Connecticut Weekly
Agricultural Report

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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STATE PEACH CROP DEVASTATED BY FEBRUARY DEEP FREEZE

By Steve Jensen
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As temperatures plummeted below zero during the second weekend of February, Glastonbury fruit growers Peter Teveris and his daughter Erica were of differing minds as to how the seven acres of peach trees at their Woodland Farm would fare in the deep freeze.

"He was definitely very concerned and I was saying we never lose *everything*, we'll be fine," Erica recalled. "I was wrong. This is a pretty big deal for every fruit grower in the area."

When the cold snap subsided, the Teveris' cut off a bundle of branches that were brought indoors, placed in water and monitored for a couple of weeks.

It's a common agricultural experiment done in hopes of seeing at least some buds pushing out signs of a live fruit or leaf bloom.

Instead, Erica said: "The buds just fell off the branches," a sign that their crop was likely doomed.

The Teveris' experience undoubtedly played out at countless fruit farms around Connecticut and the rest of southern New England after the freeze that has become known as the "Valentine's Day Massacre" in the farming world.

Crop losses of peaches and other stone fruits like plums and nectarines - which put their buds out soon after the previous year's harvest - are expected to be in the 90-percent range.

The extreme damage was caused not just by the sub-zero temperatures, but by the relative warmth of the winter up to that point that prevented the buds from "hardening" themselves against the cold.

Peter believes the problem was also worsened by the presence of sap in the tree and the buds, again due to the mild winter that kept it from descending into the roots, that froze when the cold spell hit.

"It was 12-below one night and 7-below the next," Peter recalled of that weekend. "A couple of days earlier it was in the 50s. We've been growing peaches for more than 30 years and I've never seen it this bad for us."

As he and his daughter walked through a hillside peach grove late last week to see if any buds were perhaps still viable, Erica pulled out her cell phone to show a visitor a photograph she had taken last spring when the trees were in full bloom, and one she took in the same spot this year that showed barren-branched trees resembling brown skeletons.

"Normally this would be all pink," she said as she looked

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	75.00	79.50
boners 80-85% lean	71.00	79.50
lean 88-90% lean	70.00	76.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	122.00	127.00
Choice 2-3	119.50	123.00
Sel 1-2	113.00	118.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime3-4	115.00	120.00
Ch 2-3	108.00	115.00
Sel 1-2	99.00	108.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	117.00	120.00
Ch 2-3	110.00	116.00
Select 1-2	107.00	111.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 98-118 lbs	210.00	235.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	270.00	305.00
50-60 lbs	252.00	285.00
60-70 lbs	248.00	260.00
80-90 lbs	222.00	227.00
90-110 lbs	220.00	245.00
110-130 lbs	215.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	90.00	100.00
120-160 lbs	80.00	102.00
160-200 lbs	82.00	100.00
200-300 lbs	80.00	90.00
BUCKS		
200-300 lbs	70.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	175.00	205.00
60-80 lbs	235.00	245.00
80-100 lbs	255.00	275.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:		
Sel1,by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	200.00	220.00
130-180 lbs	235.00	265.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	285.00	335.00
150-300 lbs	390.00	460.00
FRESH COWS		
Supreme	1700.00	1850.00
Approved	1450.00	1750.00
Medium	1100.00	1400.00
Common	700.00	1110.00
SPRINGING COWS		
Supreme	1600.00	1775.00
Approved	1325.00	1600.00
Medium	1050.00	1300.00
Common	900.00	1000.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	250-300 lbs	48.00	53.00
	300-400 lbs	41.00	44.00
	400-500 lbs	32.00	38.00
48-52	250-300 lbs	45.00	48.50
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	29.00	36.00
	500-700 lbs	32.00	39.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	31.00	40.00
	300-400 lbs	22.00	38.00
	400-800 lbs	4.00	4.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4OZ	16.00	16.50
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES,MACS, XFCY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLES, MACS, XFCY, 80, 88	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MACS, #1, 120, 140	15.00	16.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	5.00	6.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
FIDDLEHEADS, 10 LBS	60.00	65.00
PARSNIPS, 18–1 LB BAGS	22.00	23.00
TOMS, CHERRY, GHSE, 5LBS	16.00	18.00
TOMS,ONVINE, GHSE,11 LBS	13.00	14.00
TOMS,GHSE,VINERIPE, 25 LBS	13.00	13.00

SHIPPED IN

ASPARAGUS,NJ,LG, 28 LB	66.00	66.00
BEANS,WAX,GA,MACH PK,BU	40.00	40.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, 12 BUNCHES	18.00	18.00
BLUEBERRIES,GA,12-1PT	20.00	24.00
BOK CHOY, FL, 50 LBS	26.00	28.00
BOKCHOY,BABY, FL, 1.5 BU	24.00	27.00
CABBAGE, RED, GA, 50 LBS	17.00	18.00
CARROTS, GA, JMBO, 50 LBS	17.00	19.00
CELERY, FL, 2 DOZ	14.00	15.00
CHERRIES,CA,16LBS,9.5,BAGS	72.00	72.00
CHINESE CABBAGE,NJ,30 LBS	22.00	22.00
CHOY SUM, LONG, CA, 30 LBS	35.00	35.00
COLLARDS, GA, 24	12.00	13.00
CORN, BICOLOR,FL,4 4-1/2 DZ	13.00	16.00
CUKE, PICKLE, FL, M-L,1-1/9	24.00	28.00
DANDELION GRN, TX, 12 BNCH	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, FL, MED, 1-1/9	14.00	20.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 24	14.00	14.00
ESCAROLE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	18.00	18.00
GAI CHOY, CA, PER LB	1.00	1.00
GARLIC, ELEPHANT,CA,10 LBS	38.00	42.00
GINGER ROOT, HI, 30 LBS	50.00	50.00
GRAPE, SDLS,ORG,CA, 18 LBS	52.00	52.00
KALE, GA, 12	13.00	14.00
LEEKS, NJ, 12	18.00	18.00
LETT,BSTN, NJ, 24	16.00	18.00
LET,BOSTN, GHSE, ON,12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
LETTUCE, GRN LEAF, NJ, 24	27.00	28.00
LET, RD OAKLEAF, CA, 2.2 LBS	11.00	13.00
MACHE, GHSE, PA, 3LBS	12.00	12.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.00	6.50
MESCLUN MIX, ORG, CA, 3 LBS	8.00	8.00
MUSHRM,WHT,ORG,PA,12/80Z	17.00	17.00
MUSHRM, SHITAKE, PA, 3 LBS	14.00	15.00
MUSHRM, OYSTER, PA, 3 LBS	13.00	13.25
MUSTARD, GA, BNCHED, 24	14.00	15.00
NECTARINE,CA,25 LBS,70-72	30.00	34.00
OKRA, FL, 1/2 BU	14.00	16.00
OPO SQUASH, CA, 35 LBS	42.00	42.00
PARSLEY, NJ, 60	30.00	32.00
PEACHES,GA,2-1/4"MIN,1/2 BU	22.00	22.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, CA, 30 LBS	46.00	50.00
PEPPER, BELL, FL, LG, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
RADISHES, NJ, BNCH, 2 DOZ	14.00	14.00
SPINACH, FLAT, NJ, BNCH, 24	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, FL, 1/2 BU	13.00	16.00
STRAWBRY,CA, ORG, 8-1 LB	19.00	19.00
SWISS CHARD, RED, CA, 12	16.00	18.00
TOMATO, GRN, FL, 5X6	10.00	12.00
TURNIP TOPS, GA, 24	14.00	15.00
ZUCCHINI, FL, SM, 1/2 BU	12.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - May 16, 2016

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	120.00	140.00
76-90 lbs.	142.50	147.50
91-105 lbs.	150.00	155.00
106 lbs. & up	157.50	162.50
Farm Calves	170.00	340.00
Starter Calves	52.00	55.00
Veal Calves	155.00	170.00
Open Heifers	130.00	140.00
Beef Heifers	81.00	95.00
Feeder Steers	115.00	160.00
Beef Steers	100.00	119.00
Stock Bulls	150.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	89.00	104.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	11.00	14.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	45.00	85.00
Sheep each	75.00	120.00
Lambs each	100.00	195.00
Goats each	60.00	240.00
Kid Goats each	35.00	100.00
Canners	up to	74.00
Cutters	75.00	80.00
Utility Grade Cows	81.00	83.00
Rabbits each	5.00	22.00
Chickens each	3.00	22.50
Ducks each	10.00	19.00

Auction open Memorial Day, May 30, 2016

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.54	.70
LARGE	.48	.62
MEDIUM	.35	.48

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.03	1.24
LARGE	.95	1.15
MEDIUM	.55	.69
SMALL	.50	.60

USDA NATIONAL RETAIL REPORT ORGANIC BEEF - MAY 13-19, 2016

Per pound

BEEF PATTIES	8.29	11.99
BEEF SHORT RIBS	7.99	7.99
NY STRIP STEAK	9.99	14.99
BNLS RIBEYE STEAK	12.99	14.99
BNLS SIRLOIN STEAK	17.58	17.58
BNLS TOP SIRLOIN	10.99	10.99
B/IN RIBEYE STEAK	14.99	14.99
B/IN STRIP STEAK	8.99	14.99
FILET MIGNON	21.99	21.99
GROUND BEEF 80-89%	4.49	11.99
GROUND BEEF 90% +	6.99	7.99
LONDON BROIL	7.99	7.99
SIRLOIN STEAK	8.99	8.99
SKIRT STEAK	19.99	19.99
TENDERLOIN	19.99	29.99

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.

45-R. Retiring from farming. Greenhouse and vegetable equipment for sale. www.wagonroadgreenhouse.com for pictures and details.

47-R. For Sale: Model 580B backhoe loader. $4,500.00. Ford 8N. $1,000.00. Sylvan Tetrault 860-684-3458.

49-R. For Sale: Parts for Grimm hay tedders. Also, rough lumber. Sylvan Tetrault. 860-684-3458.

50-R. Ford 101 2 bottom breakaway plow. $400.00. MF 2 row planter with fertilizer hopper. Multiple seed discs. $600.00. JD 48" plastic layer. $500.00 O.B.O. East Killingly. Call 860-779-2107.

51-R. New Holland 7 foot Haybine 472. Call 860-859-1965.

54-R. 9 foot spring tooth harrow. $175.00. 3ph 2 row cultivators. $250.00. Old silage chopper and blower, belt driven, steel wheels. $125.00. Three 5 foot stainless steel troughs, good for water or feed. $100.00 each. 860-237-1107.

55-R. Used 12' pressure treated fence posts. Quantity pricing. Call or text 860-559-3009 or 860-888-3798.

57. FORECLOSURE AUCTION May 21, 2016; former farm in Colchester/Lebanon. DOCKET NO. KNL-CV-14-6020517-S. Committee of Sale: Donna R. Skaats 860-886-9322. See Foreclosure Sales at www.jud.ct.gov for more details.

58. Save Time, Labor and Money. GLEASON Soil Mixer, 1 yard with cell, flat, pot filler, with agitator, brushes, roller, with elevator and soil return. Very good condition. Strong as an army tank with unbelievable number of adjustments. Four separate units. Offered at less than one-third value, at $7,500.00. Designed and built by a genius, Gordon Gleason. This "work flow" system will last a life time. Wheeler Farm, 171 Bartlett Street, Portland, CT 06480. Tel: 860-342-2374, E-Mail: bebelarson1@gmail.com

WANTED

17-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/Softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

52-R. Hoop Houses-Disassembled with all hardware and ready to transport. Somers, CT. call 203-544-8411. Lv msg.

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.

24-R. The Connecticut Military Department has indoor stalls for lease at the Governor's Horse Guard facilities in Avon and Newtown. Monthly rate is $350.00. For further information, please visit our website at www.ct.gov/mil/stall-lease or call 860-524-4968. Proceeds benefit Connecticut Governor's Horse Guards.

CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

53-R. Vegetable Grower wanted, PT/FT. Farm owners looking for the right person to expand farm's existing acreage in production to include vegetables. Please contact Charles for information at 203-214-1408 or crbeasely@albertus.edu.

56-R. Full time position available. Angus cattle farm. Construction work. Call or text 860-559-3009.

STATE PEACH CROP DEVASTATED BY FEBRUARY DEEP FREEZE

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in vain to find a surviving bud. Next to a row of peach trees stood a few apricot trees that were outright killed by the cold snap.

The Teveris' believe a few varieties of their plums may have survived, as did the cherries and apples on their 35-acre farm, which is surrounded by several other fruit farms that suffered similar damage.

But it's the peaches that are the biggest draw at the dozen farmers' markets across the state where the Teveris' do almost all of their retail sales.

"Peaches are definitely our most popular fruit," Peter said. "On a good week we'll go through 150 boxes," containing a half-bushel each.

Farmers who still want to offer peaches to their customers may have to look in California, or as far south as Georgia and South Carolina.

Traditional peach-growing areas closer to home like New Jersey and the Hudson River Valley in New York also sustained considerable damage, if not the near-total wipeout further north.

The situation is expected to drive up the price of peaches, but cost is not what bothers Peter. Even if peaches are available in other states, he says he'd have a hard time offering them to his customers.

"After all these years of growing them," he said, "I'd hate to buy somebody else's peaches."

And although his peach trees won't bear fruit this season, Peter noted they can't just be ignored.

Pests like the peach borer and diseases like leaf-rot have to be dealt with, regardless.

"The trees might not have any peaches," Peter said with a chuckle as he prepared for a chore that he hopes will help his trees recover to bear fruit again next year. "But you still have to spray them."

UCONN OFFERING SUMMER RIDING LESSONS

UCONN is offering summer horseback riding lessons in Polo, Western, Trail, Hunt Seat, and Dressage at its Storrs campus.

Lessons are open to children 11 or older (Trail-13 years and older) and adults. Beginner to advanced levels will be offered by the university's Animal Science department.

There are several 2 and 3 week sessions available during the months of May through August. Cost is $70.00 to $315.00 per session, which are group lessons including six to eight students

Lessons will be held at the horse arena on Horsebarn Hill Road.

For more details please visit:
UConnSummerRiding.UConn.edu

Top left: A peach tree bud at Woodland Farm that never bloomed after a February cold snap now known as the "Valentine's Day Massacre" for the damage it caused to stone fruit crops across the Northeast.

Left: Peter Teveris and his daughter Erica looking for any living buds in one of their peach groves.

Page 1: Photos taken by Erica about a year apart in the same grove document the near-total devastation of this year's peach crop.

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