayed on a tee or green.

Golf Course Attire: Collared shirts required for men. Bermuda Shorts are permitted. No denim. **Soft-spike shoes must be worn on course**

To register online, go to: <https://cnla.wufoo.com/forms/cggaas-2010-golf-tournament/> Or contact the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association at: 203-261-9067; E-mail: ConnGreen@aol.com

•DIRECTIONS TO The Farms Country Club: 180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, 203-265-0941.

> From Route 15: Take exit 64 and at end of ramp go opposite direction of Wallingford. At light, take right onto Cheshire Road. Follow to the first stop sign. Take a left to next stop sign, then take a right, which is a continuation of Cheshire Road. Club is less than mile on the right side.

> From Waterbury 1-84: Take Cheshire exit #26 and follow Rt. 70 to the end. Take right onto Route 10. Follow Route 10 to McDonald's, on the left side, then take next left, which is Jinny Hill Road and follow to the end. Take a right onto Coleman Road and go straight until you come to the Club, which will be on the left side.

> From Hartford and New Haven 1-91: Take exit 13 and follow to end. Take left at light. Take right onto Toetles Road, over railroad tracks and follow to end. Take right onto Hartford Tpke and go past Oakdale/Chevrolet Theater then take next left on Cook Hill Road. Follow up hill and take 7th right, which is Schoolhouse Road and continue to first stop sign, then take a left onto Cheshire Road. The Club is less than a mile on the right side.



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM USDA & CONNECTICUT'S GREEN INDUSTRIES CNLA-CGGA-CFA

USDA Volunteer Forest Pest Survey: America's neighborhoods and forests are under attack. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle and Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) have destroyed millions of trees throughout the United States. The EAB and ALB most likely arrived in the United States inside solid wood packing material from Asia. Since their discovery, infestations of ALB have been reported in four states and infestations of EAB in 13 states. There could be other undetected infestations in the country as well.

The USDA and the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association are partnering to ask for volunteers to determine if these damaging forest pests are in your community.

Help the USDA protect our trees — and stop the beetle. You can help stop the spread of the beetles - and the devastation to our forests, parks and neighborhoods - by searching your community for signs of both beetles.

Go to BeetleDetectives.com for more information.

CUT FLOWER PRICES

DAHLIA, bunched 5 long NE	8.50	8.50
GARDENIA, per bloom NE	5.50	5.50
GARDENIA, Carton 3's	15.00	15.00
GERBERA, per stem long	1.25	1.25
GERBERA, per stem mini long	.85	.85
LILIES, Asiatic long per bunch 2-3 bloom	12.00	12.50
LILIES, Asiatic long per bunch 3-5 bloom	16.00	18.00
LILIES, Casa Blanca long per bunch 5	25.00	30.00
LILIES, Siberia per bunch long	25.00	25.00
MONKSHOOD, bunched 10 NE	15.00	16.50
PHLOX, per bunch long	10.00	10.00
SCABIOSA, per bunch long	7.00	7.50
SNAPDRAGON, bunched 10 long	12.00	12.00
SNAPDRAGON, bunched 10 short	7.00	7.50
SUNFLOWER, bunched 5's long	5.50	5.50
SUNFLOWER, Teddy Bear per stem long	.85	.85
ZINNIA, per bunch long	4.00	4.00

HERB PRICES

BASIL, 1/lb bag nj	6.00	8.00
CILANTRO, 1/2 carton bunched 24's NJ	22.00	22.00
DILL, bunched 24's NJ	32.00	32.00
Arugula 4/5bu nj	12.00	14.00
MARJORAM, 1lb bag MX	8.00	10.00
OREGANO, 1lb bag NJ	8.00	8.00
ROSEMARY, 1lb ba NJ	8.00	8.00
SAGE, 1lb bag NJ	8.00	8.00
SORREL, bunched 24's col.	12.00	14.00
TARRAGON, 1lb bag NJ	10.00	10.00
WATERCRESS, bunched 24's AL	26.00	26.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

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