Connecticut Weekly
AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Oct. 27, 2015

Hops researcher Vic Triolo (left) and farm manager Rich Cecarelli inspect hops grown this summer at the CAES Lockwood Farm in Hamden with the help of a grant from the state Department of Agriculture.

EXPANSION, ADVANCES BREWING IN CONNECTICUT HOP GROWING

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

With the surge in "craft beer" breweries operating in the state, Victor Triolo believes the time has come for more locally-brewed beer to be made from Connecticut Grown hops.

"Connecticut has the potential to be the hub of what could become a very good cash crop," said Triolo, a retired professor and hops enthusiast who with the help of a state Department of Agriculture grant is running a hops-growing research project at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) stations in Hamden and Windsor.

Although the number of craft breweries in the state has exploded to about 50 in recent years, only a handful of breweries and farms are growing hops. Most rely on hops grown in the Northwest and shipped here in pellet or flake form.

Triolo says that since the essential hop oils and resins that impart flavors of citrus and pine to beer deteriorate very quickly, being able to use locally-grown hops would make for a fresher and tastier brew.

"For the most part, we're not really making Connecticut beer - we're making Oregon and Washington beer," Triolo said. "But I think we have the conditions here to grow quality hops that can produce beer that is as good as any on the market."

Next week, Triolo will lead a meeting of brewers, hop growers and agricultural officials at the Windsor station that he hopes will lead to the formation of a Connecticut Hop Growers Alliance.

He envisions the Alliance working with the recently-formed Connecticut Craft Brewers Guild, the Connecticut Beer Trail and state officials to expand the farming of hops in state and promote the craft-brewing industry's growth in a variety of ways.

"This crop presents many opportunities for Connecticut farmers and brewers," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "The Department of Agriculture is committed to working with stakeholders and researchers at the CAES to grow this sector of Connecticut Agriculture."

Hops, or *Humulus lupulus*, is a perennial that actually grows wild in Connecticut, and in the 1800s was farmed here in significant amounts. It is widely believed that Prohibition led to hops being mostly replaced by tobacco as a cash crop.

Triolo estimates that there are now perhaps a dozen hop growers in the state, most with only a few acres or less, as well as a host of backyard growers who raise them for brewing beer at home.

Among the few breweries to grow some of their own hops on a small scale are Two Roads Brewing Co. in Stratford, Black Hog Brewery in Oxford and Kent Falls Brewing Company in Kent, which has about 1.5 acres in production and advertises itself as "An American Farmhouse Brewery."

Triolo said one of the impediments to raising hops is the cost of

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

	Avg. Dressing	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS:			
breakers 75-80% lean		77.00	82.00
boners 80-85% lean		76.00	81.00
lean 88-90% lean		73.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS			
HiCh/Prm 3-4		132.00	134.00
Ch2-3		128.50	132.00
Sel1-3		123.00	127.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS			
HiCh/Prm 3-4		112.00	116.00
Ch2-3		106.00	110.00
Sel1-2		n/a	n/a
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS			
HiCh/Prm		128.50	133.00
Ch2-3		n/a	n/a
Sel2-3		n/a	n/a
CALVES Graded bull			
No 1 100-110 lbs		325.00	350.00
No 1 80-95 lbs		350.00	375.00
CALVES Graded heifers			
No 1 80-95 lbs		325.00	350.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA

SLAUGHTER LAMBS:	Non-Traditional Markets: Ch/Prime 2-3		
50-60 lbs		300.00	305.00
60-70 lbs		235.00	255.00
110-130 lbs		182.00	184.00
SLAUGHTER EWES:	Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs		64.00	84.00
BUCKS			
160-200 lbs		90.00	140.00
200-300 lbs		70.00	127.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS:	Select 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs		155.00	170.00
60-80 lbs		205.00	225.00
80-100 lbs		240.00	240.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:	Sel1,by head, est.		
n/a		n/a	n/a
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES:	Select 1		
100-150 lbs		230.00	275.00
150-250 lbs		245.00	290.00
SLAUGHTER WETHERS:	sel 1, by head		
80-100 lbs		290.00	300.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA., HOG AUCTION

All prices per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	56.00	66.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00	54.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	42.00	47.00
	300-350 lbs	42.00	47.00
Sows1-3	300-500 lbs	46.50	50.00
	500-850 lbs	49.00	55.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	6.00	7.00

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US #1-2			
	20-30 lb	100.00	150.00
	30-40 lb	50.00	80.00
	40-50 lb	85.00	95.00
	50-60 lb	70.00	85.00
	60-70 lb	40.00	75.00
US #2-3			
	20-30 lb	80.00	80.00
	50-60 lb	65.00	90.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES, CORTLAND, NG, BU	14.00	14.00
APPLES,CORTLAND, FCY, BU	20.00	20.00
APPLES, CORTLAND, #1, BU	19.00	19.00
APPLES, FUJI, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES,GALA, FCY, BU	16.00	16.00
APPLES, GALA, NG, BU	20.00	20.00
APPLES, GLDN DEL, NG, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES,HNYCRSP,XFCY,64	32.00	32.00
APPLES,HNYCRSP,XFCY,88	32.00	32.00
APPLES,HONYCRSP, NG,BU	35.00	40.00
APPLES, MACS,FNCY, 12-3LB	15.00	16.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, BU	14.00	16.00
APPLES, MAC, NG, BU	14.00	14.00
APPLES,MAC,120,US1,CELL PK	17.00	18.00
APPLES,MAC,140,US1,CELL PK	17.00	18.00
APPLES,MACOUN, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACOUN, NG, BU	20.00	20.00
APPLES, MUTSU, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, RED DEL, NG, BU	15.00	16.00
APPLES, SPENSER, NG, BU	18.00	20.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	15.00	17.00
BROCCOLI, CRN CUT, 20 LBS	19.00	21.00
CABBAGE,GREEN, 50LBS	12.00	15.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, 40 LBS	15.00	16.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GAL	18.00	18.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	20.00	22.00
CORN, ORNAMENTAL, 20-3	28.00	30.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	28.00	30.00
GOURDS, 1/2 BU	28.00	30.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	23.00	24.00
POPCORN, 20-3	28.00	30.00
POTATO, WHT, SZ A, 50LBS	20.00	20.00
POTATO,RNDRED,SZ A,50 LBS	10.00	11.00
POTATO, RUSSET, #1, 50 LBS	15.00	15.00
PUMPKIN, HOWDEN, 36"BIN	170.00	240.00
PUMPKIN,HWDNWHIT, 24"BIN	285.00	285.00
PUMPKINS, PIE, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT,1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, 1-1/9	16.00	17.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, 1-1/9	17.00	18.00
SQUASH, GREY, 1/2 BU	26.00	30.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	15.00	18.00
STRAW BALES, MINI	3.50	5.00
TOMATO,GHSE,VINERIPE,25LB	14.00	19.00
TOMATO, GHSE, ONVINE,11LB	10.00	12.00
TOMATO,GHSE,HEIRLM,10LB	24.00	28.00
TOMATO,GHSECHERRY,8-10OZ	14.00	16.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLES,PINK LADY,WAXFCY,80	72.00	72.00
BEETS, NJ, 12 BUNCHES	14.00	15.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 50 LBS	17.00	18.00
CABBAGE, RED, NJ, 50 LBS	16.00	17.00
COLLARDS, NJ, 12 BUNCHES	11.00	14.00
CORN, GA, 4-4-1/2 DOZ	14.00	18.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 18 COUNT, 1.3 BU	14.00	15.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, October 26, 2015

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	55.00	75.00
61-75 lbs.	185.00	235.00
76-90 lbs.	295.00	300.00
91-105 lbs.	305.00	310.00
106 lbs. & up	315.00	320.00
Farm Calves	325.00	330.00
Starter Calves	50.00	56.00
Veal Calves	160.00	205.00
Open Heifers	110.00	200.00
Beef Heifers	105.00	112.50
Feeder Steers	125.00	210.00
Beef Steers	90.00	115.00
Stock Bulls	120.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	95.00	110.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	.03
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	160.00	220.00
Lambs	50.00	330.00
Goats each	100.00	270.00
Kid Goats	20.00	70.00
Canners	up to	79.50
Cutters	80.00	82.00
Utility Grade Cows	83.00	85.00
Rabbits each	8.00	15.00
Chickens each	4.00	23.00
Ducks each	3.00	13.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.48	1.65
LARGE	1.42	1.56
MEDIUM	1.33	1.46

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.08	2.17
LARGE	2.00	2.10
MEDIUM	1.77	1.87
SMALL	1.03	1.13

GRAYSTONE, GA., SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION

October 20 - Price per pound or as noted

MUSCOVY DUCKS	1.40	1.70
PEKING DUCKS, EACH	6.00	6.00
RED FOWL, 5-6 LBS	.60	.70
CRSS BRED ROOSTERS:		
7-11 LB	1.00	1.07
4-6 LB	1.40	1.60
CRSS BRED FOWL,5-9LB	.65	.85
GUINEA FOWL	1.70	2.05
BANTY HENS, EACH	3.00	3.50
WHITE PIGEONS, EA	5.00	7.50
DOVES, EACH	4.00	7.00
TURKEYS, EACH	10.00	10.00
CHICKS, EACH	.30	.35
BROILERS	.95	1.10
PHEASANTS, EACH	8.00	8.00
LAYING PULLETS, EA	5.50	7.50

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.

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

101-R. Christmas Greens: Quality wreaths and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Samples gladly shown. 203-457-1344.

107-R. Polled Herefords bred back. $1,000.00 each. John Deere Factory 3pt Hitch. Fits 2 cyls. $800.00. Call 860-537-8890.

111-R. For Sale: Sundair 190,000 BTU oil fired furnaces. Set up for under-bench heating with 24" tube, but can be used as is to heat a shop or garage. 4 units available. Used only 6 seasons. List for over $2,000. Reduced to $500 each. Also, pallet forks for John Deere 4020 tractor or similar - $300. Delivery available. 860-974-0045.

112-R. Bee Bee Trees – Korean Evodia. Excellent source of nectar for honeybees and other pollinators during the summer dearth of July and August. 4-5' trees available. $39.00 each. 860-974-0045.

113-R. Eight open Baldy heifers, 15 months. Two fat Baldy steers. 860-485-5720.

114-R. Case IH JX1075C tractor, 4X4, cab, 340 hours. $33,000.00. JD 4000, side console. Nice. $11,500.00. JD 6200, 2WD. $11,500.00. JD 2320, 4X4, with loader. $12,500.00. JD 4600, 4X4, with loader. $13,000.00. JD 4400, 4X4, with snowplow and mower deck. $9,200.00. Ford 6610, 2WD. $8,500.00. Bush Hog 3008 heavy duty mower used only 10 acres, like new. $5,000.00. 16 ft. hay elevator, with motor. $800.00. Several balers, round balers, rakes and tedders. 203-530-4953.

115-R. John Deere 2305, 4WD utility tractor. Many attachments: bucket, backhoe, front and rear plows, 3pth, weight box, landscape rake, snow blower. Mint condition. $22,000.00 or Best Offer. Call 203-988-6815.

116. Two (2) ceiling hung Modine natural gas heaters, 40,500 BTU output. $350.00 each. 860-205-3399.

117. Four (4) double hung 32" X 56-3/4" white replacement windows with screens. $25.00 each. 860-205-3399.

118-R. For Sale: 170 flat new boxes, 20"x20" cube. $300.00. Wooden, cemetery, yule boxes. Various sizes. $3.50 and up. Krushefsky's Tree Farm, Woodstock. 860-942-1818.

119. For Sale: Hearthstone wood stove with blower. $400.00. Case 580B Backhoe. $5,500.00. call Sylvan Tetrault 860-684-3458.

120-R. Blue Slope Sawdust. Sawdust, bagged shavings, compost. Picked up or delivered. Phone: 860-642-7084 or email blueslopesawdust@hotmail.com

121-R. Refrigerated Featherlite trailer with direct power and backup generator. Equipped with Thermo King unit. 860-628-1100.

WANTED

109-R. Wanna Grow Solar? Investors looking for 10 acres of land, within 1/3 mile of high tension power lines, to lease for solar photovoltaic panels. $20,000.00 to $40,000.00 per year. Call Nevin / Flamig Farm. 860-916-0644.

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.

122. Farm Succession Planning Workshop-November 13, 12:30-4:00 pm at the New Milford Train Station (11 Railroad Street). Join us for this free workshop on transitioning your farm to the next generation/owner and enjoy a delicious lunch from Freund's Market! RSVP at http://www.landforgood.org/rsvp by November 10.

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setting up a growing system. Hops are a climbing plant traditionally grown on thick twine "bines" that run from the ground to a trellis wire strung along 18-foot-high wooden poles.

The hop "cones" are harvested in early fall, when the bines are cut from the top and run through a conveyor-belt-like processor that separates the hop from the twine. It is a very labor-intensive method that also requires some sort of cherry-picker equipment to reach the high trellis wire.

Triolo is helping manage a trial that next season will test the feasibility of growing dwarf hops on a trellis only 8 feet high.

Instead of growing hops on a long hanging bine, the low-trellis technique grows them in a thick hedgerow attached to galvanized fence installed between the shorter wooden poles.

That set-up is less expensive to install and easier to harvest, Triolo said, especially when combined with techniques he believes can also increase crop yield. The hopyards were planted in 2014 with the assistance of a Farm Viability Grant from the state Department of Agriculture.

"That grant is really what put this research program on its feet," Triolo said.

Lockwood Farm Manager Rich Cecarelli said a low-trellis system could also allow hops to be picked mechanically instead of by hand.

"I have a vision of a low trellis system that could be harvested similar to wine grapes," Cecarelli said.

The field research is also designed to figure out which varieties of hops grow best in Connecticut, as well as other issues including disease control and pest management.

Triolo will give an overview of the hops research project at next week's meeting to discuss formation of a state hop grower's alliance, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. at the CAES Valley Laboratory, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor. All those interested are welcome to attend.

Triolo said possible functions of the alliance would include:

- Making state-grown hops "second to none," and having them scientifically analyzed for acceptability to craft brewers.
- Establishing Alliance grower facilities such as greenhouses for propagating high quality, key hop cultivars for Connecticut growers.
- Working with the Craft Brewers Guild to form a Hop, Malt and Yeast Development Council, similar to the Farm Wine Development Council, which is overseen by the Dept. of Agriculture.
- Promoting legislative support for a Farm Brewery law in Connecticut similar to those enacted in New York and Maryland.
- Bringing to the attention of Alliance members advances such as the availability of dwarf hops and low-trellis growing platforms, harvesting and processing equipment.
- Aligning with the Hop Growers Association of America, entitling the Alliance to be listed in a nationally published annual census which cites hop acreages by state, provides statistics on the best and most widely grown hops in the country, and reports on other industry innovations.

Both Triolo and Cecarelli believe that hops growing is poised for rapid expansion in Connecticut, with or without a formal organization.

"The brewers are not going to wait for us," Cecarelli said. "They see the opportunity here and this is going to happen one way or another."

UCONN BEEF AUCTION THIS SUNDAY IN STORRS

The UConn Beef Auction will be held Sun., Nov. 1 at noon at the Cattle Resource Unit on Horsebarn Hill Road on the Storrs campus.
A list of animals to be sold is available at animalscience.uconn.edu.

Questions should be directed to Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Program Director – Livestock Units at mary_margaret.cole@uconn.edu or 860-486-2035.

Clockwise from above left: Some of the hops left on the bines after harvest at the CAES Lockwood Farm in Hamden: a harvested plant that started re-growing in the warm autumn; 8-foot poles for the low-trellis system to be tested next season (foreground) were installed next to the traditional 18-foot pole system at rear.

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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. 42, Oct. 27, 2015

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