

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner  
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
August 13, 2014



## EXPLORING CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES FOR CT FARMERS AT PLANT SCIENCE DAY

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



Top, with Sleeping Giant ridge as a backdrop, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm in Hamden was the site of its 104th annual Plant Science Day, where (above) Dept. of Agriculture Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky, right, and marketing representative Ron Olsen helped a visitor to the department's booth.

Farmers in Connecticut and other Northeast states face a combination of challenges and opportunities from changing weather patterns that science shows are mainly sparked by man-made greenhouse gases.

That was the message delivered by a Cornell University agriculture professor last week at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station's 104th annual Plant Science Day, which drew more than 1,000 people to the station's Lockwood Farm in Hamden.

In his presentation, "Climate Change and Agriculture – No Longer Business as Usual," Michael P. Hoffman ticked off a list of current impacts of climate change, including:

- 2001-2010 was the hottest decade on record
- Heavy rainfalls are up 74 percent since the 1960s
- A pattern of bursts of heavy rain and flooding interspersed with drought is becoming more prevalent
- Hotter summers and warmer winters mean more pests survive and expand their range
- Hardiness zones are moving north by about 30 yards each day

"If you're in farming it's not business how it used to be," said Hoffman, director of Cornell's Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean of the school's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Climate change has made farming much more challenging. We all need to start talking about this more because there's nowhere to run and nowhere to hide."

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**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, Aug. 11, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	60.00	75.00
61-75 lbs.	105.00	180.00
76-90 lbs.	225.00	230.00
91-105 lbs.	240.00	250.00
106 lbs. & up	260.00	270.00
Farm Calves	275.00	280.00
Starter Calves	55.00	65.00
Veal Calves	155.00	175.00
Open Heifers	135.00	170.00
Beef Steers	152.00	170.00
Beef Heifers	122.00	162.00
Feeder Steers	105.00	150.00
Stock Bulls	80.00	157.50
Beef Bulls	130.00	138.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	65.00	250.00
Kid Goats	35.00	100.00
Canners	up to	113.00
Cutters	114.00	119.00
Utility Grade Cows	120.00	125.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	22.50
Chickens each	4.00	20.00
Ducks each	5.00	20.00
Feeder Pigs	30.00	77.00
Lambs	105.00	240.00
Sheep	75.00	160.00

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.26	1.30
LARGE	1.24	1.28
MEDIUM	.96	1.00

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Per doz. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.72	1.83
LARGE	1.71	1.81
MEDIUM	1.26	1.36

**EASTERN, PA, HAY**

average price per ton

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	200.00-270.00	160.00-180.00
MIXED	190.00-375.00	160.00-180.00
TIMOTHY	205.00-330.00	175.00-190.00
STRAW	100.00-220.00	

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
BLUEBERRIES CLAM SHELL	24.00	26.00
BASIL, 15'S	18.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 BU	10.00	10.00
BEAN, CRANBERRY, BU	40.00	40.00
ARUGULA, 24'S	10.00	12.00
BEETS 12'S	12.00	16.00
BEETS, GOLD, 12'S	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, 12'S, TOPS	12.00	14.00
CUCUMBERS, SELECT, 1 1/9 BU	10.00	12.00
CORN, 5DZ	9.00	15.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 50IB, BOX	10.00	12.00
CABBAGE, RED 50IB	12.00	14.00
BROCCOLI, CROWNS, 20LB	14.00	15.00
KOHLRABI 12'S	16.00	16.00
ONIONS GREEN 48'S MED	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, FCY, 1/2BU	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, MED, 1/2BU	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, GREEN, FCY, 1/2BU	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, GREEN, MED, 1/2BU	8.00	10.00
BEAN GREEN, BU, HAND PICK	24.00	28.00
CUKES, SUPER SELECT, 1 1/9	16.00	16.00
BEAN WAX, BU	20.00	22.00
PEPPER, CHERRY HOT, 1/2BU	12.00	14.00
JALOPENO, 1/2BU	12.00	12.00
PEPPER, BELL, GREEN XL	10.00	12.00
KALE, 12'S	12.00	14.00
SWISS CHARD, 12'S	18.00	18.00
BEAN GREEN, MACH PICK, BU	14.00	16.00
APPLES JERSEY MAC BU	30.00	30.00
BLACKBERRIES 12-1/2PT	30.00	30.00
BEETS, CHIOGGA, 12'S	18.00	18.00
CUKES, PICKLES 1/2BU	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES, 20LBS	16.00	24.00
PEACHES 1/2BU, YELLOW, 2 1/2	24.00	24.00
PEACHES 22LB, WHITE, 2 1/2	26.00	26.00
NECTARINES 22LB BOX	28.00	30.00
PLUM, METHLEY, 20LB	22.00	24.00
TOMATOES, CHERRY, 12/1PT	16.00	20.00
TOMATOES, GRAPE, 12/1PT	16.00	20.00

**WHOLESALE BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

Northeast/Per lb.

	Low	High
BREAST-B/S	2.00	2.05
TENDERLOINS	2.35	2.40
LEGS	.61	.62
LEG QUARTERS	.49	.50
THIGHS	.74	.75
B/S THIGHS	1.31	1.32
WINGS	1.42	1.43
LIVER, 5LB TUBS	.55	.60
GIZZARDS	.75	.80

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Average Dressing

	Low	High
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	107.75	112.75
boners 80-85% lean	102.00	108.25
lean 85-90% lean	95.25	100.75
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 120-128lbs	279.75	313.75
No 2 120-128lbs	258.25	299.25
No 3 100-130lbs	207.00	268.75
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	158.75	163.75
Ch2-3	153.00	157.25
Sel2-3	145.00	149.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	162.75	166.75
Ch2-3	156.25	161.00
Sel2-3	150.25	154.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	146.50	150.25
Ch2-3	138.75	143.00
Sel2-3	134.75	138.50
VEALERS	48.50	100.50
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
50-60lbs	n/a	
70-80lb	185.00	200.00
80-90lbs	184.00	185.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
110-130lbs	90.00	102.00
120-140lbs	94.00	102.00
Bucks		
160-180.lbs	90.00	120.00
220-250lbs	70.00	92.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	138.00	150.00
60-80lb	160.00	185.00
70-90lb	n/a	
Nannies/Does: 110-130lbs	187.00	217.00
130-150lbs	157.00	195.00
Bucks/Billies: 110-150lbs	187.00	217.00
170-200lbs	250.00	270.00

**PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS**

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. July 16

	Low	High
Gr US 1- WT 1120-40	200.00	260.00
WT 100-115	150.00	160.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

	Low	High
49-54 200-300 lbs	93.00	97.00
300-400 lbs	87.00	93.00
54-58 200-300 lbs	96.00	100.00
300-400 lbs	95.00	95.00
Sows, US1-3 300-500 lbs	72.00	77.50
500-700 lbs	74.00	79.50
Boars 400-720 lbs	40.50	43.00

## 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.

108-R. Purebred Katahdin Ram for sale. Great producer, registration papers available, mostly white. \$350.00. 860-354-9069.

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111-R. JD 2940 turbo, like new radial tires \$10,500. JD 6310 4wd with 640 loader \$24,000. JD 730 direct start diesel 3 pt wide front \$7,500. JD 530 \$5,000. NH 315 baler with thrower \$5,500. NH 311 baler \$4,000. Several PTO generators. NH 256 & 258 hay rakes \$1,800/\$2,000. Front & rear NH & JD weights. Case W-11 pay loader recent motor job \$12,000. New Pequea rotary rake \$6,500. 203-530-4953.

112-R. 2011 Greenhouse 25 X 60, Furnace, Roth Oil Tank, Fans, Micro Gro, Poly Gal Ends Doors, roll up sides, Sodium lights, Benches, \$6,500. 203-233-9677. Photos available.

[Martymonroegardens@gmail.com](mailto:Martymonroegardens@gmail.com)

## MISCELLANEOUS

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98-R. Standing timber wanted, Hardwood/softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 15 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

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Farmers must be ready to adapt when they plant, how they irrigate and how they protect livestock from heat and other extreme weather, he said.

But along with the negative effects, Northeast farmers may be able to capitalize on the situation due to the region's typically plentiful water supply and an increasingly longer growing season. That means farmers have the potential to plant new types of crops and perhaps increase yields by double-cropping in a single season.

And if the drought that has taken hold in the West for much of the last decade persists, the heavily-populated Northeast will naturally become more dependent on locally-grown food.

"We have 22 percent of the country's population here in the Northeast," Hoffman said. "Somebody has to feed them."

While the cause of climate change is still the subject of intense debate, Hoffman's view is unambiguous. His presentation includes slides titled "The Atmosphere Bathtub is Filling Up," "The Blanket is Getting Thicker," and "It is Caused by Humans."

"Change is here and we're the cause of it," he said. "Some people logically think it's a natural cycle, but it's not. People need to look at the science, not the emotion."

He suggests farmers can help mitigate climate change and make their farms more efficient by carefully regulating use of nutrients, reducing tillage, increasing use of cover crops, converting waste to heat and power wherever feasible and employing wind and solar generation.

Hoffman's lecture under the event's main tent was followed by a visit from Governor Dannel P. Malloy – which organizers noted was the first from a sitting governor since Gov. Lowell P. Weicker in 1991.

The Governor is officially President of the experiment station's administrative oversight panel, known as the Board of Control, on which Dept. of Agriculture commissioner Steven K. Reviczky also serves.

Shelton farmer Terry Jones, vice president of the station's board of control, introduced Malloy and relayed a conversation they had soon after the governor took office.

"He said, 'I'm not concerned about a farm being too small. I'm concerned about their being too small a number of farms,'" Jones recalled.

Malloy, who has initiated and supported several programs to protect and restore farmland, said he also believes that Connecticut growers may benefit from climate change. Noting that the state leads New England with a 22-percent growth in new farms, Malloy said:

"This gives us a key moment in time to move forward even more quickly than we have," he said. "Let's not lose this opportunity."

Reviczky said the Governor's strong support of agriculture is not only accelerating the growth of new farms, but is helping existing farmers expand and modify their operations by buying new equipment and making other improvements.

"This exciting period of growth in Connecticut agriculture can only be sustained if the state continues to make these kinds of fiscal and policy decisions that enable our farmers to keep producing high quality Connecticut grown products," Reviczky said.

Another presentation at the event was "The New Crops Program – Creating Opportunities for Connecticut's Farmers" which explored ways that growers can diversify their offerings to target specific consumers. Some of the specialty crops that the Experiment Station has studied are Belgian endive, globe artichoke, radicchio, sweet potato, okra and Chinese cabbage.

Other discussions and demonstrations included managing roadside forest, composting, use of pesticides and environmental impact on wine grape production.

(Continued on Pg. 4)

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION CELEBRATION

*300 Farms and Growing*

**September 20, 2014, 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.**

**On the Historic Lebanon Green  
Jct. Routes 87/207**

*Since 1978, the Farmland Preservation Program has permanently protected the prime and important farmland soils of 300 farms and nearly 40,000 acres to ensure the future of agriculture in Connecticut.  
Join us to celebrate this historic milestone!*

**Family-Friendly, Free, All Welcome!**

**Tour Local Protected Farms**

**Live Music & Dancing**

**Exhibits & Displays**

**Celebrity Chefs Showcasing CT Grown Food  
Touch a Tractor/Hay Maze/Pet a Farm Animal**

**SPONSORED BY CT DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE**

**[CTGrown.gov](http://CTGrown.gov)**

***For event updates, visit our Facebook page:  
[facebook.com/FarmlandPreservationCelebration](http://facebook.com/FarmlandPreservationCelebration)***

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The decline of honeybees and bumblebees was addressed by Kim Stoner, an entomologist at the Experiment Station. She said Connecticut has lost about half its bee population in each of the past two winters – roughly double the national average.

While she suspects the decline is due to a combination of disease, parasites, and loss of quality foraging habitat, a definitive answer has proven elusive.

“There’s no obvious pattern,” Stoner said. “Some researchers believe there has been a spillover of pathogens from the commercial bee population.”

Farmers and beekeepers can try to address the decline by protecting bees from pesticides, she said, and by planting diverse varieties of flowers for them to feed upon.

“There are ways that beekeepers can make up for the losses,” she said.

The theme of needing to diversify and adapt to changes in the business of agriculture was also cited by the recipients of this year’s Century Farm Award: the Holdridge farm in Ledyard.

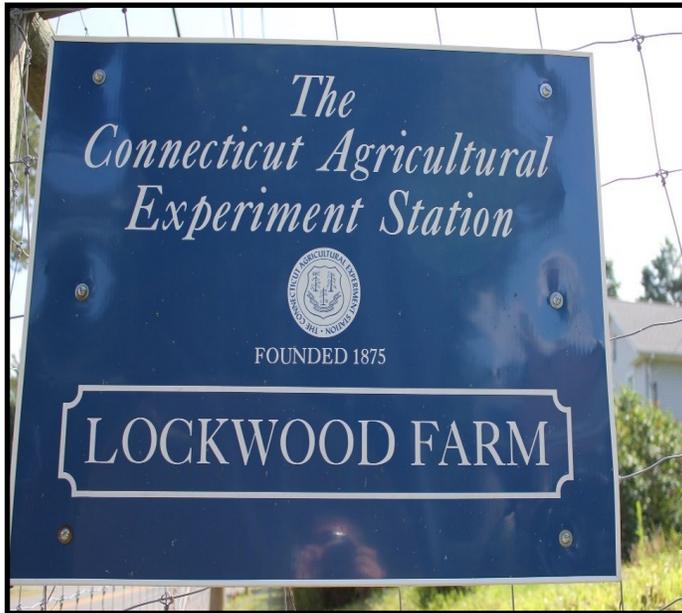
Founded in 1912 by Sam Holdridge as a mail-order house for strawberry and other fruit-bearing plants, it is now the largest garden center and nursery in south-eastern Connecticut.

Shari Hewes took over the 60-acre farm in 2002 after her father, Bud Holdridge, passed away. She and her husband Matt have been in the family business for most of their lives, and say their continued success will depend on their ability to continually modify their operation.

“We’re trying to adapt to keep this carrying on as long as we can,” Matt said. “What you think is relevant today may not be tomorrow.”

Theodore Andreadis, Director of the Experiment Station, said the Aug. 6 event was the most heavily-attended in recent memory.

“For 104 years we have opened our gates to give the public the opportunity to visit with our scientific staff and see firsthand what we do,” he said. “It was also very gratifying to be able to show the Governor the diversity of our research initiatives and programs in our four core areas: agriculture, the environment, food safety and public health. On all accounts, it was a very good day.”



**Above: Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky with Shari and Matt Hewes after their Holdridge Farm in Ledyard received the Century Farm Award at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station’s Plant Science Day, which drew more than 1,000 attendees to the 75-acre Lockwood Farm in Hamden.**

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