

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
March 24, 2015



Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky gives remarks at last week's Agriculture Day at the State Capitol in Hartford.

## CONNECTICUT'S AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY SHOWCASED AT STATE CAPITOL

A Northford plants and produce grower was named the state's outstanding young farmer for 2015, and a landmark Ledyard farm was recognized for more than a century of operation last week during Agriculture Day at the State Capitol.

The awards given to Joseph DeFrancesco III and Holdridge Farm Nursery were among the highlights of the day, which drew hundreds of visitors who toured displays from more than 40 agricultural stakeholders.

The annual event, organized by the Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC), is designed to showcase the state's agricultural community to members of the General Assembly and other staff at the Capitol.

"This event for decades has been a highlight of the year for farmers and other stakeholders who look forward to advocating for agriculture by meeting legislators and telling their stories," agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "It is truly a celebration of the diversity and success of agriculture in Connecticut."

The Outstanding Young Farmer Award is presented annually by the CAIC, a coalition of state farming groups.

Candidates are selected based on their achievements in their agricultural enterprises, involvement in the agriculture industry and their community, and their work on soil and water conservation projects.

The following remarks were given by Erin Pirro: farm business consultant for Farm Credit East and coordinator of the young farmer award, in making the presentation to DeFrancesco, who runs Farmer Joe's Gardens in Northford:

"As a fourth generation farmer, Joe grows on the same parcel of land that his great grandfather worked many years ago. Joe resides on the farm with his wife, Ida, and two children, Joseph and William.

Together Joe and Ida started a farm stand on their property and seek to educate employees and consumers on growing practices, nutrition, policy, and conservation.

Joe has made many sustainable improvements to his farm over the years that twice earned him recognition by the NRCS as Co-Operator of the Year.

At the state level, Joe has advocated for the greenhouse industry's decreased usage of fossil fuels.

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing

<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>		
breakers 75-80% lean	103.00	108.50
boners 80-85% lean	101.50	106.25
lean 85-90% lean	96.25	101.50
<b>CALVES graded bull</b>		
No 1 95-120lbs	445.00	497.25
No 1 80-90lbs	441.25	478.75
No 2 95-120lbs	402.00	461.25
No 2 80-90lbs	482.25	528.25
No 3 80-120lbs	340.50	422.00
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
HiCh/Prm2-3	161.50	164.25
Ch1-3	156.00	159.00
Sel1-2	154.25	158.75
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>		
HiCh/Prm2-3	146.25	150.00
Ch2-3	141.00	145.00
Sel1-2	135.75	140.25
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
HiCh/Prm2-3	161.00	163.25
Ch1-3	153.50	156.50
Sel1-2	151.50	155.00
VEALERS Utility 60-120lb	135.00	184.25
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:</b>		
ch/pr 2-3		
40-60 lbs	307.00	330.00
60-70 lbs	300.00	317.00
70-90 lbs	280.00	300.00
90-110 lbs	237.00	250.00
110-150 lbs	220.00	230.00
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: 2-3</b>		
120-200 lbs Good	114.00	132.00
200-300 lbs Good	110.00	112.00
<b>BUCKS</b>		
110-120 lbs	160.00	177.00
120-160 lbs	95.00	150.00
200-300 lbs	86.00	127.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.</b>		
20-40 lbs	102.00	165.00
40-60 lbs	180.00	240.00
60-80 lbs	200.00	265.00
Nannies/Does: 50-80 lbs	230.00	265.00
80-130 lbs	150.00	255.00
Bucks/Billies: 80-100 lbs	260.00	330.00
100-150 lbs	360.00	430.00

**PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY**

US # 1-2 30-40 lb	195.00	240.00
40-50 lb	200.00	210.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES****NEW ENGLAND GROWN****Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
APPLE, MACS, 120, USFCY	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	6.00	7.00
CIDER, APPLE 4-1 GAL	24.00	24.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	24.00	30.00
SQUASH, BTTRNT, 1-1/9 BU	12.00	13.00
TOMATOES, 25LB, GRHSE, VR	20.00	22.00
TOMS, CHRRY, GHS, 8/10 OZ	23.00	24.00

**SHIPPED IN**

APPLE, RED DEL, NY, 88, XFCY	22.00	22.00
APPLE, BRAEBURN, NY, 80, XFCY	27.00	28.00
ASPARAGUS, CA, JBO, 11LB	35.00	35.00
BEANS, GREEN, FL, BU, MCHPK	22.00	24.00
BEETS, RED, TX, 12	14.00	18.00
CARROTS, CA, 16/3LB	20.00	22.00
CORN, BICOLOR, FL, 4DZ	15.00	18.00
CUKES, FL, 1-1/9 BU	30.00	30.00
EGGPLANT, FL, 1-1/9BU	16.00	20.00
KALE, GA, 12/CTN	14.00	15.00
LETTUCE, ROMAINE, CA, 24	20.00	24.00
ORANGES, NAVEL, CA, 88	20.00	23.00
PEAR, D'ANJOU, WA, US#1, 120	28.00	29.00
PEPPERS, GRN, FL, LG, 1-1/9BU	7.00	8.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8-1LB, FL	8.00	12.00
SWEET POTATOES, LA, 40LB	16.00	18.00
SWISS CHARD, TX, 12/CTN	16.00	18.00

**HAY****LANCASTER, PA/PRICE PER TON**

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	240.00-355.00	210.00-240.00
MIXED HAY	260.00-410.00	225.00-265.00
TIMOTHY	230.00-375.00	185.00-210.00
STRAW	150.00-235.00	

**NORTHEAST/USDA WEEKLY  
RETAIL LAMB**

SHLD ROAST	7.99	7.99
SHLDR BLD CHOP	3.99	7.99
SHLDR RND BN CHOP	7.39	7.49
LOIN CHOPS	6.99	17.99
LEG SEMI BNLS	8.99	8.99
BNLS LEG	6.99	6.99
SHANK	5.99	6.99
STEW MEAT	4.99	5.49

**EASTER PLANTS  
CT GROWN/WHOLESALE**

EASTER LILY, 6"	4.75
TULIPS, 6"	3.25
DAFFODILS, 6"	3.25
TULIPS, 10"	10.50

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION  
Middlefield, CT., March 23, 2015**

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	70.00	75.00
61-75 lbs.	120.00	180.00
76-90 lbs.	350.00	560.00
91-105 lbs.	370.00	380.00
106 lbs. & up	390.00	400.00
Farm Calves	410.00	420.00
Starter Calves	50.00	57.00
Veal Calves	160.00	192.50
Open Heifers	110.00	165.00
Beef Heifers	113.00	128.00
Feeder Steers	165.00	180.00
Beef Steers	128.00	130.00
Stock Bulls	135.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	139.00	143.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	110.00	160.00
Lambs	60.00	260.00
Goats each	120.00	340.00
Kid Goats	20.00	170.00
Canners	up to	111.00
Cutters	112.00	116.00
Utility Grade Cows	117.00	122.00
Rabbits each	7.00	32.50
Chickens each	4.00	23.00
Ducks each	15.00	25.00

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white  
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.72	1.89
LARGE	1.66	1.80
MEDIUM	1.25	1.38

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**Per doz. Grade A brown in  
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.07	2.17
LARGE	2.03	2.13
MEDIUM	1.52	1.62

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by  
hundred wt.

48-52	250-300 lbs	47.00	53.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00	50.00
52-56	200-250 lbs	67.00	75.00
	250-350 lbs	55.00	62.00
Sows, 1-3	400-550 lbs	30.00	38.00
	600-650 lbs	47.00	48.00

**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.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

19-R. 1988 International Model 1954, 22 foot body, excellent condition. New tires. \$12,000.00. Call Al 203-223-4853.

23. 6'X10' Trail-Flite trailer w/ramp, 15" tires. \$900.00 203-266-0722.

24. 1930's farm kitchen Home Comfort wood and coal cooking stove. \$850.00. 203-266-0722.

25-R. Hay for sale, from fertilized fields. \$5.00 per bale, 25 bale minimum. Large bales, no kickers. 203-453-9865.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-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.

**CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTON**

21-R. NYC Farmers' Market Salesperson and Van Driver – Excellent driver with strong personal skills to deliver and sell cheese at NYC farmers' markets. 18 hour day, 2 Saturdays/month, \$14/hour. [www.catocornerfarm.com](http://www.catocornerfarm.com) for info.

22-R. Van Delivery Driver – Deliver cheese to/from NYC farmers' markets. Two Saturdays/month. [www.catocornerfarm.com](http://www.catocornerfarm.com) for info.

**USDA SNAP SIGN-UP DAYS FOR CT FARMERS AND FARMERS' MARKETS MARCH 25th and 31st**

Farmers interested in becoming authorized to accept federal USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) coupons are encouraged to register at the following Sign-Up Days:

- Wednesday, March 25 - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road (Rt. 154), Haddam
- Tuesday, March 31 - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorne Ave., Derby



**Joseph DeFrancesco III, Connecticut's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2015.**

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Joe has demonstrated dedication toward helping the next generation of farmers gain real world experiences that will aid them in their future professional endeavors.

In 2011, Joe championed a forklift certification program with Lyman Hall Vocational High School where students earn OSHA licenses to operate forklifts and gain working knowledge and safety techniques that prepares them for potential employment at nurseries, farms, and supply companies.

Since 2010, Joe and Ida have sold roses grown at Pinchbeck Farms for the Roses for Autism project. With the relationship going deeper than just flower deliveries, they are supporters of Pinchbeck's efforts to foster meaningful employment and personal success for individuals with autism.

Joe's dedication to other local farms has developed a cooperative relationship that the community agrees is vital. Joe's stewardship mindset is evident when he describes what he does for a living.

"I have a passion for caring for seeds as they mature into food to feed my community," he says.

Joe continually strives to improve his own farm and growing practices, and to be an educated voice for the future of Connecticut agriculture. Joe and Ida are active in the New England Farmers Union and the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association.

The purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmer Program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of the farmers' endeavors, to develop a further appreciation for their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of the farmers' importance and impact on America's economy.

The state winner will be invited to compete in the National Outstanding Young Farmers Program.

The 2014 Connecticut winner Stacia Monahan, of Stone Gardens Farm in Shelton was a national semi-finalist.

The prior three winners, Jamie Jones of Jones Family Farm in Shelton, Russell Holmberg of Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry, and Matt Peckham of Elm Farm in Woodstock, were all national Top 10 finalists."

The Century Farm Award, also selected by the CAIC, is presented to a successful and innovative Connecticut farm in continuous operation for 100 years or more.

Dr. James A. LaMondia, Chief Scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, gave the following remarks in recognizing Holdridge:

"Holdridge Farm Nursery was started in 1912 by Judge Samuel Holdridge as a vegetable farm and mail order nursery for strawberry plants.

His son, Paul Holdridge Sr., added bare-root fruit trees and eventually a full line of nursery stock. A small store was built at the home farm at Geer Hill in 1941.

Paul Holdridge Jr. and Alden Holdridge, the third generation on the farm, each added their own initiatives. Paul Jr. expanded the retail sector and added hard goods.

Alden took over management of the growing operations and shifted from field-grown to container-grown nursery production. Currently, Holdridge Farm Nursery is the largest garden center and wholesale nursery in Southeastern Connecticut.

It is run by Shari Hewes, daughter of Paul Jr. and fourth-generation of the family on the farm.

Holdridge Farm Nursery grows vegetable plants, annuals, perennials, nursery stock and contract nursery stock on 60 acres, of which 16 acres are under irrigation for container production and nearly two acres of greenhouses.

The retail store in Ledyard Center is a landmark known for locally grown quality nursery stock and plants."



**Above: Governor Dannel P. Malloy, accompanied by Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, enjoys a cup of clam chowder prepared by the CT Seafood Council as he visits a booth set up by the agriculture department's Bureau of Aquaculture during last week's Agriculture Day at the Capitol.**

**Below: Dept. of Agriculture Animal Control Officer Barbara Godejohn explains her duties to a group of students from the Woodbury FFA and the Connecticut FFA Association.**



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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.  
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2015.

**VOL. XCV, No. 12, March 24, 2015**

## PARTICIPANTS IN 2015 AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

- American Farmland Trust/Working Lands Alliance
- Buy CT Grown
- City Seed
- CT Ag Ed Foundation
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station
- CT Apple Marketing Board
- CT Beekeepers Association
- CT Christmas Tree Growers Association
- CT Community Gardening Association
- CT Compost Alliance
- CT Dairy Industry Council
- CT Dept. of Agriculture
- CT Farm Risk Management
- CT Farmland Trust
- CT Food Bank
- CT Greenhouse Growers Assoc.
- CT Milk Promotion Board
- CT Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.
- CT Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
- CT Poultry Association, Inc.
- CT Professional Timber Producers Assoc. Inc.
- CT Seafood Council
- CT State Grange
- CT Vineyard and Winery Assoc.
- Eastern CT RC&D
- Fair Association
- Farm Bureau Assoc.
- Farm Credit East
- Farmer's Cow
- FoodShare
- Governor's Council for Agricultural Development
- Granby Agricultural Commission
- Jack McConnell Photography
- Lebanon Ag Commission
- Maple Syrup Producers Association of CT
- Roses for Autism
- Suffield Agricultural Commission
- UCONN
- USDA Farm Service Agency/NRCS
- Very Alive

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
[www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov) 860-713-2500

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