

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Oct. 4, 2016



PUMPKIN GROWERS ADAPT TO CHANGING MARKET DRIVEN BY RISING POPULARITY OF HALLOWEEN, SPECIALTY VARIETIES

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

ELLINGTON - The exploding popularity of celebrating Halloween has brought big changes to the pumpkin fields that have been a mainstay of the Cohen family farm for more than 25 years.

Where the traditional large, round orange variety used to carve a classic Jack O' Lantern once dominated, specialty pumpkins bred for unusual shapes, colors and skin features are taking over more and more acres every season.

"Used to be two varieties – Howden and New England Small Sugar," Harris Cohen recalled as he scanned a handwritten list of more than two dozen specialty pumpkins he and his brother Sandy planted this year. "Now Halloween's become a big deal and there's new varieties all the time. Gives me a headache."

The peculiar variety names alone are a clue as to how specialty pumpkins have quickly become an imaginative fixture in the Halloween landscape.

Red Warty. New Moon. Fairy Tale. Long Island Cheese. Porcelain Doll. Cotton Candy. Hooligan.

And for every name there is a distinctive look, from the flattened Cinderella that resembles an antique carriage to the Knucklehead, which appears to be covered in bulging green

warts.

"People like things that are strange and different," Cohen said. "That's what Halloween's all about."

The Cohens, whose ancestors began farming in town more than a century ago, started growing pumpkins in the 1980s. They soon became a major supplier to the Stew Leonard's grocery chain, which is known for its elaborate in-store holiday displays and remains their biggest customer.

"They take their pumpkins very seriously," Cohen said, noting that Stew Leonard and son Stew Jr. visit the farm at least once a year to inspect the crop.

With the addition of ten more acres of specialty varieties this season, the Cohens now grow about 140 acres of pumpkins, including fields in neighboring East Windsor and Somers.

Another 98 acres is in broadleaf tobacco, and they also grow hay and corn. One of the state's larger pumpkin growers, the Cohens started raising specialty pumpkins only four or five years ago when they became an in-demand item.

Many of the specialty varieties grow in a compact bush or semi-bush, as opposed to the traditional long vine.

(Continued on Page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	61.00	66.00
boners 80-85% lean	56.00	61.50
lean 88-90% lean	50.00	56.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	103.00	108.00
Choice 2-3	101.00	105.00
Sel 1-2	96.00	102.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	94.50	99.50
Ch 2-3 few	88.00	95.00
Sel 1-2 few	80.00	88.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	102.00	105.00
Ch 2-3 few	95.00	101.00
Sel 1-2 few	89.00	95.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-128 lbs	95.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
60-70 lbs	230.00	235.00
90-110 lbs	195.00	210.00
110-130 lbs	170.00	197.00
130-150 lbs	160.00	200.00
150-200 lbs	147.00	175.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	80.00	97.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	90.00
200-300 lbs	60.00	80.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	125.00	150.00
80-100 lbs	170.00	205.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	190.00	225.00
130-180 lbs	225.00	265.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
150-250 lbs	300.00	360.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

Sold by the head.

FRESH COWS:		
SUPREME	1600.00	1625.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	900.00	1200.00
CULL COWS:	300.00	775.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1475.00	1575.00
APPROVED	1350.00	1500.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1450.00	1575.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1425.00
MEDIUM	1100.00	1200.00
SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-3 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1225.00	1400.00
MEDIUM	1125.00	1150.00
OPEN HEIFERS (600-900 LBS):		
SUPREME	1125.00	1150.00
APPROVED	975.00	1125.00
MEDIUM	885.00	975.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	48.00	52.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	40.00	47.00
Sows, US	1-3 300-500 lbs	29.00	35.00
	500-800 lbs	36.00	41.00
Boars	200-400 lbs	22.00	30.00
	400-600 lbs	10.00	10.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72-88	31.00	32.00
APPLE, CORT, FCY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	16.00	18.00
APPLES, HNEYCRISP, LOOSE	55.00	55.00
APPLES, MCINTOSH, LOOSE	26.00	28.00
APPLE, MAC, XF, 2-1/2MIN, 12-3LB	22.00	23.00
APPLE, MC, FCY, 2-1/2MIN, 2-3LB	18.00	18.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	40.00	40.00
BEANS, GREEN, MACH PK, BU	24.00	28.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	30.00	32.00
BEET, CHIOGGA, LOOSE, 25 LBS	15.00	15.00
BEETS, GOLD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BEETS, RED, LOOSE, 25 LBS	7.00	7.00
BROCCOLI, CROWN, 20 LBS	11.00	15.00
BRUSSELLS SPROUTS, 25 LBS	40.00	40.00
CABBAGE, 50 LBS	12.00	12.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 9	12.00	14.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 12	12.00	14.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
COLLARDS, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	12.00
CORN, INDIAN, MINI, 12-3, 1/2 BU	28.00	30.00
CORN, INDIAN, 20-3, 1-1/9	38.00	40.00
CORNSTALKS, 10/BUNDLE	4.75	5.00
CORN, STRAWB, MINI, 15-3, 1/2BU	28.00	30.00
CORN, SWT, BI-COLR, 60	10.00	16.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	28.00	28.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9, FANCY	12.00	14.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9, #1	7.00	11.00
EGGPLANT, CHINESE, 1/2 BU	24.00	25.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, 20 LBS	15.00	16.00
GOURDS, ORN, SHELLAC, 1/2BU	22.00	23.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	14.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB	21.00	22.00
PEPPERS, GREEN, LRG, 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
PEPPERS, GREEN, MED, 1-1/9	10.00	12.00
RADISHES, 24 BUNCHES	13.00	14.00
SQUASH, ACORN/BTTNT, 1-1/9	12.00	15.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1-1/9	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, GREEN, #1, 1/2 BU	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, GREEN, MED, 1/2 BU	8.00	10.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, #1, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, YEL, MED, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	11.00	14.00
SWISS CHARD, RAINBOW, 12	15.00	16.00

NEW ENGLAND WHOLESALE PUMPKINS

\$ per unit.

BIG MACK, XL, 24" BIN	260.00	285.00
BLUE, XL, 24" BIN	260.00	285.00
CINDERELLA, 36" BIN, /LB	.27	.27
CNDERLA, ORNG, XL, 24" BIN	260.00	285.00
CNDERLA, WHT, XL, 24" BIN	260.00	285.00
FAIRYTALE, OR/WT, XL, 24" BIN	260.00	285.00
FAIRYTALE, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
HOWDEN, 36" BIN, /LB	.21	.21
HOWDEN, ORNG, JMB, 36" BIN	200.00	225.00
HOWDEN, ORNG, L, XL, 36" BIN	180.00	225.00
HOWDEN, ORNG, M-L, 36" BIN	180.00	225.00
HOWDEN, ORNG, M, SM, 36" BIN	180.00	225.00
KNUCKLEHEAD, XL, 24" BIN	260.00	285.00
MINI, ROUND, ORANGE, 1/2 BU	15.00	18.00
MINI, ROUND, WHITE, 1/2 BU	15.00	18.00
MINI, FLAT, ORANGE, 1/2 BU	15.00	18.00
MINI, FLAT, WHITE, 1/2 BU	15.00	18.00
PIE, SMALL, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
PIE, M-L, 36" BIN	250.00	300.00
PIE, SMALL, 36" BIN	200.00	220.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - October 3, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	32.00	36.00
61-75 lbs.	49.00	52.00
76-90 lbs.	53.00	56.00
91-105 lbs.	57.50	59.00
106 lbs. & up	60.00	62.00
Farm Calves	63.00	70.00
Starter Calves	23.00	26.00
Veal Calves	105.00	180.00
Open Heifers	130.00	150.00
Beef Heifers	55.00	75.00
Feeder Steers	120.00	130.00
Beef Steers	65.00	78.00
Stock Bulls	125.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	70.00	85.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	30.00	80.00
Bred Sows	130.00	140.00
Butcher Hogs	70.00	85.00
Feeder Pigs each	20.00	52.50
Sheep each	50.00	230.00
Lambs each	60.00	300.00
Goats each	85.00	365.00
Kid Goats each	25.00	147.50
Canners	up to	59.50
Cutters	60.00	62.00
Utility Grade Cows	63.00	65.00
Rabbits each	12.00	27.50
Chickens each	3.00	32.50
Ducks each	8.00	20.00

Auction open Columbus Day, October 10

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.51	.70
LARGE	.45	.59
MEDIUM	.33	.46

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.01	1.12
LARGE	.93	1.03
MEDIUM	.54	.64
SMALL	.32	.42

USDA-NORTHEAST RETAIL DAIRY

Price Range. Per unit.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.50	5.00
BUTTER, ORG., 1 LB	5.99	5.99
CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.50	4.99
CHEESE, 1 LB	2.99	3.99
CHEESE, SHRED, 8 OZ	1.67	3.00
CHEESE, SHRED, 1 LB	3.99	3.99
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16OZ	1.99	3.00
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.50	2.99
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.99	4.99
MILK, ALL, 1/2 GAL	4.99	4.99
MILK, ALL, ORG., 1/2 GAL	3.00	4.99
MILK, ALL, ORG., GAL	5.49	5.49
MILK, ALL, ORG., 8 OZ, UHT	1.25	1.25
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.49	2.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6 OZ	.75	1.50
YOGURT, GREEK, 32 OZ	3.00	5.88
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	.40	.99
YOGURT, 32 OZ	1.99	3.49

(Continued from page 1)

That means rows can be planted five feet apart rather than the ten feet required for long-vine varieties. Pumpkins typically ripen in mid-August and the harvest begins a couple of weeks later.

The dry conditions this summer and fall did result in some crop loss for the Cohens and many other growers around the state.

"This fall was the most we ever had to irrigate," Cohen said. "Even where we watered, it was so hot some of the plants matured early and just gave up. But all in all the quality is good and the yield is average. Could have been a lot worse."

Pumpkins are quite susceptible to stress, so the Cohens also fertilize their fields with manure to help retain moisture and to provide nutrients that strengthen the plant's resistance to pests like the squash borer and diseases like powdery mildew.

Cohen said the pumpkin harvest typically peaks over the upcoming Columbus Day weekend, when wholesalers and retailers "load up" for the final stretch to Halloween.

Late last week, his crew of about 20 was busy picking and filling big cardboard bins destined for Stew Leonard's and other retailers.

The cartons are labeled with the "count" each contain, commonly 40 or 50 pumpkins, which is another relatively recent change that reflects consumers' gravitating away from the traditional large pumpkin and toward the specialty varieties.

"Used to be we sold by the pound and everybody wanted a 25 to 30 pound pumpkin," Cohen explained. "Now the market's gone from selling by the pound to selling by counts and unit pricing. It's all about the count."

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.

89-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, Spaghetti by the box or bin. East Windsor, Connecticut. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

90-R. For Sale: Mulch hay in 500 lb. round bales. Asking 19.00 per bale. Call Mike Sr. – 860-528-4660.

91-R. Rough sawn hemlock and pine lumber, great for fall time repairs and construction. Oak trailer decking and sideboards. Pine shiplap and Tongue & Groove perfect for barn siding. We welcome custom sawn orders. Custom furniture ranging from bar tops to outdoor furniture. Large inventory of live edge slabs. Hinman Lumber, Burlington, CT. 860-673-9170.

97-R. Truckload sale 1/2 bushel apple/peach baskets: \$2.00 each for 1000, \$3.00 each for 500. Doug 860-657-4172.

98-R. Round bales 4x4 haylage. Triple plastic wrapped. \$50.00. 150 bales. Griswold. Call 860-884-2889.

Pumpkins are being promoted in October by the Dept. of Agriculture in a number of ways. Promotions can be heard on iHeartRadio stations 92.5 FM, 105.9 FM and 95.7FM; Full Power Radio stations 97.1 FM, 99.5 FM and 104.5 FM.

They are also featured on Pandora radio, social media and the agency's website: www.ctgrown.gov/pumpkins, which includes a listing of farm stands in the state.

Consumers can also go to the agency's Pinterest page www.pinterest.com/GrowCTAGg to find Connecticut pumpkin patch listings, recipe ideas and more.



99-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm, commercial, life insurance, and more. Cell: 860-377-8947 to see how Nationwide compares.

100-R. For Sale: Christmas greens, wreaths and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fund raisers. 203-457-1344.

101-R. Wholesale Christmas trees. There are still Fraser, Balsam, and Canaan Firs available for 2016. Maple Lane Farms, 860-889-3766.

102-R. Ion Insurance now offers Agri-Business insurance. For all of your personal and business needs, we've got you covered. Contact us today: loninsurance.com, 203-729-5261 or toll-free 800-801-8013.

104-R. Complete dispersal auction for Millane Nurseries, Inc., 604 Main Street, Cromwell, CT 06416, Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9:30 a.m. (owners pursuing other interests). Inventory of nursery equipment and supplies, ag tractors, trucks, trailers, yard and field stock management equipment, repair shop tools, office furniture and fixtures, and more! Visit www.PetrowskyAuctioneers.com for more information, terms and conditions. Petrowsky Auctioneers, 275 Route 32, North Franklin, CT 06254. Office: 860-642-4200. Fax: 860-642-7900.

106-R. For sale: Rye straw. Clean and bright. Call 203-484-0664.

107. 4 ft. round Bale Shredder. Round bales haylage and corn silage. 1-860-857-3859.

WANTED

105-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

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-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.



Left: A crew picking pumpkins last week at the Cohen farm, including (above) the grayish-blue specialty variety Jarrahdale.



Below left: Harris Cohen with a load of pumpkins destined for sale at the Stew Leonard grocery chain.

Page 3: Cohen holding a Knucklehead, one of several varieties he is seen collecting in photo on Page 1.



CABOT OPEN FARM EVENT THIS SUNDAY

The following Connecticut farm families who are part of the 1,100 farms in New England and New York that own Cabot Creamery Co-operative are opening their gates this Sunday, Oct. 9 from 11am-2pm to show appreciation for their neighbor's support. The free event features activities such as hayrides, scavenger hunts and games for families.

- Blue Slope Farm, 144 Blue Hill Road, Franklin
- Fort Hill Farms, 260 Quaddick Road, Thompson
- Freund's Farm, 324 Norfolk Road, East Canaan
- Greenbacker's Brookfield Farm, 160 Wallingford Road, Durham
- Hastings Farm, 472 Hill Street, Suffield
- Laurelbrook Farm, 390 Norfolk Road, East Canaan
- Thorncrest Farm & Milk House Chocolates, 280 Town Hill Road, Goshen

Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVI, No. 39, Oct. 4, 2016

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Agricultural Development linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation cam.weimar@ct.gov	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2865
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519