

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
July 12, 2016



GROWING SEASON, FARMERS' MARKETS IN FULL SWING AS DRY SPELL EASES *By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky*

MIDDLETOWN - After an erratic start to the growing season due to abnormally dry and hot conditions, recent moderate rains have pushed summer crops into full swing – welcome news for both growers and farmers' markets.

"It's been really up and down so far this year," said Katy Witmer, who was tending a tent for George Hall Farm in Simsbury last Friday at the North End Farmers' Market in Middletown (pictured above), one of 130 in the state. "For a lot of farms the season started a little slow but things are really picking up now."

Although many areas of the state are still between 2 and 6 inches short of normal rainfall, localized and sometimes heavy rains beginning early last week have allowed growers to begin harvesting popular crops like sweet corn, if not a week or so later than normal.

"We were getting asked a lot about when the corn is going to be here," said North End Market master Erin Carey, noting that Gotta's Farm in Portland was on this day selling the first ears available at the market so far.

Witmer, who also works in the fields at the 100-acre,

organic Hall farm, said the hot, dry weather made for some challenges in late June.

"Things were coming in at strange times," she said. "The lettuce went fast and we couldn't pick it fast enough before a lot of it bolted."

On the other hand, the farm's summer squash crop is thriving.

"Things that like the heat have done well and the squash is coming in great," Witmer said, holding up a jumbo specimen. "Look at these – they're huge!"

The tent next door was staffed by students from nearby Wesleyan University who work at the school's 2-acre, organic Long Lane Farm.

The farm, which the university says is dedicated to "allowing students a place to experiment and learn about sustainable agriculture" also donates part of its harvest to local food pantries.

"The lack of rain was pretty annoying," said junior Sarah Dobrow. "We haven't lost anything – the problem was getting things to come up in the first place."

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	71.00	76.00
boners 80-85% lean	71.00	76.00
lean 88-90% lean	64.50	70.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	124.00	128.50
Choice 2-3	117.00	125.00
Sel 1-2	115.00	128.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime Ch 2-3	110.00	112.50
Choice 2-3	104.00	109.00
Sel 2-3	98.00	103.50
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	121.50	121.50
Ch 2-3	115.50	118.50
Select 2-3	11.300	115.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 114-128 lbs	117.00	127.00
No 1 90-112 lbs	130.00	145.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	295.00	325.00
50-60 lbs	280.00	280.00
60-70 lbs	260.00	260.00
70-80 lbs	250.00	250.00
90-110 lbs	220.00	220.00
110-130 lbs	215.00	215.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	85.00	125.00
BUCKS		
200-300 lbs	55.00	70.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
20-40 lbs	135.00	145.00
40-60 lbs	185.00	200.00
60-80 lbs	230.00	285.00
80-100 lbs	295.00	295.00
100-120 lbs	300.00	317.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:		
Select 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	195.00	230.00
130-180 lbs	230.00	275.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	325.00	345.00
150-250 lbs	380.00	380.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	54.00	58.00
	300-350 lbs	50.00	53.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	49.00	56.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00	46.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	29.00	31.00
	500-800 lbs	35.00	40.00
Boars			
	200-300 lbs	38.00	40.00
	400-800 lbs	10.00	14.00

USDA- NORTHEAST RETAIL DAIRY

Prices in dollars per unit

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.49	4.00
CHEESE, 8OZ BLOCK	1.66	6.00
CHEESE, 1 LB BLOCK	2.97	7.99
CHEESE, 8 OZ SHRED	1.66	3.49
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16 OZ	1.79	2.99
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	1.39	3.00
FLAVORED MILK, HALF GAL	2.99	3.49
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.99	3.99
MILK, HALF GAL	3.00	3.99
MILK, GALLON	2.50	2.50

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
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	5.00	6.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEANS, GRN, MACH PK, BU	40.00	40.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	40.00	40.00
BEETS, RED, LOOSE, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BLUEBERRIES,PULP, 12-1PT	30.00	36.00
BLUEBERRIES,CLAM, 12-1PT	24.00	26.00
CORN,SWEET,BI-COLR,5 DOZ	18.00	24.00
CORN,SWEET,BI-COLR, EACH	.50	.50
CUKES, 1-1/9	25.00	25.00
CUKES, PER LB	1.50	1.50
CUKES, PICKLERS, 1-1/9	16.00	16.00
CUKES, PICKLERS, PER LB	1.50	1.50
FIDDLEHEADS, 10 LBS	45.00	50.00
GARLIC SCAPIES, 5OZ BAG	3.00	3.00
LETTUCE,BSTN/GRN/RD, 12 CT	8.00	8.00
LETTUCE,BSTN/GRN/RD, 24 CT	20.00	20.00
LETTUCE, ROMAINE, 12	8.00	8.00
LETTUCE, ROMAINE, 24	20.00	20.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, BU	75.00	75.00
PEACHES, 2-3/4", 25 LBS	40.00	40.00
PEACHES, 2-1/2", 25 LBS	35.00	35.00
PEACHES, 2-1/4", 25 LBS	25.00	25.00
PEPPERS, GRN BELL, 1-1/9	20.00	20.00
PEPPERS, LONG HOT, 1-1/9	25.00	25.00
RADISHES, 24 LBS	12.00	12.00
RASPBERRIES, 18-1/2 PT	36.00	36.00
SQUASH,YELLOW, 1/2 BU	9.00	18.00
SQUASH,GREEN, 1/2 BU	12.00	18.00
SQUASH,GRN/YLLW, PER LB	1.10	1.10
SQUASH, ZUCH, SM, 1/2 BU	6.00	13.00
SWISS CHARD,RNBOW, BNCH	3.00	3.00
TOMATO, GHSE, 20 LBS	42.00	42.00
TOMS,CHERRY,GHSE, 8-10 OZ	24.00	26.00
TOMS,HEIRLM,GHSE,M-L,10 LB	24.00	25.00
TOMS,ONVINE, GHSE,11 LBS	11.00	12.00
TOMS, VINERIPE GHSE, 25 LBS	15.00	15.00

CT RETAIL FARMERS' MARKET

ARUGULA, ORG, PER LB	10.00	10.00
BEETS, BUNCH	3.00	3.00
BEETS, ORG, BUNCH	3.00	4.00
BLUEBERRIES, ORG, 1/2 PINT	5.00	5.00
BOK CHOI, ORG, BUNCH	3.00	3.00
BROCCOLI, ORG, PER LB	4.00	4.00
CABBAGE, RED/GRN, ORG, LB	1.50	1.50
CALLALOO, BUNCH	2.00	2.00
CARROTS W/TOPS, ORG, BNCH	3.00	4.00
COLLARDS/KALE, ORG, BUNCH	3.00	3.00
CUKES, ORG, PER LB	2.00	2.00
GARLIC, ORG, PER BULB	2.50	2.50
GARLIC, ORG, PER LB	6.00	6.00
GARLIC SCAPIES, ORG, PER LB	5.00	8.00
GARLIC SCAPIES, ORG, BNCH	2.00	4.00
KOHLRABI, ORG, 2-3/BNCH	3.00	3.00
LETTUCE,RED/ROMAINE,ORG,EA	3.00	3.00
POTATOES, RED, SZB, PER LB	2.00	2.00
RADISHES, ORG, PER BNCH	3.00	3.00
SALAD MIX, ORG, PER LB	10.00	10.00
SCALLIONS, ORG, BUNCH	2.50	2.50
SQUASH,GRN/YELLW,ORG, LB	2.00	3.00
SQUASH,PTYPAN,LEB, ORG, LB	2.00	3.00
TOMATOES,HEIRLOOM,ORG,LB	5.00	5.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - July 11, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	55.00	60.00
61-75 lbs.	90.00	92.50
76-90 lbs.	105.00	110.00
91-105 lbs.	112.50	115.00
106 lbs. & up	117.50	122.50
Farm Calves	125.00	150.00
Starter Calves	45.00	50.00
Veal Calves	110.00	160.00
Open Heifers	n/a	n/a
Beef Heifers	80.00	100.00
Feeder Steers	85.00	130.00
Beef Steers	98.00	101.00
Stock Bulls	95.00	160.00
Beef Bulls	91.00	102.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	11.00	40.00
Sows	26.00	32.00
Butcher Hogs	1@	50.00
Feeder Pigs each	45.00	85.00
Sheep each	75.00	115.00
Lambs each	50.00	220.00
Goats each	60.00	305.00
Kid Goats each	50.00	135.00
Canners	up to	75.00
Cutters	76.00	79.00
Utility Grade Cows	80.00	82.00
Rabbits each	5.00	15.00
Chickens each	5.00	55.00
Ducks each	4.00	16.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.83	1.02
LARGE	.77	.91
MEDIUM	.46	.59

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.26	1.39
LARGE	1.15	1.29
MEDIUM	.57	.68
SMALL	.47	.58

USDA - NORTHEAST - RETAIL PORK

Price per lb.

LOIN ROAST BNLS	1.59	3.79
RIB END ROAST B/IN	1.69	2.69
RIB END CHOPS B/IN	1.69	1.99
CNTR CUT CHOPS B/IN	1.98	3.99
ASSORTED CHOPS B/IN	1.29	2.99
SIRLOIN CHOPS BNLS	1.79	2.49
CNTR CUT CHOPS BNLS	1.88	3.99
SMOKED CHOPS	3.99	4.00
TENDERLOIN, FRESH	2.79	6.99
BACKRIBS	2.49	5.99
PICNIC FRESH B/IN	.89	1.69
PORKETTA	3.49	3.49
BUTT ROAST BNLS	1.49	2.39
PORK STEAK	1.99	2.19
CNTRYSTYL RIBS BNLS	1.57	3.48
SPARERIBS	1.19	3.99
ST. LOUIS SPARERIBS	2.99	3.99
HAM, B/IN	1.28	1.28

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.

67-R. 99 Dart Hill Road, South Windsor. 5.5 acres, Rural Residential. Fully approved building lot with sewer available, well required. Ideal for horses, ambitious gardener, agricultural or home business. 800 foot driveway. Creative owner financing available. \$248,000.00. Annette Griffin, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services N.E. Properties. 860-604-7845.

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

76-R. 8 yearling Baldy steers. 8 open yearling Baldy heifers. 4 bred Baldy heifers due August. 860-485-5720.

77-R. Gleason 1 yard soil, flat and pot filler, feed and return elevator. Probably the most rugged greenhouse/nursery equipment made. Easy adjustments. Very good condition. Come see. Looking for offers. Takagi Jr. propane water heater, ignites and shuts off on water flow. New in box. Stainless steel exhaust pipe included. Both \$300.00. 48" slat fin exhaust fan. \$200.00. Wheeler Farm, Portland, CT. 860-342-2374.

78-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.

79. Kinkelder 3 PtH. Orchard Mist sprayer. \$500.00. Manual SS Bottler. \$200.00. Glass quart bottles. \$1.00 each. 860-564-3615.

80-R. Italian (Checchi & Magli) potato/bulb diggers, cultivator topdressers, carousel transplanters, finger planters at Griffin Farm Equipment. 860-508-2426 or 800-832-0445 griffin-farm@aol.com

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.

CONNECTICUT GROWN STORE NOW ACCEPTING WHOLESALE ORDERS

The Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce that its online storefront, www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com, is now accepting wholesale orders from farmers and farmers' market masters.

The store offers a wide selection of apparel for men, women, children and infants, plus coffee mugs, knit and baseball hats. Ideal for farm stands, markets or employee/volunteer appreciation gifts.

All proceeds benefit the Connecticut Grown program, which promotes Connecticut's farmers and the diverse array of agricultural products they grow. For more information and wholesale pricing, contact us directly at 860-713-2503.

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Still, some of their crops such as yellow cherry tomatoes matured early and were offered at the market last week.

Other growers at the market, including Beckett's Farm and Rose's Berry Farm, both of Glastonbury, were offering the season's first blueberries, cherries and raspberries.

Market master Carey said that although growers are aware that stone fruits like peaches, plums and nectarines were all but wiped out in the state during a mid-February freeze, she expects that many customers are not so informed.

"Those fruits are very popular here and I know we'll be getting a lot of questions about that," she said.

Some growers, mainly in southern Connecticut, have reported that they will have limited amounts of stone fruit available.

The Middletown market, held on busy Main Street in front of the It's Only Natural food store, is a project of the city's North End Action Team and is funded in part by a matching grant from the Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act.

Part of that funding was used this year to create a new way to deliver fresh produce to customers who may not be able to attend the market during its hours of 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, July through October.

Called "The Box," the service offers customers home deliveries of produce from the market immediately after it closes.

Customers also receive recipes and health information corresponding to the vegetables they receive that week from the market.

Carey said the number of customers signing up for "The Box" has roughly doubled in the last few weeks.

The market is also focused on getting children from lower-income families involved in buying their own food and becoming more aware of nutrition and the benefits of fresh produce, which can be a rarity in many homes.

Carey said any child in the city's summer lunch program is eligible to receive five dollars in tokens that they can use at the market when brought there as part of the program.

"The point is getting them to talk to the farmers about where the food comes from," she said, "and to make their own choices about what to buy."





North End Farmers Market



Can't make it to the farmers market during working hours?

Try our North End Farmers Market Box and get produce from the farmers' market delivered straight to your door! Sign up at

www.northendfarmersmarket.org/box



Packages start at \$20 per week.

Choose between a full-summer, half-summer or per-market program.

For more information about pricing visit our website.

For more information call (860) 346-4645
or email us at refn@northendfarmersmarket.org
Para más información llame al: (860) 346-4645
o por email refn@northendfarmersmarket.org



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Clockwise from top left: Students from Wesleyan University staffing the school's Long Lane Farm tent at the North End Farmers' Market in Middletown, next to Gotta's Farm, which was offering the first sweet corn of the season; a poster describing the market's new home-delivery service, partly funded by a Dept. of Agriculture matching grant; a photo taken at Rosedale Farms and Vineyard in Simsbury that the farm shared on social media using the hashtag #CTGrown.

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.

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