C O N N E C T I C U T  W E E K L Y

# Agricultural Report

Agrivolution, Groton

**Connecticut Department of Agriculture**
**Dannel P. Malloy, Governor**
**Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner**

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Steve Jensen, Editor**
**Wednesday, April 30, 2014**

## FARMERS, CUSTOMERS, CROPS ANXIOUS FOR SEASON TO HEAT UP

***By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky***

Struggling to reach more than a few inches high, the green lettuce in Nelson Cecarelli's fields tells the story of a slow spring growing season that has left Connecticut farmers anxious for both the temperatures and retail markets to heat up.

"It's not so much the days, but the cold nights are just killing us," Cecarelli said late last week as he supervised a crew planting at his Northford farm. "This lettuce is alive and healthy but it just can't get going the way it should."

Cecarelli planted the first crop of lettuce on April 5 in a hilltop field that typically sees less frost than the lower ones. But some of the leaves still suffered "tip burn" from the chilly nights.

And it's not only the plants that are being stunted by the cold – it's also tamping down business.

Joe Defrancesco, whose farm is just a few miles from Cecarelli's, was one of only a handful of growers at the Hartford Regional Farmers' Market last weekend that began with a cold, rainy Saturday.

"As far as sales go, we're at least two or three weeks behind because of the weather," he said. "I'm still advising my customers to only plant cold-weather tolerant," varieties.

With more than seven acres of greenhouses in production, Defrancesco is not as tied to the weather as some growers.

The mind-boggling expanse of flowers and bedding plants and hanging baskets in his greenhouses are in prime shape for sale at farmers' markets and at the Stew Leonard chain he has been supplying for 28 years. The Hartford market typically picks up steam as Mother's Day aproaches, and Defrancesco predicts that pent-up desire to get the season underway is about to explode – both for customers and for growers.

**The greenhouses at Defrancesco Farm are packed with colorful stock that will soon be available at garden centers and farmers' markets.**

"I think the next two weekends will be crazy as usual," he said.

There will be approximately 130 farmers' markets around the state this season – about double from a decade ago - with about ten opening this weekend. The Hartford market has more than 50 growers signed up.

Cecarelli said farmers' markets have become a n increasingly vital part of his business. This season, he will sell at markets in Durham, New Haven and two in Bridgeport. Markets in urban areas have proven to be popular with city residents who may not otherwise have access to farm-fresh products.

He also has adapted some of his crops to meet demand at the markets. For instance, he now plants about 3 acres of sugar-snap peas preferred by busy customers because the whole pod can be tossed in boiling water without having to shell them.

"People don't have the time to do that anymore," he said.

## NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

| | | Low | High |
|---|---|---|---|
| 49-54 | 220-300 lbs | 88.00 | 91.00 |
| | 300-400 lbs | 87.50 | 90.00 |
| 54-58 | 220-300 lbs | 82.00 | 87.00 |
| | 300-400 lbs | 85.50 | 87.50 |
| Sows,US1-3 | 300-500 lbs | 87.00 | 90.00 |
| | 500-700 lbs | 89.00 | 90.00 |
| Boars | 300-700 lbs | 19.00 | 21.00 |

## PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt.March 19

| | | Low | High |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gr US 1- | wt 20-25 | 310.00 | 325.00 |
| | wt 25-30 | 255.00 | 275.00 |
| | wt 30-40 | 220.00 | 270.00 |
| | wt 40-50 | 210.00 | 220.00 |
| | wt 100-130 | 130.00 | 145.00 |

## MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, April 28, 2014

| | Low | High |
|---|---|---|
| Bob Calves: | | |
| 45-60 lbs. | 35.00 | 40.00 |
| 61-75 lbs. | 45.00 | 55.00 |
| 76-90 lbs. | 90.00 | 100.00 |
| 91-105 lbs. | 110.00 | 120.00 |
| 106 lbs. & up | 122.50 | 125.00 |
| Farm Calves | 135.00 | 185.00 |
| Starter Calves | 35.00 | 40.00 |
| Veal Calves | 120.00 | 160.00 |
| Open Heifers | 127.50 | 142.50 |
| Beef Steers | 140.00 | 146.00 |
| Beef Heifers | 107.00 | 131.00 |
| Feeder Steers | 130.00 | 155.00 |
| Stock Bulls | 130.00 | 150.00 |
| Beef Bulls | 90.00 | 124.00 |
| Boars | 1 at | 11.00 |
| Sows | n/a | |
| Butcher Hogs | n/a | |
| Goats each | 105.00 | 150.00 |
| Kid Goats | 85.00 | 100.00 |
| Canners | up to | 105.00 |
| Cutters | 106.00 | 109.00 |
| Utility Grade Cows | 110.00 | 119.00 |
| Replacement Heifers | n/a | n/a |
| Replacement Cows | n/a | n/a |
| Rabbits each | 5.00 | 50.00 |
| Chickens each | 5.00 | 27.50 |
| Ducks each | 11.00 | 19.00 |
| Feeder Pigs | n/a | n/a |
| Lambs | 105.00 | 175.00 |
| Sheep | 80.00 | 120.00 |

## WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

### NEW ENGLAND GROWN

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

| | LOW | HIGH |
|---|---|---|
| APPLE,MAC,FCY,120CT | 16.00 | 17.00 |
| CHIVES,12's | 10.00 | 11.00 |
| FIDDLEHEAD,PER LB | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| CIDER,9½gal | 18.00 | 18.00 |

### SHIPPED IN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ASPARAGUS,11lb,CA | 28.00 | 32.00 |
| BEAN,grn,bu,FL | 26.00 | 28.00 |
| HONEYDEW,8CT,HON | 14.00 | 15.00 |
| BRUSSEL SPRT,25lb,CA | 47.00 | 54.00 |
| APRICOTS,80CT,CA | 38.00 | 38.00 |
| BASIL,15'S,FL | 19.00 | 22.00 |
| CORN,4dz,FL | 15.00 | 16.00 |
| DANDELION GREEN,12s,GA | 16.00 | 18.00 |
| AVOCADOS,32CT,MX | 42.00 | 42.00 |
| PEA,ENGLISH,1 1/9BU,CA | 45.00 | 55.00 |
| KALE,12ct,GA | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| BLUEBERRIES12/6OZ FL | 28.00 | 32.00 |
| ROMAINE,24CT,CA | 18.00 | 23.00 |
| RHUBARB,20LB,OR | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| PEA, SUGAR,10LB,GU | 13.00 | 16.00 |
| NECTARINES,72CT,CA | 32.00 | 32.00 |
| PEACHES,64CT,CA | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| STRAWBERRIES,8/1LB.CA | 10.00 | 14.00 |

### WHOLESALE MUSHROOMS

| | LOW | HIGH |
|---|---|---|
| WHITE,10LB,PA | 13.00 | 15.00 |
| SHIITAKE,3LB,LGN,PA | 14.00 | 15.00 |
| OYSTER,3LB,MED,PA | 13.00 | 13.00 |
| PORTOBELLA,CAPS,5LB,LGN | 8.00 | 9.00 |
| PORTOBELLA,5LB,LGN | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| PORTOBELLA,SLICED,6/6OZ | 10.50 | 11.50 |

## USDA WEEKLY RETAIL PORK PRICES

### NORTHEAST USA, PER LB

| | Low | High |
|---|---|---|
| CC CHOPS,B/IN | 1.97 | 4.99 |
| TENDERLOIN | 3.49 | 5.49 |
| BACKRIB | 2.49 | 6.21 |
| Smoked Chops | 4.99 | 5.99 |
| SPARE RIBS | 1.98 | 3.99 |
| HAM STEAK | 2.97 | 7.98 |
| HAM,BNLS | 3.48 | 3.99 |
| BACON, | 3.76 | 9.31 |
| CANADA BACON | 2.47 | 3.99 |
| ITALIAN SAUSAGE | 2.50 | 4.99 |
| FEET | 1.49 | 1.59 |

## PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SLAUGHTER COWS: | | | |
| | breakers 75-80% lean | 93.00 | 98.25 |
| | boners 80-85% lean | 90.00 | 94.50 |
| | lean 85-90% lean | 86.00 | 90.00 |
| CALVES graded bull | | | |
| | No 1 95-120lbs | 276.00 | 304.00 |
| | No 2 95-120lbs | 230.00 | 271.00 |
| | No 3 80-105lbs | 201.00 | 238.00 |
| SLAUGHTER HEIFERS | | | |
| | HiCh/Prm3-4 | 146.00 | 150.50 |
| | Ch2-3 | 142.50 | 145.00 |
| | Sel1-2 | 136.00 | 139.50 |
| SLAUGHTER STEERS. | | | |
| | HiCh/prm3-4 | 148.00 | 152.75 |
| | Ch2-3 | 143.75 | 147.50 |
| | Sel | 137.00 | 142.75 |
| SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS | | | |
| | HiCh/prm2-3 | 126.00 | 129.50 |
| | Ch2-3 | 119.00 | 124.00 |
| | Sel2-3 | 114.00 | 118.00 |
| | VEALERS-60-120lbs | n/a | |
| SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3 | | | |
| | 40-60lbs | 220.00 | 290.00 |
| | 60-80lb | 224.00 | 240.00 |
| | 80-110lbs | 216.00 | 234.00 |
| SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3 | | | |
| | 110-120 | n/a | |
| | 120-160 | 74.00 | 88.00 |
| Bucks | 120-200lbs | 50.00 | 87.00 |
| | 200-250lbs | 62.00 | 94.00 |
| SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est. | | | |
| . | 30-40lb | 97.00 | 115.00 |
| | 50-60lb | 152.00 | 165.00 |
| | 60-80lb | 150.00 | 177.00 |
| Nannies/Does: | 80.-130lbs | 142.00 | 165.00 |
| | 130-180lbs | 150.00 | 167.00 |
| Bucks/Billies: | 100-150lbs | 165.00 | 200.00 |
| | 150-160lbs | 165.00 | 245.00 |

## EASTERN PA GRAIN

Average price per bushel

| | |
|---|---|
| BARLEY | 3.10 |
| CORN | 5.29 |
| OATS | n/a |
| SOYBEANS | 15.07 |
| WHEAT | 7.49 |

## NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

Per doz./USDA GradeA/GradeA white in cartons (volume buyers)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.23 | 1.27 |
| LARGE | 1.21 | 1.25 |
| MEDIUM | 1.09 | 1.13 |

## NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz., wholesale Grade A brown in cartons (delivered)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| XTRA LRG | 1.80 | 1.89 |
| LARGE | 1.74 | 1.85 |
| MEDIUM | 1.44 | 1.55 |

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information.**

**Advertisements of 35 or fewer words for job openings at Connecticut farms may be placed for up to four weeks for free in the report's new CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION**

### FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, 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.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-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.

29-R. KINZE CORN PLANTER, model DF, 4 row, 30" between rows, double frame, no till, excellent condition. $5,000. Call 860-537-1974.

30-R. DRIED CHICKEN MANURE, best fertilizer for hay lots, by the trailer load. HAY, 1st & 2nd cut square bales. Call 860-537-1974.

48-R. Ford 1996 – Powerstroke 250 - 8 ft. flatbed – Good condition. 176,000 mi. $8,000.00. 203-237-7998.

52-R. IH 856 Tractor, 3pt, sharp all original, $7,500. JD 6405 2WD with loader. JD 4520, $8,500. JD 730 Wide Front, $7,500. Ford TW5, 2WD, 2,100 hrs, $17,500. PTO generators 20,000KW. NH 575 baler with thrower, $10,000. NH 310 baler and thrower, $2,500. JD 456 Round baler net wrap silage special. CASE IH RBX 442 Round Baler. NH 311 Baler, $4,000. 203-530-4953.

53-R. Evergreen Farm for sale. West Granby, CT. 85 acres plus ranch home 2.1 acres cabin/stone fireplace. Call 860-379-1963 for info.

54-R. New Holland 477 Hayliner $2,250.00. 4 Universal Box Brooders with base. $350.00. 860-684-1621.

56-R. Tomato stakes, tomato twine, fence boards, custom cut lumber. Staehly Products Co. LLC. 860-873-9774.

### MISCELLANEOUS

10-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.

### WANTED

49-R. Orchard help wanted. Looking for field person and laborer or farm couple to help operate small apple and peach orchard in Cheshire. Experience in orchard practices and machinery operation desirable. Hourly wage to be paid. Possible future opportunity for housing and operation of business. Great opportunity for ag-school graduate with farm background or as an opportunity to expand your existing orchard operation. Please email qualifications to chesappleorch@att.net

### CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

51-R. Energetic, organized, friendly apprentice for 2014: Environmental Educator/Harvest Manager to manage harvest/distribution for 68-member CSA. Plan/publicize/facilitate farm-based educational workshops. Independent contractor. April-October. 18-24 hours/week, $15/hour. Interest in full-time 2015 farm manager a plus. www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring

57-R. Full-time master hydroponic grower position available in Bridgeport. Must highly motivated, have experience with large computer controlled greenhouse, nutrient film technique growing technology and supervising others. Competitive salary and benefits. www.bootcampfarms.com/jobs

**Nelson Cecarelli inspects some of the 75,000 pepper plants he is growing in a greenhouse on his Northford farm.**

### FARMERS' MARKETS OPENING THIS WEEKEND

- Danielson – Sat. 9 a.m. – noon/Killingly Memorial Library, 25 Westcott Road
- Madison – Fri. 3-6 p.m./ Madison Historic Town Green
- New Haven – Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m./ Edgewood Park, corner of West Rock and Whalley Ave.
- New Haven – Sat. 9 a.m.-1p.m./ Russo Park, corner of DePalma Court and Chapel St.
- Putnam – Mon. and Thurs. 3:30-6 p.m./ Riverview Marketplace, 16 Kennedy Drive
- Stonington – Sat. 9 a.m.-noon/ Stonington Borough, Town Fishing Fleet Pier
- Storrs – Sat. 3-6 p.m./ 4 South Eagleville Road
- Tolland – Sat. 9 a.m.- noon/ Tolland Green
- West Hartford – Tues. and Sat. 9 a.m.-1p.m./ LaSalle Road public parking lot

**Joe and Linda Defrancesco ready racks of hanging plants that will be rolled directly into farmers' markets and stores for sale.**

## DOAG RECEIVES GRANT TO IMPROVE ANIMAL REHABILITATION FACILITY IN NIANTIC

The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation has granted the Dept. of Agriculture more than $50,000 to make improvements to its Niantic facility where horses and other large animals seized in neglect cases are rehabilitated for public adoption.

The $51,600 grant will be used to build new paddock and pasture fences and purchase equipment such as stall mats, horse blankets, a hot water heater and veterinary items used in the Second Chance program.

Located at York Correctional Facility in Niantic, the Second Chance program is a collaboration between the Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Correction. Inmates from York volunteer to work with the animals in partnership with agency personnel.

"For 11 years this program has proven to be beneficial for both the animals and the inmates," said Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky. "The support of the Wiederhold Foundation is very much appreciated and will help us continue to give the animals the care they deserve."

The Wiederhold Foundation was created in 2012 to protect and improve the welfare of animals of all kinds. The grant was received through the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut.

Anyone interested in adopting an animal through the Second Chance program should contact Animal Control Officer Linda Wenner at 860-713-2567 or Linda.Wenner@ct.gov.

**Workers at Cecarelli Farm plant lettuce on a cool morning late last week**

## MEAT, POULTRY, CHEESE FOOD-SAFETY COURSES AT UCONN

UConn and the Univ. of Rhode Island will sponsor a Meat and Poultry HACCP course on June 3, 4, and 5 at the Bishop Center on UConn's campus in Storrs. Registration is $375 per person and covers program expenses, breakfast, breaks and lunch. Registration must be received by Tues., May 26. For information, contact Diane Wright Hirsch at 203-407-3163 or diane.hirsch@uconn.edu.

On June 6, the non-profit Innovation Center for US Dairy is offering an Artisan/Farmstead Cheesemaker Food Safety Workshop to be held at the W.B. Young Building on the Storrs campus. Registration is $49. For more information visit www.dairyevents.com.

Agrivolution, Groton

**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: $3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. (Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses are counted separately.) Print or type copy. Advertisements accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Ads with payment must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion in that issue. 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**
**165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106**
**www.CTGrown.gov www.CT.gov/doag**
**860-713-2500**

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|---|---|
| **Commissioner** | **Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501** |
| **Marketing** | **Joseph Dippel 860-713-2503** |
| **Regional Market** | **Joseph Dippel 860-566-3699** |
| **State Veterinarian** | **Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505** |
| **Regulation & Inspection** | **Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504** |
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| **Aquaculture** | **David Carey 203-874-2855** |

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