



# Agricultural Report

Agrivolution, Groton

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



Linda Piotrowicz, Editor  
Wednesday, February 26, 2014

## SPOTLIGHT: BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL AQUACULTURE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER

*Lea Catherman, BRASTEC, and David Carey and Kristin DeRosia-Banick, DoAg Bureau of Aquaculture*

The Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Education Center (BRASTEC) is the only regional vocational school in the state wholly devoted to a mission of science and technical education related to the development of aquaculture in Connecticut, and is one of two with dedicated aquaculture programs.



BRASTEC's mission is to provide a rigorous educational program that ensures students are able to examine problems and make informed decisions concerning society's relationship with the aquatic environment. The Aquaculture Center serves a community of diverse students

The establishment of an aquaculture school in Bridgeport was the result of years of collaboration among regional educators, local legislators, and statewide advisory committee members, culminating in a special act of the legislature that provided for the construction of this technical facility.

The Connecticut State Board of Education approved the Bridgeport Board of Education's request to be designated a Regional Vocational Aquaculture School on April 5, 1989. The school was built between 1991 and 1993, and the first classes were held in the new facility in February of 1993.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) has contributed to the school's activities by providing an administrative mechanism for its aquaculture operations. DoAg has designated state shellfish grounds to the school for conducting educational grow-out activities and has provided guidance and licensure to the school for aquaculture operations and shellfish harvest activities.

BRASTEC currently maintains a DoAg *Shellstock Shipper* license for the harvest and sale of shellfish, including hard clams and oysters, a *Certificate of Aquaculture Operations: Fish Producer* license, which allows the school to operate an educational fish hatchery and fish production facility, and an *Aquaculture Seaweed Producer* license, which allows the school to process and sell both farm-site cultivated Sugar Kelp and tank-cultivated *Gracilaria*.

with a broad range of social, economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds who bring a variety of skills, talents, and learning styles.

BRASTEC offers students from school systems in the greater Bridgeport region an opportunity to enhance the traditional academic high school curriculum with a specialized emphasis on science and technology instruction, as related to the development of aquaculture in Connecticut. The educational program is designed to provide students with learning experiences developed in collaboration with industry, government agencies, post-secondary educational institutions, and community organizations from local municipalities.

The school's goal is to enable students to meet rigorous academic standards through selected educational experiences that require them to work with technologies used by professionals in the maritime industry and aquatic research community. The school strives to maintain a unique educational program that is relevant, focused, innovative, and continually evolving, with an emphasis on high academic standards that will enable students to meet the needs of a changing world.

It is the philosophy of BRASTEC to provide an equal opportunity for the continued growth and development of students. Staff believe in providing a supportive learning environment where students are encouraged to appreciate and respect all people, work cooperatively, and strive to become contributing citizens of society.

*(continued on Page 3)*

**WHOLESALE GREENHSE PRODUCE  
U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL**

	Low	High
CUCMBR,prsn,20lb,MX	32.00	32.00
LEEK,5kg,NT	16.00	19.00
PEPPR,bl,or,11lb,MX	16.00	20.00
PEPPR,bl,red,11lb,MX	14.00	18.00
RHUBARB,15lb,WA	33.00	33.00
TOMATO,11lb,vnrrp,ME	20.00	21.00
TOMATO,5lb,,ME	14.00	15.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	220-300 lbs	73.00	78.00
	300-400 lbs	74.00	79.00
45-49	220-300 lbs	70.50	73.00
	300-400 lbs	67.00	73.00
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	67.00	69.00
	500-700 lbs	70.00	73.00
Boars	300-700 lbs	15.00	16.00

**PA GRADER FEEDER PIGS**

Lancaster, PA, per cwt.

		Low	High
Gr US 1-	wt 20-30	230.00	260.00
	wt 30-40	180.00	190.00
	wt 80-85	85.00	95.00
Gr US 2-	wt 15-25	200.00	220.00
	wt 30-35	160.00	170.00
	wt 50-55	120.00	130.00
	wt 60-100	40.00	60.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, February 24, 2014

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	30.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	55.00	60.00
76-90 lbs.	62.00	65.50
91-105 lbs.	70.00	75.00
106 lbs. & up	85.00	95.00
Farm Calves	100.00	110.00
Starter Calves	35.00	45.00
Veal Calves	85.00	137.50
Open Heifers	115.00	135.00
Beef Steers	84.00	107.00
Beef Heifers	100.00	127.50
Feeder Steers	110.00	125.00
Stock Bulls	100.00	110.00
Beef Bulls	110.00	112.00
Boars	1 at	6.00
Butcher Hogs	40.00	50.00
Goats each	90.00	190.00
Kid Goats	3.00	40.00
Canners	up to	89.50
Cutters	90.00	94.00
Utility Grade Cows	95.00	98.00
Rabbits each	5.00	16.00
Chickens each	3.00	17.50
Ducks each	15.00	25.00
Feeder Pigs	26.00	47.50
Lambs	124.00	240.00
Lambs	20.00	27.50
Sheep	100.00	110.00



**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

	Low	High
ALFALFA SPRT,12/4oz	16.00	16.00
APPLE,mcntsh,fcy,100ct	16.00	16.00
APPLE,mcntsh,12/3lb,fcy	15.00	15.00
APPLE,mcntsh,fcy,80ct	16.00	16.00
CIDER,4/1gal	16.00	16.00
CIDER,9/2 gal	18.00	18.00
SQUASH,bttrnt,md,1 1/9bu	14.00	15.00



**SHIPPED IN**

AVOCADO,hass,32,MX	36.00	36.00
BEAN,grn,bu,FL	22.00	23.00
BLUEBERRY,12/1pt,MX	25.00	26.00
BRUSSEL SPRT,25lb,CA	21.00	22.00
CABBAGE,rd,50lb,NY	14.00	14.00
CUCUMBER,1 1/9bu,HD	15.00	16.00
EGGPLANT,1 1/9bu,FL	15.00	18.00
JERUSLM ARTCHK,10ct,CA	42.00	42.00
LETTUCE,grn lf,24ct,AZ	15.00	15.00
MUSHROOM,oyst,3lb,PA	13.00	13.00
OKRA,1/2bu,MX	22.00	22.00
ORANGE,nvl,113ct,CA	26.00	27.00
PEAR,bsc,80ct,OR	36.00	36.00
PLANTAIN,grn,50lb,EC	20.00	21.00
PLUM,48ct,CH	32.00	32.00
RUTABAGA 50lb,CN	18.00	18.00
SWEET POT,40lb,GA	13.00	13.00
TANGERINE,80ct,FL	28.00	32.00



**RETAIL BEEF, USDA  
NORTHEAST U.S. MAJOR SUPERMARKETS**

Prices per pound

	Low	High
BEEF PATTIES	4.99	4.99
BEEF SHORT RIB	4.99	5.49
BOTTOM ROUND ROAST	5.59	5.99
CORNED BEEF BRSKT	4.39	4.39
GROUND,80-89%	4.69	4.69
LONDON BROIL	3.99	5.99
NY STRIP STEAK,BONLSS	7.88	10.99
SIRLOIN STEAK TIPS	5.99	7.99
STEW MEAT	3.98	4.99
T-BONE STEAK	9.99	9.99
TOP ROUND ROAST	4.99	5.29

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

February 21, 2014  
Average Dressing

<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>		
breakers 75-80% lean	87.25	92.00
boners 80-85% lean	83.00	87.50
lean 85-90% lean	77.50	82.75
<b>CALVES graded bull</b>		
No 1-95-120lbs	166.00	187.50
No 2 95-120lbs	143.00	167.50
No 3 80-120lbs	110.25	154.50
<b>SLAUGHTER BULLS yield gr</b>		
High dressing	114.00	132.75
Avg.dressing	102.75	109.50
Low dressing	100.00	104.50
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
HiCh/Prm2-3	141.75	147.00
Ch1-3	134.00	139.00
Sel1-2	128.00	131.50
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS.</b>		
HiCh/prm2-3	144.25	149.50
Ch1-3	136.75	140.50
Sel1-2	132.00	136.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>		
HiCh/prm2-3	122.75	127.75
Ch2-3	116.50	119.25
Ch1-2	105.50	112.25
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3</b>		
40-60lbs	217.00	224.00
60-80lb	217.00	248.00
70-80lbs	204.00	220.00
<b>S LAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3</b>		
90-120lbs	94.00	128.00
130-160	92.00	140.00
170-200	100.00	145.00
Bucks	130-160lbs	76.00 97.00
	160-200lbs	84.00 92.00
	200-225lbs	78.00 86.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.</b>		
40-60lb	140.00	176.00
60-80lb	190.00	227.00
80-110lb	192.00	226.00
Nannies/Does: 90-130lbs	162.00	200.00
130-150lbs	178.00	212.00
Bucks/Billies: 125-150lbs	240.00	305.00
150-175lbs	170.00	350.00

**EASTERN PA GRAIN**

Average price per bushel

BARLEY	4.15
CORN	4.70
OATS	3.20
SOYBEANS	13.54
WHEAT	6.23

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

Per doz., USDA Grade A/Grade A white in cartons (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.56	1.60
LARGE	1.52	1.56
MEDIUM	1.25	1.27

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	2.44	2.53
LARGE	2.34	2.46
MEDIUM	1.44	1.50

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### 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](http://www.bludon.com).

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

8-R. Corn silage stored in corn pit. Augur Farm. 203-530-4953.

18-R. 4 row Stanley Seeder, 2 sets of boxes and belts. Recently tuned up, manual included. 860-234-1328.

### 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.

13-R. \$500/acre. Landowners, I am looking to lease 25+ acres of "A" land for up to \$500 per acre per year. Tell your friends or call Doug at 203-952-8542.

### WANTED

19-R. Simple pipe frame style plastic mulch layer, either flat or raised bed. 860-234-1328.

The Connecticut Week 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.

## SPOTLIGHT: BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL AQUACULTURE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER

(continued from Page 1)

The school believes in educating students to be environmentally aware, and to understand the relationship of man's actions and the environmental impact of those actions, to foster an appreciation of the value of living things. It believes students must learn to be capable problem solvers, rational decision-makers, and critical thinkers in order to be beneficial contributors to their communities.

BRASTEC's student body consists of students from Bridgeport, Fairfield, Milford, Monroe, Shelton, Stratford, and Trumbull. The enrollment reflects a successful and cooperative effort by participating school systems. The quality and diversity of curriculum, program activities, and specialized facilities the school offers serves as the blueprint for future school choice programs.

The school's facility provides students with specialized laboratories and classrooms that complement the marine-related curriculum. Examples include a seafood science laboratory, an aquaculture fin-fish/shellfish lab, a marine construction shop, a marine propulsion and electronics lab, and a computer-assisted design and drafting lab. The school also contains a modern telecommunications system capable of several educational functions, including a computer network and a remote visual display system.

In addition, BRASTEC operates a 56-foot research vessel, the Catherine Moore, which has the capability for classroom instruction, boat navigation, and fishing operations to occur simultaneously. These activities provide students with the opportunity to conduct marine biology, chemistry, and ecological experiments; to engage in commercial fishing techniques; and to learn on-board navigation and marine electronic communication techniques. The school also oper-

ates smaller vessels for training and farm site maintenance.

A state-of-the-art hatchery facility with 22 fresh or saltwater recirculating systems enables students to raise Tilapia, Barramundi, Koi, and *Gracilaria*, and to participate in restoration projects for both Lobster and Atlantic Salmon. Students learn about optimal conditions for culturing species, regularly monitoring water quality and growth, and harvesting fish for sale in the school's seafood market.



Angie's Seafood Market is a food-service classroom and functioning lab with lobster tank, display cases, and professional food preparation and storage equipment, where students learn food science, knife skills including filleting, ServSafe protocol, and seafood display and marketing techniques. Open to the community two days a week, Angie's provides students an opportunity, working with their teacher, to learn customer service and educate the public about the benefits and attributes of both cultured and wild-caught species.

Students in the marine ecology class are engaged in the production of Sugar Kelp at BRASTEC's Long Island Sound farm site in cooperation with the University of Connecticut. Students prepare seed lines and harvest Sugar Kelp while learning about the species' benefits of bioremediation of excess nitrogen.

Bridgeport Aquaculture College Alliance (BACA) is an intensive program for selected seniors. It provides UCONN certified classes in oceanography, environmental science, and statistical analysis, and engages participants in independent research projects, which can have a tremendous impact on future practices and technologies in aquaculture.

Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a vital component of the aquaculture education program. It provides opportunities to develop personal leadership skills and participate in career-development activities while making positive contributions to the local community. BRASTEC students are strongly encouraged to become members of the Bridgeport Aquaculture FFA, a chapter of national FFA.

FFA members enjoy participating in activities during school such as public speaking events, chapter business meetings, field trips and fund-raising. Team competitions with area FFA chapters are available to all members and are intended to promote sportsmanship and positive self-esteem while demonstrating knowledge of aquaculture. The year culminates with an annual awards event in the spring, where student members are recognized for their efforts.

BRASTEC provides excellent education and experience, and its students express great interest and enthusiasm in aquaculture. However, few go on to pursue post-secondary training in aquaculture and seek employment in the field, because few opportunities to enter the industry exist within Connecticut. Many choose instead to study related fields such as marine biology or engineering to assure better employment opportunities upon graduation.

(continued on Page 4)

**SPOTLIGHT: BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL AQUACULTURE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER**

*(continued from Page 3)*

Commercial aquaculture includes hatchery operations for shellfish, finfish, and seaweed; commercial cultivation in coastal waters or land-based facilities; bottom cultivation of shellfish; and processing and packing of value-added products from those species.

Connecticut currently has only 40 licensed shellfish operations, two licensed seaweed producers, one inland commercial eel grow-out facility, and no marine saltwater finfish grow-out operations. The only Connecticut Grown aquacultured finfish recognized as an “approved food source” are produced by the state’s two aquaculture schools.

As a result, graduates of those schools must relocate to other states or countries to find related career opportunities. BRASTEC has developed several international partnerships demonstrating the viability of aquaculture as an industry in other countries.

DoAg recognizes the critical need to create local opportunities for graduates of these outstanding schools, whose infrastructure and curriculum the state has invested significantly. Graduates need opportunities upon graduation, following secondary education, and/or after initial aquaculture employment in another state.

Aquaculture has excellent growth potential in Connecticut. The state’s aquaculture schools provide the knowledge and experience. What is most lacking is a means by which to enter the industry within the state, and financial assistance for those looking to start aquaculture operations here in Connecticut.

DoAg’s Farm Transition Grant is a competitive, matching grant

program created to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives, who may receive up to \$49,999 in matching funds. The grantee’s match must be at least 50 percent and cannot include in-kind services. It is a rebate grant requiring completion of the project before funding via reimbursement. Applicants have one year to finish an approved project after the contract is signed.

As currently structured, this grant limits participation of undercapitalized individuals and start-up operations, which includes most small aquaculture proposals. Furthermore, the ability for an individual entering the industry to obtain a suitable place to plant and cultivate shellfish is limited by the language within Connecticut General Statutes [Sec. 26-194](#), which awards leases to the highest responsible sealed bidder.

To address these challenges and to foster development of new commercial aquaculture ventures, DoAg is developing an incubator area that will enable individuals interested in shellfish and seaweed aquaculture to obtain a license to plant and cultivate any aquaculture species within a designated portion of the incubator area.

BRASTEC succeeds in providing superior technical education and real world experience in a viable industry with great growth potential here in Connecticut. The missing link is the bridge to local entrepreneurship that would allow graduates to use that knowledge and experience here in the state, producing food for residents and contributing to local economic growth.

DoAg and BRASTEC look forward to working together and with the State of Connecticut to create those opportunities.



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.

The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report (**ISSN: 1059-8723, USPS 129-340**) is published weekly by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., 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.

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov) [www.CT.gov/doag](http://www.CT.gov/doag)  
 860-713-2500

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
Farmland Preservation	Dr. Cameron Weimar 860-713-2511
Aquaculture	David Carey 203-874-2855

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

**Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2015.**

**VOL. XCIV  
 No. 8  
 February 26, 2014**