

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
October 22, 2014



**Diane Jorsey prunes a Concolor fir at her DeMaria Family Farm in Kensington. The farm is a member of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, which recently received a grant through the Dept. of Agriculture to fund experiments designed to combat damaging root-rot in fir Christmas trees.**

## **USDA/CT. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE GRANTS FUND WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF SPECIALTY CROPS**

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

Diane Jorsey hasn't yet seen any signs of root-rot in the fir trees at her Kensington farm, but that doesn't mean she and the state's other Christmas tree growers aren't constantly on the lookout for the deadly disease known as *Phytophthora*.

"Everybody's monitoring it. Everybody's looking for symptoms because it can be so devastating," Jorsey said as she neared completion of the yearly task of pruning the thousands of trees at her 100-acre DeMaria Farms.

Jorsey is a member of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, which recently received a federal USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant through the state Department of Agriculture to continue research into how to mitigate spread of the disease.

"It's a major problem all over the country," said Richard Cowles, a scientist with the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), which is conducting experiments on behalf of the Christmas tree growers' association. "Some of the worst sites can see a 30-percent loss of their crop."

The *Phytophthora* disease organism thrives in wet soil, he said, and is especially devastating to popular fir species native to North

America, such as the Fraser and Canaan. Infected trees typically turn brown, often just before they are ready to be harvested and sold after 5 to 7 years of growth.

"They just about get to saleable size and they die," Cowles said. "When you look at the time and energy spent to get that tree to maturity it's just heartbreaking."

The experiment began in 2010, when Cowles and other CAES staff planted about 900 firs of various species at each of three sites, in Griswold, Shelton and Brooklyn.

While some non-native trees such as Turkish and Nordmann firs proved fairly resistant to root-rot, the Canaan and especially Fraser firs were found to be highly susceptible to it.

Funded by the recent specialty-crop block grant award of just over \$31,000, all of the Canaan and Fraser firs were removed from the Brooklyn site and will be replaced with new ones.

But this time, the soil in half of the plots in which they grow will be amended with sulphur, which increases soil acidity and makes it less hospitable to the *Phytophthora* organism.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, Oct. 20, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	60.00	70.00
61-75 lbs.	160.00	180.00
76-90 lbs.	260.00	270.00
91-105 lbs.	280.00	285.00
106 lbs. & up	290.00	295.00
Farm Calves	300.00	310.00
Starter Calves	50.00	55.00
Veal Calves	70.00	130.00
Open Heifers	85.00	132.50
Beef Steers	115.00	145.00
Beef Heifers	110.00	136.00
Feeder Steers	100.00	130.00
Stock Bulls	120.00	135.00
Beef Bulls	124.00	144.00
Boars	1 at	14.00
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	115.00	125.00
Goats each	70.00	120.00
Kid Goats	35.00	50.00
Canners	up to	107.00
Cutters	108.00	111.00
Utility Grade Cows	112.00	115.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	4.00	40.00
Chickens each	3.00	18.00
Ducks each	5.00	10.00
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Lambs	45.00	130.00
Sheep	90.00	110.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
48-52	200-300 lbs	n/a	
	300-350 lbs	n/a	
52-56	200-300 lbs	88.00	91.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	70.00	71.00
	500-700 lbs	73.50	74.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	40.50	41.00

**DIRECT TO CONSUMER****RETAIL BEEF****VERMONT GRASS FED (\$/LB)**

TENDERLOIN	15.00	22.00
DELMONICO	12.00	22.00
TBONE	11.30	20.00
NY STRIP	13.00	19.00
HAMBURGER	5.50	8.00
STEW	5.50	8.00
BRISKET	6.50	9.75
SHORT RIB	5.00	7.75

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HI
POTATOES,RUSSET,80CT	14.00	14.00
SQUASH,BUTTERCUP,1 1/9	16.00	17.00
CIDER 4/1GAL	17.00	17.00
APPLE,MUSTU,BU	20.00	24.00
RADISHES,24'S	14.00	14.00
BROCCOLI,CROWNS,20LB	15.00	17.00
CRANBERRIES,24/12OZ	32.00	32.00
POTATOES,10LB	2.50	2.60
COLLARD	10.00	12.00
CORN,5DZ	10.00	12.00
CAULIFLOWER,9-12CT	16.00	20.00
CAULIFLOWER,26" BIN	125.00	140.00
BEAN SPROUTS,10LB	4.50	6.00
KALE,12'S	10.00	14.00
POTATOES,CHEF,50LB	10.00	14.00
CABBAGE,GREEN,BOX	9.00	12.00
SQUASH,ACORN,1 1/9	12.00	15.00
PEPPER,CUBANELLE 11/9BU	10.00	12.00
CHIVES,1 LB	8.00	10.00
PEPPER,BELL,GREEN XL	14.00	14.00
PEPPERS SUNTAN ,1 1/9	7.00	10.00
RHUBARB 20 IB LGE	30.00	32.00
POTATOES,FNGRLINGS,20LB	20.00	20.00
SQUASH,BUTTERNUT,1 1/9	11.00	13.00
TOMATOES.HEIRLOOM,10LB	24.00	26.00
SQUASH,SPAGHETTI,1 1/9	16.00	20.00
SWISS CHARD,12'S	16.00	18.00
PARSNIPS,25LB	24.00	24.00
GRAPE,CONCORD ,8/1QT	22.00	24.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,96CT XFC	26.00	28.00
APPLE,GALA,80CT,XFCY	28.00	30.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,12/3	17.00	22.00
PEAR,BOSC,4/5BU	26.00	26.00
APPLE,CORT,120CT,FCY	19.00	19.00
APPLE,MACOUN,100CTX,FC	28.00	32.00

**WHOLESALE SEASONAL NEW ENGLAND**

INDIAN CORN ,20/3'S	27.00	30.00
PMPKN, HOWDEN,36"BIN,JBO	150.00	180.00
PMPKN,PIE,sm,36"bin,med	250.00	280.00
PMPKN,PIE,1 1/9bu	12.00	18.00
CORN STALKS	4.50	4.50
PMPKN,MINI,1/2BU	13.00	18.00
GOURDS,SHELLACKED,20LB	18.00	22.00
STRAW BALE	6.00	9.00

**NORTHEAST RETAIL APPLE PRICES****WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE**

GALA	IB	1.12
GALA	3IB	2.00
HONEYCRSP	IB	2.41
MACS	IB	1.08
MACS	3IB	2.81
JONAGOLD	IB	.89
JONAGOLD	3IB	2.00

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Average Dressing

	Low	High
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	109.00	114.00
boners 80-85% lean	107.00	112.00
lean 85-90% lean	99.00	105.00
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 114-128lbs	355.00	372.00
No 2 112-128lbs	357.00	367.00
No 3 100-130lbs	340.00	350.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm3-4	157.00	162.50
Ch2-3	149.00	154.00
Sel2-3	137.00	139.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	161.00	167.00
Ch2-3	155.00	160.00
Sel2-3	145.00	155.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	155.00	160.00
Ch2-3	150.00	154.00
Sel1-2	143.00	149.00
VEALERS	n/a	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
50-60lbs	188.00	192.00
60-80lb	170.00	194.00
80-110lbs	166.00	200.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
100-120lbs	76.00	90.00
110-150lbs	70.00	90.00
Bucks		
180-220.lbs	82.00	90.00
200-250lbs	50.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	135.00	160.00
60-80lb	132.00	177.00
80-100lb	147.00	197.00
Nannies/Does:110-130lbs	152.00	187.00
130-170lbs	167.00	197.00
Bucks/Billies: 130-150lbs	240.00	285.00
160-180lbs	240.00	265.00

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.20	1.23
LARGE	1.19	1.23
MEDIUM	1.08	1.10

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.61	1.71
LARGE	1.58	1.68
MEDIUM	1.26	1.36

**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.

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).

117-R. Rough sawn hemlock and white pine lumber, great for fall time repairs and new construction. Also, year end inventory bargains on air dried oak and mixed hardwood lumber sold as units of approx.. 500 board feet each. We welcome your custom orders to be sawn. Hinman Lumber, Burlington, CT 860-673-9170.

120-R. Christmas Greens, wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Samples gladly shown. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

122-R. Dual Dump Wagon Model 1200, works good, \$1,500. JD 2940 with turbo, \$10,500. JD 6310 4X4 with 740 loader, \$24,000. JD 530, \$5,000. New 11 ft Pequea Rake, \$6,500. NH 1465 haybine, \$8,500. Balers, Rake and Tettors. 203-530-4953.

126-R. Agrimetal strawberry square bale mulcher for sale. New floor, belts, blades. \$2,900, Paul 860-350-3158.

127-R. For Sale: Wholesale pumpkins, corn stalks, gourds, hay. Mitchell Farm, Southbury. 203-264-1588, 203-731-1314 or: [jamsouth@aol.com](mailto:jamsouth@aol.com)

133-R. Red Delicious Apples, Field Run. Best Prices. Call Mike @ 860-712-2919.

135-R. Connecticut Grown Potatoes, Wholesale in Bulk Bins. 860-644-1454.

137-R. Round Baler JD 385 like new \$6000, Square Baler NH 271 nice \$3000, 17ft Hydra Tedder TD200 Vermeer \$3000, Kuhn GT3200 rake \$3200, NH 478 mower haybine \$3000, 1961 460 IH utility tractor 2 wet lines all redone \$4200. 6ft brush hog \$800, Farm Stand on wheels 400, 3-run in sheds 10x16 U Move \$1500 ea, brand new greenhouse sold complete, new poly 27x44 11ft ceiling U Remove \$4500, 8x16 Haywagon like new \$1,200. Call Tom or txt 860-491-8324.

138-R. Complete snowplow assembly for Farmall M Narrow frontload. \$1,000 or B.O. Call 860-305-5515.

**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.

130-R. Fitch Fibers - Bozrah, CT. Custom fiber processing. 860-222-3119. [www.fitchfibers.com](http://www.fitchfibers.com)

**DEADLINE FOR FARM TRANSITION AND VIABILITY GRANTS IS NOV. 14**

For applications or further information, please contact Ron Olsen at the Department of Agriculture:

(860) 713-2550 or [ronald.olsen@ct.gov](mailto:ronald.olsen@ct.gov), or visit

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

**UCONN BEEF AUCTION NOV. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

UConn's annual Beef Auction will be held Sunday, Nov. 2 at the school's Cattle Resource Unit (Heifer Barn) located on Horsebarn Hill Road on the Storrs campus.

The event is free and open to the public. Preview of animals begins at 10 a.m. and the auction will be held at noon. .

**2014 SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT AWARDED**

(Continued From Page 1)

But this time, the soil in half of the plots in which they grow will be amended with sulphur, which increases soil acidity and makes it less hospitable to the *Phytophthora* organism.

"We're trying to see if we can treat the soil to give the trees an advantage over the disease," Cowles said. "If we can get these trees to survive we may have solved one of the toughest problems for Christmas tree growers."

The project is one of several funded by the 2014 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant awarded through the state Department of Agriculture. The agency works extensively with applicants to develop grant proposals that enhance the competitiveness of Connecticut's specialty crops and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public.

Funds cannot be used to benefit a single producer, individual, organization or institution. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture.

The Dept. of Agriculture received one of the grants to enhance its Connecticut Grown marketing campaign by producing radio advertisements that will promote the state's specialty crops on a year-round, seasonal basis through 2017.

The \$100,000 ad campaign stems from a recommendation from the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development – reconstituted by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and the General Assembly in 2012 - to create a multi-year, statewide marketing program to promote Connecticut Grown products.

This significant grant will be expended in concert with the agency's annual Connecticut Grown budget of \$100,000. The campaign is scheduled to begin this December by highlighting Christmas trees and other holiday plants.

Each following month will feature seasonal products coming to market such as honey and maple syrup, spring bedding plants and vegetables and popular fruit crops such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and apples as the season progresses.

"This campaign will be a very direct and effective way to promote and increase sales of our world-class Connecticut Grown crops and products," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "I look forward to seeing the bottom-line results that I believe our farm families will get from this effort on their behalf."

Other projects funded by the recent USDA grant include:

**Demonstrating the Use and Value of Scientific Based Management Tools for Fertilizer Decisions: UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture - \$54,793.**

The final phase of a three-part project addressing the most-cited issue identified by Connecticut fruit growers in a 2013 needs-assessment survey.

The project will partner UConn with 15 fruit growers (berry, grape, tree fruit) in Connecticut to further their knowledge in basing fertilizer programs on scientific evidence of need.

The project's goal is to increase the number of fruit growers using tissue and soil analysis to develop fertilizer programs, reduce unnecessary fertilization applications, improve fruit quality and/or yield as a result of changes in fertilizer practices, and show evidence of any tangible improvement in returns at participating farms.

Results of the three-year project will be disseminated to all Connecticut fruit growers and related industry personnel through fact-sheets, the UConn website, email listserv, newsletters and grower meetings.

**Technical Development of Year-Round Hydroponic Strawberry Cultivation in Controlled Environment Agriculture: Agrivolution, New Haven - \$73,404**

(Continued on Page 4)



**An experimental field in Brooklyn where about 60 Fraser firs died from Phytophthora root rot.**

**2014 SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT AWARDED**  
(Continued from Page 3)

Strawberries are in high demand throughout the year, but due to the very short growing season and high labor requirements, many state growers have lost significant market share to out-of-state producers over the years.

Hydroponic farming in controlled environment agriculture (CEA) has emerged as an increasingly popular alternative method to produce pesticide-free fruits and vegetables.

A subset of the CEA technique, indoor vertical farming, enables higher-density production and harvests year-round.

This project will research and develop hydroponic techniques for growing strawberries using CEA methods that increase productivity by at least 50 percent while mitigating risks for the producers.

Through seminars and workshops, the project goal is to enhance the competitiveness of Connecticut producers by achieving a 10-percent CEA adoption rate.

**Enhancing the Competitiveness of New England Specialty Crops through Regional Collaboration: Harvest New England Association - \$6,000**

Created in 1992, Harvest New England is the only regional marketing association comprising all state departments of agriculture in New England. This 3-year project will work toward increasing sales of regional specialty crops by New England wholesalers and increased awareness of regional specialty crops by consumers through the following initiatives:

*Producer Education:* 2015 and 2017 Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference and Trade Show.

*Consumer Education:* Passport to New England during the 2015, 2016, 2017 Harvest New England Day at the Big E.

*Producer Buying Opportunities:* Wholesale Matchmaking throughout New England.

The project responds to desires expressed by the industry and the continued need for consumer education on the availability of New England grown specialty crops, including regional wholesale buying for sales to school, institutions, and restaurants.

**Exploring the Economic and Production Viability of Ethnic Vegetables and Novel Small Fruits in Connecticut: UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics - \$23,441**

This project will identify the demand and size of markets for ethno-cultural vegetables and novel fruits in Connecticut, and provide much needed research into production and marketing opportunities, as well as barriers.

The goal is to provide high-impact production and marketing information to Connecticut specialty crop producers to meet demand for these products by both ethnic and non-ethnic consumers within the state.

The project also will engage new and disadvantaged farmers, including ethnic and urban producers, in order to facilitate increased production throughout the state and in urban areas.

**Producing Cut Flowers for Profit and to Enhance Biological Control of Vegetable Pests: UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture - \$75,000**

With a heightened interest and need to develop integrated pest management systems that include help from the pests' natural enemies, the goal of this project is to provide additional pest-management tools and crop plant information to benefit vegetable and flower growers.

The specialty crops that will benefit from this project are cut flowers, peppers and cole crops.

One approach that has been successfully employed in a variety of vegetable and fruit crops is conservation biological control.

In conservation biological control, flowering plants that attract natural enemies are strategically added in proximity to the crop plants.

The purpose of this project is to research the suitability of a number of plants that can attract key natural enemies and also provide an economic benefit from their sale as cut or dried flowers and herbs.

**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.  
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