

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
August 20, 2014



**Above left: Robia Semkow shows Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky the seven hoophouses that collapsed on her Colchester farm during a February 2013 blizzard. Above right: Semkow helps a customer at the greenhouse and retail area she built with the help of a Dept. of Agriculture grant program that has assisted nearly 250 farmers who sustained weather-related losses during a string of extreme weather events in 2013.**

## PLANT GRANTS HELPING FARMERS REBUILD FROM EXTREME WEATHER DAMAGE

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

The twisted skeletons of seven greenhouses that collapsed under the weight of a February 2013 blizzard still line one end of the Semkow Farms property in Colchester.

Completing the demolition and removal of the structures was not nearly as important as getting some new, stronger ones built in order to keep the flower and nursery operation going. But farm owner Robia Semkow said the line of destroyed greenhouses would still be all she had if a Dept. of Agriculture grant had not helped her finance construction of a pair of larger, state-of-the-art greenhouses, one of which also serves as her retail shop.

"I can multi-purpose this greenhouse in a big way," she said. "This space is my bread and butter."

Semkow is one of nearly 240 farmers across Connecticut who have received the Production Loss Assistance Needed Today (PLANT) grants since Gov. Dannel P. Malloy created the program in the wake of a string of extreme weather events last year.

The February 9, 2013 blizzard that took down Semkow's greenhouses brought high winds and more than three feet of snow to parts of the state. It was followed by drought in May, flooding in June, and tornadoes in July.

Malloy decided to launch the emergency grant program after touring several Connecticut River Valley farms damaged by the flooding.

"The extraordinary frequency and severity of extreme weather

we saw in Connecticut last year certainly tested the resiliency of farmers across the state," Dept. of Agriculture Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky said. "At a time when so many of our farm families needed a hand up, I am proud that the state was there to give it to them."

A total of \$5 million was allocated for PLANT grants to:

- Repair damaged property and equipment
- Replant lost crops
- Plant new/different crops in place of lost crops
- Purchase feed to supplement lost hay, corn, and other crops for livestock
- Apply fertilizer and other soil amendments
- Apply any necessary products to prevent disease and/or pest outbreaks

The state Department of Economic and Community Development and the Dept. of Agriculture partnered in the program, which awarded grants ranging from less than \$200 to more than \$150,000.

The agencies also worked with the non-profit Connecticut Farm Bureau Association to review applications and administer payments.

Recipients were required to submit proof of loss, photos of the damage and information regarding business ownership and proof of good standing with respect to state and local taxes.

**(Continued on Pg. 3)**

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, August 18, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	55.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	150.00	160.00
76-90 lbs.	250.00	255.00
91-105 lbs.	260.00	265.00
106 lbs. & up	280.00	285.00
Farm Calves	300.00	305.00
Starter Calves	60.00	75.00
Veal Calves	130.00	220.00
Open Heifers	105.00	145.00
Beef Steers	140.00	160.00
Beef Heifers	97.00	155.00
Feeder Steers	125.00	210.00
Stock Bulls	120.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	124.00	137.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	one at	65.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	85.00	240.00
Kid Goats	30.00	75.00
Canners	up to	115.00
Cutters	116.00	121.00
Utility Grade Cows	122.00	130.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	5.00	30.00
Ducks each	9.00	20.00
Feeder Pigs	18.00	45.00
Lambs	50.00	180.00
Sheep	100.00	190.00

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.23	1.27
LARGE	1.21	1.25
MEDIUM	.94	.98

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.64	1.74
LARGE	1.61	1.71
MEDIUM	1.23	1.33

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	200-300 lbs	80.00	89.00
	300-400 lbs	80.00	85.00
54-58	200-300 lbs	89.00	95.00
	300-400 lbs	86.00	90.00
Sows,US1-3	300-500 lbs	70.00	80.00
	500-700 lbs	88.00	89.00
Boars	400-720 lbs	44.50	45.50

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES****NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES GING GLD80CT,XFCY	28.00	34.00
APPLES PAULA RED, BU	28.00	30.00
ARRUGULA, 24'S	10.00	12.00
BEAN, CRANBERRY, BU	40.00	40.00
BEAN GREEN, MACH PICK, BU	18.00	18.00
BEAN GREEN, BU	26.00	28.00
BEAN WAX, BU, HAND PICK	24.00	28.00
BLACKBERRIES 12-1/2PT	30.00	30.00
BLUEBERRIES 12/1PT,PULP	30.00	30.00
BROCCOLI, CROWNS, 20LBS	16.00	17.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 50IB	9.00	11.00
CABBAGE, RED 50IB	11.00	14.00
CORN, 5DZ	9.00	15.00
CUKES, SELECT, 1 1/9	10.00	12.00
CUKES, SUPER SELECT 1 1/9	16.00	16.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 BU	10.00	10.00
JALAPENO, 1/2BU	12.00	12.00
MUSK MELON, EA	1.50	1.50
NECTARINES 22LB BOX	26.00	26.00
ONIONS GREEN, 48'S MED	16.00	16.00
PEACHES 1/2BU, YELLOW, 2 1/2	24.00	24.00
PEACHES 22LB, WHITE, 2 1/2	24.00	26.00
PEAR, CLAP, 4/5 BU	30.00	30.00
PEPPER BELL, GREEN XL	10.00	12.00
PEPPER CHERRY HOT, 1/2 BU	12.00	14.00
PLUM, RED, 20LB	28.00	28.00
SQUASH, GREEN, FCY, 1/2BU	12.00	13.00
SQUASH, GREEN, MED, 1/2BU	8.00	10.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, FCY, 1/2BU	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, MED, 1/2BU	13.00	16.00
SWISS CHARD, 12'S	18.00	18.00
TOMATOES, 20LBS	16.00	25.00
TOMATOES CHERRY 12/1PT	16.00	20.00
TOMATOES, GRAPE, 12/1PT	16.00	20.00
TOMATOES HEIRLOOM, 10LBS	28.00	34.00
TOMATOES, PLUM, 25LBS	16.00	18.00
WATERMELON, SB, EA	2.00	2.00

**WHOLESALE BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

Northeast, per. lb.

	Low	High
BREAST-B/S	2.00	2.05
TENDERLOINS	2.35	2.40
LEGS	.60	.61
LEG QUARTERS	.48	.49
THIGHS	.75	.75
B/S THIGHS	1.24	1.25
WINGS	1.46	1.47
LIVER, 5LB TUBS	.55	.60
GIZZARDS	.75	.80

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Average Dressing

	Low	High
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	106.25	111.75
boners 80-85% lean	102.75	108.25
lean 85-90% lean	95.75	101.50
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 120-128lbs	286.75	322.75
No 2 120-128lbs	260.00	301.75
No 3 100-130lbs	202.50	270.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	157.00	158.25
Ch2-3	150.50	153.75
Sel2-3	144.00	148.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	158.50	162.75
Ch2-3	154.00	158.25
Sel2-3	149.75	153.75
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	145.50	149.50
Ch2-3	138.75	142.00
Sel2-3	129.75	134.25
VEALERS	54.24	115.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
50-70lbs	190.00	212.00
80-90lb	n/a	
90-110lbs	185.00	208.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
100-130lbs	90.00	108.00
130-140lbs	92.00	96.00
Bucks		
120-150lbs	97.00	147.00
180-190lbs	94.00	107.00
200-240lbs	84.00	104.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	130.00	185.00
60-80lb	150.00	187.00
80-100lb	177.00	205.00
Nannies/Does: 100-130lbs	170.00	187.00
130-140lbs	180.00	185.00
Bucks/Billies: 110-140lbs	230.00	265.00
150-160lbs	265.00	280.00

**PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS**

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. July 2

		Low	High
Gr US 1-	WT 20-40	330.00	370.00
	WT 30-40	250.00	310.00
	WT 40-80	225.00	250.00
	WT 80-100	160.00	190.00

**EASTERN, PA, HAY**

average price per ton

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	250.00-375.00	165.00-205.00
MIXED	220.00-325.00	160.00-215.00
TIMOTHY	230.00-330.00	160.00-200.00
STRAW		100.00-220.00

**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.

108-R. Purebred Katahdin Ram for sale. Great producer, registration papers available, mostly white. \$350.00. 860-354-9069.

111-R. JD 2940 turbo, like new radial tires \$10,500. JD 6310 4wd with 640 loader \$24,000. JD 730 direct start diesel 3 pt wide front \$7,500. JD 530 \$5,000. NH 315 baler with thrower \$5,500. NH 311 baler \$4,000. Several PTO generators. NH 256 & 258 hay rakes \$1,800/\$2,000. Front & rear NH & JD weights. Case W-11 pay loader recent motor job \$12,000. New Pequea rotary rake \$6,500. 203-530-4953.

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).

113-R. John Deere 1050 Tractor 4WD/Loader/3PH. Excellent shape, low hours. One owner, always garaged \$12,500. Call 203-457-1949.

114. Four farm tractors for sale: One Super M. One H. Two C. All run good. Call George. 860-617-8652.

**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.

**WANTED**

98-R. Standing timber wanted, Hardwood/softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 15 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

**DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE HOSTS SEMINAR ON GETTING STARTED IN EXPORTING**

Join the CT Dept. of Agriculture and Food Export – Northeast for a full day of exporting education topics on Wed., Aug. 28, from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Cromwell Courtyard by Marriott. The fee is \$70 per person which includes lunch.

Discussions include:

- Developing export readiness skills
- Meeting and responding to potential buyers
- Understanding the Harmonized System
- Export documentation and regulations
- Navigating Free Trade Agreements
- Export pricing, quoting and terms of sale
- Overview of Food Export - Northeast's services

Speakers include Dennis Lynch, M.I.B.A., a 33-year veteran of international trade. As the export counselor behind Food Export – Northeast's Food Export Helpline, Dennis provides customized technical export assistance to food and agricultural firms.

Participants must register by Aug. 27 at Food Export – Northeast's website, [www.foodexport.org](http://www.foodexport.org), (click on Upcoming Activities.) ([https://eweb.foodexport.org/eweb/ProfilePage.aspx?Webode=CSCEventInfoSC&Site=MIATCO&evt\\_key=579615b2-1c6a-4a0c-9109-a6dabbd90238](https://eweb.foodexport.org/eweb/ProfilePage.aspx?Webode=CSCEventInfoSC&Site=MIATCO&evt_key=579615b2-1c6a-4a0c-9109-a6dabbd90238))

Questions can be directed to Jaime Smith at the Dept. of Agriculture at 860-713-2559 or [jaime.smith@ct.gov](mailto:jaime.smith@ct.gov)

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In many cases, the grants helped replace lost crops or structures like greenhouses and hoopouses that are not typically covered by insurance.

At Beaumont Farms in Wallingford, a PLANT grant helped rebuild greenhouses lost in the February blizzard with an updated, stronger design, including oval-shaped hoop arches that better sustain heavy snow and wind.

Another Wallingford farm, Ultimate Growers, said the grant's impact extended beyond defraying the cost of replacing their damaged greenhouses.

"If we didn't receive this grant we would have been out of business," owner Mary Cone said.

While the majority of the grants were awarded to small and mid-sized growers, some helped larger operations like Clinton Nurseries in Westbrook.

The February blizzard flattened more than 100 hoopouses at their 300-acre site, where if the hoopouses were lined up end-to-end they would extend for 40 miles. With a crew that peaks at about 300 workers in season, the company was able to manufacture and erect the houses on its own.

The destroyed hoopouses were sold as scrap, and the new ones were rebuilt with more reinforcement – a 2-by-6-inch wooden roof beam stretching the length of the structure and attached wooden cross-members supporting the steel hoop arches.

"The cement, the steel and the wood were all bought with the grant," said company general manager Jim Galvin. "We were able to get back in business quickly and we are very grateful for the help."

Semkow said the grant – along with the passing last year of her uncle and longtime farm owner Frank Semkow - convinced her to leave her job as a Las Vegas police officer and return to the land that has been in her family for four generations.

The farm celebrated its Centennial in 2012, and Semkow is determined to keep its heritage alive by growing and selling her own flowers and vegetables, eventually with the help of her two young sons.

"I've been coming here since I was a kid but I never got to live the life," of a farmer, she said. "If not for the grant there is no way I would be doing this."

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION CELEBRATION**

*300 Farms and Growing*

**September 20, 2014, 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.**

**On the Historic Lebanon Green  
Jct. Routes 87/207**

*Since 1978, the Farmland Preservation Program has permanently protected the prime and important farmland soils of 300 farms and nearly 40,000 acres to ensure the future of agriculture in Connecticut.  
Join us to celebrate this historic milestone!*

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Tour Local Protected Farms  
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**For event updates, visit our Facebook page:  
[facebook.com/FarmlandPreservationCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/FarmlandPreservationCelebration)**



**Above left:** One of the approximately 100 hoophouses rebuilt with reinforcing wooden supports at Clinton Nurseries in Westbrook.

**Above right:** A new greenhouse at Ultimate Growers in Wallingford.

**Left:** Beaumont Farms in Wallingford built replacement greenhouses with oval-shaped arches and other design elements that better handles heavy snow and wind. All three projects were completed with the help of a state grant program to restore agricultural buildings lost in a string of damaging weather events in 2013.

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